

Holy Cross Catholic Church

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4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
20 / 21 Apr 2024

Dear Parishioners of Holy Cross,

I am sure that you discuss these reflection and questions in your families. I try to explain our Faith in simple terms.

For this week, please read numbers 51-64 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

You can find the text here: https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_PE.HTM

Catholic FAITH [part 7] THE REVELATION OF GOD: God Reveals His "Plan of Loving Goodness"

God loves us so much that He wants us to know Him and share in His divine life. This is why He reveals Himself to us. He does this gradually, starting from the very beginning of creation. God has shown His love throughout history:

- He spoke to our first parents, Adam and Eve.
- He rescued humanity through Noah and the Ark.
- He chose Abraham to be the father of a great nation – the foundation of the people who await His salvation..
- He sent prophets to guide His people and remind them of the promise of a Savior.

All of this prepares us for the greatest act of revelation: God becoming man in Jesus Christ, His Son. Jesus is the perfect way for us to know God and His love.

Reflection

Think about a time someone showed you that they loved and cared for you. How did it make you feel? God's actions throughout history, revealing Himself to us, show a love far greater than anything we can experience with another human being. He truly wants the best for us.

Questions to Discuss

- How do you see God's revelation in your own life?
- Which of the stories of God's revelation (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, etc.) stands out to you the most? Why?
- What qualities of God are shown through His actions in these stories?

Verses to Remember

"It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will." (CCC 51)

This Sunday, known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**, reminds us of Jesus' tender love for us. Just as a shepherd cares for his flock, leading them to lush pastures and protecting them from harm, so too does Jesus guide and protect us.

His love provides for us in countless ways, offering an abundant **life filled with joy, purpose, and hope**. We experience this abundance not only in the big moments but also in the everyday blessings: a kind word shared, a helping hand offered, the beauty of nature, or the comfort of prayer.

On this day, we remember that the responsibility of being good shepherds extends beyond our clergy. Every baptized Christian is called to reflect God's love in the world. We are called to care for our church community and to reach out to those who feel unwanted, unloved, and forgotten.

Let's use this Good Shepherd Sunday as a springboard to action. Perhaps it means volunteering your time, offering a listening ear to someone in need, or simply showing kindness to a stranger. Every act of compassion, big or small, is a testament to the Good Shepherd's love working through us.

Finally, let us remember on this day to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. May God inspire hearts to follow Him more closely and shepherd His flock with dedication.

Welcome Ministers: This Good Shepherd Sunday, I'd like to extend a special thanks to our Welcome Ministers. These dedicated individuals enhance our 6:30 pm Saturday Mass with their warm smiles and helpful presence. In the coming weeks, we'll introduce the rest of our wonderful Welcome Ministers who serve at the other Sunday Masses. Many thanks to you dear Pat Barber [Lead], Josephine O'Sullivan [Sacristy], Irene Iro [Repository], Uthaya Plasious [Offertory]. Rosemary [Special Gifts] and Jo Flahive [Parish Secretary].

May God bless you all abundantly. Fr Antony



Blue Missal Book - page 341

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

Southwark Guild of St Stephen

The annual rally for Southwark Altar Servers is on May Day Bank Holiday Monday 6 May 2024 at The Friars, Aylesford Priory. All altar servers are requested to participate in this event. A coach may be organised if we get sufficient numbers.

Youth Days (10-14 years) at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 11 May. The day will include faith input, prayer, sports, games, and pizza.

Retreat Days (13-17 years) on Saturday 15 June at Richard Challoner School, New Malden. These days are opportunities for teenagers to grow in faith and friendship in a fun environment.

Young Adults' Masses at 6pm on the first Sunday of every month, followed by a social gathering (for those aged 18+) in the Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral. Please contact Fr Antony for more information.

IMPORTANT DAYS TO REMEMBER

20 April 2024 at 4.30pm	Confirmation rehearsal/Parents' meeting
27 April 2024 at 10am	First Holy Communion rehearsal
04 May 2024 at 10am	First Holy Communion celebration [Group 1]
05 May 2024 at 3pm	Confirmation celebration
11 May 2024 at 10am	First Holy Communion celebration [Group 2]
11 May 2024 at 4.30pm	RCIA: Certificates and celebratory meal
12 May 2024 at 10am	Confirmation: Certificates and Bring & Share
19 May 2024 at 4pm	First Holy Communion: Mass followed by Certificates and Bring & Share

Rest in Peace!

Jeanette Hawkins [Funeral 26th April at 10:30am]

Please keep her in your prayers.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - Sat 20 - Fri 26 Apr

SAT	6:30pm	Gillian Yhip R.I.P.
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Tony Green R.I.P. Brian Roshier R.I.P.
MON	9:15am	Catherine & Mark Sanderson - Thanksgiving
TUE	9:15am	<i>St. George, Martyr</i> Mrs Bridget Woods R.I.P.
WED	9:15am	<i>St. Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr; St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr</i> Rachael Pereira Wibberley - Wellbeing
THU	9:15am	<i>St. Mark, Evangelist</i> For the Souls in Purgatory
	6:30pm	<i>Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
FRI	7:00pm	The Eberendu Family – Thanksgiving for the Graces received from St Joseph

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 Bourner, Florence Nosegbe, Aboa Claudine, Jo Rocca Smith, Susan Murphy, Eileen Embury, Kitty Wilkinson, Theresa Butler, Ann Whittington, Elfrida Wacholz, Jill Campbell, Pat Gallagher, Lydia Joseph, Elaine Williams, Abosede Titi Balogun, Joe Green Baby Gwen Williams, Trish Keaveney, Leonie Nwawudu, Elizabeth Goba, Meesh Gemmill & Rachael Pereira Wibberley.

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.

LAPTOP AVAILABLE FOR CATECHESIS & 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.

Baptism Preparation:

Parents who would like to baptize their children, please follow these steps:

1. Obtain an Application form from Fr. Antony. The Parish Surgery is open on Fridays at 3pm and again at 8pm.
2. Submit your completed application form to the Parish Office, along with proof of Catholicism of at least one parent and all Godparents. Evidence can be a copy Baptism Certificate, Marriage Certificate in a Catholic Church or Letter from a Priest.
3. Completion of an on-line Baptism Course, a link will be sent to you which will contain Baptism preparation videos which aim to provide you with theological and spiritual insights into the Sacrament of Baptism. In addition, attendance at one in-person course will be required.
4. After the above requirements have been met, you will be asked to select a date for your child's Baptism.

THE NEXT IN-PERSON BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE DATE IS

11 May 2024 at 10:00am in Hartley Hall

The course dates for the remainder of 2024 are:

* 22nd June * 14th September * 23rd November



MISSIO - RED BOX

For those of you who have been collecting for MISSIO using the RED BOXES there will be brown envelopes (as shown) that can be collected after each Mass, in the porches. Please complete your details including, if possible, the Gift Aid forms enclosed. Please return the following weekend. Many Thanks.

HOLY CROSS ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Stay informed about the happenings in our parish with our weekly Parish newsletter delivered via email or available online. No matter where you are, you can keep up-to-date with the latest news and events. Please scan this QR code and you will be directed to subscribe to our parish email database. Your email address will be kept anonymous.



2nd Collection this week for the **Priests Training Fund** - this collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. It also supports certain forms of ongoing formation of the clergy.

Money Matters - THANK YOU

Main Collection: £536

2nd Collection next week for the Maintenance and upkeep of St George's Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese.

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