

Finance matters

We have put our proposal to the Diocese to pay out our parish debt. As soon as the terms are agreed they will be published alongside the parish account. Thank you for your financial support..

Ongoing formation

Together with the diocese we are planning an online course tailored made for our needs in order to deepen the faith of those who are leading any catechetical group or who might consider it in the future. Fr Javier has been approaching people to ask for help. If you want to volunteer, have a word with him.

Registration Form

We are in the process of compiling a registration form so that we can have a better idea of who the parishioners are and how to contact them. Watch this space

Parish Masses for the coming week:

Date	Feast	Time	Mass Intention
Sat 3rd		6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 4th Oct	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.30am 2pm 6pm	Margaret SSALI, RIP DEMPSEY family RCIA celebration DAVIDSON family, Int
Mon 5th		9.15am	James McGINTY, Int
Mon 5th		12noon	Requiem Mass for Jackie SAID, RIP
Tues 6th		7am	Jose DIAS, RIP
Wed 7th	Our Lady of the Ro- sary	9.15am	Callum and Annick TAYLOR, Int
Fri 9th	St John Henry NEW- MAN	12 Noon	Athanasius Osigwe (OBI), RIP

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Friday 11am–11.45am

Reconciliation 5.00pm - 5.45pm.

Parish Secretary: Angela Braniff - Wednesday, 9.30am – 2.30pm and Friday,
9.30am – 12.30 pm

Columban Sisters - Tel: 020 8980 3017

St Agnes School, Rainhill Way, E3 3ER Tel: 02089803076 -

email: office@st-agnes.towerhamlets.sch.uk

OUR LADY & ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

Parish Priest: Fr F. Javier Ruiz-Ortiz

177 Bow Road, London E3 2SG

Tel: 020 8980 3961, Email: bow@rcdow.org.uk

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NEWSLETTER - TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020

30th September 2020 marked the 1600th anniversary of St Jerome's death and, coinciding with that occasion, pope Francis has released the apostolic Letter *Scripturae Sacrae Affectus* in praise of this saint who is mostly associated with the Bible.

After a historical review in which an outline of Jerome's life is given, the Apostolic Letter reflects on several parts of the saint's life. Jerome was born in Dalmatia, moved to Rome and died in Bethlehem. In his conversion journey from a classical education to believe in Christ, he carried with him a group of followers who lived in a community based around the Word of God. Jerome's greatest achievement was to translate the Bible into the common language of the time, namely, Latin. A translation which became normative and extremely popular; and has been known as the Vulgate.

According to the Holy Father, there are several lessons we can learn from Jerome. First, the need of ascesis when studying in general and when perusing Sacred Scripture in particular. Then the need to develop a love for Scripture. When study the Sacred text one should not do it only as an intellectual exercise but also as a way of getting to know Jesus Christ whose presence is foreshadowed in the Old Testament. Love for the Scripture infused every aspect of Jerome's communications and can lead us in the same path. Jerome also teaches us of the importance of a study of Scripture which is done within the Tradition of the Church. Through our study, both personal and academic, the eternal Word of God can be interpreted for our lives and thus the Word of God becomes nourishment for us. All of us should have access to the treasures of our Faith which have influenced the culture and artistic representations of our society.

By translating the Bible into Latin, Jerome inculturated its message for his generation. We are called to do the same, that is, to pass on the message contained in Scripture to our generation through the means available to us. Ultimately Jerome is an example to follow, whereby, we are invited to love what he loved, first of all, to love the Church, to love God and the way he communicated to us through the written text, which can become part of our life.

Whereas saints are held to us for encouragement and only imitation, this document is certainly an encouragement for all Christians to renew their relationship with the Word of God and an invitation to desire a closer union with the author of our lives and he who inspired Scripture, namely, God.

