

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr Antony Megalan Sellam
[Parish Priest]
020 8698 3672



antonymegalan@rcaos.org.uk
www.holycross-catford.org.uk
02086983672

5th Sunday of Lent (B)

20/21 March 2021

Dear Parishioner,

Next week is Palm Sunday. Last year, on this day, I was visiting your homes bringing the blessed Palms. It was the first lockdown and I was not allowed to enter your homes. When I was visiting you on your doorsteps, I was amazed to see how you decorated your homes with the branches of your garden remembering the glorious welcoming of Jesus by the people of Jerusalem with olive branches. Though we could not come to church in person, we could connect ourselves to one another in spirit. This year the palms will be distributed as you leave the church.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells us: "I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat of grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest" [John 12:14]. As we approach Holy Week, this reading gives us the wisdom to understand the life-giving death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We, who have been called to be His by Baptism, have within us the life of Christ as a grain of wheat has within itself a germ of life. We can become abundantly fruitful, when our lives resemble His likeness. May we set our faces as a flint towards the goal of our calling. We also ask our Lord for the grace to mirror the attitude of the Lord Jesus, as we die to self and live for Christ - so that by God's grace, we may become a grain of wheat or fruitful branch of our heavenly Vine. Fr Antony

Virtual Meeting with Fr Antony via Zoom: If you would like to speak to Fr Antony, please use the ID and Passcode, on **Monday this week** from 10am. If there is someone before you, please wait in the Zoom Waiting Room.

Meeting ID: 7578777461; **Passcode:** 20212021

Or [Click Here](#)

9 pm for Night Prayer Every Day: In this Pandemic, let us pray together as God's family and receive His blessings before going to sleep. Please invite your family also to join prayer.

Meeting ID: 7578777461; **Passcode:** 20212021, Or [Click Here](#)

Holy Week Service Times 2021

During the time of the pandemic, there is a **maximum of 70 people** allowed in the church.

Palm Sunday

28th March

1830 - Holy Mass [Saturday Evening]
0900 - Holy Mass
1130 - Holy Mass
1300 - Holy Mass

Monday of Holy Week

29th March

0915 - Holy Mass
1830 - Service of Reconciliation

Tuesday of Holy Week

30th March

0915 - Holy Mass

Wednesday of Holy Week

31st March

0915 - Holy Mass

MAUNDY THURSDAY

1st April

1800 - Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper [1]
2000 - Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper [2]

Due to the restrictions in place because of the pandemic, there will be no *washing of the feet* and no *procession to the Altar of Repose*. The faithful will prayerfully leave the church after receiving the Holy Communion.

GOOD FRIDAY

2nd April

1000 - Stations of the Cross
1200 - Stations of the Cross
1500 - The Passion of Our Lord
1800 - Stations of the Cross
2000 - Stations of the Cross

At all services, we will be blessed with the Relic of the Real Wood of the Cross. There will be no individual *Veneration of the Cross* at the 15.00 service.

HOLY SATURDAY

3rd April

1000 - Morning Prayer
2300 - Easter Vigil

At our Easter Vigil there will be no *blessing of the holy fire*, and our parish RCIA candidates will not receive the sacraments at this service. There will be shorter forms of the readings to allow for a shorter-than-usual service.

EASTER SUNDAY

4th April

0900 - Holy Mass
1130 - Holy Mass
1300 - Holy Mass
1800 - Holy Mass

All services will be live streamed for participation from home

Wishing everyone a very prayerful and blessed Holy Week, Fr Antony



Confessions During Lent: Every Friday - from 6.00pm.
During Holy Week – Monday, 29th March from 6.30pm

Stations of the Cross: In the church every **Friday at 6pm.** [Click Here](#) to participate in the Stations of the Cross liturgy via Livestream.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday at 6.30pm. [Click Here](#) to participate in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament via Livestream.

