



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 29th APRIL 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B

During the past week, we have been presented with two examples of the consequences of promoting Truth and publicly opposing evil. St. George, nowadays honoured as the Patron Saint of England, was probably a Roman soldier who was martyred because he refused to renounce his Catholic Faith during a persecution. He is presented in legend as a soldier who slew a dragon to which had been made human sacrifices. In a way he could stand for all who live their Faith and strive to resist the temptations of Satan.

On Wednesday we celebrated Saint Mark, another Martyr, traditionally held to have been an Evangelist (i.e. author of one of the Gospels), a disciple of Saint Peter, cousin of Barnabas and, at one time, a companion of Saint Paul in his missionary journey, spreading the Good News. There has been much scholarly debate on this Saint.

The **Entrance Antiphon** (cf Psalm 97:1-2) expresses joy: Our Lord has very clearly shown us the way forward and, indeed, saved us and, throughout life, we must seek and cooperate with Grace so that we may attain Eternal Salvation.

In the **First Reading** (Acts 9:26-31) we hear of the newly converted Saint Paul's meeting with the, understandably wary Disciples. Paul might be thought of as a type of Saint George, fearless unto death in his living and preaching the often 'unpalatable' and challenging Truth. We hear how, having declared himself a follower of Christ, Paul had immediately faced strong and hostile opposition. This fact, as well as the account of his Conversion, was enough to convince the Disciples that he (formerly named Saul) was indeed a worthy ally. Saints George, Mark and Paul, Martyrs all, are outstanding role models for us. We shall probably never be called to 'lay our life on the line' but, as we hear constantly through the media, many of our brothers and Sisters are still martyred for their fidelity to God. Christians, even here in England, Mary's Dowry, can experience concerted opposition, even, at times, backed by law. Sometimes this may be through ignorance and misunderstanding, but sometimes, sadly, it is because our hearers know, 'deep down', that we are right. However tough a time we may have as a Christians, we can take heart, as Saint Paul did, that God will ultimately prevail over opposition to His Truth.

The **Responsorial Psalm** (Psalm 21:26-28, 30-32 response v26) again looks to the centrality of God in our lives and the ongoing and irresistible spread of Faith, Truth and Justice, as more are gathered into the one true fold.

Saint John, in the **Second reading** (1 Jn. 3:18-24) emphasises the inescapable fact that belief in Jesus cannot be merely verbal assent but, if it is to be credible to all, it must influence our relations with and our treatment of others. As the maxim states, '*actions speak louder than words*'. Our conscience, formed by the Teachings of the Church, will help us to remain faithful and confident in our loving obedience to God's Laws, whatever obstacles may be placed in our path. The Commandments are our sure Rule of Life, our 'Route-Map'. This fruitful closeness to our Father is echoed in the **Alleluia Verse** (John 15:4-5) and underlined later on in the **Communion Antiphon** (cf John 15:1-5).

The **Gospel** (Jn. 15:1-8) presents us with the beautiful discourse of Jesus on our essential and close, therefore fruitful, union with Him; only by growing on the Vine can Branches flourish and bear fruit. Our Lord delivers the stark warning that the roads to Heaven and Hell, to our Eternity, are our choice. We are called to oppose the materialism and the so-called 'modern moral standards' so widely and forcefully presented as 'cool' and to be constantly aware that, however much the 'majority' may appear to prevail, every single person created will appear before God's Judgement Seat. Be prepared to suffer opposition now in order to, one day, hear the words'... *Well done, Good and Faithful Servant...*' (Matthew 25:21, 23) from our Loving Father.

Thank you for your generosity

The collection for Sunday 22nd April 2018 came to **£1839.00** (£1194.00 (baskets) & £645.00 (Standing Orders)).

Would Gift Aiders kindly ensure that they **use only the new pale green envelopes** to make their offering.

You also kindly gave a total of **£651.00** towards the Ecclesiastical Education Fund, **in the new yellow envelopes**. LIFE thank you for helping to raise £134.00 at their Coffee Morning last Sunday. A cheque has been sent to Zoe's Place Hospice in Liverpool. Please see: www.zoes-place.org for more details.

This weekend, there is a second collection for the **Maintenance of St George's Cathedral Southwark**. Our cathedral is an expensive place to maintain, so do please give as generously as you can. Gift Aiders will find a special **yellow** envelope in their boxes; Those who give by Standing Order should also have these envelopes.

GIFT AID SCHEME - "MONEY SUNDAY"

John Byrne will give a brief talk about Gift Aid at all Masses this weekend. After every Mass, he will be available in the room behind Our Lady's Altar to deal with any questions you may have, and to provide assistance with any paperwork. Through the Gift Aid scheme, the parish can reclaim tax you have paid, **at no extra cost to yourself**.

