

Holy Cross Catholic Church

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3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)
20/21 Jan 2024



Dear Parishioner,

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, the Lord says: "I will make you fishers of men." What a powerful image! We are called to cast our nets not for earthly bounty, but for souls adrift in the sea of life. Fear not, for this is not a daunting task, but a magnificent privilege.

Remember, we are not alone in this endeavour. Christ, the master fisherman, walks beside us, guiding our hands and strengthening our resolve. His net of love casts wide, encompassing all, regardless of past or circumstance. We are merely instruments, conduits of His grace.

So, let us step out of our boats, unafraid of the unknown waters. Let compassion be our bait, kindness our hook, and understanding our line. In every interaction, be it on the bustling streets or within the quiet walls of our homes, let us offer the comfort of Christ's words, the solace of His embrace.

Remember, dear friends, every soul we touch, every heart we mend, is a fish drawn to the shore of salvation. And in that act, we fulfil the Lord's call, becoming fishers of men, not for our own glory, but for the boundless love that flows from His ever-open arms.

Go forth, then, with hearts full of faith and nets brimming with hope. Remember, the greatest catch is not measured in numbers, but in the depth of transformation, the spark of redemption, kindled in each soul we encounter.

May God bless you and guide your nets, dear fishers of men. Peace be with you.

ST MARY'S COUNCIL MEETING

As we approach the Season of Lent, we are holding our St Mary's Council meeting on February 12th, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the priest's house. We warmly welcome any interested parishioners to join us, not just our Council members. Let's come together to make this Lent a blessed and prayerful season. For those unable to attend in person, please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with me, Pat Barber, or Nick Wibberley.

ST JOSEPH'S COUNCIL MEETING

Join us for our St. Joseph's Council meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at the priest's house. We're looking forward to a productive meeting as we build on the success of the International Day celebration, Christmas festivities, seaside coach trip, and other wonderful events organized and led by St. Joseph's Council.

Let's make this year another year of celebration and community! We encourage you to share your innovative ideas for bringing people closer to God and each other. Please don't hesitate to convey your thoughts to me or Tina Ibe.

ST PAUL'S COUNCIL MEETING

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated catechists who faithfully translate God's wisdom into human language through their invaluable catechism classes. This year, we were excited to offer additional classes for older children preparing for their First Holy Communion. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Chuz & Ibidun Eberendu for generously serving as their catechists. We're also blessed to have Leon Jackson and his family step forward to lead our Confirmation program. Leon's special gift for teaching and connecting with young people will undoubtedly be a source of tremendous support and guidance for our confirmands. Thank you, Leon!

To continue strengthening our catechesis and explore new ways to engage our parishioners, we'll be holding a St. Paul's Council meeting on May 7th, 2024, at 7:00 PM in Hartley Hall. This meeting is especially relevant for everyone involved in our catechetical programs, but anyone who wishes to share their time and talents for the greater glory of God is warmly welcome to attend.

Please note this date, 13 May 2024, if you are involved in catechesis. We look forward to your valuable input and shared dedication to fostering faith and knowledge within our community.

FAMILY PALM TREES



I'm absolutely thrilled by the overwhelming response to our 108 palm trees! When I purchased them, I had no idea they would generate such excitement among our parishioners. I sincerely apologize to those who were unable to receive a palm. We simply didn't have enough space in the church to accommodate more than 100!

However, your enthusiasm is truly heartwarming and a testament to the importance of these symbolic branches.

Please remember, overwatering your palm trees is a big no-no! For their optimal care, kindly follow the helpful guidelines we've provided here. Remember to bring your palm back to the church before Palm Sunday. Your cherished palms will grace our Easter Garden, adding a touch of personal meaning to this sacred celebration. After Easter, they

will be returned to your homes, where you can lovingly tend to them for future church decorations.

With your help, we can create a beautiful tradition of shared faith and flourishing greenery. Thank you for making our parish such a vibrant and special community!

With every blessing, **Fr Antony**

How to Look after the Palm

Tree: Place in a light area out of direct sunlight, as this will damage the leaves.

The growing medium should be moist, but allow it to dry out a little between waterings. A lower temperature could affect the plant, they prefer a warm climate and are sensitive to draughts.

