

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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19 March 2023

YR A

Missionary Sisters of

St. Peter Claver

020 8313 3915

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This weekend the second collection is for Poor Parishes and there is a collection of food for the Catholic Workers House

LAY MINISTRY

IN OUR SECOND LENT TALK on 8 March I alluded to an initiative Pope Francis took two years ago at the beginning of 2021. To cut a long story short, he opened up to laymen and women the 'ministries' of Reader and Acolyte which up to that point had been in most places reserved to men in formation to become deacon or priest; later in the year he upgraded the ministry of Catechist. Since then on the *Sunday of the Word of God* each year he has



instituted men and women for these ministries at a Mass in St Peter's, shown here. This move is very important but it will take some time for the new system to be set up in this country; it has been the case for about fifty years that laypeople are encouraged to take on these roles anyway. It is good to stress this now because since Covid we have become short of volunteers across the board and we do need new people, especially in the run-up to Easter. I know we need volunteers for lots of roles, but I want to concentrate on these three functions here. In all cases we would particularly like people who are, to coin a phrase, 'the right side of forty' (I chose that age at random, but you know what I mean) but we welcome older people as well.

Catechist

Some years back the task of preparing children, young people and adults for the sacraments (particularly First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) would usually have been done by priests, nuns and teachers in Catholic schools. This hasn't been possible for many years and like most parishes we need committed laypeople to be catechists in our various groups, along with the adult formation programme known as the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA). Don't be alarmed by the idea - you don't need prior experience or theological training, and good formation is provided by the diocese. We have dedicated teams but we need more people - if you want to know more please contact the organisers of groups shown on the parish website.

Reader

In the Mass we believe that we encounter the presence of Jesus in various ways, and one of these is through the reading of the Bible. The ministry of reading at Mass is really important, and has become more important in the last few years because of the increased numbers of people joining in Mass through livestream, who are more dependent on being able to hear what is read

properly. It is an important part of how all people at Mass are able now to *participate actively* in the celebration - it's not just for the priest and the others on the sanctuary. Of course it's easier with a PA system than it would otherwise be, but we do offer training in how to use it properly when we read (it is very easy to read far too quickly). If you are able to help please contact the clergy or those who organise the various readers' rotas. Holy Week is

not far off when we need more readers for special Masses, and particularly the Easter Vigil.

Acolyte / Special Minister

Here I am talking both about altar servers and Special Ministers of Holy Communion. Our teams of servers who are children and young people are being gradually rebuilt after the disruption of the pandemic - traditionally here we have had a lot of servers. We desperately need more adults, male and female, to take responsibility and supervise those who are younger; do contact us if you are interested. You will need, naturally, to undergo safeguarding checks but the process for this is much simpler than in the past. Linked to this Special Ministers of Holy Communion fulfil a very important role, not only by assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and also, where possible, being available to take Holy Communion to those who are housebound. Rebuilding all this has taken time, and again checks are necessary, but it is a really important form of lay ministry which has a long history in this parish, which I think pioneered it in the 70s and 80s. Two things make this even more important - first, we are being made more aware all the time of more people who are housebound in the parish; and secondly, our Archbishop and most of the bishops in the country have indicated that from Maundy Thursday we can restore the giving of Holy Communion from the chalice to the Faithful at Mass: this is in line with the official teaching of the Bishops Conference in this country and the traditions of this parish. We hope gradually to re-introduce this.

I hope this has helpfully outlined what our needs are as a parish as we renew our life together, guided by the pope's teaching. Do contact the clergy if you are interested.

Fr Ashley



BAPTISM PREPARATION SUNDAY 19 March

Please meet in the Hall after the Family Mass. We will start at 10.40 am

READERS FOR THE EASTER TRIDUUM Maundy Thursday – April 6 at 8.00 pm Good Friday – April 7 at 3.00 pm Easter Vigil - Saturday April 8 at 8.00 pm

Readers are needed for the services over the Triduum.

If you would like to read at any of these please **contact Rosemary** (r.ekong@ucl.ac.uk) and indicate which services you will be attending
Thank you.

DBS CLEARANCE FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Every person who wishes to continue as a Eucharistic minister **MUST HAVE** a valid DBS clearance.

