

This week at St Lawrence's



6th/7th September 2014

23rd Sunday of the Year
(Missal Page 125 – YEAR A Vol. 2)

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 94; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (Missal Page 181); Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 77;

Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17



Dear Friends,

Have you ever suffered from the pains of bereavement? Are you, perhaps, suffering from them now? The word bereavement comes from “**reave**”, which means to rob, to deprive and to carry off. We can feel that this literally happened to us, we may feel that we really were robbed, plundered, torn apart, when the person we loved died. Similar bereavement pains can accompany the trauma of divorce, or separation, or a broken love affair, or a betrayed relationship. And there is the deep bereavement pain that can often follow an abortion. When bereavement comes, a huge void may open up within us. The temptation to fill this void can be very great, but to do so, can be a disaster. In fact, it may even increase our suffering.

The German Lutheran **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** was born in 1906 in Breslau, Germany – today what we know as Wrocław, Poland. For two years he served for two German-speaking Protestant churches here in London. In 1939 Bonhoeffer joined a group of senior military officers who planned to overthrow the National Socialist regime by killing Adolf Hitler. Their attempt bomb plot failed. Hitler survived. Bonhoeffer was arrested, charged with conspiracy, sent to prison, and finally to the concentration camp at Flossenbürg. There, he and his friends were publicly humiliated, stripped and forced to walk naked from their cells to the gallows, and then eventually were hanged in April 1945.

Before his death, in a letter to a friend, Bonhoeffer wrote: “*Nothing can make up for the absence of someone we love, and it would be wrong to try and find a substitute. We must hold out and see it through. This may sound very hard at first. But at the same time it is a great consolation. Because the void, as long as it remains unfilled, preserves the bond between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills this void. God does not fill it. Quite the contrary. God is the one who keeps it empty and so helps to keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain.*”

The absent ‘*someone*’ that Bonhoeffer was writing about, was the beautiful young girl he loved and planned to marry, *Maria Weller*. Maria did not learn about his execution until two months later. Then the words Bonhoeffer had written to console him in her absence became the very same words that consoled Maria in her terrible loss, pain and bereavement. Perhaps these words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, written in the loneliness and hell of the Concentration Camp in Flossenbürg, can be of help and consolation to some of us.

May God bless you all and I assure you of my prayers and entrust you to the care of Our Blessed Mother in *Walsingham* today.

Fr Fortunato.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

We extend a warm welcome to Filip Gostomski Gomes, Lordina Seyram Ami Dzakpasu, Maria Diara Guei Gbolo and Shukran Lashay Fazilahmed who will be baptised this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to their families.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warmest congratulations to Wajciech Stachyra and Joanna Rylska who celebrate the sacrament of marriage this weekend.

CONFIRMATION 2015

Due to unforeseen circumstances, dates for enrolment have changed as below. If you are in Year 9 or above and would like to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2015 please register with Bridget Brinkley at one of the following times.

Tuesday 9th, Wednesday, 10th, Thursday 11th September – 3.00pm to 5.30pm
Saturday 13th September – 3.30pm-5.30pm

Please come to the Church where you will be asked to complete a registration form.

The programme will begin on Thursday 2nd October. Parents of candidates preparing for Confirmation will also be asked to take part in a 5 week course.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy takes place during three of the Sunday Masses in the Parish Centre – Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9am and 11am. The Liturgy group will recommence **this weekend**. Children's Liturgy catechists are asked to collect their rotas from the table in the Church porch. If you would like to help with the Liturgy group or just find out more about Children's Liturgy please contact Bridget. Children's Liturgy is only possible if we have enough willing volunteers. **Is it your turn to volunteer?** Training will be provided.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School programme for children attending non-Catholic schools will begin on **this Sunday**. It takes place at 10am in St Lawrence's School. Children in school year two or above who have not received their First Holy Communion are invited to enrol on this programme. If you would like to find out more please come along this Sunday and meet with Bridget Brinkley. Those who have enrolled should have received a welcome letter and programme dates by post.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The first session for parents will be on **Tuesday 9th September** at 2pm or 7pm in the Parish Centre and the first children's session will be on **Saturday 13th September** in St Lawrence's School at 9.45am.

Our 11am Mass on **Sunday 28th September** will be led by the Children. If your child would like to read at this Mass please contact Bridget on 020 8890 2367, if necessary please leave a message and Bridget will contact you regarding a reading rehearsal!

EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Would you like to find out more about the Catholic Faith? Have you been searching for a deeper meaning for your life? Do you share your life with a Catholic, perhaps you are supporting your husband or wife bringing up your children in the Catholic Faith.

If you would like to find out more about the Catholic Church or you thinking about becoming a Catholic please contact Bridget Brinkley on 020 8890 2367 or by e-mailing at bridgetbrinkley@rcdow.org.uk.

