



THE PARISH OF SAINT PAUL DEPTFORD



'anglo-catholic, inclusive, committed to prayer & justice.'
<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/deptford-st-paul>

Rector & Parish Priest: Canon Paul Butler known as **Father Paul**
tel: 0208 6927449 email: stpaulsdeptford@btinternet.com

Welcome to S. Paul's today in church or on Zoom.
Please follow the directions of the Churchwardens & Welcomers.



Please turn off mobile phones.

No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography is permitted during or after the services, without express permission. Thank you for your co-operation. WCs (& baby changing facilities) downstairs in the crypt.



Do not attend if you have a cold or transmissible illness. Please let a Welcomer know if you require a **Gluten Free Host**. 'Love one another as I have loved you', says the Lord.



Churchwardens: Mr Andrew Taylor & Mr Ian Bhullar
Organist: Ms Linda Pan



THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 13th September 2026

**THE PARISH MASS
SUNG
10.30am**

Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Alun Ford
Chaplain to the Bishop of Southwark

Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne.
Hymns in NEH (green book)
Please join in with the Bold Type

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Stand

Entrance Antiphon

We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection; through him we are saved and set free.

Cf. Galatians 6: 14

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

The Processional Hymn: 79

The royal banners forward go (Tune: Gonfalon Royal)

The Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Introduction to the Mass

The celebrant welcomes the people and introduces the Mass.

Prayers of Penitence

Sisters and brothers, to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

The Confiteor

**I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;**

(And, striking their breast, they say:)

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

(Then they continue:)

**therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin,
all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord, our God. Amen.**

The celebrant pronounces the Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kyrie Eleison

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

The Gloria in Excelsis

**Gloria to God, Gloria to God, Gloria to God in the highest.
Gloria to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Gloria to God, Gloria to God, Gloria to God in the highest.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**Gloria to God, Gloria to God, Gloria to God in the highest.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
✠ in the glory of God the Father.
Gloria to God, Gloria to God, Gloria to God in the highest.**

The Collect

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit for the readings

First Reading from the Old Testament

A reading from the Book of Numbers (21: 4-9)

⁴ The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 22: 23-28

**R. / You are the Holy One, O God,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

²³ Praise the LORD, you that fear him;
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
²⁴ For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them;
but when they cry to him he hears them. **R. /**
²⁵ My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:
"May your heart live for ever!" **R. /**
²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations bow before him.
²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD;
he rules over the nations. **R. /**

Second Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the letter of S. Paul to the Philippians (2: 6-11)

⁶ Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being

found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Stand & turn to face the Gospel

Gospel Acclamation and Reading

♪ **Alleluia!** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your cross you have redeemed the world. **Alleluia!** ♪
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

✠ A reading from the ✠ Holy Gospel according to ✠ John (3: 13-17)
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: ¹³ 'No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

Stand

Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (Genuflect) was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made human. (Rise)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

✠ and the life of the age to come. Amen.

Remain standing

Prayers of Intercession

Celebrant

Let us pray to the Father through his Son, who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

The Response to, By the Saviour's cross and passion, is

Lord, save us and help us.

Intercessor 1

Bless those who lead the Church and its worship, especially, Sarah our archbishop, Rosemarie, acting-bishop of Southwark, and all involved in appointing the next bishop of Southwark;

Alastair, bishop of Woolwich, Fr Paul, our parish priest;

Fr Alun and all bishop's chaplains.

In the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments, draw your people close to you. By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Intercessor 2

Give your grace to those who preach your word to the nations. Help us to witness to the faith we have received by our words and in our deeds, and daily conform us more and more to Christ, that we may glory in his cross. By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Intercessor 3

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so much that you sent your Son to suffer and to die. Strengthen those who work to share the reconciliation won at such a cost upon the cross.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Intercessor 4

For all who live, work and play in the Deptford community, and for every city, town and village. By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Intercessor 5

For those who travel by land, air, water or through outer space.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Intercessor 6

For all workers, especially those whose work is dangerous, for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health and salvation, By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Celebrant leads the following prayers:

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice.

[...names],

Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying, to find strength in the companionship of Jesus, and in his passion to know their salvation.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in your friendship.

