



Ordinariate and Parish Church MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

*a Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of Southwark
in the Pastoral Care of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham*



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23rd August 2020

In the gospel reading today, we hear that Christ chose Peter as the rock on which he would build his church. When we proclaim: 'You are the Christ' we also ask for a deepening of our faith. Through faith we fix our eyes on God who is infinite wisdom and it is for his good purposes that we were chosen to be members of Christ's Church on earth.



Sunday Mass at 11am with a congregation continues and is live-streamed. We are using FaceBook, but move to YouTube in Sept Details and links to follow.

Track & Trace requires that we keep a record of who enters the church building. The paper record is kept locked away, and will be destroyed after 21 days.

Sign up to attend, on-line. It makes it easier if you are registered with the parish. All our systems now use *MyChurchSuite*. If you are registered you can log-in.

Volunteering as stewards, readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion is all now done through *MyChurchSuite*. Download the App at *App Store* or *Google Play*.

Face covering are now required in all Churches. Please bring your own, although some can be provided.

When you arrive for Mass, if you attend physically, there are the now familiar procedures. Thank you to all those who have complied.

Take full part in the Mass wherever you take part.

Financial giving. Thank you to all those who continue to give financially. *See the website.*

Mass Schedules are different in August. The 1.05pm weekday Mass is aimed at city workers. As most have still not returned, we may have to re-think timings of Mass once term begins again. Thoughts to FrC

Next term we hope to have Mass during the week and on Sunday 8.30am but only if we have the required stewards, will you sign up?

Stewards are required whenever the Church is open. If we open more often, an additional task will be to 'sanitise' the church after each Mass on Sundays and weekday.

Catholic History Walks - the next is Wed 26th Aug, 6pm, St Elizabeth's, Richmond - Richmond Palace, Henry VIII, and to St JHN's childhood home. *See website.*

Gianluca will be baptised next Sunday and so, made a Christian. His will be the first at MPB since the lock-down. Keep him in your prayers this week.

Summer reading or listening - how about something to help with friend's questions. St Paul says we should always have a defence for what we believe. *'Reasons to Believe: How to Understand, Explain and Defend the Catholic Faith'* by Scott Hahn.

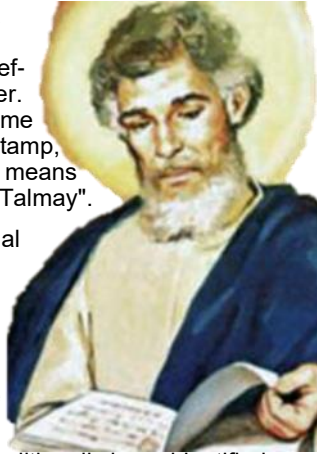
Keep an eye on friends and neighbours. Some might need help.



St. Bartholomew

His is an explicit reference to his father. It is probably a name with an Aramaic stamp, *barTalmay*, which means precisely: "son of Talmay".

We have no special information about Bartholomew; indeed, his name always and only appears in the lists of the Twelve Apostles.



However, it has traditionally been identified with Nathanael: a name that means "God has given". This Nathanael came from Cana and he may therefore have witnessed the great "sign" that Jesus worked in that place. It is likely that the identification of the two figures stems from the fact that Nathanael is placed in the scene of his calling, recounted in John's Gospel, next to Philip, in other words, the place that Bartholomew occupies in the lists of the Apostles mentioned in the other Gospels.

Philip told this Nathanael that he had found "him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" Nathanael's retort was rather strongly prejudiced: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" In its own way, this form of protestation is important for us. Indeed, it makes us see that according to Judaic expectations the Messiah could not come from such an obscure village as, precisely, Nazareth.

But at the same time Nathanael's protest highlights God's freedom, which baffles our expectations by causing him to be found in the very place where we least expect him. Moreover, we actually know that Jesus was not exclusively "from Nazareth" but was born in Bethlehem and came ultimately from Heaven, from the Father who is in Heaven.

Nathanael's reaction suggests another thought to us: in our relationship with Jesus we must not be satisfied with words alone. In his answer, Philip offers Nathanael a meaningful invitation: "Come and see!". Our knowledge of Jesus needs above all a first-hand experience: someone else's testimony is of course important, for normally the whole of

our Christian life begins with the proclamation handed down to us by one or more witnesses.

We ourselves must then be personally involved in a close and deep relationship with Jesus; in a similar way, when the Samaritans had heard the testimony of their fellow citizen whom Jesus had met at Jacob's well, they wanted to talk to him directly, and after this conversation they told the woman: "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world".

Returning to the scene of Nathanael's vocation, the Evangelist tells us that when Jesus sees Nathanael approaching, he exclaims: "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile!" this provokes the curiosity of Nathanael who answers in amazement: "How do you know me?".

Jesus' reply cannot immediately be understood. He says: "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you". We do not know what had happened under this fig tree. It is obvious that it had to do with a decisive moment in Nathanael's life. His heart is moved by Jesus' words, he feels understood and he understands: "This man knows everything about me, he knows and is familiar with the road of life; I can truly trust this man". And so he answers with a clear and beautiful confession of faith: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!". In this confession is conveyed a first important step in the journey of attachment to Jesus.

Nathanael's words shed light on a twofold, complementary aspect of Jesus' identity: he is recognised both in his special relationship with God the Father, of whom he is the Only-begotten Son, and in his relationship with the People of Israel, of whom he is the declared King, precisely the description of the awaited Messiah. We must never lose sight of either of these two elements because if we only proclaim Jesus' heavenly dimension, we risk making him an ethereal and evanescent being; and if, on the contrary, we recognize only his concrete place in history, we end by neglecting the divine dimension that properly qualifies him.

Pope Benedict XVI Oct 2006.

St George's Cathedral Job vacancies

Admin (part-time)
Finance (part time)
more information
triciagilbride@stgeorges.org.uk
Closing date 1 Sep



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This Week: Mass & intentions

| Day | Time | Intention |
|---|---------|--------------|
| This Sunday <i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> | 11.00am | Parishioners |
| Mon 24th <i>St Bartholomew</i> | | |
| Tues 25th <i>(St Louis)</i> | | |
| Wed 26th <i>(Bl Dominic Barberi)</i> | | |
| Thur 27th <i>St Monica</i> | | |
| Fri 28th <i>St Augustine</i> | | |
| Sat 29th <i>Passion of St John</i> | | |
| Next Sunday <i>22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> | 11.00am | Parishioners |

Next Week's Readings Jeremiah 20:7-9 Romans 12:1-2 Matthew 16:21-27

Sacrament of Confession. By appointment

Evensong 4.00pm, Sunday & Benediction, *suspended for August*
6.30pm, Thursday *suspended for August*

Last week: £972.00 Standing Orders and On-line payments

Safeguarding. The parish is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding Officers: Kate Pope, Richard Hughes, Justina Onuorah. 0800 0935063

Holy Father's Intention for August: *The Maritime World.* We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

The Ordinariate weekly intercessions: The Reading Group & Fr David Elliott

For your prayers:

In formation: for Ministry, Br Philip OP (Jeff Gerlomes)

Those to be baptised Gianluca

Those who are Sick: Dora, Mary, Mark, David, Rebecca, George, David, Betty, Fr Charles, David

And for all those with Coronavirus

Coronavirus: The medical profession, doctors, nurses, first responders, support-staff, research scientists, those who make big-impact decision,

Recently Departed: Bill East *priest* Isaac Scharbach, John Bourlet

Find us on: Facebook: "preciousbloodSE1" Twitter: @preciousblood1

Fr Christopher Pearson OLW *Parish Priest*

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