

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr Antony Megalan Sellam  
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*SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER*  
*8 / 9 May 2021*

## **We are the Friends of Christ**

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus says: "you are my friends...I call you friends" [John 15:9-17]. A friend is someone who knows our weaknesses and strengths yet still accepts us and loves us. A friend is someone who is not only with us in our good times but also, happy to be with us in our difficult life situations. A friend is someone who is not only glad to praise us when seeing our goodness but is also prudent and courageous to point out when our life journey is not heading on the right path. This is the glory we cherish from Jesus that we are His friends. May we cherish the friendship of Jesus Christ and share it with everyone to make this world a dwelling place of God.

**RCIA:** At the vigil **Pentecost Feast Mass on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May [6.30pm]**, our RCIA candidates/elect Zac Vallely, Leon Jackson, Micah Jackson, Nicole Jackson and Skevi Stavrou will receive the sacraments and be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they enter the final few weeks of their preparation. Please be aware the Mass may take a little longer than usual.

**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.

## **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.

**Special Mass:** Pentecost (22/23 May), The Most Holy Trinity (29/30 May) And Corpus Christi (5/6 June)



There will be 4 Masses over each of these weekends:

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

**First Holy Communion:** 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.

**Confirmation** – Please note additional dates: The sessions will take place on the following Saturdays at 4.30pm: **May** - 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> **June** - 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> **July** - 10<sup>th</sup> **September** 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Please pray** for the peaceful 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

## PARISH CONTACTS

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

**HARTLEY HALL:** Tony Early – [catfordhall@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordhall@rcaos.org.uk)

**BAPTISM:** Donella Canelle [catfordbaptism@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordbaptism@rcaos.org.uk)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Anne Mellis - [catfordfhc@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordfhc@rcaos.org.uk)

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

**RCIA:** Judy & Fabian Chen - [catfordrcia@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordrcia@rcaos.org.uk)

**The Parish Office** is open on Mondays and Fridays, 10am to 3pm. Please try to avoid coming into the office in person during this Pandemic. Please send an email: [catford@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catford@rcaos.org.uk); or call: 02086983672

**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.

<b>MASS TIMES &amp; INTENTIONS</b>	
<i>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May</i>	
SAT 6.30pm	Patrick Doyle - Wellbeing
SUN 09:00am 11.30am	Mary Charity Onojeghuo R.I.P. (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) Deceased members of The Valton Family R.I.P.
MON 09.15am	People of the Parish
TUE 09.15am	Thierry Christian Gnanakumar R.I.P.
WED 09.15am	Elizabeth Antony – Wellbeing & Thanksgiving
THU 09.15am 6.30pm	<i>The Ascension of the Lord</i> Luca Finaldi – Wellbeing & Thanksgiving Mitchelle Mbaeiri – Thanksgiving Birthday
FRI 6.30pm 7.00pm	<i>Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> Teresa and Pat Dunne - Thanksgiving

**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.

**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)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Myra Hannon, Melanie Thomas, Florence Nosegbe, Lydia Joseph, Pat Vessey, John Conway, Gala Lobo, Mary Emmanuel, 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.

**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/waysinto-prayer>

**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.

## MASS READINGS

**First reading** Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

**The pagans have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have**

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. ‘Stand up,’ he said ‘I am only a man after all!’

Then Peter addressed them: ‘The truth I have now come to realise’ he said ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.’

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, ‘Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?’ He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps. 97

*The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.*

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

*The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.*

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.

He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

*The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.*

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

*The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.*

**Second reading    1 John 4: 7-10**

**Let us love one another, since love comes from God**

My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.  
God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
this is the love I mean:  
not our love for God,  
but God's love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**Gospel Acclamation    John 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.'  
Alleluia!

**Gospel    John 15: 9-17**

**You are my friends if you do what I command you**

Jesus said to his disciples:  
'As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.  
If you keep my commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and remain in his love.  
I have told you this  
so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.  
This is my commandment:  
love one another, as I have loved you.  
A man can have no greater love  
than to lay down his life for his friends.  
You are my friends,  
if you do what I command you.  
I shall not call you servants any more,  
because a servant does not know  
his master's business;  
I call you friends,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
You did not choose me:  
no, I chose you;  
and I commissioned you  
to go out and to bear fruit,  
fruit that will last;  
and then the Father will give you  
anything you ask him in my name.  
What I command you  
is to love one another.'

## 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/LEvkwiVE81IH7bg4Wo8u2s>

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

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