

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER *15/16 May 2021*

Dear friends,

This weekend we celebrate World Communications Day. This day invites us to be the messengers/storytellers of God's Good News.

Not all stories are good stories. For example, the serpent said in the beginning: "when you eat of it...you will be like God" [Gen 3:4]; and still says: "if you possess, if you have riches...you will become, you will achieve..."

The story of stories is the Sacred Scripture. It is the greatest story between God and man. The Lord God wants us to be His storytellers, saying: "That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2). Reading, reflecting and telling God's stories always renews and refreshes us.

Technology enables us to take this story telling to the ends of the earth. We are doing good in using the technology we have to proclaim God's stories in our parish. The Morning Blessings, 9pm monastery, live stream, zoom meetings/prayer services/Masses, digital newsletters, a number of WhatsApp groups... Let us continue to be God's storytellers so as to share the prophetic function of Jesus Christ received in our Baptism. **Fr Antony**

RCIA: At the vigil **Pentecost Feast Mass on Saturday 22nd 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 week 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 5th/6th 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.

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** - 15th, 22nd **June** - 12th, 19th, 26th **July** - 10th **September** 11th, 18th.

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 18th May

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE: Jo Flahive & Lisa O'Hara – catford@rcaos.org.uk; 02086983672

HARTLEY HALL: Tony Early – catfordhall@rcaos.org.uk

BAPTISM: Donella Canelle catfordbaptism@rcaos.org.uk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Anne Mellis - catfordfhc@rcaos.org.uk

CONFIRMATION: Franck & Patricia Angubi - catfordconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk

RCIA: Judy & Fabian Chen - catfordrcia@rcaos.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING: Pat Barber and Kate Cleevely - catfordsg2@safeguardrcaos.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; 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.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS <i>Saturday 15th May – Friday 21st May</i>		
SAT	6.30pm	Amy Quinn - Thanksgiving
SUN	09:00am 11.30am	Bridget Wood R.I.P. Lesley Allen & Pat Hennessey – Birthday Thanksgiving
MON	09.15am	Olympia Cominetti R.I.P. 3 rd Anniversary
TUE	09.15am	Theresa Green R.I.P.
WED	09.15am	People of the Parish
THU	09.15am	Amy Quinn & Sam Duncan - Thanksgiving
FRI	6.30pm 7.00pm	<i>Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> Oscar & Melba Fernandes - Thanksgiving

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection at the end of each of the Masses this weekend for World Communications Day.

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, Dorothy Beacon, Gala Lobo, Mary Emmanus, Pat Doyle, Tommy Murphy, Alan Durkin, Margaret Woodward and Rachael Pereira Wibberley. 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.

Laudato Si: Catholics around the world are invited to take part in celebrations to mark the Laudato Si' 5th Anniversary Year.

The 10-day event, which will run between 16th - 25th May inclusive, is intended to celebrate the progress that the global Church has made in its ecological conversion journey during the past six years, as well as offer a path for the decade ahead. In his recent Earth Day message, Pope Francis strongly highlighted that it is '*time to act*' on the environment, calling for integrated global efforts towards protecting the planet and pointing out that the Earth may no longer continue to be disrespected.

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, in association with the Global Catholic Climate Movement and a large number of partner organisations and charities, will deliver '*Laudato Si Week*', centred around the theme '*For we know things can change*'.

During the course of the celebration, there will be an opportunity to view a range of live broadcasts on environmental topics under the banner of **Laudato Si Dialogue**, which will highlight critical opportunities to create environmental change. The daily broadcasts will take place at 7 pm (BST), and in addition to exploring various topics, such as fossil fuels, there will also be an opportunity to take part in a Global Action Day for our Common Home, enjoy a cultural festival and engage in a prayer gathering. [Sign up and read more](#).

Reading Material

[Laudato Si](#)

[Becoming a Green Christian](#) - published by Kevin Mayhew

[Reflections on Laudato Si](#) - written by Sean McDonagh

A significant number of books are also available from the Global Catholic Climate Movement on a range of topics based around [faith and the environment](#)

Bible Society Psalm 23 Garden

Following several months of relative isolation, why not consider bringing our community together by creating a garden on the theme of Psalm 23? Following the example of the Bible Society and landscape designer Sarah Eberle, this offers an opportunity to build a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy, which is not only good for mental health but also benefits wildlife, and potentially offers a natural space in which to contemplate the psalm.

The Bible Society has created practical and spiritual [resources for both schools and parishes](#) and has lots of video-based guidance to help communities get started. They also have plenty of inspiration to offer by way of examples of gardens that have come into existence during recent years.

