

Holy Cross Catholic Church

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4th Sunday in Lent (Year B)
9/10 Mar 2024

Dear Parishioner,

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 3:14-21), we encounter the boundless love of God. Just as Moses lifted the serpent to heal the Israelites, Jesus was lifted on the cross for our salvation. This Lent, let's remember that we thirst for something deeper than worldly things. God offers us "living water" – grace, forgiveness, and eternal life. We choose between light and darkness – between accepting this gift of love or rejecting it. May this Lenten journey lead us closer to Christ, the source of true and everlasting life.

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

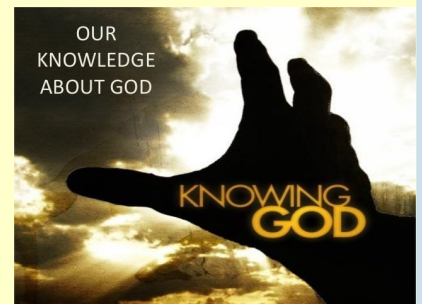
CATHOLIC FAITH [PART 4]

The Knowledge of God According to the Church

[please read Catechism of the Catholic Church - no 36-38]

Imagine trying to figure out how a complex IKEA furniture is to be assembled without a manual. That's a bit like trying to understand God using only our own minds. The Church teaches that we can know some things about God through reason – like that there's a Creator behind this amazing universe. We're made in God's image, so our minds have that ability!

But here's the problem: life is distracting, and sin makes us want to ignore truths that are difficult. It's like having a manual with blurry pages! This is why God doesn't leave us alone. He reveals Himself to us, making things clearer not just about the big mysteries of the universe, but also about right and wrong, good and evil. This way, we can all know God's truths easily and without messing them up.



Reflection:

- Have you ever tried to figure something out without instructions? How did it go?
- God gives himself to us as a gift. What are some ways you experience this gift?

Questions to Discuss:

- What are some truths you find difficult that God has revealed?
- How can having a clear understanding of God's truths help you in your daily life?

Bible Verses to Remember:

- "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." (Psalm 19:1)
- You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139: 13-14)

In the coming weeks, we will see how God comes to meet man and how God Reveals His "Plan of Loving Goodness" to humanity.

Palm Sunday will be celebrated in two weeks! 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.

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 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.

Second Scrutiny (Sunday Mass, 10th March 9:00am)

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

Blue Missal Book ... page 154

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

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

Stations of the Cross

We gratefully thank those from the **Indian & Sri Lankan Community** who organised and ran the Stations last Friday. The next Stations on the 8th March will be led by the **Children Choir**.

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

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.

The next **Baptism Course** will be held this **Saturday 9th March at 10:00am in Hartley Hall.**

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.

May they Rest in Peace!

Walter Dalsen [Funeral 14th March]
Lee-Lum Caesar [Funeral 20th March]
Bridey Keane [Funeral 21st March]
Gillian Yhip [Funeral 4th April]
Martin Flatley [Funeral TBC]

Please keep them in your prayers.

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 this Sunday, for Mother's Day (10th March), after the 9am and 11:30am Masses.

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



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.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Sat 9th - Fri 15th Mar 2024

SAT	6:30pm	Christine Cahill - Wellbeing
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Martin Joseph Flatley R.I.P. Amelita Alcuino & Victorio Alcuino R.I.P
MON	9:15am	Thierry Christian-Gnanakumar R.I.P.
TUE	9:15am	Costantino D'Elia R.I.P.
WED	9:15am	Jessica O'Hara - Wellbeing
THU	9:15am	Rachael Pereira Wibberley - Wellbeing
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm followed by	Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Joseph and Margaret Roe R.I.P Stations of the Cross

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION [16/17 March]

Poor Parishes - 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) - £552

CAFOD - £310

Clergy Support - £565

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, 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, Meesh Gemmill, 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.



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

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 Cross Book Shop: 020 3441 8240

Safeguarding: Pat Barber & Lisa O'Hara 07598 524024