We pray for those who have died recently, *especially...*

and those whose anniversaries fall at this time *especially...*

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,

and let light perpetual shine upon them.

✠ May they rest in peace **and rise in glory. Amen.**

The celebrant invites us to offer our personal intentions, and then leads us in asking for the Prayers of our Lady & the Saints.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the BVM we pray: **Hail Mary.**

S. Joseph of Nazareth, **Pray for us.** S. Peter, Prince of the Apostles

S. Paul the Apostle, our Patron, S. Augustine and S. Monica

S. Benedict and S. Scholastica, S. Francis and S. Clare of Assisi

S. Bonaventure and S. Thomas Aquinas

S. Teresa of Ávila and S. John of the Cross

S. John Chrysostom, S. Cornelius and S. Cyprian, S. Hildegard of Bingen

S. Robert Bellarmine, S. Joseph of Cupertino

S. Januarius, S. Theodore of Tarsus, All you angels and saints.

Merciful God **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Remain standing

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Altar is prepared

The Offertory Hymn: 439

Praise to the Holiest in the height (Tune: Gerontius)

Remain standing

Orate Fratres

Pray my sisters and brothers, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, O Lord, which on the altar of the Cross

cancelled the offence of the whole world,

cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Here follows the Preface in which the celebrant praises God for his mighty acts, and all respond:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

✠ **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant recalls the Last Supper, and this acclamation is used:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly:
AMEN.

¶ THE COMMUNION RITE

Remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

The celebrant adds:

*Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day.
In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all distress
as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.

Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We share the peace with those immediately around us,
a sign that expresses peace, communion, and love.*

Agnus Dei

*during which the celebrant takes the host and breaks it over the paten,
placing a small piece in the chalice.*

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

When I am lifted up from the earth,

I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

S. John 12: 32

Please follow the directions of the sidespeople.

The Body / Blood of Christ.

The communicant replies

Amen.

and then receives.

*** At home, make an Act of Spiritual Communion ***

*As you imagine yourself receiving the Bread of Heaven, be still and rest in the love
of God. Thank Him for entering beneath the roof of your soul.*

O Sacred Feast! Wherein Christ is received,
his Passion is remembered, our souls are filled with grace
and the pledge of eternal glory is received.

O Sacrum Convivium, 13th century (attributed to S. Thomas Aquinas)

After receiving Holy Communion read & pray quietly in thanksgiving.

THE JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

THE TRISAGION (Thrice Holy)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Have mercy on us. (x3)

The Communion Hymn: 95

When I survey the wondrous Cross (Tune: Rockingham)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Pastor, Theologian, Martyr, anti-fascist (1906 - 9 April 1945)

The Cost of Discipleship

(1937, English ed. 1949, rev. 1959, translated by R.H. Fuller)

Chapter I: Costly Grace

"Cheap Grace" is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting to-day for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap? ... Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly Grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him. Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God."

"Christians and Heathens"

People go to God when they're in need,
plead for help, pray for blessings and bread,
for rescue from their sickness, guilt, and death.
So do they all, all of them, Christians and heathens.

People go to God when God's in need,
find God poor, reviled, without shelter or bread,
see God devoured by sin, weakness, and death.
Christians stand by God in God's own pain.

God goes to all people in their need,
fills body and soul with God's own bread,
goes for Christians and heathens to Calvary's death
and forgives them both.

July 8, 1944, Tegel Prison.

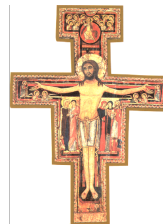
Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Volume 8,

Letters and Papers from Prison. pp. 460-1 (Fortress Press, 2010)

Two prayers of S. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Before the Crucifix of San Damiano.

Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart.
Give me true faith,
certain hope
and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord,
that I may carry out
Your holy and true command. **Amen.**



Prayer on entering a church.

We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ,
in all Your churches
throughout all the world;
and we bless You because,
by Your holy cross,
You have redeemed the world.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Stand

Postcommunion Prayer

Faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes: give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope, who reigns as Lord, now and for ever. **Amen.**



NOTICES & ANY BANNs OF MARRIAGE

Stand

The Blessing

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing.