So that we can rebuild our records post-pandemic we are asking all who wish to continue with this ministry to send an email to the Parish Office with *Extraordinary Minister* in the subject line, and stating in your message the date of your DBS, which Mass you usually attend, and if you currently take communion to anyone in their home.

Please do this straight away as the renewal process takes quite some time.

Thank you to those who have already responded to this request. There are many who we expected to hear from who haven't contacted us yet. We would like to compete this exercise by Easter.

LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Saturday 1 April at 4.00 pm

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic we are holding a Reconciliation Service during Lent.

The service will begin at 4.00 pm and all our priests will be available to hear confessions.

THROUGH LENT WITH POPE FRANCIS

Wednesday at 7.30 pm in church (live-streamed), followed by Zoom discussion

There is no talk this week and the final session in this series is on

29 March - Francis and Dialogue

The link for the Zoom discussion is:
<https://stmarys.zoom.us/j/85196615583>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

These events require volunteers, so if you are able to spare some time to help or can contribute to food, please let the Parish Office know.

The Easter Vigil Party on Saturday 8 April follows the Easter Vigil Mass.

The Coronation Tea Party on the afternoon of Monday 8 May.

PARISH RENOVATION

There will be a short break in the meetings until after Easter.

Thursday 13 April:
Catechesis + Formation

Thursday 20 April:
HR, Premises, Finance

All meetings are in the Hall from 7.30-9.00 pm.

POOR PARISHES

The second collection this weekend allows our Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE MATCHING SERVICE

Could you be matched with a Ukrainian wishing to find a Catholic person or family able to offer them a home for six months? The Caritas Social Action Network and the St John of God Hospitaliers will help.

If you have room in your home/ and in your heart please visit:

<https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information or pick up a flyer from the porch or use the QR code on the posters.



LOVE THE STRANGER

This is a new publication by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales' Department for International Affairs which articulates our Christian duty to look beyond labels and see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life.

It can be downloaded by using this link:
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger>
and there are copies in the porch.

COLLECTION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN LONDON

This weekend we are having a collection for asylum seekers and refugees living at the London Catholic Worker community in north London. This is what they need: tinned tomatoes, nuts, raisins, cheese, tuna, chilli sauce, rice, couscous, pulses, olive oil, cooking oil, vinegar, mayo, spices, sugar, sunflower seeds, low-fat spread, fruit juice, herbal teabags, hot chocolate, instant coffee, cereals, jam, marmalade, honey, peanut butter, chocolate spread, stock cubes, toilet paper, shampoo, liquid soap, deodorant, shaving products, body lotion, cleaning products, incense sticks, and tea-lights.

Please NO tinned soup, tinned spaghetti, baked beans or pork.

Please consider making a donation on their website: <https://www.londoncatholicworker.org/>

If you order your shopping online maybe you could do an order for them and arrange for a delivery of food to Giuseppe Conlon House, 49 Mattison Road, London N4 1BG.

This community relies entirely on donations to feed the many men it shelters. Please continue to give with your usual generosity.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

I have the pleasure to announce the much awaited Holy Land pilgrimage will be led by Fr John Olaniran from 12 - 20 November this year. For full details please contact Diane on 0795 119 4036 or diane-brelubrelu@gmail.com.

Diane

EASTER BOUQUETS

We have Easter Mass Bouquet cards in the Office for those of you who would like to arrange a Mass as an Easter gift for friends and family.

TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 9.30 MASS

We would love to welcome you all to the Hall after 9.30 am Mass, as we did for years before the pandemic. In those days there was a simple rota of volunteers to put the kettle on and it worked perfectly. It provided a wonderful opportunity for families to get together and make and develop long lasting friendships.

It is the volunteers we are falling down on. So many times in the last few months Fr Steve has asked people to step forward and volunteer their services but very few have.

We're not doing too well if we cannot attract enough people to offer an hour or so every few months. Please, email the Office if you feel you could help.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Light of Christ Charismatic prayer meeting invites you to Holy Mass in the hall this week at 8.00 pm with Adoration and healing prayer to follow. All are welcome.

For more information about the prayer group and our programme call Tom Caluori on 07982 999 319

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

A small group meets to pray for our children and place them into the loving care of Jesus.

