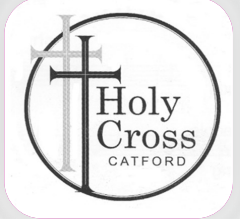


Holy Cross Catholic Church

Fr Antony Megalan Sellam
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Easter Sunday
30/31 Mar 2024



Dear Parishioner,

As we gather to celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, let us reflect upon the journey of Lent that prepared us for this most important feast of the liturgical year. Through prayer, fasting, and works of charity, we have sought to prepare our hearts and minds to fully embrace the profound joy of Easter.

I was particularly heartened to see so many of you participate in the Sacrament of Confession last Monday at Holy cross. Reconciliation with the Lord is a profound sign of our willingness to turn away from darkness and embrace the light of Christ anew.

Today, let us remember that through His Resurrection, Jesus Christ has conquered death itself. Our lives, so beautifully created by God, cannot be extinguished by death. In this hope, we entrust our beloved departed parishioners and family members into His comforting hands, knowing that they too share in the promise of eternal life.

Yet, even as we rejoice, we must also bring before the Lord our own fragilities and struggles. Just as Christ arose from the darkness of the tomb, may we too, through His power, arise from the shadows of our lives and shine with the light of His love.

May our Risen Lord fill your hearts and homes with Easter peace and joy, now and always.

A special welcome to those who are new to Holy Cross Catholic Church, Catford! Whether you're new to the area or simply seeking a new faith community, I extend to you a heartfelt welcome.

At Holy Cross, we strive to be a **welcoming and friendly parish**. Our parishioners are open arms waiting to greet you and make you feel at home. If you have any questions or need some guidance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly or to any of our **Welcome Ministers**. You can easily identify them by their sashes worn from Easter onwards. These sashes proudly declare **"FRIENDS OF CHRIST"** – a fitting representation of our welcoming spirit.

As you settle into our church family, we encourage you to explore ways to deepen your faith and connect with others. Over time, you may find yourself drawn to volunteer opportunities such as becoming a **lector (reader)** or participating in other ministries. We also extend a warm invitation to bring your family members and friends along on this faith journey. Together, let us all be **apostles**, sharing the love and message of Jesus Christ with others.

Welcome, dear friends! You are now part of our Holy Cross family

Be Connected: We are all part of the vibrant body of Christ here in our parish, but there are so many ways to deepen those connections and nurture our spiritual lives! Of course, the very best way is to join us for Mass regularly. As we break bread together, we become more than a crowd; we become a true family. Don't be afraid to smile at new faces, introduce yourself, and extend a warm welcome.

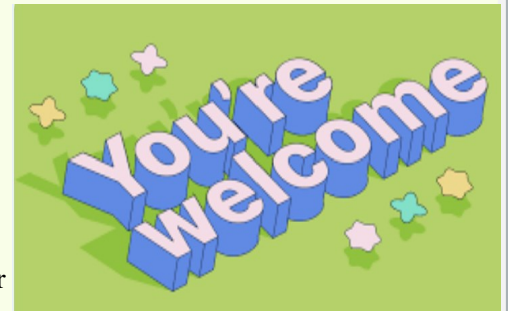


Also, be sure to pick up our parish newsletter each week. You'll find important updates, inspiring reflections, and announcements about upcoming events. If you're not receiving our newsletter electronically, there are a couple of easy ways to connect: Send an email to [catford@rcaos.org.uk] to have your address added to our list or Scan this QR code with your phone to join. Let's strengthen our bonds as a community, and let our lights shine brightly together in the service of the Lord.

Want to Become a Catholic? If you are not a Catholic and perhaps a loved one, a friend, or a quiet yearning has brought you here, please know that the Catholic Church welcomes all with open arms. If you'd like to learn more about our faith, about the path toward becoming Catholic, please come and speak with me after the service or reach out to us by email. It would be a true honour to accompany you on this journey.

