



## Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

**Fathers Deodat Msahala & Innocent Ezeonyeasi and Deacon Ged Perkins**

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The Parish Office is open from 9.30am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday (except for Bank Holidays)

*A parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO – Registered Incorporated Charity No. 1173050*

**SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2018**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**YEAR B**

Today, we continue our series on our church building:

Inside the main porch of the church, in windows on either side of the main doors are scenes from the life of our Patron, St. Bartholomew. Above the notice board near the side door is a small round window, bearing the Latin inscription, “*In Memoriam*” (remembering). This window remembers babies and young children who have died, with those children being represented by a small purple butterfly. Twice a year, at Croydon University Hospital, a special service is held in the chapel there for all those who died so early in their lives.

A stone tablet, etched with the names of Parish Priests, is positioned near to the Repository, a room in which we may buy items which can help us to learn more about our Faith. A separate frame contains a record of all former curates or assistant priests. These remind us to pray for the souls of the Priests who have cared for the souls of members of our Parish since 1908 and, indeed, of our Christian duty to pray for the Souls of all who have died. One day, please God, people will pray for our souls, too. We thank God for their lives, given in serving our Parish, and ask Him that they may now be with Him in Heaven, rewarded for their faithful service. Of course we must never forget to pray for Priests living and serving here and around the world. Satan knows full well that he will be defeated through their priestly power and does not, for an instant, cease to try and undermine their Ministry. In the porch there is also a list of all those men who serve us in Southwark Archdiocese, each allotted a day of the week. The notice also reminds us of all those who have died following the completion of their work in the vineyard of vocations.

Our first action, on entering the main body of the church must, surely, be to greet Our Blessed Lord, Whose House we are invited into. Our Children will learn from the adults they see round them. While it is the Parents' privilege and duty to bring up their children in the Faith, we all need to consider just what an effect our own example can have on young (and even on not so young) minds.

Before entering our bench for Mass we (if we are able) genuflect towards the Tabernacle, situated on the Blessed Sacrament Altar where Jesus is waiting for our greeting, wishing to pour His Grace into our Souls, calling us to open our hearts and love Him. Those unable to genuflect may well bow. While these outward gestures are, of course, very important it is His Grace in our Souls, our Love for and Faith in Him which truly pleases God. As well as reminding us of our reason for coming to church, we can also teach others through example. Who knows whether someone, not a Catholic perhaps, seeing our demeanour, will themselves be drawn to know more of the Church to which we accord such love and respect.

We and our Children are fortunate to be highly literate and able to access vast sources of knowledge but, centuries ago, without the ability to read Bibles and Missals (if they actually had one) and before liturgical calendars existed how did people know what was being celebrated / commemorated at Masses during the year? The answer lay in the colour of the Priest's vestments: **Green**, colour of new life, worn most of the year, recalled the life of Grace making souls 'grow' just as sunlight causes new shoots to appear; **White** recalled the Grace and Purity of God and the Angels and Saints, Purity to which all are called; **Red** denoted the Blood shed by Christ and by Martyrs. It also called to mind the Power of the Holy Spirit, the Fire of Pentecost and the Kingship of Christ; **Purple**, especially during Lent and Advent, pointed to the need for Penance (Father wears a Purple stole when hearing Confessions). Purple can be replaced, (on the 3rd Sunday of Advent and the 4th Sunday of Lent) by **Rose**, symbolic of future rejoicing; **Black**, now largely replaced by Purple, stood for mourning and to remind us of the solemn duty to pray for the dead who, unless perfect, will have sinned in this life and are counting on our help to reach Heaven. We are helping them get to Heaven by our Masses, Prayers and Sacrifices. Black was, once, generally worn for Requiem Masses - an exception to this was a Requiem for a baby who had, of course, died before reaching the age of reason and could not have chosen to offend God - for them Father wore White. Through colour everyone, literate or not, could recall Father's teaching and follow the Liturgical Year.

The Sacred dignity of the Sanctuary and the Mass offered there is further emphasised by the garments worn by the Altar Servers, which are either an alb together with a red cord, or a cassock (black most of the year, changing to red for Easter, Pentecost and Christmas) and white cotta (surplice). Most of our Altar Servers are Members of the Guild of St Stephen, and wear a Guild Medal.

### **Thank you for your generosity**

Collection for 18th February 2018: £1874.00 (£1229.00 in baskets; £645.00 in standing orders).

### **CAFOD LENT FAST DAY**

Today, following last Friday's CAFOD Fast Day, there will be a collection for **CAFOD**. Lent Fast Day envelopes are still available in the porch, The British Government has pledged to double all your donations, and of course Gift Aid will further enhance what you are able to give. It is important that you **DO NOT** use your normal Gift Aid envelopes for this collection; they cannot be included. If you wish to Gift Aid your offering to **CAFOD**, please use the special slip included with the **CAFOD** collection envelope. If you wish to write a cheque for this collection, please make it payable to St Bartholomew's Church. A Cheque will be sent to **CAFOD** as usual for the total amount collected both in baskets and envelopes.

### **The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)**

Next weekend, we shall be welcoming the Chief Executive of SPUC, Mr John Smeaton, himself a local man, to talk to us, at all Masses, about the work of SPUC and how we can support them, building upon our past efforts. There will not be a collection; this visit is intended to update us on what SPUC has done and continues to do.

### **Please pray for our Sick and Housebound parishioners:**

Jessica Anane, Lilian Armstrong, Mrs Austin, Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiére, Anita Blaquiére, Barry Breese, Erna Breese, Frances Caulfield, Jean Cowie, Audrey Draude, Teresa Florek-Smail, Raffaella Forte, Giovanni Franco, Rachel Gadd, Eamon Gillespie, Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, Mary Kenny, Elsie McCleave, James McDonald, Breda McDonagh, Michael Madigan, Ajitha Mahatantila, Gerard Mascarenhas, Charmaine Meli, Mary Meyern, Janina Miller, Maria Parnis, Marion Robertson, Parwar Saib, Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Maggie Sunich, Tony Tambirasa, Edythe Thirlwall, Monica Vergara, Mary White, Ethelda Williams, Carole Winch, John Windsor, Charmaine Wise, Georgette Yoo Foo, Tony Zammit.

*If you know of anybody who is sick or housebound, or in a local care home, who is unable to come to Mass, and who would like to receive Holy Communion, Reconciliation, an Anointing or a Blessing, please contact the parish office. Dedicated chaplains meet the pastoral needs of Catholic patients in hospitals.*

### **CHURCH CLEANING IN THE COMING WEEK - GROUP 5 please:**

Elizabeth Ayoola, Kelly Bello, Sandra Hodgson, Emma Morrone, Josephine Ofili, Blessing Otite, Amanda Squires, Maria Verrilli. If you can spare an hour or two every six weeks or so, or perhaps more often, to help clean the House of God, and spread the burden somewhat, please get in touch with the parish office.

### **GLENCAIRN ROAD AND HEPWORTH ROAD ARE NOW ONE WAY:**

Hepworth Road is now One Way DOWNWARDS from Streatham High Road to Ellison Road;  
Glencairn Road is now One Way UPWARDS from Ellison Road to Streatham High Road.

NB: pedal cycles may still travel in each direction on both roads.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

On Sundays during the Season of Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 4pm, followed by Benediction. Also, each Friday evening, at 7.30pm during Lent, Stations of the Cross will be led by various parish groups. This Friday, 2nd March, members of the Knights of St Columba will be leading us.