If you would like to pray for any child/ children/grandchild, write their name/s on a piece of paper, place in an envelope and mark the envelope clearly *Mothers Prayers*. Please leave your envelope at the Parish Office. We will collect them and pray for them as we present our children to Jesus. If you are interested and would like to know more about Mothers Prayers please contact Mothers Prayers at 020 8325 0181.

Being formed in the likeness of Christ we strive to become a truly Christ centred community, through humble witness, love, compassion and communion.

MASSES FOR WEEK BEGINNING 19 March YR A

Sunday 19 March

6.00 pm Church
8.00 am Church
9.30 am Church

9.30 am Hall
FAMILY
11.00 am Church

5.30 pm Church

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday

Crescenzo & Delisa Panetta RIP
Barbara Oke RIP
The Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
RCIA 2nd Scrutiny
For the People

In thanksgiving to St Joseph

Berthe Reynaud & Jean-Paul Schoens

Monday 20 March

10.00 am Church
6.00 pm Church

St Joseph

Brian Russell RIP
Dor Green RIP

Tuesday 21 March

10.00 pm Church
6.00 pm Church

Feria

Rosina Porta RIP
Raymond Kelly RIP

Wednesday 22 March

10.00 am Church
6.00 pm Church
8.00 pm Hall

Feria

Carmel Cardiff RIP
Terry Olby RIP
Life of Christ Charismatic Mass.

Thursday 23 March

10.00 am Church
6.00 pm Church
8.00 pm Claver

Feria

Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll RIP
Tony McGinn RIP
Adoration

Friday 24 March

9.00 am St Mary's
10.00 am Church
3.00 pm Claver
6.00 pm Church
After Mass Stations of the Cross

Feria

Mass for Y1
Mary Larmer RIP
Stations of the Cross
Derek Loftus RIP

Saturday 25 March

10.00 am Church
6.00 pm Church

The Annunciation of the Lord

Luzminda Eguia RIP & Pat Parfitt RIP (1st anniv)
David Stephens RIP (anniv)

Sunday 26 March

8.00 am Church
9.30 am Church
9.30 am Hall
FAMILY
11.00 am Church
5.30 pm Church

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Thomas Keane Jr RIP
Owen Kehoe RIP
For the People
Olwen Holmes RIP
Nancy Carney RIP
RCIA 3rd Scrutiny

There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am, and, after the 10.00 am Mass Monday to Saturday there is Adoration unless there is a Funeral.

Friday Adoration concludes with Benediction.

Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 am - 11.00 am and from 5.00 pm - 5.55 pm.

If there is a priest available confession will be heard after the weekday 10.00 am Mass.

DIARY

March

Sun 19 Baptism Preparation in Hall at 10.40
Tues 28 Requiem for Gerry Harris at 11.30
Wed 29 Requiem for James Dempsey at 11.45
Fri 31 Requiem for Ann Goy at 12.30

April

Sat 1 Service of Reconciliation at 4.00
Tues 11 Reception of body of Odette Shaw 4.30
Wed 12 Requiem for Odette Shaw 1.30

We pray for those who have died: Odette Shaw, James Dempsey, Ann Goy, Juana Hernandez, Ronan Commene, Archbishop Joseph Ukpo, Fr James Hurley, Fr Martin Lee, Gerry Harris.

We pray for those whose anniversaries are about this time: Dick Laker, Nancy Hargreaves, Audrey Davidson, Ann Haines, Dolores Leahy, Annette Virdee, Brenda Mary White, Joan Harvey, Magda Wouters, Ellen White, Daniel White, Mervyn Shipsey, Kathleen Cosgrove, Silvia Amiri, Jeanette Micallef, Barbara Oke, Sadie Rance, William McDermott (Billy), Yvonne Morrison, Martin Leigh, Catherine O'Marney, Pat Parfitt.

We pray for all members of our parish and beyond, and in particular those suffering from ill health.

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch,
or weep tonight,
and give Your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend Your sick ones, loving Lord.

Rest Your weary ones.

Bless Your dying ones. Soothe Your suffering ones. Pity Your afflicted ones.

Shield Your joyous ones.

Give strength and vigilant awareness for all Your care givers
through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Next Contemplative Saturday is Saturday, **15 April** in the Committee Room of the Hall from 11.00 am - 12.00. Please use entrance door at No 9.

Meditation every Monday (except bank holidays) in the Hall from 5.30-6.20. Please respect the need to arrive promptly and observe the silence.

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