

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

All Saints' Day
31 October / 1 November 2020



Parish Office

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Sunday Mass Readings

First reading [Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14]: I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

Responsorial Psalm [Psalm 23(24):1-6] *Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.*

Second reading [1 John 3:1-3]: Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

Gospel Acclamation [Mt 11:28]: Alleluia, alleluia! Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 5:1-12a]: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

November Devotions: *Blessing of Graves – Sunday 1 November*: As we are soon to be in the month of November, it being the month of Holy Souls, Fr Antony will be visiting Hither Green Cemetery on Sunday 1st November to Bless the graves of those who have loved ones that have been laid to rest there. Between 2:00pm and 4:00pm Fr Antony will locate all the graves who have family members awaiting a Blessing. We have been informed that currently the cemetery is open without restrictions on numbers visiting, but please bear in mind that this ruling may change at very short notice.

Tree of Remembrance: For the month of November, a Tree of Remembrance will be lit up and be present in the Church to shine on the names of those loved souls whom we shall be remembering. May we invite you to take a tag as you leave church, on which you can write the name/s of your loved ones – and include a picture if you wish. There will be a dedicated basket for the return of the completed tags, which will then be hung on the Tree of Remembrance on your behalf.

Remembrance Sunday: The Masses to be said on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November will be in remembrance of all the departed, and especially those who have died during the past year.

R.I.P.: Please pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Eileen Hanlon whose Funeral Mass will take place on 5 November.

RCIA program 2020-21: The RCIA team would like to extend an invitation and welcome to all who may be interested to join the Catholic family, also to those newly baptised or confirmed or to any Catholics who just want to deepen their faith. Sessions will start on 14th November, probably each Saturday evening at 4.30-5.30pm. Details to be confirmed. The program will be a mixture of Zoom meetings as well as group meetings at Holy Cross. We will journey together, pray together, discuss and reflect. Parishioners interested to support and share their faith with new candidates are very much welcome. Please contact Father Antony or the office catford@rcaos.org.uk or 02086983672 to register your interest.

Offertory Collection last weekend: £312.73 [loose]– Thank you.

Meet Fr Antony without an appointment this week: Those who wish to sign their school applications, to baptise their children, to receive the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation or to be received into the full communion with the Catholic Church [RCIA] can obtain your application forms from Fr Antony. It will be an opportunity for Fr Antony to meet your family, to explain about the importance of the sacraments you are going to receive and to stress the importance to participate in the preparation programmes. Please meet him without an appointment on this Tuesday and Wednesday after the 9.15am Mass. Parents must come with their children/candidates.

Diamond Mass: Please note there will be a special Mass for members of the Diamond Club on Tuesday 10th November at 11am. If you would like to attend, please contact Lesley Allen.

		HOLY MASS - THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
SAT	7pm	Mary Lewis - Wellbeing	Deceased Members of the U.C.M. – R.I.P.
SUN	9am 11.30am	All Saints' Day Tom & Brendan Kilcoyne R.I.P. People Of The Parish	People of The Parish Vera Pollock R.I.P. (Pat P.)
MON	7pm	All Souls' Day People of The Parish [9.15am] People of The Parish [7.00pm]	Alphones Manuelpillia R.I.P.
TUE	9.15am	Oscar & Melba Fernandes - Wellbeing	Edwin Noronha R.I.P.
WED	9.15am	The Coughlan & Rigney Families - Wellbeing	Thierry Gnanakumar R.I.P.
THU	No Mass for the public		
FRI	7.00pm 7.30pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Doreen Phelan R.I.P.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Denis Burke - Thanksgiving

Fr Antony: As some of you may know, very shortly before Fr Antony joined our Parish, he was involved in a car accident which delayed his start date at Holy Cross. Although Fr is recovering very well, he has been awaiting confirmation of one final appointment for reconstructive surgery to the ACL ligament of his left knee. Fortunately, this has now been confirmed for 16 November. Please note therefore, that for a short period after this date, we may need to offer Eucharistic Services to our Parishioners on week days, although Masses will continue to be celebrated at weekends. More information to follow.

Congratulations: Our apologies go to Isabel Ismail as we omitted to include Isabel's name in our congratulatory message in the newsletter of 18 October. Many congratulations Isabel. We shall remember you and all those young Candidates who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation.