

Newsletter of the Commission for promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion

Archdiocese of Southwark, London



Welcome

My dear brothers and sisters, welcome to our first Newsletter of the Commission for promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion in the Archdiocese of Southwark. I am delighted to share this edition with you, and warmly invite you to be a part of this bi-monthly newsletter. You will find in it the work of our commission, upcoming events you can be a part of and how together, in our own different ways, we are all making a difference in the lives of many and for the glory of a God who includes everyone. We would like to hear from you. Send us your feedback and contributions. Most of all: Keep our work in your thoughts and prayers. Thanks again for all your support.

Canon Victor

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WHAT WE DO

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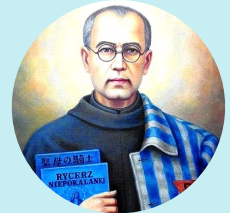
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JOIN US



**Saint
Josephine
Bakhita**



**Saint
Maximilian
Kolbe**



**Saint Mariam
Thresia
Chiramel
Mankidiyan**

Our Story so far ...

In October 2020, Archbishop John Wilson appointed Canon Victor Darlington as the Episcopal Vicar for the newly created Commission of the Archdiocese of Southwark, called: The Commission for promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion. The Committee held its first meeting on Friday 30th October 2020 tasked with the mandate of fostering diversity and promoting oneness in Christ of all peoples from different backgrounds in our Archdiocese.

In January 2021, the Commission was formally inaugurated. Since then, it has created the awareness that “there is no place for racism in the Archdiocese of Southwark, in our schools and in our parishes.” Our task has been to encourage everyone to be a part of this endeavour. So far, we have collaborated with the Education Commission to address issues of racism within our schools; promoted opportunities for listening to the experiences of minority ethnic groups; learnt and gained an understanding of their perspectives on diversity and inclusion; created programmes and activities that reduced fear of ‘difference’ and celebrated the gift and beauty of diversity in our oneness in Christ. We have also sent letters and emails to all parishes/institutions and groups in the Archdiocese reminding them of the work of the Commission and inviting them to take part in a survey/questionnaire aimed at finding out the effect of racism in the church in view of tackling the problem.

In addition, Canon Victor has delivered talks on racism to the following groups:

- *Black lives Matters in the context of a Catholic School – Birmingham August 2020;*
- *Students/faculty members of the department of Theology/Religion of Durham University – 8th March 2021;*



- *Catholic Headteachers conference – 18th March 2021;*
- *Staff and Senior Leadership Team of Bishop Thomas Grant School – 21st April 2021;*
- *Staff, Senior Leadership Team and Sixth form students of St Philomena Girls school – 29th April 2021;*
- *Governors of Catholic schools within the Archdiocese – 19th June 2021;*
- *Corpus Christ parish, Brixton Hill – 16th October 2021;*
- *Zoom presentation on the 25th November 2021 organised by the Westminster Education Commission;*
- *Christ the King & Sixth form College - 8th February 2022;*
- *St Simon Stock School in Maidstone, Kent - 1st April 2022.*

The Hallmark of all these was the celebration of Racial Justice Sunday on 13th February 2022 at St George's Cathedral by Archbishop John Wilson. The day was a joyful celebration that brought together the catholic schools, parishes and ethnic chaplaincies of our Archdiocese under the theme: One in Christ.

ABOUT SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Saint Josephine Bakhita is the first black woman to be canonised as a saint in the modern era. Her Feast Day is the 8th of February, the date of her death in 1947. Saint Josephine was sold as a slave from Sudan to Italy where she lived for 45 years. She became a Sudanese-Italian Canossian Religious sister. She is the Patron Saint of Sudan, South Sudan and Human Trafficking Survivors. Saint Pope John Paul II Beatified her on 17th May 1992 and Canonised her on 1st October 2000.

Quote: I have given everything to my Master: He will take care of me... The best thing for us is not what we consider best, but what the Lord wants of us!



Parish engagements:

The following parishes have received a visit highlighting the work of the commission for promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion:

- Our Lady of Lourdes, Lee, 18/09/2022;
- St Edmund of Canterbury, Beckenham, 02/10/2022;
- St Stephen's, Welling, 09/10/2022;
- St Anthony's Parish Anerley, 16/10/2022;
- St Philip Neri, Sydenham, 23/10/2022;
- Church of the Resurrection, Sydenham, 23/10/2022;
- St Thomas the Apostle, Nunhead, 30/10/2022;
- Our Lady of Assumption, Deptford, 06/11/2022;
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Brixton, 13/11/2022;
- Christ Church, Eltham, 20/11/2022;
- St Joseph's, Bromley, 15/01/2023.