Tonight, we also witness the culmination of a beautiful journey for several individuals who will enter full communion with the Catholic Church, receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Francesca Tafri-Allen, Aaron Kong, Kieran Tresadern, Florence Obeng, Elli Elca De Havillain, Vanessa Borsatto, and Kristina Ika – we welcome you with open arms into our spiritual family! Let us all offer our prayers for them, and for all catechumens and candidates as they embark on the fullness of life within the Church.

May the light of the Risen Christ guide you and illuminate your path. **Fr Antony**



Blue Missal Book
Easter Vigil - page 252
Easter Sunday - page 291

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

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.

Your Offering/Donation

In gratitude for the countless blessings and gifts we receive in our lives and families from the Lord, we humbly present our offerings to God. To make your contribution, please click the link:

https://donorbox.org/holy-cross-church_catford
or scan the QR code here:

If you have specific intentions or prayers, feel free to mention them. We deeply appreciate your generosity and kindness.

May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

The best way to make your offering is to register for a Standing Order. Please click the link to download the Standing Order form. Hard copies are also available in the porch for your convenience.



Pilgrimage to Walsingham

There is to be a pilgrimage to the ***Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham*** on Tuesday 2nd April.

A Mass will be held that day for those at Walsingham.

Those attending should gather at the church car park at 7:15am ready to **depart by coach at 7:30am**.

For those who wish to make their own way they should be there for Mass at 12:30pm.

Cost for the coach will be £35 pp

May they Rest in Peace!

Gillian Yhip *Funeral 4th April, at 12:00pm*
Jeanette Hawkins *[Funeral TBC]*

&
Mary Gallagher *Funeral 15th April at 9:30am*

Please keep them in your prayers.

Your Easter Offering

As is customary, your offering over the Easter Weekend is a personal gift to our Parish Priest, Fr Antony. Thank you.

Night Prayer at 9pm

[Zoom]
Meeting ID: **7578777461**;
Passcode: 20212021

Stations of the Cross

We gratefully thank the **Ivorian and French Speaking Community** for last week's Stations. **Fr Antony** will be leading Stations this Good Friday at 7pm.

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

BAPTISMS

Easter Vigil – 2 Baptisms

Jade-Sola Omolayo Tafri-Allen (Mum Francesca)
& Dylan Acquah Parker (Parents Florence and Lawrence)

Friday 5th April - Baptism

Hayden and Haley Newland (Parents Valerie and Norbert)

Food Collection Sunday at Holy Cross
– weekend of 6/7 April.

If you are able to donate, please leave any non-perishable items in the porch (Sangley Road entrance) and they will be collected and delivered to a local foodbank. The goods can be left any day after morning Mass and it will be stored until the actual collection day. A huge thanks to everyone who has helped by donating.

How else can we help?

We know not everyone is in a position to donate food – there are lots of other ways we can help too. Together we can all pray for justice and an end to hunger and poverty.

****Saints' Corner Welcomes Statues from your Homeland!****

If you travel to your homeland, why not bring along with you a special statue for our Saints' Corner. Share the saints of your heritage with our community. It must be a 12" statue. Your contribution will enrich us spiritually.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - Sat 30 Mar - Fri 5 Apr

SAT	8:00pm	Easter Vigil
SUN	9:00am	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
	11:30am	People of the Parish
MON	10:00am	Holy Souls – November List
TUE	10:00am	<i>St Francis of Paola, hermit; St John Paine, martyred</i> Jennifer Thomas-Williams – Birthday Thanksgiving
WED	10:00am	Carmel Buckingham R.I.P
THU	10:00am	<i>St Isadore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> The Caruana Family Members, Living and Deceased
FRI	6:30pm	<i>St Vincent Ferrier, Priest</i>
	7:00pm	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> Liam and Carol O'Sullivan - Thanksgiving



RED MISSION BOXES:

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

Money Matters - THANK YOU

Last Weekend's Collection - £739

SECOND COLLECTION GOOD FRIDAY
Papal collection for the Holy Places of Palestine

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

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, Baby Gwen Williams & Pat Gallagher.

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.