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Holy Cross Catholic Church

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



**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
26th October 2025**

Dear Beloved Parishioners of Holy Cross,

In the second reading of this Sunday Mass, St Paul writes from a prison cell, abandoned by friends at his trial. Yet, he declares, "the Lord stood at my side." His words are a profound promise for us all. We too face seasons of desert—of loneliness, loss, or when support seems to vanish. In these moments, we can feel utterly forsaken. But Paul's testimony reveals the unshakeable truth: even when all else is lost, the Lord remains. He is our constant strength, not always sparing us the trial, but faithfully bringing us through it, safely into His eternal kingdom. You are never alone. He stands with you always.

Dress as a Saint for All Saints' Day!

Next weekend, 2 November 2025, we will celebrate **All Saints' Day**. We warmly encourage you and your children to come to Mass dressed as saints or angels, as this joyful outward sign helps nurture inward faith and reverence. **All children will receive a special blessing.** Many wonderful saint costumes are available online. Let's fill our church with a glorious



company of little saints, making this celebration both memorable and meaningful for our children!

All Souls' Day Remembrance – On Monday, 3 November 2025, we will commemorate All Souls' Day, a sacred time to prayerfully remember our faithful departed. This year, we invite you to bring a **postcard-sized photograph** of your beloved deceased family members. We will place these photos on our memorial boards, creating a visual testament of love and faith for our entire parish community to see and pray for. Let us join together in prayer, offering our loving supplications for all who have gone before us.

A Celebration of Faith and Culture: Nigerian Independence Day:

We are joyfully invited to celebrate with our Nigerian Community at the 11:30 am Mass this Sunday, 26 October, as they mark their Independence Day. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our entire parish to pray for them and to give thanks for their vibrant faith and immense contributions in revitalizing our community. The celebration will be profoundly prayerful while also being filled with the joyful, rhythmic music of the Nigerian tradition. Let us all come together to share in this special occasion and taste the



We rejoice with **Arthur Oliver Edwards** and **Jacob Cottle**, who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Sunday. May God's grace guide them and their families always.



We offer our heartfelt congratulations to **Leon and Rhonda Jackson** on their Sacrament of Matrimony last Saturday. May God's blessings guide and strengthen them throughout their lives together.

beautiful cultural vibration of Nigeria as we proclaim God's glory as one family.

And finally, Digital Catechesis quiz series! [Week 4]: Please **scan the QR code** or click this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/TSNWjKjXuK> to answer the questions following a video. **If you need the link sent directly to you**, please contact **Fr. Antony** at **07578 777461**. Those who correctly answer all the weekly questions will have **their names published and honoured** in the next newsletter. The parishioner who achieves the **best overall score** over the coming weeks will receive a **special gift** presented and celebrated during a Sunday Mass. **Last week winners are:** Emmanuel Odey, Anne Mellis, Peter Louth, Sarah, Josepha Flahive, Samuel Ogbunabi, Israel Ikechuckwu, Gift Etseyatse's Agbaroli, Caterina Amato, Sharmini Joseph, Antoine Kodjo, Irene Ero, Violet Dzapasi, Philomena Loughnane, Itai Kauswa, Ayzsa Clement-Harper, SJV, Kirsten Conacher, Aggie Clement. Congratulations!



As this is the last Sunday of the month, we pause with grateful hearts to thank God for every blessing we have cherished in October. We ask our Lord to guide our steps and bless the new month of November for us all, filling it with His grace and peace.

Fr. Antony

Red Missal Book ... page 1079

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 Oct - Nigerian Independence Day (11:30 Mass)
02 Nov - All Saints
02 Nov - Emmaus Walk
03 Nov - All Souls—Masses at 9:15am and 7:00pm
09 Nov - Remembrance Sunday
15 Nov - Baptism Preparation Course (10:00am)
16 Nov - Concert at Holy Cross
23 Nov - Christ the King



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.

No Coffee Mornings this Sunday

As we celebrate Nigerian Independence Day in the hall after the 11:30am Mass. All are welcome!

A Huge Thank You from THIRD THURSDAY TIME

Lesley Allen and all those who assist in the running of the TTT meeting group would like to thank everyone who took part in the Quiz recently. The evening raised £395 for this worthy cause.



Please pray for the peaceful repose of the souls who have died recently

Kevin Downton
and **Mary Totterdell**

(Kevin Downton's funeral Mass will be at Holy Cross on 29th October at 10:30am.)

Want to Become a Catholic or to Deepen your Catholic Faith?

If you want to learn more and to deepen your faith, if you have been baptised but not yet confirmed, if you are thinking about becoming a Catholic, or if you simply want some answers to life, kindly join our RCIA and email the Parish Office: catford@rcaos.org.uk. Alternatively, call the office on 020 8698 3672 (Please note – the Parish Office is open each Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am.)

Our Holy Cross Church remains open for private prayer after morning Mass until 3:00pm in term time. While you can pray anywhere, there is unique grace in the quiet presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus invites us, **"Come away... and rest a while"** (Mark 6:31). Join us for five minutes or an hour. Let's unite our hearts in prayer.
Kindly note, as next week will be school half term the church will be closed after morning Mass but will re-open again the following week.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 25 - 31 Oct 2025

SAT	6:30pm	Peace Sylvia Coffee Alloh & Family - Wellbeing & Thanksgiving
SUN	9:00am	Bernard Bekee Eberendu R.I.P. (23rd Anniversary) & Deceased Eberendu Family Members
	11:30am	Bao Nguyen - Wellbeing & Thanksgiving
MON	9:15am	Ann & David Whittington - Wellbeing
TUE	9:15am	Bao Nguyen - Wellbeing & Thanksgiving
WED	9:15am	Francis Omotayo R.I.P.
THU	9:15am	Scott Canelle & His Son Ethan - Birthday Thanksgiving
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament People of the Parish

Please Pray for the Sick: Mary Rand, Pat Doyle, Manuel Vieira, Enid Benzyne, Sherine Sukhram, Lydia Joseph, Trish Keaveney, Melanie Thomas, Colin Maton, Titi Balogun, Leonie Nwawudu, Rachael Pereira Wibberley, 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.

Food Collection Sunday at Holy Cross – Next weekend - 1/2 November

If you are able to donate, please leave any non-perishable items in the porch (Sangley Road entrance) and they will be collected and delivered to a local foodbank, to help support families in our community who are struggling. Thank you.

NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIME - 9:30am

For safety reasons, Holy Cross School are locking the car park gates on Culverley Road until 9:15am. However, we have Parishioners who rely on transport and our parking facilities to enable them to attend Mass, so following a Parish Consultation we shall trial a **new weekday morning Mass Time of 9:30am. This will commence on Monday 10th November.**

We continue to welcome your comments.

Your Offering/Donation

In gratitude for the countless blessings and gifts we receive in our lives and families from the Lord, we humbly present our offerings to God. To make your contribution, please click the link:

https://donorbox.org/holy-cross-church_catford

or scan the QR code here:

We deeply appreciate your generosity and kindness.
May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

The best way to make your offering is to register for a Standing Order. Please click the link to download the Standing Order form. Hard copies are also available in the porch for your convenience.



PARISH CONTACTS

Fr Matthew Donnelly: matthewdonnelly@rcaos.org.uk

Joseph Flahive: catford@rcaos.org.uk

Lisa O'Hara: catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk

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

Holy Cross School: [020 8698 2675]

Safeguarding: Pat Barber & Lisa O'Hara 07598 524024