PARISH NOTICES

ST LAWRENCE'S SCHOOL MASS

A Mass for the beginning of the new school year will take place on **Monday 8th September at 9.30am**.

HELP WANTED

We are looking to recruit a volunteer gardener/groundsman for the Church. If you have any time to spare please contact the Parish Office for details.

STORAGE NEEDED

Do you have any spare garage/shed space for items needing to be stored from the old Parish Centre? We have an immediate need to store 6 collapsible garden tables and 25 garden chairs. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

ST LAWRENCE'S PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets every **Thursday from 7.30pm to 9pm** in the Presbytery. A time of prayer and thanksgiving. Reflecting on scriptures. Intercessory prayers for the parish and wider community. New members welcome, come and see.

UCM

The UCM will re-start on **Monday, 8th September** at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All ladies from the parish are most welcome. Come along and make a lot of friends.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next PPC Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 16th September at 7.30pm**. If anyone has any items for the Council please deliver to the Presbytery by 12noon on the day.

MISSIO COLLECTORS

Please collect your Autumn edition magazines from the porch.

CONCERT AT ST LAWRENCE'S

A concert titled "The Joy of the Lord" featuring Jo Boyce and friends will take place in Church on **Saturday 11th October** at 7.30pm. An evening of uplifting, faith-filled music, that will inspire each of us anew with the joy of the Lord. Tickets will be on sale shortly - Price £6.00 (on the door £7.00).

The musicians and crew will be requiring accommodation on the Saturday night and if anyone can spare a room please contact the parish office. There are 7 people requiring a room, some willing to share.

SATURDAY 12 noon MASS READERS

If you would like to read at the 12 noon Mass on Saturdays please contact the Parish Office.

OTHER

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK

40 Days for life campaign in Twickenham: Pro- life meeting with the talks and great plans to make a life-saving difference in the community on **Wednesday 10th of September** at 7 pm, Parish Hall of St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 130 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham London TW1 1RL

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Please see notice board for Open Days at local Catholic Secondary Schools.

PILGRIMAGES

DOWRY OF MARY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

We pray for Fr Fortunato and all those travelling to Walsingham this Sunday. May they have a safe journey there and back and have a holy pilgrimage.

SANTIAGO AND FATIMA – 9 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2014

All St Lawrence's pilgrims please be at Browells Lane (by entrance to The Green) by 4.30am on Tuesday 9th September so that the coach can be loaded in good time before it makes it was to St George's Church and onward to Gatwick. We wish Fr Chris and all pilgrims from St Lawrence's and St George's and happy and holy pilgrimage and a safe trip.

REST IN PEACE

AILEEN MATTHEWS RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of Aileen Matthews RIP whose funeral will take place here on **Monday 15th September** at 12noon. Please also keep her family and all those who mourn her in prayer.

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 6th Feria	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 12.45	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Emily Denny RIP Baptisms of Filip Gostomski Gomes, Lordina Seyram Ami Dzakpasu, Maria Diara Guei Gbolo and Shukran Lashay Fazilahmed 14.30 17.00 18.00
+ First Mass of Sunday		People of the Parish
+ Sunday 7th 23rd Sunday of the Year	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	David Hayes RIP Eucharist & Chris Obodoako - Birthday Intention Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Pierino Pili RIP (Anniversary)
Monday 8th THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	09.30	No Morning Prayer Cyril, Chris and Cecilia Rodrigues (Intentions) (with School)
Tuesday 9th Feria	09.15 09.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Eileen Carroll RIP Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 10th Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Augustine & Rita Gomes and Gerald & Teresa Lopez RIP (Anniversary)
Thursday 11th Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Bill Detheridge RIP (Anniversary)
Friday 12th Feria	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Judith & Jim Spencer in Thanksgiving – 50th Wedding Anniversary
Saturday 13th St John Chrysostom	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 12.45	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Chris Keating (Intention) Baptisms of Amelia Silvester-Smith, Marie Freda Nalwadda, Zachary Weiner Sacrament of Reconciliation 17.00 18.00
+ First Mass of Sunday		Nigel Owen RIP (1st Anniversary)
+ Sunday 14th THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	People of the Parish Jacinta Mwaura (Special Intentions) Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Anthony Adams (Intentions)

Sanctuary Lamp: Kurt Kosin RIP and Helen Abiegbe Kosin Intentions

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory Collection:

30th/31st August: Envelopes £1096.39, Loose £873.43, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2389.82
Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

Sunday Mass Times: Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

Contact us:

9 The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF

www.saintlawrences.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Chris Vipers

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Monica Killeen, Sr. Nora Gorman

Pastoral Assistant: Bridget Brinkley

020 8890 2367

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Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes