



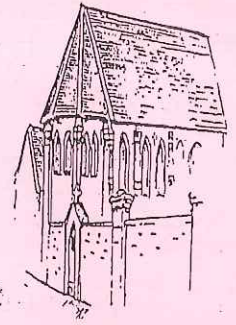
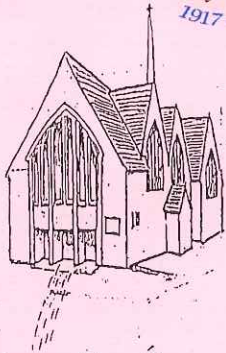
The Catholic Parish of Manor Park St. Stephen & St. Nicholas

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The Resurrection of the Lord (Year B) 1 April 2018

From Fr. Sean,

I don't suppose there's any danger that the secular calendar - New Year, Valentines, Mothers, Fools, Halloween etc. - will ever really take on Easter in the way that it has commercialized Christmas. But you never know. All the secular feasts have this in common: they are promoted to get you to buy stuff you don't need and do things you didn't know you wanted to do, inevitably leaving you poorer. Christmas is the great example. A sugary, highly sentimentalized version of a birth is always going to be an open goal, and gift-giving promoted on an industrial scale leaves the retailers laughing all the way to the bank. Now I know that we are drowning in Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs, but it's not yet the same. And it's not yet the same because we know that you can't make sense of Easter without Good Friday. The Easter promoted in the shops is a pale imitation of the real thing because death remains one of the last taboos, and without it resurrection is a fairy tale. We people of faith are only here today because we have made the journey through Holy Week. And just in case you might feel a bit smug over your secular neighbour: whilst it's true that Easter Sunday only makes sense with Good Friday, and we can only face Good Friday because of Easter, when you read the Gospels seriously you realize that the first Christians took a long time to make sense of resurrection, and, indeed, every generation of Christians that have followed, including our own, have to make sense of it too. It's not easy, especially when the best the shops can do to represent Easter is a long-eared, toothy mammal staring at you gormlessly from a pile of chocolate eggs as if he's just laid them. And so I was delighted to hear the Cardinal on the radio today announcing the launch of a national campaign to Ban the Bunny. It is a campaign to restore the real meaning of Easter and prevent it heading down the same road as Christmas. In fact, I thought he might have gone much further and banned chocolate eggs too. It's time we started taking Easter seriously in the Church, and to my mind this campaign is a good start. Happy Easter!

Services for the week beginning 1 April

*Morning Prayer of the Church is prayed
Monday - Friday at 9.45am in the Lady Chapel.*

Sat 31	8.00pm	The Paschal Vigil (People of the Parish)
Sun 1 April	9.00am 11.00am	Louis Lyras RIP Hannah Falvey RIP
Mon 2	12.15pm	Gertrude (intentions)
Tues 3	1.30pm	Requiem: Oswald Heines RIP
Wed 4	10.00am 5.00pm	Eucharistic Service Vigil Reception
Thurs 5	10.00am	Requiem: Maria Anderson RIP
Fri 6	10.00am	Florencia Irene RIP (A)
Sat 7	12.30pm 6.00pm	Baptisms People of the Parish
Sun 8	9.00am 11.00am	Trish Franci RIP Donato Agatiello RIP



Please pray for those who are sick:

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

Thank you for your generous offerings

18 March

Envelopes	Loose Plate	St. Orders	Total
£324.04	£437.46	£344.00	£1,105.50

25 March

Envelopes	Loose Plate	St. Orders	Total
£516.73	£538.89	£344.00	£1,399.62

Rotas for weekend 7/8 April

	Readers	Eucharist	Children's Liturgy
6.30pm	Jaqueline George, Helen Pree	Jaqueline George, Comfort Obi, Joseph Liguori	Closed for the holidays
9.00am	Marion McPhillips, Sally Edozie	Earnest Peter, Vida Wills, Christine Malone, Teresa De Souza, Hazel Ringrow	
11.00am	Sr. Ugochi, Imelda Sotto	David Graves, Anthony Boakye, Antonia Duke, Winifred Alexis, Jim Porritt	

The Sacrament of Confirmation. A reminder to all our young people who are currently preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at Pentecost, that our second session takes place on Monday 16 April at 7.30pm in the Community Room.

First Holy Communion. The fifth session for the St. Winefride's Group takes place on Tuesday 17 April at 3.15pm in school, and for the St. Stephen's Group on Saturday 21 April at 10.00am in the Community Room.

Vacancy Corner.

◇ **Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust** (based in Newham) is looking to appoint additional directors to the Trust Board. Please see <http://www.ourladyofgrace.org.uk/careers-opportunities/>The closing date for applications is noon on 16 April.

◇ **THE URSULINE ACADEMY ILFORD**
ACADEMY BUSINESS MANAGER
From: September 2018
Salary range: £55K – £65K plus £1, 848 (Outer London Allowance) pa
Apply at: uai.org.uk
Closing date: 18 April 2018

◇ **St John's RC Special School, Woodford Bridge** is recruiting full time Class Assistants to work with students aged 5-25 with a wide range of special needs. Hours 9.00am to 3.30pm, term time only, experience preferred. Immediate and September starts available. For an application pack please contact the school office on 020 8504 1818 or email office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk, closing date 16th April. Successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. www.stjohnsrcschool.co.uk

Newham Citizens Accountability Assembly. April 26, at St Bonaventure's School from 5:30pm - 7:30pm – as a church, we will be meeting with candidates standing in the Council elections, to get them to commit to improving the quality of housing in Newham. We will be joined by other churches and institutions from across East London, to stand together as citizens and to hold decision makers accountable. We would like as many of the church as possible to attend – please speak to anyone in the Building Community team to sign up after mass, or fill in the signup sheet on your way into church.

“Do you know your Housing rights? Do you know where to go to get support?” collaboration with Citizens UK, on 7 April from 11:30am - 5.30pm in St Winefride's school hall – we will be hosting a housing support workshop on what to do in a difficult housing situation. We will be covering topics including Council Housing, Rogue Landlords, Homelessness and how to campaign effectively for change. Anyone and everyone is welcome, whether you are in a difficult situation, know somebody that is, or are interested in the subject. Entry is free, but we will have a **bring and share lunch** so do contribute if you are able to. If you would like to find out more, please email Alec at alecj@theology-centre.org.

Please pray for those who have recently died: Oswald Heines of Romford Road, whose requiem will take place here on Tuesday at 1.30pm, followed by burial at the City of London Cemetery; and Maria Anderson of Gainsborough Road, whose requiem will take place on Thursday at 10.00am, followed by burial at Manor Park Cemetery. May they rest in peace and rise in glory with the Risen Christ, and may all who mourn find consolation and peace.