Did you know that you can also Gift Aid your Mass Offerings, or indeed any donations to the Parish? Please destroy any old envelopes you have. The current envelopes are a pale green colour, whilst those for second collections are yellow. If you have withdrawn from the Gift Aid scheme, please cease using numbered envelopes.

If you would like to receive an End of Year letter for tax purposes, kindly request it from the Parish Office.

Please pray for our Sick and Housebound parishioners:

Jessica Anane, Lilian Armstrong, Juliette Blake, Alan Blaquiere, Anita Blaquiere, Barry Breese, Erna Breese, Frances Caulfield, Jean Cowie, Audrey Draude, Teresa Florek-Smail, Raffaella Forte, Giovanni Franco, Rachel Gadd, Elaine Gunther, Anne Harris, Agnes Healy, Evelyn Hyland, Baby Scarlett Kurowski, David Lacey, Elsie McCleave, James McDonald, Breda McDonagh, Michael Madigan, Ajitha Mahatantila, Gerard Mascarenhas, Charmaine Meli, Ruby Mendez, Mary Meyern, Janina Miller, Maria Parnis, Marion Robertson, Parwar Saib, Frederic Saint-Rose, Alice Scott, Elizabeth Scott, Christine Shaughnessy, 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 2 please:

Barbara Baichu, Jackie Byrne, Mary Duah, Doris Fosua, Helen Igbidion, Mary Odusanya, Victoria Okonko.

If any more ladies and gentlemen would like to help clean God's house, please contact the Parish Office.

WELCOME

We welcome into the family of the Catholic Church, through the Sacrament of Baptism,

Alana Jameela Sharon Eva Brown, who was Baptised here last Sunday.

COFFEE MORNING TODAY WITH OUR CONFIRMATION GROUP

After the 8.30am, 10am & 11.30am Masses. Please do come along and support our Confirmandi who, as part of their Confirmation journey are raising funds for the SVP and the British Home in Upper Norwood.

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

If you think God may be calling you to serve Him, please contact Fr Deo or Fr Innocent. Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Southwark Vocations Director, Fr John Diver, on 020 8300 2480. Also see the web site: www.southwarkvocations.com or email: info@southwarkvocations.com

Please see the Vocations posters. Please pray for vocations and indeed encourage others to do so.

SPUC

Following recent visits to this parish by John Smeaton, Chief Executive of SPUC, a meeting will be held in the hall this coming Wednesday 2nd May at 7.30pm for all those interested in forming a SPUC group in our parish.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Would you all kindly provide your available dates for ministry for the month of June 2018, by the middle of May, at the latest, so that the next rota may be drawn up by the Parish Secretary in good time. The May rota will be issued in the coming days, based on replies received from only a few people.

MISSIO

You will see in the porch a poster which gives details of and thanks you for the total collected for 2017. Your generosity towards this most worthy cause is much appreciated. Those of you holding the red collection boxes raised £5266.60, whilst payments by Direct Debit came to £3238.32. Grand Total for 2017: £8504.92.

THE HALL - LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Please note that the hall, that is on both levels, will be out of bounds to all users this Thursday 3rd May 2018. On no account should anybody enter the hall, save those voting, where our hall is their local Polling Station.

A HIGHLY IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM FATHER DEO ABOUT THE NEW GENERAL DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION

New General Data Protection Legislation comes into force on Friday 25th May 2018. This will affect us all. We are now required to both ensure and indeed demonstrate that we know everybody who has access to the vast amount of personal information we hold in the parish, what information they hold, and in which format/s. I know that a great number of you currently volunteer for the parish, or may have done so in the past, and therefore you may well have some personal information at your home or office, in a file and/or on a PC, phone, laptop or other device. Please could you let either me or the Parish Office know if this applies to you, so that I can let you know what actions you will need to take going forward. The Archbishop is encouraging all of us to help implement these changes, and I thank you in advance for your co-operation. I cannot stress strongly enough the important impact which this new legislation will have upon the parish, and I am mindful of the most severe penalties which may be imposed for non compliance. Please therefore do come forward, whether or not you think you may be affected.

MARCH FOR LIFE - SATURDAY 5TH MAY 2018

This year, the March for Life is taking place in Central London, giving those of us down South a great opportunity to take part. There will be LifeFest18, held indoors, which includes workshops, music and various stalls. There you can find out more about the subject of abortion and about the importance of every human life. It is expected that the Sacrament of Confession will be available in the morning. Then in the afternoon, those who are able are invited to process to Parliament Square, where prominent pro life speakers will give keynote speeches.

