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Holy Cross Catholic Church

**Celebration of faith and Community
for 121 Years**



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
28th September 2025

Dear Beloved Parishioners of Holy Cross,

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus shares a powerful parable about two men who went to the Temple to pray: a Pharisee, confident in his own righteousness, and a tax collector, humbly aware of his need for God's mercy.

The Pharisee's prayer was full of self-praise. He looked down on others while listing his virtues. The tax collector, however, stood at a distance, bowed in humility, and simply said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Jesus tells us that it was the tax collector—not the Pharisee—who went home justified.

This parable challenges each of us to examine our own hearts. Do we approach God with a sense of superiority, or with humble trust? True prayer begins not with what we have done for God, but with what we need



from Him. It is not our achievements that save us, but God's grace, which lifts up the humble and gives rest to the weary.

Let us learn to pray with the honesty and humility of the tax collector. In a world that often encourages pride and self-reliance, may we never forget our constant need for God's mercy. As Jesus reminds us: "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."



October: A Special Invitation to Embrace the Holy Rosary: October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary, a powerful prayer that brings us closer to Jesus through the heart of Mary. In a world filled with noise, the Rosary offers a profound peace and a way to pray for our families and the world. We invite you to embrace this beautiful tradition, not just in church, but within your own home, as a source of grace and strength.

To help you on this journey, you are warmly invited to pray with your parish family. **We pray the Rosary after the 9:15 am Mass on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.** As a special devotion for October, **Fr. Matthew or I will also lead the Rosary on Sundays at 11:10 am, before the 11:30 am Mass.** Your presence will enrich our communal prayer. Let us unite our hearts this month.

A Sacred Space for You **Our Church Extends Open Hours for Prayer**

In the busyness of our daily lives, it can be difficult to find a moment of true peace and a sacred space to connect with God. In response to this need, we are joyfully announcing a new initiative to foster a deeper prayer life within our community.

Beginning this Monday, [29 September 2025], our church will remain open after morning Mass until 3:00 PM during school term time.

Why Make Time for Prayer in the Church?

You might wonder, "Can't I pray at home?" Of course, you can. But there is a unique grace in praying before the Blessed Sacrament in the stillness of the church. Jesus himself invites us: **"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while"** (Mark 6:31). This is that place for you.

Whether you can stop in for five minutes on your lunch break, spend a holy hour, or simply find a moment of solace between errands, you are welcome. Come to pray the Rosary, read Scripture, sit in silent prayer, or simply rest in God's love.

Let us together make the most of this precious gift. Let us fill these hours with our faithful presence, allowing our parish church to be a beating heart of prayer for our community.

EMMAUS WALK FROM HOLY CROSS

We will walk the streets - especially the High Street - on the first Sunday evening of each month. The next walk will be **NEXT Sunday, 5TH October, from 5 PM.** As we pray for our community and consecrate our streets, may we encounter Christ in every person in need.

Please gather at our church for a brief prayer before we begin. Join us in this spiritual mission to transform Catford into a place of peace, kindness, and God's presence.

***"Pray for the peace of your city, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."* [cf. Jeremiah 29:7]**

With every blessing, Fr Antony

Red Missal Book ... page 1065

I confess....: page 525 **Gloria:** page 531
Creed(s): pages 543 - 545 **Our Father....:** page 635

Prayer Time at Holy Cross

Holy Mass: Mon to Thurs - 9.15am; Fri - 7pm;
Sat - 6.30pm; Sun - 9am & 11.30am
Rosary - Mon, Tue, Thu @ 9.45am;
Divine Mercy Chaplet - Wed @ 9.45am and Fri 7.30pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions: Fri 6.00pm

Night Prayer at 9pm [Zoom]

Meeting ID: 7578777461;
Passcode: 20212021

IMPORTANT DAYS REMEMBER

26 Sept - MacMillan Cancer Research (Friday) Coffee Morning
30 Sept - St Mary's Council meeting
05 Oct - Emmaus Walk
07 Oct - St Joseph's Council meeting
14 Oct - St Paul's Council meeting
21 Oct - Parish Pastoral Council meeting
26 Oct - Nigerian Independence Day (11:30 Mass)
02 Nov - All Saints
02 Nov - Emmaus Walk
03 Nov - All Souls
15 Nov - Baptism Preparation Course (10:00am)

