



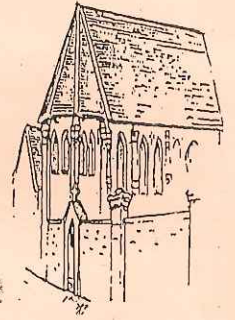
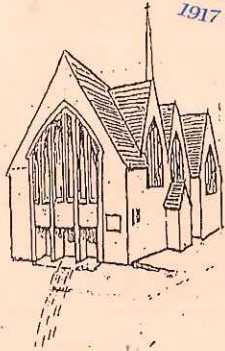
# The Catholic Parish of Manor Park St. Stephen & St. Nicholas

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Sisters of the  
Sacred Heart of Mary  
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St. Winefride's Primary School.  
Head Teacher: Mr. P. Underwood  
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## 31st Sunday of the Year (A) 5 November 2017

From Fr. Sean,

In my teenage years the dish of the day to keep us engaged in the Church was discussion on the hoary topics of divorce, women priests, homosexuality, and abortion. It's a measure of how far society has moved that for many outside the Church at least these perennial moral arguments have been settled, save for the latter. Catholics are sometimes accused of an out of context obsession with abortion, but as the comment at the recent fiftieth anniversary of the decriminalization of abortion in this country has shown, this is still a very much live issue. The vexed politicization over those years has resulted in a polarized climate where reasoned debate and practical compassion often go out the window. So it is good to hear our bishops, in a statement marking the anniversary, urging us to do much more to support women who find themselves with unexpected or unwanted pregnancies. As well, whilst our congregations often have women who carry the pain of abortion in shame and secrecy, sometimes over decades, we have preferred to condemn or at best kept silent, and not done enough to announce the Gospel of Mercy, the greatest gift given to the Church to set us free to live. The unfortunate standoff, you are either pro-choice or pro-life, needs to be unlocked if there is ever to be progress both for the unborn and women; and our society needs a more profound conversation on the balance between rights and obligations and what we understand by the common good that goes beyond the current culture of individualism. Choice must offer practical alternatives to abortion, and we need to learn that the best choice is not always the one that I want. Equally life must mean in all its fullness. My concern for the unborn must be matched by action with those who live in strained circumstances through no fault of their own. The common good, at the heart of Catholic thinking, seeks precisely to find that balance between individual rights and duty to the other, especially the most vulnerable. In the world as it is abortions continue to take place. Can we not do our best to create the circumstances where women are less likely to make that choice?

Services for the week beginning 5 November

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

Sat 4	6.00pm	Monica Berton RIP
Sun 5	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Brian Vincent Dorgan (Intentions)
Mon 6	9.15am	<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
Tues 7	9.15am	Kemi MacNeill (intentions)
Wed 8	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Thurs 9	9.15am 9.45am	<b>Eucharistic Service</b> Adoration
Fri 10	9.15am	<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
Sat 11	5.15pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Faithful Killed in the War (F)
Sun 12	9.00am 11.00am	Moyosure Awolesi (intentions) People of the Parish

Thursday is the feast of the Dedication of the  
Lateran Basilica

### Parish Diary

Mon	Finance Committee	6.30pm	No. 146
Tues	Prayer Group	9.45am	Community Room
	Baptism Preparation	7.00pm	Community Room

Please pray for those who are sick:

Masaldo Merry, Clare O'Toole, Denzil Lang,  
John Oruche, Patrick Berton, Jude Telles,  
Christine Jones, & Christine Krister

Thank you for your generous offerings

22 October: £1,256.02

29 October: £1,324.35

## Rotas for weekend 11/12 November

	Readers	Eucharist	Children's Liturgy
6.00pm	See rotas displayed in church	Comfort Obi, Jacqueline George, Joseph Liguori	
9.00am		Earnest Peter, Maria Emilion, Anastasia John Pierre, Vida Wills, Teresa De Souza	
11.00am		Cathay Boyle, Ken Peters, Juliana Alvares, Tom Bedminster, Pearson Shillingford	Beatrice, Bola & Helpers

**Journey of Faith.** Our new Journey of Faith for 2017/18 will be getting underway shortly. You are invited to join us if you are thinking about becoming a Catholic or you simply may want to know more about the Catholic Faith. Or you may know someone in that position and you can pass this invitation to them. **Our first meeting is on Thursday 16 November starting at 7.00pm in the Community Room.** Your initial commitment will be for six weeks. Please let me know if you are thinking of coming or you would like more information.

**Baptism Preparation.** The next sessions take place on Tuesday 7 & 14 November at 7.00pm in the Community Room. Parents with a child for baptism under the age of seven should introduce themselves after mass and then are invited to attend these two sessions. At least one parent must be baptized Catholic (with a certificate). You are asked not to book dates for the baptism until you have attended the two sessions to avoid disappointment. Please note these sessions are for parents only: do not bring your children with you.

**TELCO Assembly,**

**Wednesday 15th November,**

**Oasis Church,**

**1 Kennington Road, London SE1 7QP,**

**6.30pm - 8.30pm.**

*We as a Church will be part of this exciting event to work constructively for dignified housing, celebrate the work of civil society across London, and hold those in power to account. We would love to have a good attendance from here to represent us. If you would like to attend, please sign up as you leave church today - travel arrangements will be made according to interest.*

**November Memorial Mass.** During this month of November we are asked to remember all our loved ones who have died. As part our support and concern for others, I would like to invite you to come to our November Memorial Mass on Saturday 18 November at 12.15pm when we will pray especially for all those who have died in our parish over the past year and join with those whose grief is particularly raw at this time. If you wish for anyone who has died in the past twelve months to be remembered at the mass please write their name down on a piece of paper marked November Memorial Mass and hand it in by Sunday 12 November.

*Thank you very much for your recent contribution to the World Mission collection of £137.31. Your prayers and donations will help missionaries share the Gospel of peace with those greatest in need. You can take a red box to support Missio or visit [mission.org.uk](http://mission.org.uk) or telephone 020 7821 9755 for more information*

**THANK YOU!** Maria and Victor would like to thank Fr. Sean, Fr. Liam, the parish sisters and all the parishioners for all their prayer, support, and kindness during the time Victor was in hospital. Now he is back again on his feet. A VERY BIG THANK YOU to each one of you.

***Please pray for Doreen Hutchins of Clarence Rd who died recently. Her requiem mass will take place here on Monday 13 November at 11.00am, followed by burial at the City of London Cemetery. Doreen has been the longest parishioner in Manor Park, having lived here all her life, and has made a huge contribution to the life of our parish community in that time. After all her labours may she rest in the peace of Christ and rise with him in glory***

*Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 5.15pm-5.45pm and by appointment.*

*Weddings (minimum 6 months notice) and Baptisms (minimum 2 months notice) are by appointment.*

*Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No.234092*