**Fr Patrick writes:**

The second characteristic of the Church is it is holy. This simply means it is rooted in God and allows us to share his life in faith, hope and love. When we are baptized, we are united to Jesus’ death and resurrection. We are anointed with Chrism and as ‘a member of Christ, who is Prophet, Priest and King.’ All our Christian life is sharing God’s life, through the Sacraments, by prayer and in our acts of love.

The third characteristic of the Church is Catholic. This seems obvious to us who describe ourselves as Catholics. As always, the word means a lot more than Catholic Christians as against Protestants. Catholic was defined long ago by Vincent of Lérins in this way: ‘Moreover, in the Catholic Church itself, all possible care must be taken, that we hold that faith which has been believed everywhere, always, by all.’ Catholic is another word for universal. The Catholic Church seeks to include everybody either by conversion from paganism or atheism, or by reconciliation from other church communities. Our belief is handed down to us by tradition, guarded and explained by the Pope and the bishops. This is a unity which goes above and beyond where we are and when we live. We have the same beliefs, the same practices as Christians across time and space.

All this is guaranteed by the fourth characteristic, the Church is apostolic. Last week we celebrated the Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul. We heard the Gospel from St Matthew when St Peter confessed Jesus as ’the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ In reply our Lord said, ‘You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.’ He then gave Peter the power to forgive sins. He later extended this power to all the apostles. He renewed it when he breathed the Holy Spirit on them in the Upper Room after his resurrection. The Pope is the successor of St Peter the first Bishop of Rome in an unbroken chain. The bishops are the successors of the Apostles in preaching and teaching, in the power to ordain deacons, priests and other bishops, and as the ordinary ministers of Confirmation. We saw Bishop Nicholas exercise this ministry last month. As a priest, I can only minister Confirmation with explicit and special permission from Cardinal Vincent. Everything I do as a priest is rooted in what the Apostles taught us from their experience of Jesus Christ.

**Parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St Dominic, Homerton**

The Presbytery, Ballance Road, E9 5SS

homerton@rcdow.org.uk

 https://heartofmary.weebly.com/

 https://www.facebook.com/ourladye9/

https://twitter.com/E9Catholic

Tel: 020 8985 1495

**Parish Priest: Fr Patrick Allsop**

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**MASSES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday:**

**9.00 am** Carmelina De Souza RIP

**10.00 am** Terence Maughan RIP

**11.00 am** Anita and David Neave RIP

**1.00 pm Annie Maughan Birthday Mass**

**Monday: *Feria*** *Hos. 2:16 -18, 21-22; Matt. 9:18-26*

**9.30 am Eucharistic Service**

**Tuesday: *Feria*** *Hos. 84-7,11-13; Matt. 9.32-38*

**9.30 am** Marvin – Thanks

**Wednesday: *Feria*** *Hos. 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Matt. 10:1-7*

**9.30 am** Kathleen: Ints.

**Thursday: *Feria*** *Hos. 11:1-4, 8-9; Matt. 10:7-15*

**9.30 am** Veronica: Ints

**Friday: *Feria*** *Hosea 14: 2-10 Matthew 10: 16-23*

**9.30 am** Monica – Birthday

**Saturday: *Feria*** *Isaiah 6:1-8 Matthew 10: 24-33*

**9.30 am** Philip – Healing

**10.00 am Confessions**

**6.30 pm** People of the Parish

**PARISH NOTICES**

**YEAR’S MIND**

Of your charity, pray for the departed, among the recently departed John Joseph O’Connor, and among those whose anniversaries fall during this week: none listed: May they rest in peace.

**FINANCE**

Collections last Sunday were £943.18 . Thank you to all for your gifts to maintain the Church and parish.

**CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

One of the great strengths of the parish is our team of catechists who teach the faith to our young people. We are very lucky in those we have.

But we need more! Please think carefully about whether you could help with this ministry. Speak to Father Patrick or to Val Louis.

**REPAINTING THE CHURCH**

As you know, I hope to repaint the whole of the Church interiors this year ready for our 150th Birthday next year. The main Church was last painted after the arson attack in 2000. The Sacristry, tower and corridor have not been painted for a far longer period.

I have now received the necessary two estimates for this work. The Finance Committee have chosen one, which will cost us £43,488. This total includes VAT.

I must now seek approval for spending this money from the Trustees of the Diocese. This is because, in law, all the parishes with the central Curia form one charity. So the Cardinal and the other Trustees are responsible for overseeing our spending. They have set limits above which they need to approve spending.

I have sent our application in. I am confident that it will be approved. I hope the work will be carried out in the autumn.

Happily, the economical way the parish has run during the pandemic means that we have the money to pay for this in our account. I am very grateful to those who have raised or donated money towards the cost of redecoration. Please feel free to continue to contribute for this. The more we raise, the more other important works can we do.

For example, I am still chasing the diocesan surveyor to produce the plans for the new toilets in the Hall, which were promised in January. Now we have a regular booking in there I am anxious to replace the current unsatisfactory arrangement, and to install our first disabled access toilet. I need plans so we can get estimates for the work.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 – LOOKING TO LISBON**

World Youth Day 2023 will take place in Lisbon in the beginning of August 2023. The diocese is offering a limited number of places on this pilgrimage with a 50% discount to young people between the ages of 16-25.  Any 16 year olds will need to be finishing year 12 by next summer.  These young people will commit to a series of preparatory sessions from September 2022, to prepare for support roles during the pilgrimage, such as by acting as small group leaders. More details can be found at

<https://dowym.com/programmes/world-youth-day-leadership-training/> or by contacting Westminster Youth Ministry at youth@rcdow.org.uk. Please apply by 31 July 2022.