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
And the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal



The Recessional Hymn: 134

The head that once was crowned with thorns (Tune: St Magnus)

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord brought glad tidings to Mary;
And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to thy Word. Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...

Pray for us O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his Cross and Passion we may be brought unto the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠✠✠✠

Organ Voluntary

✠✠✠✠

∞ PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET AWAY WITH YOU
& MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE CRYPT FOR REFRESHMENTS. ∞

✠✠✠✠

THE COLLECTION OF MONEY

is taken for the Mission & Ministry of the Church.

Please see the **Financial Information** Section in the **Notices** on the back page of this Mass Sheet for further information about giving to S. Paul's. **Contactless payment and Yellow envelopes are provided for the gifts of visitors.** Please fill in the front of the envelope or enter the details on the machine so that we can claim Gift Aid on your offering.

Regular members of S. Paul's should be giving by Direct Debit, or be part of the parish envelope scheme. Please see the Churchwardens or Hon. Treasurer for further details.

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THE KALENDAR

HOLY CROSS / 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

24th WEEK of ORDINARY TIME

13th to 19th SEPTEMBER 2026

MASS & Other Service Times in church

SUN, 13th, MP 9am, **PARISH MASS 10.30am**, EP 5pm

No LOW MASSES this week.

Normal schedule returns from 27th September

WEDS, 16th, S. Cornelius and S. Cyprian

Evening Prayer at 6.30pm

SAT, 19th, S. Januarius, S. Theodore

Morning Prayer at 10.00am

Evening Prayer at 6.00pm

20th SEPTEMBER 2026

16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

MORNING PRAYER at 9.00am

PARISH MASS SUNG at 10.30am

Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Alun Ford, Chaplain to the Bishop of Southwark

EVENING PRAYER at 5pm

THE NOTICES

Please let Fr Paul know if you are interested in
HOLY BAPTISM &/or HOLY CONFIRMATION

Ω S. PAUL'S OMEGA STUDY GROUP Ω

Next session to be arranged. All welcome.

Thursdays, 8.30-10pm on Zoom.

Info & login details on Parish website & the Rector's Weekly Email.

Ideas for the next book and/or film appreciated!

CHURCH CLEANING every Saturday after Mass until 12.30pm.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

'The Lord loves a cheerful giver.'

The Church, based upon biblical teaching, asks every Christian to give a Tithe, 10% of their time, talents & money to God's work, and recommends that members contribute 5% of their income to their church.

E.g. If you earn:

£5000 a year or, £96 a week = Give £5 a week to S. Paul's.

£10000 a year, £192 a week = £10 a week. £20000 a year, £385 a week = £20 a week.

£25000 a year, £480 a week = £25 a week. £30000 a year, £577 a week = £30 a week.

Over the year our costs run to almost £1,000 a week. We receive no external subsidies, and all monies must be raised from the parishioners, through lettings, or voluntary donations. **Thank you** for all financial contributions which help to pay for: - the: Utility bills of the church, (gas, electricity, water) - Costs of maintaining the worship, (e.g. candles, wine, wafers, incense) - Maintenance, cleaning, & repair of our Grade I Listed church, (substantial costs) - Office costs (e.g. postage, printing, paper) - Monthly Diocesan Parish Share to the Diocese, (80p out of every £1 we give to the Diocese goes towards clergy stipends).

We ask everyone, who can, to please give via Direct Debit, Standing Order, or, via the Weekly Envelope Scheme.

GIVING VIA DIRECT DEBIT: Please see the **PARISH GIVING SCHEME**

information leaflet and Direct Debit Form, on the Parish Website

ONLINE GIVING: Our **Give A Little** page is available on our website, via the **Donate** button, or here: <https://bit.ly/spd-giving>

✠ FURTHER INFORMATION & UPDATES ✠

On the **Parish Website, Church Noticeboard** (churchyard forecourt) & **Subscribe to the Rector's Weekly Email**

directly from the link on the website or by sending an email to:

stpaulsdeptford@btinternet.com

sent every Friday via MailChimp (GDPR compliant)