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Holy Cross Catholic Church

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2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)
13/14 Jan 2024



Who is Jesus for you? In today's Gospel, John calls Jesus the *Lamb of God* and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the *Passover Lamb* delivered the people of the covenant from their oppression in Egypt and from the plague of death. The Lord Jesus freely offered up his life for us on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

It is significant that John was the son of the priest, Zachariah, who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people. In Jesus John saw the true and only sacrifice which could deliver us from bondage to sin, eternal death, and the powers of hell.

John in his characteristic humility was eager to point beyond himself to the Christ. He did not hesitate to direct his own disciples to Jesus. When two of John's disciples began to seek Jesus out, Jesus took the initiative to invite them into his company. He did not wait for them to get his attention. Instead he met them halfway. He asked them one of the most fundamental questions of life: "What are you looking for?"

Jesus asks each one of us the same question: "**What are you searching for?** Do you know the meaning and purpose for your life?". That is why the Lord Jesus invites each one of us to draw near to himself. He wants us to know him personally - to know what he came to do for us and what he wants to offer us.

Dear Parishioner,



MORE FAMILY PALM TREES: Many thanks to those who were able to collect a palm tree last week. I bought 32 palms and they were all joyfully taken by those who attended the 6.30pm Mass. As I mentioned in the announcements, more palms are available this week for you take home. Kindly collect a Palm Tree from the Welcome Ministers or from the sanctuary, grow them until Palm Sunday and bring them back to church for the **Palm Sunday decorations**. May your family's palm tree adorn our Holy Cross church. After the Holy Week celebrations you may take them back home and bring them again next year. May this tree be also a sign of God's blessing growing in your family home.

Sunday Apostles: I am planning to start various catechetical programmes in our parish on Sundays from March this year. Every first and third Sundays will be the time of learning about the Bible and Catholic teachings through Sunday Bible Classes from 10am to 11am. Second Sundays will be dedicated to Basic Christian Communities. They may gather, pray and cherish their fellowship after any weekend Mass. Every fourth Sunday will be for Youth Groups, Children's choir, Legion of Mary and so on.

I need at least seven people to support me and I would like to call them Sunday Apostles. They need not be highly qualified and talented. They need to give their time on Sundays from 10am to 11am to plan and execute catechetical programmes. Kindly give me your names and I will give you all the training needed for this great mission. May your dedication bear fruit and through your commitments many may encounter Jesus Christ in their life.

Offertory Collectors: When I appealed for more people for Sunday Offertory Collection, sufficient people came forward to undertake this mission. Many thanks. However, we do need more people to achieve our 'One Person One Mission' goal. Please come forward. When we have sufficient people, you need only carry out this mission once in a month.

Offertory Counters: Thank you to those who have agreed to be counters in our Parish. We count the offertory collections immediately after the last Mass [11.30am Mass] each week. We need more offertory counters. Please come forward and give your names to Jo Flahive or myself. **Fr Antony**

How to Look after the Palm Tree:

Place in a light area out of direct sunlight, as this will damage the leaves.

The growing medium should be moist, but allow it to dry out a little between waterings.

A lower temperature could affect the plant, they prefer a warm climate and are sensitive to draughts.

Areca palms are best kept indoors. This plant humidifies air so making it ideal for offices or homes with dry air.

MONEY COUNTERS HOLY CROSS, CATFORD

FIRST WEEK

Emilienne Dago
Vanessa Perez
Bruno Perez

SECOND WEEK

Jijo Abraham
Pat Barber
Calista Alozie

THIRD WEEK

Simon George
Michaela Overton
Amaka Unamka

FOURTH WEEK

Please volunteer to join this mission.

