

# St Monica's Catholic Church

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Under the care of the Augustinians ([www.theaugustinians.org](http://www.theaugustinians.org)) in the Archdiocese of Westminster

Parish Priest: Fr Gabriel Hassan OSA; Prior: Fr Anthony Zabbey OSA; Bursar: Fr Jacob Choi OSA

Parish Administrator: Michelle Tchimou

Parish Safeguarding: Caroline Durack-Robinson; [hoxtonsg2@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoxtonsg2@rcdow.org.uk) & Oluyemi Fadoju; [hoxtonsg@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoxtonsg@rcdow.org.uk)

**Mass Times:** Saturday 6.30pm (Vigil) Sunday 9.00am, 11.00am & 6.30pm

Morning Prayer: Mon to Fri 9.10am followed by Mass: Mon to Fri 9.30am; Sat: 11am, Bank Holiday 11am

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturdays 5.00 – 6pm, and on request

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am to 3pm

*If you are new to the parish, you may like to register by filling in a Parish Registration Form at the back of the church and return it to the Parish office.*

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### Mass Intentions

w/c 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023

	Date	Mass Time	Intentions
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Maurice Ndubuisi - RIP
Sunday, Baptism of the Lord	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	John Duc -RIP Jacqui Curtin - Healing Fr Paul Graham - RIP People of the Parish Felicitas Macanas Lagula - RIP
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Bridie Connolly – ints
Tuesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Edward McCarthy - RIP
Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 6.30pm	Philomena Curtin - ints Fr Paul Graham - RIP (Month's mind)
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Nancy Dunne - ints
Friday	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Peter O'Connor - RIP
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Fr Paul Graham - RIP

## PARISH NOTICES

**Fr Paul Graham OSA** – The month's mind Mass in remembrance of Fr Paul is on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm. This is an opportunity to come together as a parish community to pray for the soul of Fr Paul. May his soul rest in peace with the Lord. Amen. Please join the parish community after Mass for food and drinks in the school hall.

**First Holy Communion course 2023** begins on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> January at 9.45am in the church. Parents and their children are required to attend this session.

**Confirmation course for teens** begins on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm in the church. Parents and candidates are required to attend this session.

**RCIA Course** – resumes on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm.

**Legion of Mary** – meets every Sunday after the 9am Mass in the back room of the church. New members are welcome.

**Prayer Group for young adults+** - every Wednesday, 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the basement of the priory. The Shalom Catholic Community invites you to grow in the faith and meet new people as you build your spiritual life with Jesus. We meet weekly in the basement room of the priory. Next meeting, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023. **Info:** 07432501250.

**Sunday collection** - The contactless machine (Digital collection plate) is available at the back of the church. You can also donate online through the Parish website – [www.stmonicaschurchhoxton.org](http://www.stmonicaschurchhoxton.org). Thank you for your kind donations to the parish.

**St Monica's Food Shop** – The parish is running a food shop every Sunday between 10am-2pm. Seniors and pensioners get priority. More information on the notice board. Please spread the word!

**Volunteers needed** – Are you interested in reading during Sunday Masses or joining our parish choir? Please speak to Fr Gabriel or email the parish office. We look forward to welcoming you!

**Holy Communion to the sick, housebound and hospital** – parishioners are encouraged to let Fr Gabriel know of family members or friends who need Holy Communion and prayer at home.

**Altar servers** – Registration is now opened and training begins on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 12noon in the church. Both old and new members are expected to attend. Parents can register their child/children in the parish office.

**Colombia Prayer group** meets every Thursday at 10am in the back room of the church. Meeting and prayers are in Spanish. New members are welcomed.

**The Ghanaian Association** meets every first Sunday of the month in the church. For more information, speak to Mr Sylvester 07904006800

**Thank you** to MalStella, Charity and Fatou for cleaning the church. If you want to be part of this group, please speak to Fr Gabriel or members of this group.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 56<sup>TH</sup>  
WORLD DAY OF PEACE, 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2023**

3. Three years later, the time is right to question, learn, grow and allow ourselves to be transformed as individuals and as communities; this is a privileged moment to prepare for “the day of the Lord”. I have already observed on a number of occasions that we never emerge the same from times of crisis: we emerge either better or worse. Today we are being asked: What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place? Certainly, after directly experiencing the fragility of our own lives and the world around us, we can say that the greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realization that we all need one another. That our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. And that none of us can be saved alone. Consequently, we urgently need to join together in seeking and promoting the universal values that can guide the growth of this human fraternity. We also learned that the trust we put in progress, technology and the effects of globalization was not only excessive, but turned into an individualistic and idolatrous intoxication, compromising the very promise of justice, harmony and peace that we so ardently sought. In our fast-paced world, the widespread problems of inequality, injustice, poverty and marginalization continue to fuel unrest and conflict, and generate violence and even wars.

The pandemic brought all this to the fore, yet it also had its positive effects. These include a chastened return to humility, a rethinking of certain consumeristic excesses, and a renewed sense of solidarity that has made us more sensitive to the suffering of others and more responsive to their needs. We can also think of the efforts, which in some cases proved truly heroic, made by all those people who worked tirelessly to help everyone emerge from the crisis and its turmoil as best they could.

This experience has made us all the more aware of the need for everyone, including peoples and nations, to restore the word “together” to a central place. For it is together, in fraternity and solidarity, that we build peace, ensure justice and emerge from the greatest disasters. Indeed, the most effective responses to the pandemic came from social groups, public and private institutions, and international organizations that put aside their particular interests and joined forces to meet the challenges. Only the peace that comes from a fraternal and disinterested love can help us overcome personal, societal and global crises.

4. Even so, at the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the Covid-19 pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity. We witnessed the onslaught of another scourge: another war, to some extent like that of Covid-19, but driven by culpable human decisions. The war in Ukraine is reaping innocent victims and spreading insecurity, not only among those directly affected, but in a widespread and indiscriminate way for everyone, also for those who, even thousands of kilometres away, suffer its collateral effects – we need but think of grain shortages and fuel prices.

Clearly, this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected. This war, together with all the other conflicts around the globe, represents a setback for the whole of humanity and not merely for the parties directly involved. While a vaccine has been found for Covid-19, suitable solutions have not yet been found for the war. Certainly, the virus of war is more difficult to overcome than the viruses that compromise our bodies, because it comes, not from outside of us, but from within the human heart corrupted by sin (cf. *Gospel of Mark* 7:17-23).

*To be continued next weekend.*