Lenten Retreat via Zoom: Every **Tuesday from 7.30pm.**

Meeting ID: 7578777461; **Passcode:** 20212021

Please watch this video before participating the retreat: [Click Here](#)

For more information, please click the web link of the Diocesan Spirituality Commission:

<http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme>

First Holy Communion 2021: Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist will continue with the next session via Zoom on Saturday - 27th March. Families who have registered will have received the link via e-mail. Our new email ID for the Baptism Programme is catfordfhc@rcaos.org.uk.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS	
<i>Live Stream:</i> https://holy-cross-stream.click2stream.com	
<i>Zoom:</i> Meeting ID: 7578777461; Passcode: 20212021	
SAT 6:30pm	Joseph Roe R.I.P.
SUN 09:00am	Sean Noronha – Thanksgiving
11.30am	Kay Gray R.I.P.
MON 09.15am	Rosemary Grant R.I.P. (<i>1st Anniversary</i>)
TUE 09.15am	Oscar & Melba Fernandes - Thanksgiving
WED 09.15am	William Benzynie R.I.P.
THU 09.15am [Via Zoom only]	<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i> Mary Lanigan R.I.P.
FRI 6.00pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
6.30pm	<i>Adoration & Confessions</i>
7.00pm	Caroline Uzoh R.I.P.

The Church Care Team undertakes a deep clean and sanitises our church every Saturday at 12 noon. Sincere thanks to our Church Care Team for their sacrifices. **Please Click** here to join the WhatsApp group for the Church Care Team.

Please pray for the sick: Myra Hannon, Melanie Thomas, Florence Nosegbe, Lydia Joseph, Pat Vessey, John Conway, Gala Lobo, Mary Emmanus, Pat Doyle, Tommy Murphy and Alan Durkin. If you would like the parish community to pray for the sick members of your family and to be added in the newsletter, please send us an email.

Please Join our Holy Cross WhatsApp groups...

[please click and join if you wish to participate]

Morning Blessings [to receive Bible reflections and blessings – every day]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EG7VHLJfMAOHuDqCivs97w>

Church Care Team [every Saturday 12 noon]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LLxRcM2UJgw7CHwGGI5vVA>

Welcome Ministers: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/D1BJE19Dd1O4K3MhO9bjlW>

9pm Monastery [to pray the night prayer of the Church every day at 9pm]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FBNBqhXSuYjBChJn4usA3x>

New to Catholic Faith? [kindly forward those link to anyone who would like to know more about Catholic Faith]: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GEbv8LihA7w4pWhBirehwF>

Holy Cross Choir [Main Choir for feasts]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GKYGQ1qGjg91ZIAk6unJCI>

Holy Cross Readers [6.30pm – Saturday]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IMm717jaoTdBK92FgSEn2d>

Holy Cross Readers [9am – Sunday]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LEvkwiVE81H7bg4Wo8u2s>

Holy Cross Readers [11.30am – Sunday]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KucZUJt4dIXF4moTpqMIVz>

Holy Week at Holy Cross...

According to the guidelines of Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales [Vade Mecum for Holy Week 2021], we follow the following at Holy Cross.

This year, the Celebrations for Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum will be in the presence of Christ's faithful. This differs from the situation faced last year when acts of public worship were suspended because of the covid-19 pandemic. Please remember that we follow...

- The wearing of face coverings in church by the faithful (unless the person has a valid exemption from this regulation)
- Social distancing of people within the church building
- Frequent hand cleansing with sanitiser
- Good ventilation of the church building to refresh the air quality within

- Cleaning of the church building after each act of public worship
- The timely dispersing of the faithful after the acts of worship avoiding congregating in car parks or on the streets outside the church.

Palm Sunday

The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem will be celebrated within the church buildings and not outside. The ministers should enter into the Church at a suitable place where the palm branches to be blessed are provided. These will be blessed at the appropriate point and the Gospel of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem is proclaimed. After the Gospel, the ministers move to the Sanctuary and the Mass continues with the *Collect*.

The shorter form of the Passion from the Gospel of St Mark will be read in a dignified yet expeditious manner with multiple readers. The *turba* parts will not be exclaimed by the congregation.

The palm branches blessed during the celebration of the liturgy will be distributed to the faithful as they leave the church after Mass. Those distributing the palm branches will wear single-use gloves when doing so.

