



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

22 Sunday of Ordinary Time

29/30 August 2020

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### Mass Readings

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 85: 3, 5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of mercy to all who call to you.

**First reading** Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.  
I am a daily laughing-stock,  
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl  
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me  
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him,  
I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,  
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,  
I could not bear it.

**Responsorial Psalm** [Psalm 62(63):2-6,8-9]

*For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.*

**Second reading** Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what

is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

**Gospel Acclamation** [cf. Ep1:17,18]

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our mind,  
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** [Matthew 16:21-27]

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord;' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

**Communion Antiphon** Ps 30: 20

How great is the goodness, Lord,  
that you keep for those who fear you.

**Reflection:** The readings for this Sunday remind us that Christians are called to live their lives in a different way from others around them. Christian discipleship demands honesty, the willingness to suffer ("take up your cross"), generosity ("to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God"), and readiness to follow Jesus by obeying his commandment of love. Today's readings explain how this Christian mission should be accomplished. They explain how we should know and live the will of God, accepting the suffering involved in it. These readings also tell us that suffering is an integral part of our earthly life, but it is also our road to glory. There is no crown without a cross. Jeremiah, in the first reading, is certainly a prototype of the suffering Christ. He tried to live the will of God bravely facing confrontations and persecution, and he continued to proclaim His message because the message itself "*becomes like a fire, burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.*"

**First Holy Communion:** On 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August we joyfully celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion with these ten young children and their families. Our warmest congratulations to Elisha Utaji, Samuel Ofoegbu, Ithran Radji, Michael Gouveia, Ifechukwu Onua, Crystal Igwe Kanu, Mya Benjamin Clarke, Patrick Bradley, Olyana Stefanos and Dylan Alvarez.

## HOLY MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

<b>New Mass Times from 1 September 2020 to the end of the pandemic:</b>			
Monday 7.00pm; Tuesday 9.15am; Wednesday 9.15am; Thursday – No Mass for the public; Friday 7.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the sacrament of Reconciliation followed by Holy Mass at 7.30pm; Saturday 7.00pm (Vigil Mass); Sunday 9.00am and 11.30 am. On Sundays a Holy Mass will be available for the housebound and sent to people via WhatsApp. All Masses are also available on live-stream.			
		<b>THIS WEEK</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK</b>
SAT	7pm	Mrs Matti Alexander	Blessings & Thanksgiving for Children's School Year
SUN	9.00am 11.30am 7.00pm YouTube	Mary Monagan R.I.P. Master Stephen Joseph R.I.P. People of the Parish	The 'Joseph' Family – Thanksgiving Fr. John Mulligan R.I.P. (No Sunday evening Mass from Sep 2020)
MON	7pm	Mr Esther Bedminster R.I.P.	People of the Parish
TUE	9.15am	Len Calver R.I.P.	Alphones Manuelpillai R.I.P.
WED	9.15am	No intention received	No intention received
THU		No Mass for the public	No Mass for the public
FRI	7.00pm 7.30pm	Adoration and Confessions Matthew Vako - Thanksgiving	Adoration and Confessions Thierry Christian Gnanakumar R.I.P

## First Holy Communion Information

Catch-up Session: 12 September at 10am  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 13 September at 4pm  
 Days of Celebration: 19 September at 10am; 20 September at 4pm; 26 September at 10am; 27 September at 4pm, and 3 October at 10am.

Thank you to those of you who have already confirmed your intention to attend the catch-up session for First Holy Communion preparation on 12 September at 10a.m. in the church. If you wish your child to receive Holy Communion for the first time, you must attend the lesson together with your child, bringing your completed 'I Belong' workbook, and having looked at and discussed the two PowerPoint presentations you received earlier. You also need to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation with your child on 13 September.

There are five Masses arranged for First Communion, and there are places available. You can choose the date when you attend the catch-up session. Looking forward to seeing you on 12 September. If you have any questions, please use this address: [fhc.catford@gmail.com](mailto:fhc.catford@gmail.com)

**Entry into Mass** will be on a first come first served basis, and where the maximum number [70] is met, those awaiting entry shall be asked to kindly attend an alternative Mass.

Please remember:

- **The obligation to participate in Sunday Mass remains suspended.**
- Toilet facilities in churches should remain closed to prevent any risk of transmission of infection.
- **Please do not kneel** as it reduces one-meter social distance in our church. When the time comes for you to kneel, please remain seated in a prayerful way.
- **Sick Visits:** I am now visiting the housebound. Kindly give me a call and let me know if you require Holy Communion and a visit to someone who is feeling poorly or who is housebound.
- **Face Mask:** The one-meter distance rule applies and all parishioners (excluding very young children) are required to **wear a face mask** and to sanitize their hands.

**Baptism:** We welcome into the Catholic faith those who have either recently received, or will soon receive the Sacrament of Baptism at Holy Cross: **Fallon Jerin, Marie Bernadette Campbell, Fillon Anacleto Nixon and Dominic Mankumasi Issahaku.**

**R.I.P.:** Please pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of **Father Charles Briggs** who died recently. Fr Charles and I belonged to the same Priests' Support Group and we used to gather at Holy Cross, Catford.

Please also pray for **Anna Solly**, a long time parishioner of Holy Cross, whose funeral will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 11am.