

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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***FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER***  
***1 / 2 May 2021***

Dear Parishioner,

In this first weekend of May, we join our Mother Church in praying for the suffering. Pope Francis is requesting that during this month of May the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic and, in a special way, he is inviting all of us to pray fervently for those most closely affected by it. May this month of May be a month of prayer for us all.

In today's Gospel reading, our Lord says: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing" [John 15:5].

The first reading tells us the story of the early Christian life. The union with Christ in prayer also demanded them in union with the Christian Community, strengthened them to have the challenges and inspired them to evangelise the Good News.

As we cherish the dignity of being the branches of the true vine, we ask our Lord the grace to remain with him for ever and bear fruit in plenty.

## PARISH CONTACTS

**PARISH OFFICE:** Jo Flahive & Lisa O'Hara – [catford@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catford@rcaos.org.uk); 02086983672

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**CONFIRMATION:** Franck & Patricia Angubi - [catfordconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk)

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| <b>MASS TIMES &amp; INTENTIONS</b><br><i>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May</i> |  |
|--|--|
| SAT 6.30pm   | <i>St Joseph the Worker</i><br>The Lascaris Family R.I.P.  |
| SUN 09:00am<br>11.30am   | Peggy Quinn R.I.P.<br>Catherine Walshe R.I.P.  |
| MON 09.15am  | <i>SS Philip &amp; James, Apostles</i><br>Andy Pollock – Wellbeing   |
| TUE 09.15am  | <i>The English Martyrs</i><br>Lisa O’Hara & Family – Birthday & Thanksgiving                                 |
| WED 09.15am  | Francis Xavier R.I.P.  |
| THU 09.15  | People of the Parish   |
| FRI 6.30pm<br>7.00pm   | <i>Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i><br>Living & Deceased Members of the Ramshaw Family |

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Congratulations to the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation last weekend. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their preparation for their First Holy Communion. The final part of the programme will continue for now via zoom on the following Saturdays at 10am:- May 15<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There will be two Masses for the children to receive their **First Holy Communion - Saturday, July 17th and Saturday July 24th, both at 10.00 a.m.** Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we will not be able to celebrate this at the weekend parish Masses. **Please note** In September this year, we will have the final sessions and celebration for both the **2020 and 2021 children.** The dates for each session will be given nearer the time. All the children will be presented with their certificates at that time.

**CONFIRMATION:** In addition, please keep in your prayers our Confirmation Candidates as they too received the Sacrament of Reconciliation last weekend and continue with their preparations. The next sessions will be via zoom on the following Saturdays at 4.30pm: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It has been noticed that the number of parishioners attending Mass has increased. Whilst I am, of course, delighted to see you all, unfortunately due to the covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to accommodate everyone safely in the church. **Please** note that Hartley Hall will now be available to use by those unable to be accommodated within the church, where the Holy Mass will be live streamed for the 11.30am Mass. Welcome ministers will assist you and guide you to receive Holy Communion in the church at the appropriate time.

**Please pray** for the repose of the soul of **John Maher** who has recently died. The Funeral Mass for John Maher will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of **Shirley Barrett** whose Funeral Mass will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

### Ascension of the Lord

We celebrate this Holy Day of Obligation on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May when Father Antony will offer two Masses at 9.15am and 6.30pm.

### **PENTECOST (23<sup>rd</sup> May), THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (30<sup>th</sup> May) AND CORPUS CHRISTI (6<sup>th</sup> June)**



Father Antony will be offering 4 Masses over each of these weekends:

- Sat 6.30pm
- Sun 9.00am, 11.30am and **1.00pm**

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** Please note, you should have received an email from Fr Antony about renewing the commitment to your ministry. This will take place on the Feast of Corpus Christi (at all 4 weekend Masses dated 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> June 2021). If you have not received anything, please contact the office so that we can check we have your correct contact details. We hope you are able to return to your ministry and look forward to seeing you.

**TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION:** This Sunday's second collection is for the upkeep of St George's Cathedral.

**HOLY CROSS BOOKSHOP:** The Holy Cross Bookshop in Brownhill Road is once again open every Monday to Friday from 11:30am to 4:30pm.

**NEW TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS:** Please continue to be aware of the newly introduced traffic restrictions operating in Culverley Road under Lewisham Council's School Streets Programme.

**Ways into Prayer** by the Spirituality Commission of the Diocese: *Prayer lies at the very heart of the life of the Church and is the foundation of Christian discipleship. In prayer we relate to God with the whole of our being: with heart, mind, body and soul. Prayer will always be a journey of discovery where we continue to be surprised by God. To know more about it, please log on to:* <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/ways-into-prayer>

**Let us Dream: Easter reflections** - The Spirituality Committee of the Bishops' Conference has produced a series of reflections based on the Holy Father's book *Let us Dream* for individual and parish use. Please find it in our email newsletter attachment.