### **COFFEE MORNING TODAY - LIFE**

After the 10am and 11.30am Masses. Delicious cakes for sale, as well as knitted goods. Please help LIFE to assist mothers who have decided against abortion, or who have experienced it, and who desperately need help. How lucky we are to have our lives, and how precious all lives are! Proceeds to LIFE HQ. See: [lifecharity.org.uk](http://lifecharity.org.uk);

### **A DAY WITH MARY**

A wonderful tribute to Our Lady, through whom we are encouraged to approach Jesus, (To Jesus through Mary) was held here last Saturday. Fr Anthony Meredith IC gave a sermon, entitled "Mother of the Seemingly Impossible" which you may access on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXJAvHliP7U>;

Fr Innocent's homily during Mass, entitled "Models of Marian Spirituality", may be found on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xw2QWmLNscY>;

On the same day, Fr Deo consecrated our Parish to Our Lady.

Fr Innocent also gave a talk entitled "Console Me, My Children, Console My Son, Jesus Christ."

Once this goes on line, we shall provide you with the link.

The next nearest Day with Mary takes place at St John Fisher RC Church, Merton, on Saturday 17th March 2018, which is also St Patrick's Day. Full details are to be found on the poster in the porch.

### **LONDON SW CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS**

This is a social group for young Catholics which meets every month. Our next social evening is on Saturday, 3rd March from 7.30pm at The Alexandra, Wimbledon SW19 7NE. For further details visit our Facebook page or contact Miles on 07790 441242

## **AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALTAR SERVERS - PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

On **Palm Sunday**, 25th March, the 11:30 Mass ONLY starts with a procession from the hall to the Church. There will be a **practice** on Sunday March 18th from 6pm, lasting 30 minutes. Please sign up on the sheet in the Sacristy.

**Maundy Thursday**, 29th March - Mass at 8pm. **Practice:** Wednesday 25th March at 7.30pm;

**Good Friday**, 30th March - Service at 3pm. **Practice:** Good Friday Morning at 10.30am;

**Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday** 31st March - Mass at 8.30pm. **Practice:** Holy Saturday Morning at 10.30am.

Please sign up for each of the above on the notice you will find in the Sacristy.

**Easter Sunday**, 1st April - No practices. Please sign up for Masses, but please note, there will be NO 5pm Mass. It is a blessing that so many of our servers take part in these great events of the Easter Triduum, always closer than the congregation to all that goes on. It is particularly good to see our older servers continuing to participate. Please put yourself forward for as many services as you can. We always need so many of you, whatever your age!

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2018 AND ARRANGING BAPTISM**

If you seek Baptism for your child, you must attend a Baptism Preparation Course, unless you have done so in the three years prior to this Baptism. In every case, please complete a Baptism Details Form, which you will find in the main porch. Please read it carefully, complete it in full and hand it to the parish office or to one of our clergy. The next course takes place across two consecutive evenings, which are Tuesdays 17th & 24th April 2018 at 8pm.

## **READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Please provide your availability by next weekend for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, bearing in mind there will be NO 5pm Mass on Easter Sunday. Very few of you have come forward. **Please, please help us to avoid the last minute rush** to find people to minister on these important occasions. The March rota has been issued, and thanks to all who took the trouble to advise the parish office.

## **CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME**

Candidates will be presented with Bibles at the 5pm Mass today. They will attend Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 4pm, after which there will be a short practice covering their various roles during the 5pm Mass.

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME**

The First Holy Communion Reconciliation Service takes place this coming Wednesday 28th February 2018 at 7pm, followed by First Confession. Would all parents and guardians kindly ensure that candidates arrive in good time. The Going Forth Lunch will take place on Sunday 1st July 2018 at 1pm. Would parents of last year's First Communion children, who are able to assist Teresa Furtado with this event, kindly email: [trizfurtado@aol.com](mailto:trizfurtado@aol.com).

## **GIFT AID BOXES**

In the new financial year, and by popular demand, all those who give by Standing Order will be given a reduced pack of envelopes, only for second collections. As a result, we shall be allocating new Gift Aid numbers to all those who use Standing Orders. This will make no difference to your payments, as they are manually checked. However, you might wish to advise your bank to change the reference number they give for your own records.

