

Holy Cross Catholic Church

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3rd Sunday in Lent (Year B)
2/3 Mar 2024

Dear Parishioner,

As we journey through the third Sunday of Lent, Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:5-42) offers a powerful message. Jesus breaks down societal barriers, demonstrating that God's love knows no bounds. He offers the woman "living water," symbolizing the eternal life found through Him. This Lent, let's examine our own hearts. Do we harbour prejudices that distance us from others? Jesus invites us to find true fulfilment in Him, the source of living water that quenches our deepest spiritual thirst. Let us extend grace and compassion to all, reflecting the boundless love of Christ.

May we all find spiritual renewal this Lenten season.

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

CATHOLIC FAITH [PART 3]

MAN'S CAPACITY FOR GOD; Ways of Coming to Know God

[please read Catechism of the Catholic Church - no 31-35]

The existence of God is not relegated to blind faith. As beings formed in His image, we're given ways to engage our reason to apprehend His presence.

Reasoning from Creation: Nature presents a compelling testimony to a Divine Architect. Order, complexity and a sense of purposeful beauty – from the cosmic to the molecular – point toward a transcendent Creator. Through careful consideration of the natural world, we can acknowledge God as the ultimate First Cause, unmoved and unchanging.

Reasoning from the Spirit: Humans possess a longing for something more, a thirst for truth and beauty that materialism cannot quench. Our yearning for goodness, freedom, and the search for a deeper meaning reflect our spiritual soul – the mark of our divine design. Recognizing this internal compass helps us see a spiritual dimension to reality, pointing us toward its Creator.

Reason within Revelation: These signs aren't mathematical equations proving God; they are pathways, invitations to consider and open ourselves to Divine revelation. The Catholic faith recognizes that while human reason plays a role, a true, intimate relationship with God goes beyond what we can fully understand. God reveals Himself through history, particularly through Jesus. Faith accepts this revelation, allowing us to move beyond a philosophical idea of God into a vibrant communion with Him.



Reflection

- Which evidence of God seems most powerful to you? Why?
- Has a moment with nature ever left you feeling closer to God?

Questions to Discuss in our Families

- Why is it important to not just believe in God, but to seek a relationship with Him?
- Can you think of another example of how the world or human nature point to God?
 - How can we help others open their eyes to see God's work around them?

Bible Verses to Remember

"Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible nature, namely his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made." - Romans 1:20

Rite of Election

Please 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 had a joyous occasion at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 17th February where they signed the Book of the Elect and celebrated the Rite of Election with Archbishop John Wilson. They were 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 an important phase of their faith journey.

First Scrutiny (Saturday Mass, 2nd March 6.30pm)

Please pray for our catechumens and candidates especially over the next 3 Sundays as they participate in the Scrutinies at each Mass. The 2nd Scrutiny will be on Sunday 10th at 9am and the 3rd Scrutiny on 17th at 11.30am Mass.

Blue Missal Book ... page 149

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

World Day of Prayer Service to be hosted at Brownhill Road Baptist Church on Friday 1st March at 12:00am for the service - light refreshments will be available after the service. This year, poignantly, the service has been prepared by the women of Palestine. *All are welcome.*

Stations of the Cross

We gratefully thank those from the **Nigerian Community** who organised and ran the Stations last Friday. The next Stations on the 1st March will be led by the **Indian & Sri Lankan Community**.
We pray the Stations of the Cross every Wednesday after the 9.15am Mass and Friday after the 7pm Mass

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.

LAPTOP AVAILABLE FOR CATECHESIS AND FORMATION

A laptop is available at the Parish Office for groups to use. To reserve please contact Jo Flahive or Lisa O'Hara at least one week in advance.

St Joseph's Council

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



OUR NEW PARISH LOGO

We've developed a draft for our new Holy Cross parish logo, inspired by your suggestions. We'd love your further feedback to make it truly reflect our community.



Thank you Chinoyem Iwu for sponsorship of these Altar Cloths.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Sat 2nd - Fri 8th Mar 2024

SAT	6:30pm	Rachael Pereira Wibberley - Wellbeing
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Danny Annund R.I.P. Maria and Anthony Zammit R.I.P.
MON	9:15am	Charles, Sarah, Sven and Lloyd – Healing and Wellbeing
TUE	9:15am	Patrick Doyle - Wellbeing
WED	9:15am	The Caruana Family Members Living and Deceased
THU	9:15am	Gwen Williams - Thanksgiving
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm followed by	Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Matt Cleary R.I.P. Stations of the Cross

CATHOLIC MOTHERS WITH A PURPOSE:

Mothers of our Holy Cross parish have come together with the desire to gather regularly for prayer and to take action to provide needed support. Their first project will be feeding the hungry and needy on Mother's Day (10th March) after the 9am and 11:30am Masses.

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



May they Rest in Peace!

Gillian Yhip
(pictured left)
Funeral on 4th April
Walter Dalson
Funeral on 14th March
Martin Flatley
Funeral date TBC

Please keep them in your prayers.

Food Collection Sunday at Holy Cross – weekend of 2/3 March

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 well over a year – a huge thanks to everyone who has donated or helped.

Please Pray for the Sick: Mary Rand, Pat Doyle, Albert Young, Ivor Lewis, Graham Canelle, Sherine Sukhram, Vivianne Owens, Norma Jones, Myra Hannon, Lydia Joseph, Colin Maton, Melanie Thomas, Katie Bourner, Florence Nosegbe, 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, Elizabeth Goba, Aboa Claudine, Meesh Gemmell, Rachael Pereira Wibberley, Mary Gallagher and 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.

Money Matters - THANK YOU

Main Collection - £650

PARISH CONTACTS

Office: 020 8698 3672 (Tues & Thur from 10:00am)
Joseph Flahive: catford@rcaos.org.uk
Lisa O'Hara: catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk
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Holy Cross Book Shop: 020 3441 8240
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