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# Holy Cross Catholic Church

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7th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
22 / 23 Feb 2025

Dear Parishioners,

When I was a teenager, I was beaten twice by Hindu fundamentalists because I was a Christian. I still know the names of those who hurt me. For years, I clung to anger, convinced my pain justified my refusal to forgive. Even now, forgiveness feels incomplete; the scars linger. Today's Gospel cuts deeply: "**Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you... pray for those who abuse you.**" Jesus does not ask us to pretend the wounds aren't real. He asks us to choose mercy anyway—not because our pain is small, but because God's love is larger.

This passage reminds me that forgiveness is not a single act, but a daily surrender. When Jesus says, "**Be merciful, as your Father is merciful,**" He invites us into a love that transcends fairness. It's a love that gives without expecting repayment, prays even for persecutors, and trusts God to heal what we cannot. Our journey is unfinished, but each small step—praying for those who hurt us, releasing bitterness—draws us closer to the heart of Christ. Let us ask for the grace to love as God loves: recklessly, relentlessly, and without measure.

**Let us pray for Pope Francis:** Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, continues treatment for bilateral pneumonia, with a stable yet gradual recovery. Despite health challenges, he remains prayerful and engaged in limited work. Let us unite in fervent prayer for his healing and strength.

**Prayers and Support for the Retired Priests:** Imagine the countless moments our priests have been there for us—in times of joy, sorrow, and everything in between. Now, it's our turn to show our heartfelt gratitude for their lifelong dedication. This weekend, we're holding a **special second collection** for the Clergy Support Fund, a chance to tangibly support our beloved retired priests. Your generous gift, whether through the collection, online at [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF), calling 020 7960 2504 (Mon-Fri, office hours), or using the envelopes at the entrances of the church, will make a real difference in their lives. Let's wrap them in our love and support, and continue to hold them in our prayers.

**Called to Bear Fruit:** Archbishop John Wilson calls upon everyone to actively shape our Archdiocese's future through "Called to Bear Fruit." Please form small groups of 4-7 to discuss the six themes from the booklet distributed weeks ago; if you missed it, a PDF is in the newsletter email. Choose your own meeting schedule and share your group's insights online or in writing by April 6th. Your voices are vital, and this is a parishioner-led effort, not led by me. Let's work together to build a brighter future.

**World Day of Prayer:** Join Holy Cross and Catford churches for the 2025 World Day of Prayer, celebrating the Cook Islands and its people on Friday, March 7th at 10:30 am in Hartley Hall; we'll explore Psalm 139's message of God's creation, knowledge, and presence, followed by tea and cake. All are welcome!

**Holy Cross Church Shop:** Looking for a spiritual gift or a personal reminder of your faith? Our Holy Cross Church Shop is open after all weekend Masses, offering a beautiful selection of holy articles. From rosaries and prayer cards to devotional books and unique gifts, you'll find something to inspire and uplift. Visit the shop this weekend.

*With every blessing, Fr Antony*

## St. Mary's Council Meeting:

This council plans and coordinates the liturgy and worship in our parish. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25th, at 7:00 pm in Hartley Hall. Please share your visions and suggestions for making our liturgy more meaningful. As we prepare to begin the Season of Lent and observe several special liturgical events in this Year of Jubilee, your ideas can greatly enrich our worship and make it more prayerful.

## Announcing Our New Parish Website!

As we announced previously, our new parish website is launching the first weekend of March! We're excited to share this updated online presence with you. The new site features a fresh, modern design and is packed with information about our parish community. We've also created expanded opportunities for enriching our Catechesis section with valuable resources.

You can preview the new website by scanning the QR code here.

We encourage you to explore the new site and share your feedback.

Your suggestions will help us make it an even more meaningful and valuable resource for everyone.

A special thank you to Bruno Perez for his hard work and dedication in creating this beautiful new website!

## Pilgrimage to Fatima

In this Jubilee Year 2025, as we embrace our theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope,' let us enrich our spiritual journey through pilgrimages to holy sites. These sacred journeys offer profound spiritual renewal, strengthen faith, and grant the graces of indulgences, cultivating hope and fostering personal transformation. We invite you to join our pilgrimage to Fatima from June 2nd to 5th, at a cost of £590. For booking, please contact Lisa O'Hara at [catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk).

## Hope in Adoration

Archbishop John's "Hope in Adoration" campaign for the Jubilee Year encourages Eucharistic adoration to find fulfilment in Christ. Throughout the year, testimonies and resources will be shared, alongside a list of adoration times across the Archdiocese, all available at [rcaos.org.uk/hopeinadoration](http://rcaos.org.uk/hopeinadoration).



## Red Missal Book ... page 991

**I confess...** : page 525      **Gloria:** page 531  
**Creed(s):** pages 543 - 545      **Our Father...**635

## Prayer Time at Holy Cross

Holy Mass: Mon to Thurs - 9.15am; Fri - 7pm;  
Sat - 6.30pm; Sun - 9am & 11.30am

Rosary – Mon, Tue, Thu @ 9.45am;

Divine Mercy Chaplet – Wed @ 9.45am and Fri 7.30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions: Fri 6.00pm

## Night Prayer at 9pm [Zoom]

Meeting ID: 7578777461;

Passcode: 20212021

## Next Sunday - Bible Readings

1st Reading: **Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8**      Psalm: **91:2-3, 13-16**

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 15:54-58**      Gospel: **Luke 6:39-45**