Attending Mass in 2020

1. Please sanitise your hands when you arrive and wear a mask. Keep a safe distance at all times..
2. Please seat in any available space. It would be helpful if you do not seat by the central aisle. Once in your space do not move till directed by the stewards.
3. There will be no collection during mass. Please give your contribution as you leave the church or online (<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bow/donate/>).
4. For communion, wait till the steward asks you to move. If you cannot queue, Fr Javier will come to you. Communion will be distributed only under one kind and on the hand.
5. At the end, wait to be ushered by the steward. If you are on the pulpit side, leave through the main aisle and the main door; if you are on the font side, leave by the side aisle and the side door.
6. If you want to stay praying or light up a candle, wait in your place. Only light the candle when people have cleared the area.
7. The toilets are now in use. Please follow the guidance posted. Do not throw wipes to the toilets. If the toilets are blocked they will be closed.
8. **We need to record your presence. Please use the QR code or give your details when entering the church. This is to assist the Track and Trace**
9. Above all, be sensible, be aware of the people around you and respect them.

Reconciliation is celebrated Saturday 5pm and Sunday between morning masses and before evening mass. Otherwise please contact Fr Javier for an appointment..

Broadcast of 11.30am Mass

We continue to broadcast the 11,30am mass on YouTube. You can find us on www.youtube.com/user/sebastianbrzegowy/live.

Empowering Vulnerable Children—Uganda

An impressive **£611.69** has been collected to support our Lenten project, EVC—Uganda (<https://www.evcuganda.org/>). Thank you for your generosity, especially in this difficult times. We will send a cheque to the Charity later this week.

150th Anniversary Celebration

At the meeting last Monday, it was decided that

- * we will asked the Cardinal not to come this year.
- * We will then have the parish celebration on **8th November 2020 at 11,30am**.
- * To make sure that we can celebrate safely, we are asking people to register an interest for that particular mass (written note or email) and if there are more applicants than spaces, there will be a ballot. That mass will be broadcasted
- * We need someone who could make a display of the parish registers

Journeying with the Bible

Fr Javier together with Monica Cardona, FMVD, will be delivering some talks on the Bible online. More info on <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/evangelisation/the-god-who-speaks/journeying-with-the-bible/>. If you want to register, please contact catad-min@rcdow.org.uk. Next talk will be on 13th October at 7pm.

RCIA—Initial meeting for those interested in catholic faith, Monday 5th October at 6pm

Financial support

We have already set up a Virgin Money Giving page, This will allow you to donate online if you do not want to carry cash on you. Another way of contributing to the parish is by setting a standing order for the parish or making a payment to our bank account (Account Name: WRCDT Bow; Sort Code: 40-05-20; Account Number: 01308157). Please add your Surname and First Name as a reference, to help our bookkeeper. Further we are exploring the possibility of having a contactless terminal as well.

If you want to Gift Aid your donation, that would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Fr Javier who will arrange for a Gift Aid Form to be sent to you.

Volunteering

- Thanks to some of the Sisters, the front of the Church looks slightly tidier. Next gardening sessions will be on Saturday 7th November (weather permitting)
- Also we need two people to complete a cleaning team.
- If there is an architect/surveyor in the parish, could you speak to Fr Javier.

Stewards at Mass

Thanks to those who attended the meeting. Ushers are required to arrive at mass earlier; accommodate people once mass has started; ushering people to communion and out of mass at the end. They also spray clean the benches which have been used. If you want to help with the ushering of people during mass, speak to Fr. Javier.

Jackie SAID, RIP

Please pray for Jackie and her family. Funeral will take place on Monday 5th October, 12noon. Due to COVID restrictions the funeral will be a private event by invitation only. If you do not have such invitation refrain from coming. The funeral will be broadcasted live. There will be the usual 9.15am mass on Monday,

First Holy Communion 2020

Prayer for the Olawale, Alesha, Jada, Nabel, India, Alma and Bailey who will make their First Holy Communion this weekend at the 6pm Saturday Mass; Sunday 9.30am and 6pm.

RCIA 2020

Pray for the seven adults and five children who will be baptised at a special mass today at 2pm. Also the one adult who will be received into the Catholic Church and another adult who will be confirmed

Confirmation 2020

Next meeting **7th October at 6pm**.

Catechetical Programmes 2021

After meeting the catechists and listening to their views, Fr Javier has decided to delay the beginning of the different sacramental programmes till January 2021. Anyone who is interested in Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation or RCIA for this academic year should speak to Fr Javier .

Parish Celebrations of Sacraments

- **Confirmation**. Fr Javier will confirm the candidates on **6th November at 7pm**.

New Hall—Thanks to those who completed the survey to help with the fund application for the New Parish Hall.