EMHC & READERS RETREAT

Sat 18th Oct (Parishes in the Deaneries of Bexley, Bromley & Greenwich)
St Stephen's Church, Welling, 26 Deepdene Rd, Kent, DA16 3QL
Sat 25th Oct (Parishes in the Deaneries of Camberwell, Lewisham & Lambeth)
Bishop Thomas Grant School, Belltrees Grove, SW16 2HY

Please register through our church Parish Office

Children's Choir



Holy Cross Children's Choir will be leading the music on Sunday 9th November, and have started to rehearse after the 9am Mass each week.

The Choir is for all children Yr 3 and up. If your child would like to join please see Helen or Francisca for more information or join a rehearsal.

Building A Better Marriage day for the Lewisham deanery on Saturday 4th October 2025; 9.30am - 4.30pm

Treat yourselves to some time together! This day, run by the Diocese and held in our own Hartley Hall starting at 9.30am until 4.30pm, is a day in which married couples can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to the married. There is no charge for this course. Booking is essential however - please contact Carole on: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or phone 07983 524 727

Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.



TTT QUIZ NIGHT

16th October

Fundraising Quiz Night

Cost £8 which will include a light supper, Start 07:30pm in Hartley Hall; Teams of up to 8 (but if you haven't got 8 we'll find you a team to join)
Please come along - all are welcome!

Coffee Mornings

We're delighted that our Sunday Coffee Mornings are continuing, with the 28th September being hosted by the Nigerian Community, and the 5th October by the Ivorian and French Community.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 3 October

This Family Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to support communities in **Ethiopia** as they build resilience against climate change, with donations funding essential water projects. Our support also continues CAFOD's critical work with local Church partners in the **Holy Land, Ukraine, and Sudan**. Pick up a CAFOD envelope from the porch.



Please pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of our long-standing parishioner

Susan Murphy

who passed away this week.

Funeral details to follow

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 27 Sep - 03 Oct 2025

SAT	6:30pm	Mrs Lydia Joseph - Birthday Thanksgiving
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Ibidun Eberend - for Health Thang Nguyen - Wellbeing & Thanksgiving
MON	9:15am	Milan Canelle - Birthday Thanksgiving
TUE	9:15am	Jennifer & Errol Williams - Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving
WED	9:15am	People of the Parish
THU	9:15am	Maria and Anthony Zammit R.I.P.
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Chuz Eberendu - Birthday Thanksgiving

Please Pray for the Sick: Mary Rand, Pat Doyle, Manuel Vieira, Enid Benzynie, Sherine Sukhram, Lydia Joseph, Trish Keaveney, Melanie Thomas, Colin Maton, Titi Balogun, Leonie Nwawudu, Rachael Pereira Wibberley, Susan Murphy, Aboa Claudine, Joe Green, Abosede Elizabeth Goba, Eileen Embury, Ann Whittington, Ivor Lewis, Florence Nosegbe, Katie Bournier, Theresa Butler, Vivianne Owens, Kitty Wilkinson, Jo Rocca Smith, Meesh Gemmell, Elfrida Wacholz, Albert Young, Elaine Williams, Dorothy Ezinwanyi Wogu, Pat Gallagher, Christine Conroy, Amah Catherine, Maggie Broadley & Stewart Byrne.

ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL? - Contact Lewisham Hospital Catholic Chaplain directly on 020 8333 3299. In an emergency, please say to the staff that you would like to see a Catholic priest.



This weekend's Second Collection, is for **The Catholic Agency for the Support of Evangelization (CASE)**.

This collection provides the bishops of England and Wales with resources to support Home Mission, the spread of the Gospel in our own country.

The money enables a breath of work to be done in support of parish evangelization. *Thank you.*

PARISH CONTACTS

Fr Matthew Donnelly: matthewdonnelly@rcaos.org.uk

Office: 020 8698 3672 (Tues & Thur from 10:00am)

Joseph Flahive: catford@rcaos.org.uk

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Holy Cross School: [020 8698 2675]

Holy Cross Book Shop: <https://holycrossbooks.co.uk>

Safeguarding: Pat Barber & Lisa O'Hara 07598 524024