

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Fr Antony Megalan Sellam
Parish Priest
antonymegalan@rcaos.org.uk
02086983672
www.holycross-catford.org.uk

208 Sangley Road SE6 2JS
www.holycross-catford.org.uk
02086983672



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

11/12 JAN 2025

Dear Parishioner,

This weekend we celebrate the solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. On this feast day, we remember the day of our own Baptism, when we too were reborn in Christ and became children of God.

I was baptized on April 2nd, 1972, at the Easter Vigil. Every year, April 2nd is special for me, like a second birthday, because it was the day I, like every baptized person, received a new life in Jesus Christ and became a child of God and a temple of the Holy Spirit.

One of my friends, Tony Baker, celebrates his baptism day in a grand way every year. I think this is something to be encouraged in every Christian's life. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the immense gift of our baptism and to renew our commitment to living as faithful disciples of Jesus.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord this weekend, let us give thanks for the grace of our own baptism and ask for the strength to live out our baptismal promises each and every day. The theme of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is "rebirth". Just as Jesus emerged from the waters of the Jordan, we too emerged from the waters of baptism reborn as new creations in Christ. This rebirth calls us to a life transformed by grace, a life dedicated to following Jesus and sharing His love with the world.

In all this weekend's Masses we will renew our **Baptismal promises** and **holy water** will be sprinkled upon us all. **New School Term in the New Year:** As our children and young people begin their new term in this new year, they will be blessed in all Masses this weekend. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to participate fully in the Mass.

NOTE: Bible Classes will be cancelled during my absence - this affects the **19th Jan** and **2nd Feb**.



Painting by Kieran Tresadern,
Holy Cross parishioner

A Golden Jubilee for Holy Cross!

This Monday, 13th January 2025, marks a momentous occasion – the 50th anniversary of Holy Cross Catholic Primary School! On behalf of Holy Cross Parish and myself, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the entire school community – students, staff, parents, and governors – on reaching this golden milestone.

It's been a privilege to witness for our parishioners the growth of Holy Cross since it first opened its doors **in 1975**. **The school was built to serve the children of Holy Cross Parish**, and that connection remains a vital part of who we are today. We are proud to see how Holy Cross continues to nurture and educate children within a loving, Catholic environment, providing them with not just the essentials of primary education, but also a strong moral compass and a sense of belonging.

This anniversary year is a particularly special one, with **Holy Cross achieving outstanding success on many fronts** which is a testament to the hard work of our Executive Headteacher, **Mary Collins**, and our Head of School, **Catherine Mahony**, along with the dedicated teaching staff. Congratulations to all!

Holy Cross was graded as **Outstanding by both Ofsted in May 2023 and the Catholic School Inspectorate in June 2023**. Furthermore in June 2024 the school received a well-deserved **Gold Award from UNICEF** for its Rights Respecting Schools program, embedding the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into its curriculum and ethos. These achievements highlight the holistic approach to education that Holy Cross champions, where academic excellence goes hand-in-hand with spiritual growth and a commitment to the rights of every child.

Holy Cross—dream come true

THERE were celebrations for a dream come true when Holy Cross Roman Catholic primary school, in Culverley-rd., Catford, was officially opened last Tuesday.

The ceremony, performed by Bermondsey MP Bob Mellish, was the crowning moment of a project which began as simply an idea in the mind of the parish priest, Father Edward Fagan, when he took up his duties in Catford 20 years ago. "It was in fact a dream I had that this parish should have a school," said Father Fagan. "We bussed children to the local

Catholic schools—all those who were keen to get into Catholic schools."

Then 10 years ago, a half-acre site was acquired, which had been used as a yard for a market garden.

At first it seemed the half-acre site, with some adjoining ground owned by the church, would be large enough to build the school on, but properties in Culverley-rd had to be bought, bringing the area up to over an acre, before the scheme finally got the go-ahead.

The new school, which opened for teaching in January 1975, has 176 pupils, with an additional 58 who attend the nursery school

As we celebrate this 50th birthday, we give thanks for the dedication of all those who have contributed to the success of Holy Cross over the years – from **Father Edward Fagan**, who spearheaded the school's founding and **Miss Sheila Dunn**, the first Headteacher, to the current leadership, staff, and parents. Building on this strong foundation, we pray that Holy Cross will continue to flourish for many years to come, providing a nurturing environment where every child can reach their full potential. **Happy 50th Birthday, Holy Cross!**

South London Press news [1975]

Fr Antony and Holy Cross parishioners

Red Missal Book - page 139

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

Next Sunday - Bible Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5 **Psalm:** 95 (96) 1-3, 7-10
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 **Gospel:** John 2: 1-11

Parish Notices

Fr. Antony's Absence:

Fr. Antony will be away visiting his mother from January 15th to February 6th. During his absence, Masses will be offered by Fr. Chris Conor, Fr. Clive Ross, Fr. Kenneth Iwunna, and Fr. Christian Enechukwu.

Welcome Ministry:

- **Water:** Should you need drinking water, please contact the Welcome Ministers. Water and cups are available in the sacristy.
- **Umbrellas:** Forgot your umbrella? Parish umbrellas are available in the sacristy. Please contact the Welcome Ministers.
- **Cushions:** Cushions are available near the Marian chapel for your comfort. Please use them.

New Parish Website - We are excited to announce the launch of our new parish website towards the end of February! The initial structure is ready for your review. Please visit the site by scanning the QR code here. We welcome your feedback on what you like, what needs to be changed, or what you would like to see added. The catechesis section is currently being updated.



Baptism Congratulations

Last week we welcomed into the Church **Joshua Noah O'Sullivan**. Please keep Joshua and his parents **Carol and Liam** in your prayers.

The Funeral Mass for longstanding parishioner **Maurice Conroy** will take place on **Monday 13th Jan @10:00am**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS - 11th – 17th January 2025

SAT	6:30pm	Union of Catholic Mothers: Wellbeing of Sebasty
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Brendan & Tom Kilcoyne R.I.P. Mary Monaghan R.I.P.
MON		(There will be no 9:15am Mass) 10:00 Funeral Mass: Maurice Conroy
TUE	9:15am	Mary Yulita Emmanus R.I.P. (1st Anniversary)
WED	9:15am	Patrick Foley R.I.P. (Anniversary)
THU	9:15am	Clarence & Alba Fernandes R.I.P.
FRI	6:30pm 7:00pm	Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Special Intentions & Wellbeing of the Ibe & Okoro Families

Mass Offering
(Loose Cash Collection)
THANK YOU

29 Dec: £764
5 Jan: £662



Third Thursday Time is a mental health space hosting relaxing activities with the opportunity to socialise with other people. Come and join us in Hartley Hall for our next session on **16th Jan from 6-8pm** for massage, exercise and other activities.

IMPORTANT DAYS REMEMBER

- 01 Feb - Baptism Preparation Course
- 22 Feb - **Coach Pilgrimage** to Diocesan Holy Places
- 23 Feb - **Seeds of the Word** [Retreat for parents who baptised their children in the past 7 years]
- 25 Feb - St Mary's Council Meeting
- 04 Mar - St Joseph's Council Meeting
- 05 Mar - Ash Wednesday**
- 09 Mar - Lenten Retreat: Confronting Temptation
Given by **Bishop Pat Lynch** (Wk 1 in church)
- 11 Mar - St Paul's Council Meeting
- 13 Mar - Lenten Retreat : The Desert Experience
(Session 1 via zoom)
- 16 Mar - Lenten Retreat: Seeking Transformation
(Wk 2 in church)
- 17 Mar - St Patrick's Day Celebration
- 20 Mar -Lenten Retreat: Metanoia - (Session 2 via zoom)
- 23 Mar - Lenten Retreat: Embracing Forgiveness
Given by **Bishop Paul Mason** (Wk 3 in church)
- 27 Mar - Lenten Retreat: The Paschal Mystery
(Session 3 via zoom)
- 29 Mar - Baptism Preparation Course
- 30 Mar - Lenten Retreat: Showing Compassion
(Wk 4 in church)
- 03 Apr - Lenten Retreat: The Beatitudes
(Session 4 via zoom)
- 06 Apr - Lenten Retreat: Accepting Sacrifice
(Wk 5 church)
- 10 Apr - Lenten Retreat: Discipleship
(Session 5 via zoom)
- 13Apr - Palm Sunday**
- 14 Apr - **Lenten Confessions**
- 20 Apr - Easter**
- 04 May - **Confirmation Celebration**
- 10 May - **Holy Communion Celebration**
- 13 to 16 May - **Pilgrimage to Fatima**
- 17 May - Baptism Preparation Course

Want to Baptise your child?

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

1. Obtain an Application form from Fr. Antony.
2. Submit completed form to the Parish Office, with proof of Catholicism of at least one parent and all Godparents.
3. Complete an on-line Baptism Course, a link will be sent to you.
4. Attend one in-person Baptism Course.
5. After above requirements have been met, you will be asked to select a date for your child's Baptism.

In Person Baptism Courses are held in Hartley Hall at 10:00am. Dates for 2025 are:

1 Feb, 29 Mar, 17 May, 19 Jul, 20 Sep & 15 Nov
Contact the Parish Office with any queries.

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