**National Day of Prayer for the Victims and Survivors of Abuse, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021** – Materials for the Day of Prayer are attached in the email newsletter. They provide a number of helpful resources for this day and a link to the excellent creative resource *Listening with Love to the Word* prepared by the *Let's be Honest* group. We pray for the victims and survivors of abuse.

**Living Joyfully Vocations Events** – Pope Francis reminds us in his letter for World Day of Vocations, that Joseph's dreams led him into experiences he would never have imagined. We invite you and the young people to follow your dreams and ponder the question *What is God's dream for you?* Please find more information about the Vocation Events in the email attachments. We pray for vocations to the religious life and diocesan priesthood.

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## **Churches Together for the Climate**

### **Thursday 6th May, 7pm on Zoom**

2021 is an important year for churches to act together to protect God's Creation and for us, as Christians, to have a positive impact on the global emergency.

With the UK hosting both the G7 in June and the UN COP26 in November, 2021, this is an opportunity for our leaders to champion and exemplify key actions to achieve climate justice.

Join speakers Luke Harman of Christian Aid about the importance of climate finance, Beth Naylor-Smith of Young Christian Climate Network about the relay from the G7 in Cornwall to COP26 in Glasgow (which will pass through London 5th-8th August), and Rosh Lal of Faith for the Climate about movement building and the COP Faith Task Group.

Tangible actions and usable resources will be shared to empower participants to make a difference in changing the climate trajectory and support our neighbours around the world.

Contact [claire@ctslondon.org.uk](mailto:claire@ctslondon.org.uk) and a Zoom link will be distributed nearer the date. Please do invite guests who would be interested in joining this event, especially young people.

## Laudato Si Week

Laudato Si' Week, to be held between 16-24 May 2021 and the Global Catholic Climate Movement will be holding a series of special events to mark the Laudato Si' Anniversary Year. This will be a celebration of the progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion. The week will include prayer gatherings, music, discussions about energy and fossil fuels, and a presentation on the Care of Creation.

View the full programme and register interest here: [LaudatoSiWeek.org](http://LaudatoSiWeek.org)

**9PM FOR NIGHT PRAYER EVERY DAY [except Saturday]:** 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,

**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, Alan Durkin and Margaret Woodward. 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.

**THE CHURCH CARE TEAM** undertakes a deep clean and sanitises our church every Saturday at 12 noon. Please join if you can. Sincere thanks to our Church Care Team for their sacrifices.

## 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/GKYGO1qGjg9ZIAk6unJCI>

**Holy Cross Readers** [6.30pm – Saturday]:

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

**Holy Cross Readers** [9am – Sunday]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LEvkwiVE8iIH7bg4Wo8u2s>

**Holy Cross Readers** [11.30am – Sunday]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KucZUJt4dIXF4moTpqMlVz>

## SUNDAY HOLY MASS

**First reading** Acts 9:26-31

**Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 21(22):26-28, 30-32**

*You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.*

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.  
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.  
May their hearts live for ever and ever.

*You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.*

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,  
all families of the nations worship before him.  
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

*You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.*

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.  
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,  
Declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:  
'These things the Lord has done.'

*You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.*

**Second reading 1 John 3: 18-24**

**The commandment of faith and love**

My children,  
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,  
but something real and active;  
only by this can we be certain  
that we are children of the truth  
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,  
whatever accusations it may raise against us,  
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.  
My dear people,  
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,  
we need not be afraid in God's presence,  
and whatever we ask him,  
we shall receive,  
because we keep his commandments  
and live the kind of life that he wants.  
His commandments are these:  
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
and that we love one another

as he told us to.  
Whoever keeps his commandments  
lives in God and God lives in him.  
We know that he lives in us  
by the Spirit that he has given us.

### **Gospel Acclamation    John 15: 4, 5**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.  
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel    John 15:1-8**

#### **I am the vine, you are the branches**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I am the true vine,  
and my Father is the vinedresser.  
Every branch in me that bears no fruit  
he cuts away,  
and every branch that does bear fruit  
he prunes to make it bear even more.  
You are pruned already,  
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.  
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.  
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,  
but must remain part of the vine,  
neither can you unless you remain in me.  
I am the vine,  
you are the branches.  
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,  
bears fruit in plenty;  
for cut off from me you can do nothing.  
Anyone who does not remain in me  
is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;  
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,  
and they are burnt.  
If you remain in me  
and my words remain in you,  
you may ask what you will  
and you shall get it.  
It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,  
and then you will be my disciples.’