

# Holy Cross Catholic Church

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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)  
27/28 Jan 2024



This week's Gospel tells us about Jesus' visit to the Synagogue to preach, where He was listened to with great respect, however they did so because He spoke with 'authority' not because they knew who He was.

As He was leaving He was accosted by a man with an 'unclean' spirit. This man recognised Jesus for who He was ... "I know who you are: the Holy One of God". Jesus responded by driving out the unclean spirit which astonished the onlookers and set them pondering on who this new teacher was and what authority let Him give orders to even drive out unclean spirits. It's interesting to note that this unclean spirit immediately knows who Jesus is. This is because each of two opposites emphasises the other very clearly. For example, black is most clearly seen when it is placed in front of something white.

Someone who undergoes a 'spiritual conversion' sees clearly the difference between their old and new lives in Jesus. However those of us who are already trying to 'perfect' our spiritual lives will probably not see such a contrast. The ideal for every Christian is to eventually experience less contrasting spiritual experiences and more that are gentle and subtle as our Lord continues to gently perfect us in many ways.



**Looking ahead to Lent:** Would you be interested in joining the Sisters of St Andrew in Lewisham for:

A four-week retreat in daily life -  
*Lent Retreat: A time for God.*

Led by a team of spiritual accompaniers and the sisters from Sunday 18 February to Sunday 17 March:

Booking before 10th February.

Or

*A Lenten Quiet Day* on Saturday 2 March, Please book early.

Information on our website [www.sisters-of-st-andrew.com](http://www.sisters-of-st-andrew.com)

**Note:** The monthly Meditative Evening Prayer including Taizé Chants will now be **every last Tuesday of the month** instead of the last Wednesday. (7.30 to 8.30)

Coming dates : 30th January, 27th February, 26th March

## Sunday Apostles

I am planning to start various catechetical programmes in our parish on Sundays from March this year.

Every first and third Sundays will be the time of learning about the Bible and Catholic teachings through Sunday Bible Classes from 10am to 11am. Second Sundays will be dedicated to Basic Christian Communities. They may gather, pray and cherish their fellowship after any weekend Mass. Every fourth Sunday will be for Youth Groups, Children's choir, Legion of Mary and so on.

I need at least seven people to support me and I would like to call them Sunday Apostles. They need not be highly qualified and talented. They need to give their time on Sundays from 10am to 11am to plan and execute catechetical programmes. Kindly give me your names and I will give you all training needed for this great mission.

May your dedication bear fruit and through your commitments many may encounter Jesus Christ in their life.

## 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.

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



**BAPTISM AT HOLY CROSS**

This last Sunday at the 11:30 Mass we welcomed

*Theodore Isiah Knight* into the faith.

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

**Baptism**

This Sunday - 28th Jan 2024 at the 11:30am Mass we welcome

*Ayla Henderson*

into our Holy Cross family.

Please keep Ayla and her parents **Alison and Paul** in your prayers



The Funeral Mass of **Gala Lobo**

will take place on Wednesday 31st Jan 2024 at 1pm, in Holy Cross Church.

*Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.*

**REST IN PEACE**

Another of our longstanding parishioners passed away recently, **Mary Emmanus**. Please keep her in your prayers.

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 her family members and friends.

*May she rest in Peace!*

**Food Collection Sunday at Holy Cross**  
 3/4 Feb 2024.

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, to help support families in our community who are struggling. We've now been donating regularly as a parish for over a year – a huge thanks to everyone who has helped, whether you've donated or prayed for an end to poverty.

We have a relationship with Downham and Whitefoot Community Food+ Project, who are based on Whitefoot Lane. They distribute it to local families in need. They support about 60 local families a week, and have helped about 1000 families since they were founded.

They are always in need of volunteers, either to help on their Food Bank night on Thursdays or to help collect food donations from supermarkets etc. If you are interested in volunteering, call **020 8698 7945**.

**\*Results of Parish Consultation:\***

We have made some decisions on some proposed changes to the timing of our weekday Masses.

1. Move weekday masses on Bank Holidays, Christmas and Easter to 10am.
2. Leave weekday Masses throughout term times, including Half-Terms at the current 9:15am

The new timings will be implemented starting March 2024.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Sat 27th Jan - Fri 2nd Feb 2024**

SAT	6:30pm	Peter Wilkins R.I.P.
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Maria Conroy - Wellbeing Cecilia R.I.P.
MON	9:15am	Harry Law R.I.P.
TUE	9:15am	Gillian Yhip - Wellbeing
WED	9:15am	<i>Saint John Bosco, Priest</i> People of the Parish
THU	9:15am	Brendan Kilcoyne R.I.P
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	<i>The Presentation of the Lord</i> Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Rachael Pereira Wibberley - Wellbeing

**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



**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.

**Money Matters - THANK YOU**

Last week: £654

This coming Sunday there is a Diocesan Second Collection – Racial Justice Sunday, thanks.

**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, Graham Canelle, Sherine Sukhram, Vivianne Owens, Norma Jones, Myra Hannon, Lydia Joseph, Colin Maton, Melanie Thomas, Katie Bourmer, 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.