## **PEACEFUL VIGILS OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINICS**

Lambeth Council is among many seeking to prevent these peaceful and prayerful gatherings. As a direct result of these vigils, many women have chosen not to go ahead with abortion. Please visit the attached link to give your opinion and help to ensure that the pro life voice is heard by the closing date of 28th February 2018: <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/consultations/have-your-say-on-a-public-space-protection-order-ppso-for-sexual-health-and>;

## **REPOSITORY**

Don't forget your requirements for St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day and Easter.

## **CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY (CTS)**

More copies of the St Alphonsus Stations of the Cross books are now available in both normal and large print. There are also some booklets relating to Lent and to various tenets of our rich Catholic Faith.

## **ARE YOU GOING TO TANZANIA ON FATHER DEO'S SAFARI?**

There is to be a special meeting for all those who have expressed an interest in this event. It will be held next Saturday 3rd March at 7.30pm in the upper hall. We do not appear to have contact details for a number of people, so please advise anybody you know is planning to go, to make sure they know about this meeting. Deacon Ged's wife Kathy Perkins is co-ordinating meetings, and would gladly hear from you directly or via the parish office.

## **THE OVER 55 GROUP**

We are seeking a leader to revive this parish group. If you are interested in coordinating this group and perhaps organising events for them, please get in touch with the parish office.



## Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses:	Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm	
	<b>Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.155</b>	
Weekday Masses:	Mon - Fri: 7.30am; Mon – Sat 10am	
Morning Prayer of the Church:	Monday - Saturday 9.15am	
Adoration and Benediction:	Monday - Saturday 9.30am; Sunday 4pm ( <i>Rosary &amp; Benediction in May &amp; October</i> ) <i>On First Fridays - Adoration after 10am Mass, closing with Benediction at 2pm</i>	
Rosary:	Monday - Saturday after the 10am Mass	
Confessions:	Saturday, after the 10am Mass, until 11am; then in the afternoon from 5pm to 6pm	
Date	Time	Intention
Sunday 25th February 2018		
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	6.15pm (Saturday 24th Feb)	Thanksgiving - Fred & June Borg on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary
	8.30am	Anthony Agius RIP
LIFE Coffee Morning after this Mass	10am	People of the parish
LIFE Coffee Morning after this Mass	11.30am (Hymn Choir)	Thanksgiving - Daniels family
<i>Stations of the Cross &amp; Benediction</i>	4pm	(Confirmation Candidates present)
	5pm	Confirmation Candidates' Bible Presentation Mass
Monday 26th February 2018	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 27th February 2018	7.30am	John Buckley RIP
	10am	Dominic Cu Van Tran RIP
Wednesday 28th February 2018	7.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Welfare and recovery of Jean Cowie
<b><i>Service of Reconciliation and First Confession for First Holy Communicants</i></b>	7pm	
Thursday 1st March 2018	7.30am	Holy Souls
St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales (Feast)	10am	Special blessing - Henrietta Rocheford and family
Friday 2nd March 2018	7.30am	Holy Souls
<b>FIRST FRIDAY</b> - Adoration after 10am	10am	Frederick William Fisher RIP
Mass, finishing with Benediction at 2pm	7.30pm	
<b><i>Stations of the Cross - (KSC)</i></b>		
Saturday 3rd March 2018	10am	Holy Souls
Next Sunday 4th March 2018		
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - John Smeaton of SPUC speaking at all Masses	6.15pm (Saturday 3rd March)	Virginia & Antonio RIP
	8.30am	Holy Souls
	10am	Welfare of Julie Thompson
	11.30am (Polyphony Choir)	Godson & Thomas Asuem RIP
<i>Stations of the Cross and Benediction</i>	4pm	
	5pm	People of the parish