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Holy Cross Catholic Church

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5th Sunday in Lent (Year B)
16/17 Mar 2024

Dear Parishioner,

This Sunday's Gospel (John 12:20-33) invites us to let go of the things that hold us back from living fully in Christ. Like the grain of wheat, true life and abundance come through sacrifice. Jesus shows us that worldly glory and clinging to this life aren't the paths to fulfilment. Instead, by embracing God's will, even when it means difficulty, we find freedom and bear lasting fruit. This Lent, let's ask ourselves: what do we need to surrender to discover the deeper life Christ offers? May we be open to dying to ourselves so that we can truly live in Him.

Please find the fifth part of the Catechism of the Catholic Church here below. Please reflect personally and in your family. You can find the source passage at this following link: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM.

CATHOLIC FAITH [PART 5]

How Can We Speak about God?

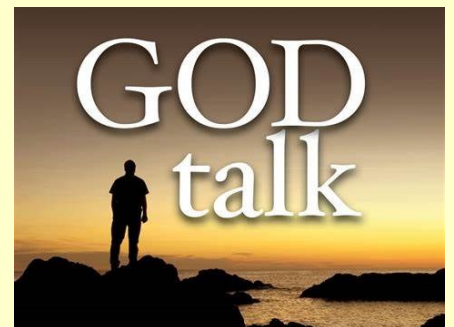
[please read Catechism of the Catholic Church - no 39-43]

Talking about God is important! The Church believes everyone can understand something about God, which is why we should have conversations with all kinds of people about Him. But here's the tricky part: God is way bigger and more amazing than anything we can imagine. Our words are limited!

Think of describing the most beautiful sunset. You'll use things like colours and shapes, but the real sunset is more incredible than your words. It's the same with God.

We use things we understand, like goodness and beauty, to point towards Him. These things are like tiny reflections of God's greatness.

However, we need to be careful. We can't make God fit into a box with our words. He is always more mysterious and surprising than we can say!



Reflection:

- What are some words you use to describe God? (Loving, powerful, kind, etc)
- Can you think of something beautiful or awe-inspiring that reminds you of God's greatness?

Questions to Discuss

- Why is it important to talk about God with people who believe different things?
 - How can art, music, or nature help us express things about God?
- Even though God is beyond our words, why is it still important to try to describe Him?

Bible Verses

- "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made." (Romans 1:20)
- "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" (Romans 11:33)

Palm Sunday will be celebrated next week! In preparation, we'll decorate our church with our Family Palm Trees. If you received a Palm Tree plant, please pot it and bring it to church next week by Friday evening.

May we continue to cherish God's love through prayer, penance, and good works in this Season of Lent.

Fr. Antony

Rite of Election

Please continue to pray for the catechumens due to be baptized this Easter. They are Francesca Tafri-Allon, Aaron Kong, Kieran Tresadern, Florence Obeng and Eli Elca De Havillain. They are joined by Brad Robinson, who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter, and also Vanessa Borsatto and Kristina Ika who will both receive Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Please pray for all catechumens and candidates as they now enter the next important phase of their faith journey.

Third Scrutiny (Sunday Mass, 17th March, 9:00am)

Please pray for our catechumens and candidates as they attend the third and final part of the Scrutinies this Sunday, 17th March at the 9:00am Mass.

Blue Missal Book ... page 159

I confess... : page 453 **Gloria:** page 455
Creed(s): pages 458 - 459 **Our Father...** 485

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

Stations of the Cross

We gratefully thank the **Children's Choir** involved in last Friday's Stations and those who helped organise it. The next Stations on the 15th March will be led by the **Filipino Community**. The following Friday (22nd) Stations will be led by the **Ivorian and French Speaking Community**.

We pray the Stations of the Cross every Wednesday after the 9.15am Mass and Friday after the 7pm Mass



CATHOLIC MOTHERS WITH A PURPOSE:

Grateful thanks to those Mothers of our Holy Cross parish who come together with the desire to gather regularly for prayer and to take action to provide needed support. Their first project was feeding the hungry and needy this last Sunday

For more information, please contact **Hope Ezinwa**, **Tina Ibe**, or **Gesiere Ojejinmi**.

May they Rest in Peace!

Martin Flatley [Funeral 18th March, 11:45am]
Lee-Lum Caesar [Funeral 20th March, 12:00pm]
Bridey Keane [Funeral 21st March, 10:30am]
Gillian Yhip [Funeral 4th April, time TBC]

Please keep them in your prayers.

Baptism Courses

The course dates for the remainder of 2024 are:

11th May 22nd June 14th September 23rd November

Those wishing to have their child Baptised should see Fr Antony for a Baptism Application Form.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - Sat 16 - Fri 22 Mar

SAT	6:30pm	Sean Ruxton R.I.P.
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Maja Stankiewicz Mr Gnanapragasam Manuelpillai & Mrs Bernadate Gnanapragasam R.I.P.
MON	9:15am	Martin Joseph Flatley R.I.P.
TUE	9:15am	Chief Paul Njoku R.I.P. (1st Anniversary)
WED	9:15am	The Holy Souls - November List
THU	9:15am	Brian Roshier R.I.P.
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Jonathan Andrew Arguedas R.I.P. Followed by Stations of the Cross

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

St Joseph's Council

This meeting will now take place on **Monday 18th March at 7:00pm.**

Calling all Sunday Apostles!

Please note that the meeting for all those who would like to know more about becoming a Sunday Apostle has been changed to **Wednesday 20th March at 7:00pm.**



Third Thursday Time is a mental health space hosting relaxing activities with the opportunity to socialise with other people. Come and join us in Hartley Hall for our next session on **21st March from 6-8pm** for massage, exercise and other activities.

RED MISSION BOXES:

These will be collected after Easter. More information to follow.



SECOND COLLECTION (This week)

Poor Parishes - formerly the Needs of the Diocese collection, this collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

Money Matters - THANK YOU

Main Collection(s) - £525

PARISH CONTACTS

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

Josepha 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