Parish Hubs for the Commission:

Canon Victor invites all Parishes to set up Parish Hubs for the Commission. So far, three parishes have begun the process of setting up a Parish Racial and Cultural Inclusion Commission Hub that would explore, affirm and celebrate diversity in our parish communities. They are:

Southwest:

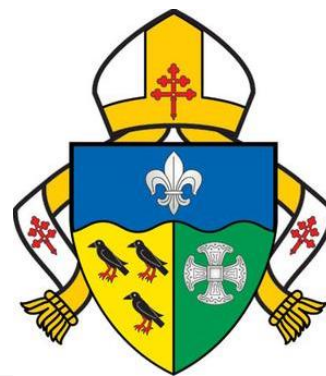
Saints Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, Carshalton
Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Uche

Southeast:

Saints Simon and Jude, Catholic Church, Streatham Hill
Parish Priest: Fr Valentine Erhahon

Kent:

Saint Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
Parish Priest: Fr Peter Ehinmiro



Coming up ...

You are invited to join us
to celebrate our
Archdiocesan Racial Justice Sunday

**On Sunday 5th February 2023
at 10am**

St George's Cathedral, Southwark
Address: Cathedral House,
Westminster Bridge Rd, London
SE1 7HY

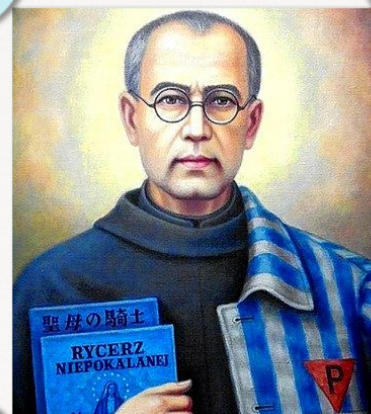
Celebrant:

Archbishop John Wilson

ABOUT SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

Saint Maximilian Kolbe is the patron saint of amateur radio operators, drug addicts, political prisoners, families, journalists and prisoners. Saint John Paul II declared him the patron of our difficult century and a martyr of charity. He was canonised on 10th October 1982.

Saint Maximilian was a Polish Catholic Priest who volunteered to die in place of Franciszek Gajowniczek in Auschwitz death camp. In July 1941, some prisoners escaped the camp. To deter other prisoners, 10 prisoners were picked for death. To save Franciszek who had a wife and children, Saint Maximilian stepped in to take his place instead. He was murdered on 15th August 1941 and his remains were cremated on 15th August, the feast of the Assumption of Mary.



The Team:

Episcopal Vicar for the Commission:

- Canon Victor Darlington

Administrative Assistant:

- Hipo Eze

Sub Committees:

RoadMap for Parishes Racial Justice and Cultural Inclusion Commission Hubs:

- Deacon Alfred Banya (Coordinator)
- Hipo Eze
- John Siraut

Events Planners: (Racial Justice Sunday, Formation Day, etc)

- Jude Onye (Coordinator)
- Nana Anto-Awuakye
- Robert Emejuru
- Delia Jameson

Chaplaincy Engagements:

- Jenifer Da Silva (Coordinator)
- Fr Patrick D'Souza
- Fr Fernandes Feroz
- Marlon Andino

Newsletter Editor:

- Fr Valentine Erhahon



Contact us:

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SAINT MARIAM THRESIA CHIRAMEL MANKIDIYAN

Saint Mariam Thresia Chiramel Mankidiyan was born on 29th April 1876 and died on 8 June 1926. Pope John Paul II beatified her on 9th April 2000 and Pope Francis canonised her a Saint on 13 October 2019. She was a Syro-Malabar nun and the founder of the Congregation of the Holy Family. She was born in Puthenchira, Kerala, India. She received the Stigmata. Her life of service and legacies endures to this day. There is a shrine of Saint Mariam in Puthenchira, India. Her feast day is the 8th of June. She is venerated in the Syro-Malabar, Syro-Malankara and the Latin rites of the Catholic Church.