You can find Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden in the Sanctuary section of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

[Find out more about the garden](#)

St George's Cathedral Chorister Recruitment

The Cathedral Consort at St George's Cathedral is for 13-18 year-olds and is currently recruiting.

The Choir meets on Wednesday afternoons and will sing for the 10 am Family Mass when restrictions allow. No previous experience is necessary, only a love of singing.

This is a unique opportunity to receive a first-class music education and work with some of the best choral musicians in the Cathedral sphere. It is also a chance to experience a high level of teamwork and create musical friends

Please contact the Director of Music, Jonathan Schranz, at music@stgeorges.org.uk for further information, or visit the following page to sign up: www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk/jointhechoir

Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis

Antiquam ministerium

During the past week, the Holy Father has established the new lay-ministry of Catechist, with the publication of an apostolic letter '[Antiquum ministerium](#)'

In instituting this new lay ministry, Pope Francis praised “*the countless lay men and women who directly took part in the spread of the Gospel through catechetical instruction....Men and women of deep faith, authentic witnesses of holiness*”.

A Rite of Institution of the lay ministry of Catechist will be published in due course.

- Visit the page [catechesis area](#) on the Agency website
- CBCEW: [Recognising the Ministry of the Catechist](#) - Bishop David Evans
- [Directory for Catechesis](#)

The Rosary Stronghold [convenes each evening at 8 pm](#), and alongside praying for faith, life and peace the organisers also join in prayer with the Holy Father's Rosary Mission to invoke an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have arranged three special events in the latter half of May, and would particularly like to highlight the [Rosary Day for Schools and Young People](#) on 24th May, when they ask that the Rosary be prayed in Schools. They also wish to encourage the faithful to intercede for all young people, their intentions, and our Catholic schools' mission. [Watch this video](#) to find out more.

The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis has a wonderful series of PowerPoint and PDF resources for a [Scriptural meditation on the different mysteries of the Rosary](#).

MASS READINGS

First reading Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26

'Let someone else take his office'

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers – there were about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation: ‘Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested Jesus – after having been one of our number and actually sharing this ministry of ours. Now in the Book of Psalms it says:

Let someone else take his office.

‘We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling round with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.’

Having nominated two candidates, Joseph known as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, ‘Lord, you can read everyone’s heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over this ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.’ They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 102(103): 1-2, 11-12, 19-20

The Lord has set his sway in Heaven

My soul, give thanks to the Lord;
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord has set his sway in Heaven

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

The Lord has set his sway in Heaven

The Lord has set his sway in heaven
and his kingdom is ruling over all.
Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels,
mighty in power, fulfilling his word.

The Lord has set his sway in Heaven

Second reading 1 John 4: 11-16

Anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him

My dear people,
since God has loved us so much,
we too should love one another.
No one has ever seen God;
but as long as we love one another
God will live in us
and his love will be complete in us.
We can know that we are living in him
and he is living in us
because he lets us share his Spirit.
We ourselves saw and we testify
that the Father sent his Son
as saviour of the world.
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,
God lives in him, and he in God.
We ourselves have known and put our faith in
God's love towards ourselves.
God is love
and anyone who lives in love lives in God,
and God lives in him.

Gospel Acclamation John 14: 18

Alleluia, alleluia!

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you,
and your hearts will be full of joy.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 17: 11-19

Father, keep those you have given me true to your name

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
‘Holy Father,
keep those you have given me true to your name,
so that they may be one like us.
While I was with them,
I kept those you had given me true to your name.
I have watched over them
and not one is lost
except the one who chose to be lost,
and this was to fulfil the scriptures.
But now I am coming to you
and while still in the world I say these things
to share my joy with them to the full.
I passed your word on to them,
and the world hated them,
because they belong to the world
no more than I belong to the world.
I am not asking you to remove them from the world,
but to protect them from the evil one.
They do not belong to the world
any more than I belong to the world.
Consecrate them in the truth;
your word is truth.
As you sent me into the world,
I have sent them into the world,
and for their sake I consecrate myself
so that they too may be consecrated in truth.’

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/D1B,JE19Dd1O4K3MhO9bjlW>

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

<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/GEbv8LihA7w4pWhB1rehwF>

Holy Cross Choir [Main Choir for feasts]:

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

Holy Cross Readers [6.30pm – Saturday]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IMm717ja0TdBK92FgSEn2d>

Holy Cross Readers [9am – Sunday]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LEvkwiVE81lH7bg4W08u2s>

Holy Cross Readers [11.30am – Sunday]:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KucZUJt4dIXF4m0TpgMlVz>