

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP
Email stedmundsparish@btconnect.com
Website: www.saintedmunds.net
Parish Office 020 8650 0970 
Monday to Friday 9 - 1pm

29 April 2018 Fifth Sunday of Easter



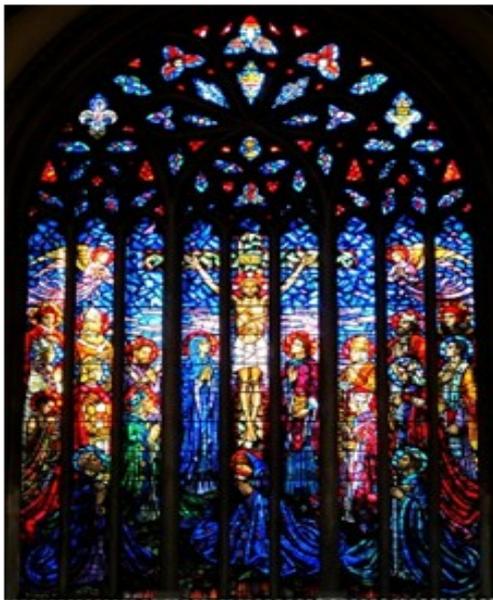
Fr. Steve Wymer - Parish Priest 020 8650 3390 - frswymer@gmail.com
Fr. Ashley Beck - 020 8650 4117/ 020 7998 5949 -
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Today's second collection is for the upkeep of St George's Cathedral, Southwark

ST GEORGE AND OUR CATHEDRAL

TODAY we have a second collection for our Metropolitan cathedral (that is, a cathedral which is the seat of an archbishop) in Southwark, dedicated to St George, the centre of Christian life in south London and Kent. The modern stained glass east window is shown here. We have it on this Sunday because it is the Sunday after 23 April, St George's day. Our cathedral, one of the oldest Catholic churches in London (though as the church was almost completely destroyed by a bomb during the war, in April 1941, little remains of the original building) is a symbol of the life of the diocese, centred on the ministry of our archbishop whom we see as the local successor of the apostles. As a church and a London landmark it is rather neglected, but today is a day not only to give generously for its upkeep but to reflect on what the place means. It is an important symbolic link with the whole history of the Church in South London - it is significant that our cathedral is not set in an idyllic Trollopian 'close' but in what has always been one of the poorest parts of London. The original building dates from 1793, when the penal times were only gradually coming to an end; our mother church is an important link with Catholic history in south London. A cathedral is a physical expression of the unity of the Church around the bishop, its local pastor. So in our cathedral behind the main altar is the archbishop's chair: not simply something he sits on, but a sign of his teaching ministry, decorated with his coat of arms. The Church teaches that the pope and the bishops in union with him, including our own archbishop, teach us with authority about God and how we should live in the world. For Catholics, cathedrals are particularly important because they help us look beyond ourselves and our own parish to the wider community of the diocese, centred on the bishop and his cathedral. Please give generously in the second collection today.



The cathedral collection also prompts us to reflect on the saint to whom the church is dedicated, St George. So often patron saints are abused - instead of real devotion to them based on Christian teaching, they often become rather tawdry symbols of insecure identity (the same would be true, if we're honest, about St Patrick). The Church asks us to reflect on the real *Christian* meaning of patron saints whom she chooses for lands or groups: St George's day is utterly meaningless except in the context of Christian faith, especially since we know (one of the few things

we do know) that he was martyred for being a Christian. He lived and was martyred in the early Church, in Palestine, and it is there that devotion to him is still strongest; and it was there that the medieval crusaders encountered devotion to him and appropriated him. He remains a very important saint in the calendar of the Eastern churches - Greece, Russia and so on - and the country of Georgia in the Caucasus is named after him. Incidentally the country in the world where his feast day is a public holiday is the Vatican City State: this is because it is the custom for the baptismal name day of the pope to be a holiday, and the pope's baptismal name is Jorge, the Spanish form of the name George.

The fact that St George lived and died in Palestine and had no real connection in his lifetime with England should make us particularly resistant to ways in which his feast day is often hijacked by popular nationalism and xenophobia. The history of devotion to St George actually helps us realise that we are part of the Church of all nations, breaking down the sinful barriers which so often pit peoples against peoples. In many ways we have to reclaim him. The feast is actually also a sign of distinctively Catholic identity, even though many non-Catholic churches (such as St George's Anglican Church here in Beckenham) are dedicated to him. This is because at the Reformation the feast day was more or less abolished in England: Archbishop Cranmer, responsible for the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer* in the mid-16th century) excised from the calendar of important feast days (that is, days which had their own prayers and readings) those of any saints who were not to be found in the Bible. So St George's day ceased to be observed as a liturgical feast for most people in England. Not however for the persecuted Catholic minority, for whom St George's day was for many years a holy day of obligation, a defiant expression of genuine Englishness among those who were seen by most people to be rather foreign. It is essential that we 'get St George right' if we're to venerate him properly as England's patron and protector.

