

**Fr Antony M. Sellam**

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# Holy Cross Catholic Church

## Celebration of faith and Community for 120 Years



**6th Sunday of EASTER**  
**24/25 May 2025**



Dear Parish Family,

This year (2024–25), we joyfully celebrate the 120th anniversary of our beloved Holy Cross Parish! As part of this jubilee, we are especially blessed to welcome Archbishop John Wilson, who will celebrate the 11:30 am Mass this Sunday, uniting us in prayer, gratitude, and shared mission.

This Sunday's liturgy echoes a divine invitation to universal joy. The responsorial psalm rings out: "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you... Let the nations be glad and shout for joy" (Psalm 34). Paired with the first reading from Acts 15 - where we hear of God's salvation overflowing as joy for all nations - we are reminded that our faith transcends borders, calling us to rejoice in both our parish's legacy and our role as bearers of Christ's light.

For 12 decades, Holy Cross has stood as a living sign of faith, service, and communion. Today, we inherit this sacred legacy as God's people, entrusted with sharing the Gospel's joy. Let us mark this milestone with hearts of praise, voices lifted in thanksgiving, and hands ready to serve, as we continue building God's Kingdom together.

Join us as we honour our past, cherish our present, and step boldly into the future. May our unity in Christ radiate His boundless love to all peoples.

**ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT:** We are filled with joyful anticipation as we prepare to welcome the Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, to Holy Cross Parish this Sunday, 25 May 2025!

This visit is a profound blessing for our community - a time to strengthen our bonds of faith, deepen our connection to the wider Archdiocese, and renew our love for the Universal Church. Following Mass, we warmly invite you to join Archbishop Wilson in the Parish Hall for a time of fellowship. This will be a unique chance to chat personally with him, share stories of faith, and receive his pastoral insights and encouragement.

Let us open our hearts and parish to this grace-filled day. Together, we celebrate our unity in Christ and the gift of our shared mission at Holy Cross.

**HOLY CROSS FOOD BANK:** Even though you can drop off food for the needy at any time in our porch boxes, the first Sunday of each month is a time that we specially remember the hungry, homeless and the poor and make special efforts to bring more food items for our Holy Cross Food Bank. If you are able to donate, please leave any non-perishable items in the porch (Sangley Road entrance) and they will be delivered to a local foodbank. A huge thanks to everyone who has helped, whether you've donated or prayed for an end to poverty.



**EMMAUS WALK FROM HOLY CROSS:** We invite you to join us on the **first Sunday evening of each month** as we walk the streets of Catford - especially the High Street - praying for our community and consecrating our neighbourhood to God's grace. Our **next walk** will take place on **Sunday, 1st June**. Meet at 6:00 PM outside the church to walk in pairs, interceding for our neighbours and encountering Christ in every person we meet. A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in our inaugural walk on **4th May**! The sharing afterward revealed how deeply prayerful, joyful, and spiritually uplifting this mission has already been.

This is more than a walk - it's a call to transform Catford into a place of peace, kindness, and divine presence. By praying over our streets and offering kindness to those we meet, we become vessels of God's love. To take part in this sacred mission, contact **Nick Wibberley**, **Chuz Eberendu**, or **Neville Fernandes** or **myself**. Together, let's fill our community with His light.

**Canon Gerard Bradley**, the Episcopal Vicar for the South West Area of the Archdiocese of Southwark, will be celebrating the 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM Masses on Sunday, June 1st. He will also be leading a retreat on Liturgy following the 9:00 AM Mass. Please do not miss it.

**In today's Gospel**, Jesus tells us plainly: "*If anyone loves me, he will keep my word*" (John 14:23). Let these words stir our hearts! Let us be not merely hearers of the Word, but *joyful doers*, actively living Christ's love through service, mercy, and witness. As missionaries of our Good Shepherd, we are sent to embody His compassion in our homes, workplaces, and community. Thank you for your faithfulness, and may the Holy Spirit empower us all to love as Jesus loves.

**With every blessing, Fr. Antony**



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

**Next Sunday - Bible Readings**

**1st Reading:** Acts 7:55-60

**2nd Reading:** Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

**Gospel:** John 17:20-26

**IMPORTANT DAYS REMEMBER UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

25 May - **Archbishop John Wilson's** Mass (11:30am Mass)  
29 May - The Ascension of the Lord  
01 June - Retreat on Liturgy: **Canon Gerard Bradley**  
07 June - Jubilee Year celebration with the diocese [Aylesford]  
08 June - Pentecost  
15 June - The Most Holy Trinity  
21 June - Readers and EMHC Retreat  
22 June - Corpus Christi & **Parish International Day**  
27 June - Parish Quiz Night  
29 June - SS Peter and Paul  
01 July - **Bereavement Support Group** at 7 pm  
04 July - Farewell mass - Mary Collins  
05 July - Sacrament for the Sick Mass  
06 July - Last Date to submit FHC/Confirmation Application Forms  
13 July - Branches of the Vine - Post Confirmation Retreat  
19 July - Baptism Preparation course  
06 Aug - Transfiguration of the Lord  
15 Aug - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
14 Sept - Parish Feast Day (Exultation of the Holy Cross)  
20 Sept - Baptism Preparation course

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 24th - Fri 30th May 2025

SAT	6:30pm	Irene Ero – Birthday Thanksgiving
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Elliott Watson R.I.P. People of the Parish
MON	9:15am	Clarence & Alba Fernandes R.I.P.
TUE	9:15am	Sister Margaret Dobbin - Healing
WED	9:15am	Thang Nguyen – Wellbeing and Thanksgiving
THU	9:15am	<b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b> Tony & Theresa Green R.I.P.
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Rachael Pereira Wibberley - Healing

**Considering Baptism for Your Child?**

Canon Law (867 §1) reminds us of the importance of early baptism, stating that **parents are obliged to ensure their infants are baptised within the first few weeks**. We encourage you to contact Fr. Antony to obtain a baptism application form and begin the preparation process. Our next Baptism Preparation Course will be held on Saturday, 19 July. This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare yourselves for this significant sacrament. Please make every effort to attend.

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

**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.

**Receive Application Forms from 2nd June**

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation Preparation**

Application forms are now available for any child entering **Year 3 or above** and wishing to prepare for First Holy Communion, or young people aged **13 and above** wishing to prepare for Confirmation.

Fr. Antony wishes to meet **applicants and parents** personally to guide and inspire them in undertaking this sacramental preparation in a **meaningful and reverent way**.



**BAPTISM**

This Saturday - 24th May 2025 at 4:00pm  
we welcome into our church

Twins *Isabel & Felix Platt*

Please keep their parents **Ines and Damian** in your prayers



**Holy Cross Men's Choir**

Join our newly formed Men's Choir and Prayer Group. All married men are welcome to raise their voices in song and deepen their faith through shared prayer. This is a chance to pray together, connect with fellow parishioners and enrich our community's spiritual life. No prior singing experience is necessary – just a willing heart. Ready to join? Simply scan the QR code or text 07578777461 to express your interest.



**Missio**

The loose change Red box **Missio** collection will take place commencing Pentecost weekend, June 8th. Others who don't have a red box can still donate their unwanted loose change. Last year we managed to collect over £800 *Thank You*.

**KEEP IN TOUCH**

Receive important parish updates and news from the Universal Church through our Parish WhatsApp News Group. Joining is simple, and your name and phone number will remain private.

To become a member, simply scan the QR code or send a message to 07578777461. Stay informed and connected with our community!



**2nd Collection NEXT WEEKEND - World Communication Day:**

This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CNN), the media office of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.

The CNN seeks to be of service both to the Church and the world in offering professional channels of communications.

**PARISH CONTACTS**

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

**Josepha Flahive:** catford@rcaos.org.uk

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

**Holy Cross School:** [Mary Collins: 020 8698 2675]

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

**Safeguarding:** Pat Barber & Lisa O'Hara 07598 524024