

Fr Antony M. Sellam
Parish Priest
antonymegalan@rcaos.org.uk
02086983672
www.holycross-catford.org.uk

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Celebration of faith and Community
for 121 Years



ALL SAINTS
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
2nd November 2025

Dear Beloved Parishioners of Holy Cross,

As we enter this new month of November, may God's grace and peace be with each of you. This Sunday, we celebrate the glorious Solemnity of All Saints' Day—a day that invites us to fix our gaze on the great cloud of witnesses who have finished the race and now behold God face to face. In the Gospel of Matthew (5:1–10), Jesus proclaims the Beatitudes, the very path to holiness: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The saints are those who lived these words - not in extraordinary circumstances, but in everyday faithfulness. Pope Francis reminds us, "Holiness is not a privilege of the few but a calling for all." Let the lives of the saints inspire us to strive for holiness in our own state of life.

Dress as a Saint for All Saints' Day: This weekend, 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

Cemetery Blessing: in Hither Green Cemetery on Remembrance Sunday 09th November 2025. We assemble from 2.15am at the Main Gate in Verdant Lane and our procession begins at 2.30pm with a hymn, led by the Bromley Concert Band. We recite the Rosary prayer as we walk, in small groups, and pause to sing hymns on the way. Please make use of this opportunity to bless the graves of our departed beloved ones.

Thanks to Our Nigerian Community: We extend our heartfelt congratulations and thanks to the Nigerian Basic Christian Community for the beautiful celebration of their National Day last weekend. The liturgy was both profoundly prayerful and joyfully vibrant, filled with the rich spiritual and cultural gifts of the Nigerian tradition. A special thank you for the absolutely delicious food you provided after Mass; it was a wonderful celebration of fellowship. Your presence is a tremendous blessing, and we are deeply grateful for your vibrant faith and dedicated contributions to the life of our parish. Thank you for sharing your spirit with all of us

Digital Catechesis quiz series! [Week 5]: Please [scan the QR code](https://forms.office.com/r/FLVHjkeiet) or click this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/FLVHjkeiet> 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: Anne, Ogbunabi Israel, Leon, Jackson, Peace Umukoro, Sarah, Emmanuel Odey, Helen Pearce, Sharmini Joseph, Peter Louth, Louis and Kieran, Lathusan Thevathas, Antoine Kodjo, Caterina Amato, Irene Ero, Petrina, Anne Mellis. Congratulations!

May the Lord's grace fill your homes, strengthen your faith, and bring peace to your hearts. Let us walk in hope, united in prayer and charity, trusting in God's loving promise of eternal life.

With every blessing, Fr. Antony.

Remember - Our church remains open after morning Mass until 3:00 PM

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. *(There will be a second Mass at 7:00pm)*

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 **THIS Sunday, 2nd November, 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]

An Appeal from St. Joseph's Council: A Sweet Way to Warm Our Church!

Following all Masses this weekend, each family will receive **a tube of Smarties.** We invite you to enjoy the sweets and then refill the empty tube with coins. Please return your filled tube to the dedicated collection box in the church. This creative fundraiser, along with the proceeds from our Christmas Fayre on 7th December, will go directly towards our urgent goal of replacing our old, inefficient church boilers. The cost for this essential project is approximately £8,000. With winter approaching, we need a reliable heating system for our worship space. We are deeply grateful for your generous support. One-off donations are also most welcome. Thank you for helping us keep our spiritual home warm!

Red Missal Book ... page 1083

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

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.

IMPORTANT DAYS TO REMEMBER

02 Nov - All Saints
02 Nov - Emmaus Walk
03 Nov - All Souls - Masses at 9:15am and 7:00pm
09 Nov - Remembrance Sunday
09 Nov - Remembrance Sunday Procession [2.30 pm]
15 Nov - Baptism Preparation Course (10:00am)
16 Nov - Concert at Holy Cross

Food Collection Sunday at Holy Cross - THIS 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.

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 (Tue & Thur from 10am)

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:

If you have specific intentions or prayers, feel free to mention them. 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.



Coffee Mornings after 9 am Mass

We are delighted to announce that our Sunday Coffee Mornings will recommence this Sunday!

Please join us after the 9:00 AM Mass for a cup of tea or coffee and a lovely time of fellowship.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 01 - 07 Nov 2025

SAT	6:30pm	Mitchelle Mbaeri - Birthday Thanksgiving
SUN	9:00am	Grace Foluke & Deinde Idowu (5th & 1st Anniversary) R.I.P.
	11:30am	Alba Fernandes R.I.P.
MON	9:15am 7:00pm	All Souls All Souls
TUE	9:15am	Thierry Christian Gnanakumar R.I.P.
WED	9:15am	Mary Foley R.I.P. (Anniversary)
THU	9:15am	Libby McNamara R.I.P.
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Zammit, Caruana & Flahive Dec'd Family Members R.I.P.

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, Joe Green, Rachael Pereira Wibberley, Aboa Claudine, Abosede Elizabeth Goba, Eileen Embury, Ann Whittington, Ivor Lewis, Florence Nosegbe, Katie Bourner, 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, Terence Donnelly & Herve Tiero.

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.

Wet Weather: Now that the weather has definitely turned autumnal, don't forget that if you have been caught out by the wet weather there are umbrellas in the Sacristy that you can borrow to get you home dry. Please ask a Welcome Minister to lend one out to you. Kindly return them promptly so that others can also use in need. Thank you.

The Life and Gifts of Miss Frances Ellis

William King, the secretary of the English Catholic History Association will be holding an online talk for its members on Monday 10th November on the life of Frances Ellis, the Edwardian philanthropist and founder of churches. As you know, our **Holy Cross church is one of those that Frances Ellis financed.** An invitation has been given to all Parishioners of Holy Cross to attend the online talk via Zoom. The speaker will be Patrick Heren, who published a biography of Frances Ellis last year.

10th November at 7:30pm

Meeting ID: 851 0594 9294; Passcode: 268160

Holy Cross Concert: We invite everyone to attend a short concert, on Sunday 16th November at 4pm in the church. The programme includes our children's choir, the 11.30 choir and our friends from the Hither Green Community choir, plus instrumental music. There will be a retiring collection for Aid to the Church in Need. Afterwards you are welcome to light refreshments in Hartley Hall.

Mass Offering - Loose Cash Collection THANK YOU

29 Sep: £551 28 Sep: £854
05 Oct: £532 12 Oct: £434
Catholic Education Service - £100;
Home Mission - £118; CAFOD Harvest - £383;
Donation from a family of Holy Cross - £1000

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 & Thur from 10:00am)
Holy Cross School: [020 8698 2675]
Safeguarding: Pat Barber & Lisa O'Hara 07598 524024