Please consider attending this event, details of which may be found on posters in porch areas.

If you would like to know more, you may email: info@marchforlife.co.uk or see the website: marchforlife.co.uk

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Session 7 for candidates takes place in the hall on **Wednesday 2nd May 2018** from 7.30pm - 9pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Session 10 for candidates, "Body of Christ" will take place in the upper hall on Saturday 12th May 2018 from 10am - 11.30am. Please ensure candidates arrive in good time, to ensure their timely departure.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2018 AND ARRANGING BAPTISM

In every case, please complete a Baptism Details Form, which you will find in the main porch. The next course takes place across two consecutive afternoons, on Saturdays 7th & 14th July 2018 at 3pm on both dates.

REPOSITORY

Confirmation and First Holy Communion items are still available. These events are now just a few weeks away!

NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

This beautiful statue, together with Relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, will be at St George's Cathedral, Southwark next Saturday 5th May 2018. Please see the poster in the main porch for more details.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS

This takes place at St George's Cathedral, Southwark on Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May 2018 at 11am. Please see the poster in the main porch for details of this event, which will begin with a procession at 10.45am.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SOUTHWARK

This annual celebration, with the opportunity to renew your Marriage Vows, takes place at 3pm on Saturday 16th June 2018. If you are celebrating either your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or greater anniversary, and would like to attend this Mass, kindly contact the Parish Office, as soon as possible, with your name and address details, together with the number of people you would like to go along with you. The Archbishop will be sent your details so that he can then issue a formal invitation to all those couples wishing to be there on the day.

ARE YOU STILL SEEKING A RECEPTION CLASS FOR YOUR CHILD?

A few places remain at the Federation of St Joseph's in Upper Norwood for September 2018. This friendly school, set in lovely grounds, also has a Junior School, which is currently Croydon School of the Year. The federation is in the top 2% of schools for results at the end of Key Stage 2 nationally! Call 020 8670 2385 for further details.

ST JOHN'S SEMINARY, WONERSH

The seminary in which many of our priests receive their formation is in desperate need of refurbishment. The buildings in which our students for the Priesthood live have had not much more than a coat of paint in over 40 years. If you can spare something to help your future priests, please send a cheque, *payable to St John's Seminary*, to this address: **Mgr Gerry Ewing (Vice Rector), St John's Seminary, Wonersh, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 0QX.** On behalf of those who will one day serve as priests, and upon whom you may well one day rely, thankyou.



Parish Masses This Week

Sunday Masses: Vigil, Saturday 6.15pm; Sunday: 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 5pm

Parish Mass Book: This Sunday - p.268

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 (*Rosary & Benediction in May & October*)
On First Fridays - Adoration after 10am Mass, closing with Benediction at 2pm

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
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Sunday 29th April 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

	6.15pm (Saturday 28th April)	John Peter Wirnsburger RIP
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(Confirmandi Coffee Morning after Mass)

8.30am

People of the parish

(Confirmandi Coffee Morning after Mass)

10am

Frederick William Fisher RIP

(Confirmandi Coffee Morning after Mass)

11.30am (Hymn Choir)

Patsy Hopkins RIP

Benediction

4pm

5pm

Welfare of Tara Wood

Monday 30th April 2018

St Pius V, Pope

7.30am

Ellis Foundation Mass

10am

Mary Kenny RIP

Tuesday 1st May 2018

St Joseph the Worker

7.30am

Welfare of Seminarian Riche Podador (KSC intention)

10am

Eamon Gillespie RIP

Wednesday 2nd May 2018

St Athanasius, Bishop &

Doctor of the Church (Memorial)

7.30am

Mary Kenny RIP

10am

Welfare of Msahala & Lyamwaka families & friends

Thursday 3rd May 2018

Saints Philip & James, Apostles (Feast)

7.30am

Doreen Draper RIP

10am

Mark Addison RIP

Friday 4th May 2018

The English Martyrs (Feast)

FIRST FRIDAY - Adoration following the

10am Mass, concluding with Benediction at 2pm

7.30am

Michael & Eileen Tully RIP

10am

Eugene Shaughnessy RIP

Saturday 5th May 2018

Our Lady

10am

Thanksgiving - Jeannette Da Silva

Next Sunday 6th May 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

	6.15pm (Saturday 5th May)	Elisabeth Davies RIP
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8.30am

People of the Parish

10am

Bridie Raftery RIP

11.30am (Polyphony Choir)

Tom O'Connor RIP

Benediction

4pm

5pm

Ellis Foundation Mass