

Our Ladye Star of the Sea

(Crooms Hill) West Greenwich

www.greenwichcatholic.org

Email: kevinrobinson@rcaos.org.uk

Fr. Kevin Robinson BD MA AKC

Facebook: Our Ladye Star of the Sea



31st Ord Sunday Year B 3rd November In the year of Our Lord 2024 Blue Book Page 142

You might have noticed that the lovely old original Victorian tiles are beginning to appear around the church.

A team of volunteers has been gradually pulling back the 1960s cork tiles to find out the condition of the original floor beneath.

It's a visible sign of the church restoration project that is beginning to move into action. We've appointed an architect who specialises in historic buildings. Next there will be a survey to see what work needs to be done inside and outside, including the roof, tower, stonework and the beautifully-decorated windows. Hopefully we'll find more of the original features below the boards on the ceiling. It must once have been a spectacular sight.

We've officially acquired a statement of historical significance for this listed building. Historic England has also now recognised the church as a building of national cultural and historical value that is in need of urgent repair.

Once there's a clearer idea of restoration costs, we'll make formal bids to get grants, a process that is likely to take us to Easter.

This is a very historic church, with many connections to the famous architect and designer **Augustus Pugin**. For instance, when you look up at the crucifixion scene above the altar, that's a really rare example of his work.



We're being hailed by the wider Catholic Church authorities as a landmark restoration project and we've been able to get help from a team of expert conservation advisers.

So hopefully in the years ahead, and it will take several years, we'll return the church to its former glory. For any more information or ideas, the parishioner leading the project is **Brian Mooney** mooney.brian1@btinternet.com

If you would like to volunteer to help with the floor, let Brian know.

Sean Coughlan

We are grateful to **Rosamunde Nairac** - some people might remember she raised money, last year, selling jams & chutneys. The monies raised have funded the tools and equipment, used by the volunteers for the floor.

As the cork has been lifted some broken tiles have been identified. **Maggie** has generously donated the money raised from the sale of her hamper raffle tickets to the purchase of replacements.

The lowest picture (left) illustrates what remains hidden beyond the false plywood ceilings where the original colourful stencilled roof rafters rise to half the same height again. The 1960 lower ceiling was intended to reduce the volume of the building for heating purposes but probably does little to actually contain heat that could nowadays be more effectively recirculated.

Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

Collect

Almighty and merciful God,
by whose gift your faithful offer you
right and praiseworthy service,
grant, we pray,
that we may hasten without stumbling
to receive the things you have promised...

First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you, your son & your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep & observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised, giving you a land where milk & honey flow. Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

Responsorial Psalm

17:2-4,47,51

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R)

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R)

Second Reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy,

innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Jn6:63,68

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore.

Prayer Over the Offerings

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,
become for you a pure oblation,
and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy.

Communion Antiphon

You will show me the path of life, the
fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

Prayer After Communion

May the working of your power, O Lord,
increase in us, we pray, so that,
renewed by these heavenly Sacraments,
we may be prepared by your gift
receiving what they promise.

“Catholicism 101” (RCIA)

Our group started last Thursday. If you are on the edge of the Catholic Faith and wondering if this is for you, or if you have been a long standing Catholic and still have questions about things you do not understand we shall run on Thursday evenings beginning this week.

Come to the house for 7.30pm

Here is a list of some of some of the themes:

*“Who do you say that **HE (Jesus)** is?”*

What is the Bible? How do we read it? Who were the prophets? Is there such a thing as “Revelation”? How can Three be One?

What is the Eucharist? How can bread be his “body”? What are Sacraments? What is the

Church? Why the Saints? Who is Mary? How can she be “Mother of God”? What is the

Rosary? Who are the Church Fathers? Why the Pope? What were the Great Councils?

What about “Denominations?” What happens when we pray? “What happened at the

“Reformation?” Did he really “Rise from the Dead?” What about Christmas... and Easter...

and Holy Week... and all those festivals...

What does it mean to be Catholic?

These are just some of the questions that will form the basis of our discussions, all measured against the background of **Holy Scripture** and the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** (CCC). The Programme will run from Thursday 31st October until 12th December and resume again on Thursdays in the New Year leading towards the Rite of Reception, (Baptism) & Confirmation on Easter Weekend. 2025.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

(LPWGS) The recent Budget has implications that may seriously affect OLSS. We have now appointed an Architect and, with preliminary work, costs will soon escalate. At this moment it is possible to reclaim VAT for listed buildings on all related repair costs. That element alone will amount to significant sums that could remain directed towards actual restoration costs. The concession could be removed, if commentators are to be believed. Did you complete the petition? We need everyone to go online. It takes less than a moment search:

- Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme -
Catholic Bishops' Conference (cbcew.org.uk)

