

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
21 / 22 August 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

In today's second reading we find that Christ loves the Church, because it is his body. In his encyclical, *Mystici Corporis Christi*, Pope Pius XII calls the communion of God's people a mystical body of Jesus Christ. St. Paul speaks of all Christians as members of Christ, so that with Him, they form one Mystical Body (Cf. 1 Cor 12:12-31; Col 1:18; 2:18-20; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19; 4:13). Let us rejoice that we became members of this *communio* through our Baptism and the profession of our faith in Christ. We ask our Lord for the grace that we not only remain with Him always as members of His mystical body, but also enhance this communion through our gifts and talents given by God.

Fr Antony

Catechises, Formation and Evangelization Teams in Holy Cross: anyone who would like to join these teams, please contact Fr Antony.

Holy Cross Feast: we shall have a special Feast Day Mass on Sunday 12 September 2021 at 7:00pm to celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It will be a special day for us to thank God for every blessing we cherish in our parish. Please make a note of this special day in your diary.

Holy Cross Manna Mission: we are planning to begin the Soup And Bread Kitchen in our parish after the 11.30am Mass from October – as long as we receive sufficient assistance from our parishioners. Please come forward to support the poor and needy. You can either let Fr Antony know you would like to support this Mission, or email the Parish Office with your contact details.

Congratulations to James Hubbard who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 7:00pm Mass on Friday 27th August. Please keep James, and his family in your prayers.

Baptism: Our congratulations go to baby Hailey Chizaram Chukwuemeka who will be receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 21st August. Hailey is the daughter of Henry Chukwuemeka and Lilian Muoh. Please keep this family in your prayers. Thank you.

Application Forms for Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA: please contact Fr Antony during the Parish Surgery without an appointment. This week it will be: Tuesday after the 9:15am Mass and Friday after the 7:00pm Mass.

Parish Surgery this week: Meet with Fr Antony without an appointment every Tuesday after the 9:15am Mass, and every Friday after the 7:00pm Mass.

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 in prayer. **Meeting ID:** 7578777461; **Passcode:** 20212021.

Morning Prayers: Morning prayers after Mass have resumed now. You are invited to join us:

Rosary – Mon, Tue, Thu @ 9.45am; Divine Mercy Chaplet – Wed @ 9.45am and Fri 6.10pm

School Street Scheme operating on Culverley Road: Please note that the School Street Scheme which restricts anyone entering the enforcement area operates during the Lewisham Schools Term Times only – not during the holidays. To check the School Term Dates please go to the Website :

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/parking/schoolstreets/schools-streets-programme-streets-outside-schools>

First Holy Communion Updates for the 2020 and 2021 Children:

For those children who made their First Holy Communion in 2020, you are invited to attend Mass on Saturday 11th September at 10:00am.

For those children who made their First Holy Communion in 2021, you are invited to attend Mass on Saturday 18th September at 10:00am.

After each Mass, the Candidates and their families are invited to a celebration party in Hartley Hall. If you can wear your special outfits, please do. Otherwise please dress smartly.

Mass Intentions: Kindly note that when requesting a Mass for your Intention, we are currently working on a two month lead time. Please leave your contact number on the Mass Intention envelope so we can confirm the date we have to offer, if the date you have requested is unavailable. Thank you.

Foundation Masses: A Foundation Mass is a Mass Intention that lasts for 25 years. If you would like to request a Foundation Mass, please give details for whom the Mass is to be offered together with the intention to Fr Antony. Please also include the date and time of the Mass together with your name and contact details. The cost is £300 (cheque made payable to RC Archdiocese of Southwark).

Vacancy: Site Maintenance and Caretaker: We are looking for an experienced person to join our site maintenance and caretaking team. Based on the Cathedral site in London SE1, which includes residential and office accommodation, as well as public access spaces and a car park. The primary function of this role is to provide handyman/maintenance services across the whole estate and act as a caretaker for the site. The full advert is on the Diocesan website www.rcsouthwark.co.uk or email hr@rcaos.org.uk for more details. Closing date 3rd September 2021.

