



The Catholic Parish of Manor Park St. Stephen & St. Nicholas

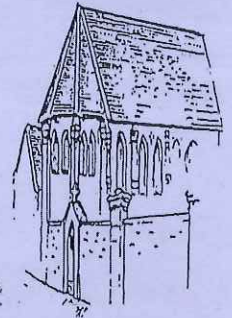


**Sisters of the
Sacred Heart of Mary**
Srs. Breda, Dorothy,
& Kathleen RSHM
27 Holcombe Rd, Ilford, IG1 4XF
Tel: 020 8554 4089

Rev. Sean Connolly
146 Little Ilford Lane, Manor Park E12 5PJ
Tel: 020 8478 1895
email: manorpark@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Web: www.ss-stephenandnicholas.org.uk

St. Winefride's Primary School.
Head Teacher: Mr. P. Underwood
Tel: 020 8478 0510

**Sisters
of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary**
195 Church Rd, E12 6HB
Tel: 020 8911 7042



5th Sunday of Lent (Year A) 2 April 2017

From Fr. Sean,

None of us can see what's around the corner, let alone in two to five year's time, so it is somewhat frustrating when media that is there to tell us what is happening now insist on telling us what the consequences of the British government's decision last week to leave the European Union will be. Though it passed with a whimper, the formal start of the exit process was a genuinely historic moment, and so may only truly come to be judged in decades to come, but it is both unfortunate and misleading that it has come to be described as a divorce. Unfortunate because those who have been through such a process will know how messy and painful that usually is; misleading because those who divorce do so to live independent lives, and although, especially if children are involved, they have to negotiate ongoing relationships, this country, despite the English Channel, remains a part of the European continent. And as one of the biggest economies and military powers in the world, a significant part of that continent, in or out of the European Union. We come from a faith tradition that puts social relationships that promote the common good above that of individual rights. Whilst each of us has the right to our individuality, uniquely created by God, that should never be at the expense of our commitment to a public life that calls us to work together across our differences for the common good. It is one reason why we believe that divorce, although sometimes necessary and carrying a heavy pastoral care commitment, can never be a good thing. Last week's shift should leave us under no illusions how hard it is for us to work together, so it is encouraging that people still try. When we find it so difficult to even reach across the divides here in church the process the government has embarked on may turn out to be a divorce, and a particularly messy and painful one at that. No relationship is perfect. As we build a deeper church community we should support everything that builds relationships, beyond our own narrow national self interest, to promote not only a European good but also benefits the rest of the world.

Services for the week beginning 2 April

*Morning Prayer of the Church is prayed
Monday - Friday at 9.00am in the Lady Chapel.*

Sat 1 April	6.00pm	Mary Finan RIP
Sun 2	9.00am 11.00am	Serafino Soares RIP People of the Parish
Mon 3	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Tues 4	9.15am	May Cranfield RIP
Wed 5	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Thurs 6	9.15am 9.45am 1.30pm	Eileen Wilson RIP Adoration Reconciliation Service Year 5 & 6
Fri 7	9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Nancy Dziwornooch & Family (intentions) Whole School Assembly Stations of the Cross
Sat 8	11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Memorial Mass: Lucille Octave RIP Sacrament of Reconciliation Russell Lowrie RIP
Sun 9	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Mary Finan RIP

Parish Diary

Mon	Confirmation 2	7.30pm	Community Room
Tues	Prayer Group	9.45am	Community Room

Please pray for those who are sick:

Norah Crow, Masaldo Merry, Clare O'Toole,
Denzil Lang, John Oruche, Patrick Berton,
Alvina Telles, Jude Telles, Christine Jones,
& Christine Kristen

Thank you for your generous offerings

26 March: £1,259.61

East African Disaster Fund Collection: £435.17

Rotas for weekend 8/9 April

	Readers	Eucharist	Children's Liturgy
6.00pm	Please see special Holy Week Rotas by email and in the sacristy	Please see special Holy Week Rotas by email and in the sacristy	Closed for the Holidays
9.00am			
11.00am			

HOLY WEEK 2017

This is the most important week in the life of the Church and the life of our parish community. Please make every effort to come to as many of the services as you can, in particular:

Holy Thursday 13 April

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching at the altar of repose until 11.15pm. **Night Prayer** will conclude the watching.

Good Friday 14 April

12.15pm Children's Stations of the Cross. This is a special service particularly for children unable to take part in the 3.00pm liturgy.

3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord.

Easter Night 15 April

8.00pm Liturgy of the Paschal Vigil. The most important event of the year, including the Service of Light to bless the Paschal Candle, the blessing of the new baptismal waters, baptism of new Catholics and renewal of baptismal promises.

Easter Day 16 April

9.00am & 11.00am Mass of the Resurrection

Lenten Service of Reconciliation. Our Parish Reconciliation Service will take place on Tuesday 11 April at 8.00pm. This is an excellent way to prepare for Easter, especially those hoping to receive sacraments in the coming months: our candidates making the Journey of Faith, our young people preparing for confirmation, and our children, and their parents, preparing to receive holy communion for the first time.

Journey of Faith. Please continue to pray and make welcome our four candidates preparing to be baptized on Easter Night. You are reminded to come to the church on Saturday 15 April at 12.00pm with your sponsors to run through what will happen at the Vigil.

Hot Cross Buns. I have again been busy baking through Lent, and next weekend after all masses tempt you with a home made hot cross bun to stay for refreshments and importantly meet some of your fellow parishioners, even some new ones!

Eucharistic Ministers and Readers. The holy week rota lists are at the back of the church and you are asked to sign for as many slots as you are willing to cover and the rota will be made up from those volunteering. Holy week is a popular week to serve and we would like to ensure that everyone is given a chance.

Confirmation. A reminder to all our young people preparing for confirmation that the second session will take place on Monday 3 April at 7.30pm in the Community Room.

First Holy Communion. We welcome our children preparing to receive communion for the first time soon, together with their families, at all masses as they take a special part in our mass to highlight the importance of the eucharistic prayer.

Love in Action. There will be a meeting of the Manor Park Catholic Youth Group after 11.00am mass today. We will discuss the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how we can put our faith into action in our local community. All most welcome.

"Born for This" A Passion Play By students and staff of St Bonaventure's School On Thursday 6 April 2017 @ 7pm at St Antony's Forest Gate. A beautiful way to reflect on the stations of the Cross at Lent. All Welcome.

Children in Church. We love to see our children in church but sadly we now have to keep the church locked in the week until 8.50am for the safety of the children and protection of the church. Please may I also remind parents to keep children with you at all times during mass. You must accompany them to the toilet and if they come forward for a blessing.

Our Cafod Lenten Appeal has so far raised £417.30. Please be generous in our last two weeks.