9am Mass Offertory Collection

1 st & 3 rd Weeks	2 nd & 4 th Weeks
Rob Dunbar Bernard Rajendram Maureen Obichukwu Gesiere Ojejinmi	Ud Akinindo Ade Shittu Kizito Ikhine Nathaniel Emmanuel

11.30am Mass Offertory Collection

1 st & 3 rd Weeks	2 nd & 4 th Weeks
Antoine Kpdjo Jijo Abraham Calista Alozie Vincentia Akpalou	Mary Mariadhas Mary Byrne Zion/Josepha Abena Osai Debrah

MONEY COUNTERS, HOLY CROSS, CATFORD

Blue Missal Book ... page 698

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
9pm for Night Prayer [via Zoom—every day except Saturday]
 Meeting ID: 7578777461; Passcode: 20212021.

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 **18th January from 6-8pm** for massage, exercise and other social activities.



New Here? Welcome, friend, to Holy Cross! Open your hearts to God's love, warm as sunlight through stained glass. Find fellowship in smiles and open arms, a community woven with faith and friendship. Come grow with us, cherish each other, and discover the joy of belonging. **This is your parish**, a haven of grace, waiting to embrace you. Peace be with you!

BAPTISMS AT HOLY CROSS

Last Sunday we Baptised

Cosmo & Phoenix Loughnan.

Congratulations and welcome!

This Sunday there will be two Baptisms.



At the 9:00am Mass we shall welcome *Nyla Odeneye* into the faith. At the 11:30am Mass we shall welcome *Ngozi Melvin Nwosu*. Please keep these young ones, and their parents and families in your prayers.

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.



Your Offering/Donation

In gratitude for the countless blessings and gifts we receive in our lives and families from the Lord, we humbly present our offerings to God. To make your contribution, please click the link:

https://donorbox.org/holy-cross-church_catford or scan the QR code here:

If you have specific intentions or prayers, feel free to mention them. We deeply appreciate your generosity and kindness.

May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

The best way to make your offering is to register for a Standing Order. Please click the link to download the Standing Order form. Hard copies are also available in the porch for your convenience.



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Sat 13th – Fri 19th Jan 2024

SAT	6:30pm	Thomas and Teresa Lynch R.I.P.
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	People of the Parish Titus Nwachukwu R.I.P.
MON	9:15am	Brian Roshier R.I.P.
TUE	9:15am	The Holy Souls – November List
WED	9:15am	<i>Saint Anthony, Abbot</i> Patrick Foley R.I.P.
THU	9:15am	Antoine Kodjo - Thanksgiving
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	<i>Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> A E Joseph and Family - Thanksgiving

Building a Better Marriage: As part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a Building a Better Marriage Course throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024.

The one day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriage better and to improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting.

For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark: website. <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>

Please Pray for the Sick: Mary Rand, Pat Doyle, Albert Young, Joe Green, Sherine Sukhram, Vivianne Owens, Norma Jones, Myra Hannon, Lydia Joseph, Colin Maton, Melanie Thomas, Katie Bourner, Martin Flatley, Florence Nosegbe, Ivor Lewis, Susan Murphy, Eileen Embury, Mary Emmanuel, Kitty Wilkinson, Theresa Butler, Ann Whittington, Elfrida Wacholz, Jill Campbell, Elaine Williams, Graham Canelle, Abosede Titi Balogun, Trish Keaveney, Jo Rocca Smith, Rachael Pereira Wibberley, Elizabeth Goba, Leonie Nwawudu, Aboa Claudine, Meesh Gemmell and Baby Gwen Williams.

ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL? - Contact Lewisham Hospital Catholic Chaplain directly on 020 8333 3299. In an emergency, please say to the staff that you would like to see a Catholic priest.

Saints' Corner Welcomes Statues from your Homeland!

Many thanks to Vanessa and Bruno Perez who brought a lovely statue for our Saints' Corner from their homeland.

We invite you to bring along a special statue for our Saints' Corner when you travel to your country of birth. Share the saints of your heritage with our community by bringing in a 12" statue for our sacred space. Your contribution will enrich our spiritual surroundings.

Money Matters - THANK YOU

Last week: £621

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