Want to Baptise your Child? From September 2021, the process to follow for those wishing to Baptise their child will be as follows:

- Complete the Baptism Application Form, which can be collected from Fr Antony during the Parish Surgery (see newsletter for current Parish Surgery times).
- Book an initial appointment with the Parish Office (Monday and Friday, 10:00am to 3:00pm) to submit the form and accompanying documents.
- Attend a Baptism Preparation Course.
- Meet with Fr Antony during the Parish Surgery (times announced in the Newsletter each week), to book a date for the Baptism and discuss the Order of Service.
- Baptisms are celebrated on the first and second Sundays of every month at 2:00pm.
- Up to two Baptisms can take place on each of these Sundays.
- Certificates are issued on the day of the Baptism, but only if the Baptism course has been attended.

Altar Servers: A message for all those who would like to return to their mission as Altar Servers AND for those who would like to become Altar Servers, please collect a form from Fr Antony after any Mass.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage [October 9th at St George's Cathedral]: If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please apply as soon as possible. Get in touch with us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. Spaces are limited.

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.

PARISH CONTACTS

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

Franciscan Sisters of The Immaculate: Tel: 02034418240

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 Cleevly - catfordsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

The Parish Office is open on Mondays and Fridays, 10am to 3pm. email: catford@rcaos.org.uk; phone: 020 8698 3672.

<i>MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 21st August – Friday 27th August</i>		
SAT	6:30pm	<i>Saint Pius X, Pope</i> People of the Parish
SUN	09:00am 11:30am	<i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Eberendu Family – Wellbeing & 15 th Wedding Anniversary Maria and Antony Zammit R.I.P.
MON	09:15am	Mercy Motha R.I.P.
TUE	09:15am	<i>Saint Bartholomew, Apostle</i> Everal Egan R.I.P.
WED	09:15am	Jean Bhagwandeem R.I.P.
THU	09:15am	<i>Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, Priest</i> L B Cephas and Cyndi Brena - Thanksgiving
FRI	6:30pm 7:00pm	<i>Saint Monica</i> <i>Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> Sapiencia Noronha R.I.P.

Please Pray for the Sick: Clowie Aspery, Myra Hannon, Melanie Thomas, Florence Nosegbe, Lydia Joseph, Pat Vessey, John Conway, Dorothy Beacon, Gala Lobo, Mary Emmanus, Pat Doyle, Tommy Murphy, Alan Durkin, Rachael Pereira Wibberley, Ann Whittington, Christina Adedeji, George Wacholz, Elfrida Wacholz and Dora Biasi. 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.

R.I.P.: Margaret Woodward passed away on Thursday. I visited her a few times in her home and again in Lewisham hospital and anointed her. Please keep her in your prayers. May she rest in Peace.

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is an internationally recognised course, primarily for those involved in education. The Agency team and external tutors will deliver the CCRS via Zoom and in-person at the Amigo Hall, London. For full dates and other information, please visit <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/ccrs>. For 2021-2022 the price will be £45/module or £350 for the full course.

Mass Offerings: Your loose cash offering last weekend: £384. Thank you.

Bible Verse to Remember:

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;
you have the message of eternal life.
[John 6: 63, 68]

MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 85: 1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Collect

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

We will serve the Lord, for he is our God

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33(34):2-3,16-23

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second reading

Ephesians 5:21-32

Christ loves the Church, because it is his body

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. *For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.* This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Jn6:63,68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:60-69

Who shall we go to? You are the Holy One of God

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.
The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption
through the one sacrifice offered once for all,
bestow graciously on us, we pray,
the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 103: 13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

Prayer after Communion

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,
the healing work of your mercy
and graciously perfect and sustain us,
so that in all things we may please you.
Through Christ our Lord.