Areca palms are best kept indoors. This plant humidifies air so making it ideal for offices or homes with dry air.

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
 9pm for Night Prayer [via Zoom—every day except Saturday]
 Meeting ID: 7578777461; Passcode: 20212021.

BAPTISMS AT HOLY CROSS

This last Sunday there were two Baptisms.

At the 9:00am Mass we welcomed *Nyla Odeneve* into the faith.

At the 11:30am Mass we welcomed *Ngozi Melvin Nwosu*.

Please keep these young ones, and their parents and families in your prayers.



CHORISTER'S ALB

Our 11.30am Adult Choir is now shinning with new Albs already their music and singing bring abundance of blessings in our Sunday liturgy. It added great solemnity last Sunday when they processed around the church wearing their new Albs and singing at the entrance hymn. Many thanks to Nick Wibberley who organised the buying of these Albs. We are really proud of our choirs.

If anyone would like to join our choirs, we are here to welcome you with smiling face!

Parish Consultation:

We are currently considering some proposed changes to the timing of our weekday Masses on Bank Holidays and School Half Terms, as well as the regular weekday Mass time.

1. Move weekday masses on *Bank Holidays* and *School Half Term* to 10am.
2. Move weekday Mass time from 9.15am to 9.30am to help the elderly avoid school road restrictions.

Please share your opinion with Fr Antony on these proposed changes. If there are no objections, the new timings will be implemented starting March 2024.

Baptism

This Sunday - 21st Jan 2024
 at the 11:30am Mass we welcome

Theodore Isiah Knight
 into our Holy Cross family.

Please keep Theodore and his parents
Nicola and Jonathan in your prayers

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Sat 20th - Fri 26th Jan 2024

SAT	6:30pm	Rosa O'Connell R.I.P.
SUN	9:00am	Brian Roshier R.I.P.
	11:30am	Antoine Kodjo - Thanksgiving
MON	9:15am	The Caruana Family Members - Living and Deceased
TUE	9:15am	Matilda Callaghan R.I.P
WED	9:15am	<i>Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> Francisca Dunbar and Family - Thanksgiving
THU	9:15am	<i>The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle</i> Rachael Pereira Wibberley - Wellbeing
FRI	6:00pm	<i>Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i>
	7:00pm	<i>Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> Denis Costello and Family - Thanksgiving

Bring back your Old Palms: for the Ash Wednesday liturgy we are going to prepare the ashes with your old palms. Kindly bring them back to the church and place them in the boxes placed in the porches. Many Thanks

REST IN PEACE

Two of our longstanding parishioners have passed away in the recent past, Gala Lobo and Mary Emmanus. Please keep them in your prayers.

Gala Lobo's funeral will be held on 31 Jan 2024 at 1pm at Holy Cross and Mary Emmanus' funeral Mass will be offered on the 15 Feb 2024 at 11.30am in our parish church.

We also extend our heartfelt condolences to their family members and friends.

Many they rest in Peace!

I take this opportunity to thank Lesley for her spiritual support to Gala Lobo and Mary Emmanus.

Money Matters - THANK YOU

Last week: £543

PARISH CONTACTS

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

Joseph Flahive: catford@rcaos.org.uk

Lisa O'Hara: 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

Please Pray for the Sick: Mary Rand, Pat Doyle, Albert Young, Graham Canelle, Sherine Sukhram, Vivianne Owens, Norma Jones, Myra Hannon, Lydia Joseph, Colin Maton, Melanie Thomas, Katie Bourner, Martin Flatley, Florence Nosegbe, Ivor Lewis, Susan Murphy, Eileen Embury, Kitty Wilkinson, Theresa Butler, Ann Whittington, Elfrida Wacholz, Jill Campbell, Elaine Williams, Joe Green, Abosede Titi Balogun, Trish Keaveney, Jo Rocca Smith, Leonie Nwawudu, Rachael Pereira Wibberley, Elizabeth Goba, Aboa Claudine, Meesh Gemmell and Baby Gwen Williams.

ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL? - Contact Lewisham Hospital Catholic Chaplain directly on 07436051067. In an emergency, please say to the staff that you would like to see a Catholic priest.