## IMPORTANT DAYS REMEMBER UNTIL JUNE

22 Feb - Coach Pilgrimage to Diocesan Holy Places  
23 Feb - **Seeds of the Word** [Retreat for parents who baptised their children in the past 7 years]  
25 Feb - St Mary's Council Meeting  
04 March - St Joseph's Council Meeting  
05 March - **Ash Wednesday**  
09 March - Lenten Retreat: **Bishop Pat Lynch**  
11 March - St Paul's Council Meeting  
13 March - Lenten Retreat [via Zoom]: The Desert Experience  
17 March - St Patrick's Day Celebration  
20 March - Lenten Retreat [via Zoom]: Metanoia  
23 March - Lenten Retreat: **Bishop Paul Mason**  
27 March - Lenten Retreat [via Zoom]: The Paschal Mystery  
29 March - Baptism Preparation  
30 March - Lenten Retreat: **Fr Chris Connor**  
03 April - Lenten Retreat [Via Zoom]: The Beatitudes  
10 April - Lenten Retreat [via Zoom]: Discipleship  
13 April - Palm Sunday  
14 April - Lenten Confessions  
20 April - **Easter**  
04 May - Confirmation Celebration—**Canon Victor Darlington**  
10 May - Holy Communion Celebration  
17 May - Baptism Preparation  
25 May - **Archbishop John Wilson's** Mass  
29 May - The Ascension of the Lord  
2-5 June - Pilgrimage to Fatima  
07 June - Jubilee Year celebration with the diocese [Aylesford]  
08 June - Pentecost  
15 June - International Day - The Most Holy Trinity  
21 June - Readers and EMHC Retreat  
22 June - **Sprouts of Faith:** Post Holy Communion Retreat

## Seeds of the Word

[Continuing formation for the parents who baptised their children]

Families who have baptised their children in the past seven years are invited to attend this Sunday's **9am Mass (February 23rd)**.

Your children will receive special prayers and blessings, followed by spiritual reflection and refreshments in Hartley Hall.

This is a wonderful opportunity to sow the seeds of God's word into their hearts. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Aylesford Pilgrimage for Jubilee Year 2025

We, the Holy Cross parishioners, will make a special coach trip to Aylesford on June 7, 2025, to celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025 and the 175th anniversary of the Diocese of Southwark alongside Archbishop John, clergy, and people from the diocese. This is a wonderful opportunity to join in a day of faith and fellowship. To reserve your seat on the coach, please contact our parish office at [catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk).

## St Paul's Council (for Catechesis and Formation)

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 10.15-11.15am:** we shall be meeting in the Library in Hartley Hall for our first **Praying and Learning with Scripture** session. Come join us, especially if you have a ministry in church or feel called to carry out a ministry. We shall be meeting once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 4.30-6pm in Hartley Hall:** Next RCIA Journey in Faith meeting: Sacraments of Healing led by Father Antony.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm, with food and drinks at 7pm:** St Paul's Council members bi-annual meeting.

**Are you called to be a catechist?** Do you want to share your faith? We are able to provide you with support and training. The best way to develop your faith is to teach others: you will gain so much! Please contact Judy on

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Sat 22nd - Fri 28th Feb 2025

SAT	6:30pm	Jim Foley R.I.P.
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Brian Roshier R.I.P. People of the Parish
MON	9:15am	Anthony & Joseph Noronha R.I.P.
TUE	9:15am	Linda Mahoney R.I.P. & Mahoney Family
WED	9:15am	Geoffrey, Greta & Walter Almeida R.I.P.
THU	9:15am	Dominic Sanderson - Birthday Thanksgiving
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Rachael Pereira Wibberley - Healing

**Please Pray for the Sick:** Mary Rand, Pat Doyle, Albert Young, Enid Benzynie, Sherine Sukhram, Vivianne Owens, Trish Keaveney, Myra Hannon, Lydia Joseph, Melanie Thomas, Susan Murphy, Joe Green, Florence Nosegbe, Colin Maton, Katie Bournier, Aboa Claudine, Ivor Lewis, Eileen Embury, Kitty Wilkinson, Theresa Butler, Jo Rocca Smith, Ann Whittington, Elfrida Wacholz, Pat Gallagher, Leonie Nwawudu, Titi Balogun, Abosede Elizabeth Goba, Meesh Gemmell, Elaine Williams, Baby Gwen Williams, Jessica O'Hara and Rachael Pereira Wibberley

**ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL?** - Contact Lewisham Hospital Catholic Chaplain directly on 020 8333 3299. In an emergency, please say to the staff that you would like to see a Catholic priest.

## BAPTISM

This Sunday - 23rd February 2025 at the 11:30 Mass we welcome into the Catholic faith

**Serena Grace Octavia Atherton**

Please keep her parents **Caroline** and **Timothy** in your prayers

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend's 2nd Collection is for the **Clergy Support Fund**. This enables the Archdiocese of Southwark to care for clergy in their retirement, old age and at times of ill health, after their lifetimes of service and dedication to Christ, His Church and His people.

## PARISH CONTACTS

**Office:** 020 8698 3672 (Tues & Thur from 10:00am)

**Joseph Flahive:** [catford@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catford@rcaos.org.uk)

**Lisa O'Hara:** [catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk)

**Holy Cross School:** [Mary Collins: 020 8698 2675]

**Holy Cross Book Shop:** 020 3441 8240

**Safeguarding:** Pat Barber & Lisa O'Hara 07598 524024