

Holy Cross Catholic Church

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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)
3/4 Feb 2024



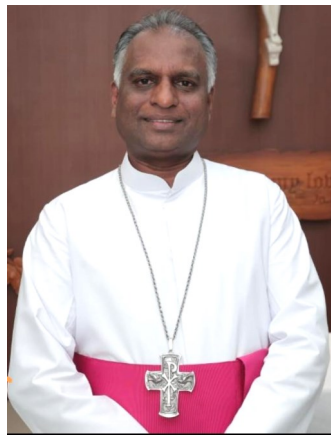
Jesus was in the home of Simon Peter whose mother-in-law He had just cured. When evening came 'The whole town came crowding round the door'. This was Jesus' first time being in Capernaum after beginning His public ministry, and already people were flocking to Him in droves. The next morning, Jesus got up before dawn and went away alone to pray. Soon, some of the disciples found Him and told Him that, once again, "Everybody is looking for you".

The excitement was great. So many were amazed. And their amazement at Jesus was not simply a form of curiosity. It was an amazement fuelled by faith, which is why Jesus was able to perform so many miracles there. The people quickly realised that Jesus was the One the prophets of old had spoken of. He was the Messiah, and the people gave Him their full attention.

This is a good image for us to think about. As you think of the crowds and their unwavering desire to be near our Lord, consider your own desires pertaining to God. Do you regularly find yourself consumed with a desire to find our Lord? Or are you tempted to see Jesus and the practice of your faith as boring and uninteresting? One of the unfortunate effects of modern life is that we easily become sidetracked by superficial things. There are many things today that compete for our attention, intrigue us and even amaze us. Is Jesus one of those things in your life?

Dear Parishioner,

In today's Gospel reading [Mark 1:29-39], we witness the compassionate ministry of Jesus as he heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law and attends to the sick and possessed. This passage emphasises Christ's dedication to both physical and spiritual well-being, setting an example for us in Catford, London, to follow. As a Catholic community, we are called to emulate Jesus' outreach by extending care to those around us. The story encourages us to be attentive to the needs of our parishioners, fostering a community that supports one another in times of illness or distress. By dedicating time to prayer and service, we can create a parish environment that reflects the love and healing power of Christ. Let us unite in imitating Jesus' compassion, building a community where each member feels valued and cared for, just as Simon Peter's mother-in-law experienced the healing touch of our Saviour.



Bishop-Elect Albert George Alexander was my regency boss. Regency is a time in seminary formation between philosophy and theology when a seminarian is under a priest's guidance for a year to be pastorally trained in a parish. He is a dedicated servant of God. He has now been elected as the Bishop of the Diocese of Kuzhithurai, in Tamil Nadu. His episcopal consecration will be on 22 February 2024. Please keep Bishop-Elect Albert in your prayers.

New Parish Logo: We are currently working on designing a new logo for our parish that should reflect our faith and mission. Bruno Perez has prepared several prototypes of the logo, you can find samples displayed in the porch. Kindly take a copy and choose the one you like. Bruno has also sponsored and built a choir cupboard in the church. Sincere thanks for his help.



Just for information: The recent heavy wind last week blew off some of the slates on the roof. They have now been replaced.

How much do you know about your faith?

Starting next week, and continuing through Lent up to Easter, in each newsletter, there will be found short pieces culled from the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church'.

Further - for those who like a challenge there will be a short quiz held during the Easter weekend, in Hartley Hall, based on these passages.

There will be cash prizes - more information next week!!

Stations of the Cross: Every year, different teams of people conduct the Stations of the Cross during the season of Lent. This year, I encourage various communities to participate in this service. I am confident that their involvement will enrich our prayer experience with diverse cultural perspectives. Please see here an initial rota and please then reach out to me if there are any changes required.

It is the first week of this new month, February. May this month be a time to cherish God's peace in our families and in the world. **Fr Antony**

Stations of the Cross

I.	English & Irish Community
II.	Nigerian Community
III.	Indian & Sri Lankan Community
IV.	Open for any team to come forward
V.	Filipino Community
VI.	Ivorian and French Speaking Community
VII.	Good Friday – Fr Antony

Blue Missal Book ... page 709

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

BAPTISMS AT HOLY CROSS

This last Sunday at the 11:30 Mass we welcomed *Ayla Henderson* into our Universal Church.

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

The Funeral Mass of *Mary Emmanus*

will take place on Thursday 15 Feb 2024 at 11.30am, in Holy Cross church.

Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

Dates to Remember:

- **St. Joseph's Council** meeting on Wednesday, March 13th, at 7:00pm in the priest's house
- **St. Paul's Council** meeting on Tuesday May 7th, at 7:00pm in Hartley Hall. This meeting is especially relevant for everyone involved in our catechetical programs, but anyone is warmly welcome to attend.

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 weeks 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. Many thanks for sharing your suggestions objections. We always respect the views of our parishioners.

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

Want to Baptise your child?

1. Complete the Baptism Application Form (**Please collect it from Fr Antony**)
2. Submit the completed form with evidence of Parents' and God Parents' Catholicism to the Parish Office. The evidence can be either their Baptism/ Confirmation Certificate, Certificate of Marriage in the Catholic Church or a letter from their parish priest.
3. Participate in both the in-person and online Baptism Preparation Courses - online link (attend anytime): <https://forms.office.com/r/biCANCYtms>
4. Contact the parish office and set a date for the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism.

* NOTE *

Next Baptism course is to be held on the 10th February, 10:00am in Hartley Hall



Annual ecumenical service for the world day of prayer

To be hosted at Brownhill Rd, Baptist church on Friday 1st March at 11:00am followed by tea and coffee. This year, poignantly, the service has been prepared by the women of Palestine.

All are welcome.

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.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Sat 3rd - Fri 9th Feb 2024

SAT	6:30pm	<i>Saint Laurence of Canterbury, Bishop</i> Kevin Fitzsimons R.I.P.
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Elizabeth (Bessie) Lee R.I.P. Gemma St Marthe R.I.P
MON	9:15am	<i>Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</i> The Caruana Family Members – Living and Deceased
TUE	9:15am	<i>Saints Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i> Melanie Thomas – Birthday Thanksgiving
WED	9:15am	All Diamond Club Members - Thanksgiving
THU	9:15am	Mary Emmanus R.I.P.
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	<i>Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> Julie Hollett R.I.P.

Apostles of Communities at Holy Cross

We're promoting small group fellowships in our parish to foster profound connections and spiritual growth. Imagine a sacred space where faith flourishes, bonds strengthen, and mutual support thrives.

These initiatives will eventually help us in forming Basic Christian Communities, a Christian way of life that allows us to cherish the faith journey of the early Christians. Huge thanks to those embracing this responsibility, becoming apostles spreading God's love at Holy Cross. If your community isn't represented yet, step forward.

Join any group by texting or [WhatsApp: 07460371711](https://www.whatsapp.com/joinchat/07460371711).

Bring back your Old Palms: for the Ash Wednesday liturgy (14th Feb) - we are going to prepare the ashes with your old palms. Kindly bring them back to the church and place them

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 Flatly, 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.

Money Matters - THANK YOU

Last week: £611

Second Collection for Racial Justice: £108

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 Book Shop: 020 3441 8240

Safeguarding: Pat Barber & Lisa O'Hara 07598 524024