The New Papal Encyclical **Dilexit Nos.**

ON THE HUMAN AND DIVINE LOVE

OF THE HEART OF JESUS CHRIST

At 87yrs of age, **Pope Francis**' new encyclical is being hailed as the best thing he has written during this pontificate. Embracing a new world now facing “**Artificial Intelligence**” he addresses the *spirit of the age* by declaiming that true intelligence is anything but artificial and must always relate to the heart! If humanity loses touch with the definition of the heart, then we will indeed arrive at a **Brave New World** that is universally **heartless**. In a few pages, the pope makes the most profound survey of the Biblical narrative, integrated with a thorough exposition of classical philosophy, the early church fathers, the mediaeval mystics & the modern spiritual writers who lead us towards the specifically Catholic devotion to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** (only established in the 1600's). His command of learning is astonishing. He commends devotion to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** as something more urgent now than ever. Catholics have a task to put new heart into humanity through **JCOL**. The text is accessible, unpretentious & easy to understand. He takes us to a reflection where a Cistercian Nun (*Gertrude of Helfta*) hears the actual heartbeat of Christ. She enters into a conversation with the young St John who had lain on the breast of Jesus at the **Last Supper**. The very same heart that would be pierced the next day. The Pope invites us to let our lives resonate with the same heartbeat of Christ! Beautiful stuff where we revisit the most loving scenes of childhood and remember those who first touched our hearts in a way that was anything but **Artificial** but which our own children might lose at their peril!

I will circulate the text again with the digital newsletter. It pays reading or printing off to read at bedtime!

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Appeal for New Governors

With gratitude to, and following the retirement of certain long-standing members, St Joseph's RC School is appealing for new Governors

Please contact: Suzanne Long – Headteacher

Tel: 020 8858 4182 Twitter: @StJosephsSE10

www.stjosephs.greenwich.sch.uk

The Phoneline to the Presbytery Office

At 68 Crooms Hill has been down for a few days awaiting an "Openreach" engineer. Apologies to anybody who may have endeavoured to call the house line. It should be resolved now.

Next weekend Remembrance Sunday

There are important factors to consider this year!



November Month of the Holy Souls

It is customary to remember all our Departed friends & Relatives during November. There are memorial cards available in church where you can leave names that will remain close to the Altar. If you would like a special Mass this month please use the envelopes available in church and make names and details clear.

Calendar for the week in 31st Ordinary Time 3rd – 10th November

Satd 2nd 12.noon **St Josephs All Souls – Sr Mary Selvaraj RiP**

6.00pm Int: baby Joel (BD/ints)

Sun 3rd 9.00am Int: Pauline Alaneme (W/B & healing)

11.00am Int: Martin Rye (RiP 2nd Ann)

Tues 5th NB: 7.00pm Int: Bill McFadden (RiP-BD& Sp Ints)

Wed 6th 9.30am Int: Romano Marinaro (RiP)

Thrs 7th 9.30am Int: "Seamus"

Frid 8th 9.30am Int: Bridget Murphy (RiP)

Satd 9th **Holy Baptism 12.30 Jesse, Raphael & Rex**

6.00pm Int: Terry Jeffrey (RiP 3rd Ann)

Sun 10th 9.00am Int: Mr & Mrs Martinez (RiP)

11.00am Int: Those who are dying in warfare.

Holy Mass continues each week at the Qn Elis' Cottage Chapel at 4.30 each Saturday



Abp's Appeal 2nd Coll'n Next Week 10th Nov

The Abp's Appeal is a Diocesan Collection that funds key areas of ministry: *Youth & Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas), Clergy Care and Formation*. Your support will enable the Archdiocese to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and Schools throughout South London & Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope & Love into the communities they serve. Please be generous to the Abp's Appeal 2023. Every gift is welcome.

Find out more, or donate online:

www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal or:

- Scan QR Code using telephone camera
- Tel weekdays 9am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504
- Cash / Cheque – please use the Abp's Appeal envelopes at the back of church.



Preparation for First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

Parents meeting 7.30pm 20th Nov 2024

Preparation will take place every Saturday from 11th January 10.45 to 12noon with breaks for school holidays, with the FHC Mass on June 22nd 2025. We are pleased to welcome children who are in Year 3 & above at school (7 years or over) and part of a family who are worshipping regularly here at Sunday Mass. Registration forms are available at the 11am Mass. If you attend the 6pm or 9am

please contact

elisabethsteward92@gmail.com.



Times of Mass and OTHER Services

Saturday Vigil at 6.00pm at The Star of the Sea (For Livestreams cf: Facebook: Our Ladye Star of the Sea)

Sunday Masses at 9.00 am & 11.00am **Twitter:** Stella Maris@MarisCrooms benchandpew@yahoo.com

To make an online gift via BACS Please use Nat West – RCAS Greenwich Sort Code; 60-09-16 AccNo 25240676 OLSS

Weekday Masses: Tuesday NB at 7.00pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30 am

Confessions: Saturday at 10.00am Tuesday from 18.15 at the Star of the Sea or by appointment

The Presbytery 68 Crooms Hill London SE10 8HG Tel: 020 8858 0662

BAPTISM Preparation & Arrangement evenings on the 2nd Wednesday at OLSS 7.00pm (Check this N/L)

Dominican Conv: 38 Hyde Vale SE10 8QH Tel: 020 8692 3382

St Joseph's RC Primary School Tel: 020 8858 4182 Commerell Str SE10 9AN H/T: Suzanne Long

St Ursula's Girls Convent School Tel: 020 8858 4613 Crooms Hill, SE10 8HN H/T: Mark O'Shaughnessy