Mass of the Lord's Supper

The *Washing of the Feet* is omitted and there is no procession to the Altar of Repose. The Reserved Sacrament is kept in the Tabernacle of the church. Those who are not able to celebrate this Mass should pray *Vespers* from the *Liturgy of the Hours* [via

Zoom – details will be given later]. The altar will not be stripped in the usual manner since the Blessed Sacrament is reserved at that altar.

Holy Communion will be given under one kind.

For reasons of safety, *Watching* in lieu of the Altar of Repose is not possible this year.

Good Friday

The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord will take place in the church with a congregation. If necessary, additional celebrations may be considered, taking into account the risks associated for the faithful in travelling to and from church.

The proclamation of the Passion according to St John will be read in a dignified yet expeditious manner with multiple readers. The *turba* parts should not be exclaimed by the congregation.

The Universal Prayer will be carried out without undue delay. Like last year, a special intention (*For the afflicted in time of Pandemic*) is inserted before the intercession *For those in Tribulation (X)*.

For *The Adoration of the Holy Cross*, we will use the second form for ease. For the *Adoration*, the Veneration of the Cross is limited to the priest alone. After I have done this, I will “invite the people present in a few words to adore the Holy Cross and afterwards, hold the Cross elevated higher for a brief time, for the faithful to adore in silence”. This will be expressed by the faithful through a short period of silent prayer, a gesture such as a bow in their places, followed by another short period of silent prayer.

Holy Communion will be given under one kind from the Reserved Sacrament.

Other Celebrations on Good Friday

The provision of other devotions on Good Friday may mitigate against the numbers which could congregate in parish churches for the singular celebration of the *Liturgy of the Lord's Passion*. We will give more information about it later. Celebrations of the *Stations of the Cross* should not involve the moving of the congregation on pilgrimage around the church. *Walks of Witness* will not take place.

It is recommended that at all acts of worship on Good Friday in the churches of England and Wales, the opportunity for the faithful to contribute to the Holy See collection for the *Holy Places of Palestine* will be available.

The Easter Vigil

For the celebration of the Easter Vigil, the Paschal candle will be prepared, enthroned and simply lit at the beginning of the celebration.

The Shorter Form the Easter Proclamation (the *Exsultet*) will be sung. The faithful will not have votive candles for the Easter Vigil.

The Liturgy of the Word follows. In order to expedite the liturgy in a dignified way, two Old Testament readings from both the Law and the Prophets with their respective psalms, in addition to the reading of Exodus 14 and its canticle (which may never be omitted) are used. The homily, after the proclamation of the Gospel, will be brief.

The Baptism of Catechumens, the Reception of other Christians into full Communion with the Catholic Church and the Confirmation is not recommended at the Easter Vigil but will take place at another time. I will bless the baptismal water in the font. The Renewal of Baptismal Promises will be made by those present, but I will not sprinkle the faithful.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows. Holy Communion will be given under one kind from the newly consecrated Sacrament.

Useful Links

SDC is a Catholic organisation that works in some South London parishes in Southwark mainly in the field of catechesis. Their website contains several resources that can be useful to teachers or catechists working with children or young people. The direct link to the resources section is www.sdc.me.uk/resources.

Children's Liturgies: www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy.

All Bible in a Year Episodes [by Fr Mike Schmits]:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>

EWTN:

https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism?_hstc=65031153.f9acbb9f69fbfc59d4a905dbaf4c3be7.1613222594856.1613222594856.1613225376837.2&_hssc=65031153.1.1613225376837&_hsfp=883330354

SUNDAY HOLY MASS

Readings at Mass

First reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will make a new covenant and never call their sin to mind.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm – Ps 50

A pure heart create for me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

A pure heart create for me, O God.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

A pure heart create for me, O God.

Second reading - Hebrews 5: 7-9

He learned to obey and become the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation – John 12:26

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will my servant be.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel – John 12: 20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.
Father, glorify your name!’
A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.
‘Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.’
By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