PARISH NEWS

Fr James Mallon prays before he reads the Gospel at Mass that he will approach the homily with fear and trembling, but also that God will use him in his preaching. His prayer goes something like this:

“Lord, help me not to be a total idiot. Use me. Come, Holy Spirit. Let me get out of your way. Let my only motive be your glory and the building up of your Kingdom”.

It may not be the way some of us would express our prayers but you have to admit it's humble, honest and to the point, and that's how prayer should be.

Fr Steve



Fr Steve has decided that from now on the front doors to the church will be left open at all times whilst the church is unlocked. Using the side door as we have is not welcoming to visitors and we are aware that some simply don't know it is there and on occasion fail to find their way into the church. Please will everyone assist in this wish by not closing the door at the front.

'Rosary on the Coast encourages us all to join in with others in deep meditation on the mysteries of the Incarnation, as seen through the eyes of Our Blessed Lady, reminding us to look, as she does, with eyes of love on all creation in its diversity and richness, remembering that we are all equally held in Our Father's love. All the stages of life from birth to death are gifts of his Grace, to be cherished and enjoyed. O holy Mother of God pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.'



A message from the Archbishop



PRAYER FOR PEACE

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Daily Prayer for Peace

Let us pray, through the intercession of Mary Queen of Peace, for peace on earth and an end to violence and terrorism in our world, for a new spirit of trust and collaboration between nations, for the gift of wisdom for our politicians and leaders, and especially for the resolution of long-standing conflicts in Syria, Gaza and Ukraine, and in other countries around the world.

FATIMA PRAYER GROUP

Next Saturday, 5 May at 5.00pm in church

ST EDMUND'S CATECHISM GROUP SUMMER SCHEDULE

Saturday May 12 - All groups, St Mary's School 0930-1200

Sr Pat will speak with the First Communion parents at 1130

Friday May 18 - St Edmund's Church 1645-1830

First Communion rehearsal. *First Communion classes only*

Friday June 8 - St Edmund's Church 1700-1815

First Communion rehearsal. *First Communion classes only*

Saturday June 9 - St Edmund's Church 1000

First Communion Mass, followed by reception in the Hall.

First Communion classes only

Saturday June 30th - St Edmund's Church, 1000

End-of-Year Mass, followed by reception in the Hall.

All Groups

LONDON MARATHON

Jo Harcombe our parishioner who was running to raise funds for the Stroke association finished in 4 hours 30 mins. An amazing time considering the temperature was in the mid 20s throughout. If you would like to add to the money she raised please put it through the office door or go to;
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joharcombe>



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 25 May

11.00 am Mass

As part of St Mary's School celebrations for their 50th anniversary, parents and friends are invited to attend a special mass to be followed by a picnic lunch on the field.

Please see the poster in the porch for more details.



ROSARY ON THE COAST - 29 April 2018

The aim of this prayer initiative is to seek the intercession of our Blessed Lady by reciting the Rosary for a renewal of faith and respect for human life, and for peace in our country.



Please see the notice board for more information and details of the various locations or visit the website
www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk

MASSES AT BISHOP CHALLONER SCHOOL

The masses at the school on 2 and 9 May have been cancelled.

LOST PROPERTY

Items left in the church are normally handed in at the sacristy. There is a bag full of items. If you might have mislaid your gloves, scarf, spectacles or sunglasses please would you ask to look in lost property **after** mass has finished.

CHURCH SHOP

The time when many of our young people will be celebrating their First Holy Communion is drawing closer. Remember to visit our church shop to buy cards, bibles, prayer books, rosaries, candles and other religious gifts. Don't leave it to the last moment and if you cannot see what you want, please ask at the shop.

NOW ALSO OPEN SATURDAYS 10.30am to 2.00pm



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

In the Southwark Diocese it is necessary for couples wanting to marry to contact their priest six months ahead of their intended wedding date. This is to allow sufficient time for them to attend the obligatory Marriage Preparation Course and also for the clergy to complete the necessary paperwork. Our priests would prefer to be given a year to complete the paperwork and suggest that couples do not set a date for their wedding until they have spoken to a priest.

Once you have decided to get married please email the Parish Office with your names and address and a preliminary marriage application form will be sent to you plus an enrolment form for the Marriage Preparation Course.

If you intend to get married at a church other than St Edmund's our clergy are still responsible for all the paperwork. As a growing number of our parishioners were born outside the UK we will need to obtain documentation from their previous parishes. This can take some time. There is also extra work to be completed for those who are having their ceremony abroad or for those who have had a previous marriage. So, in short, as soon as you decide to get married, please start the ball rolling by contacting the Parish Office.



Would Michael and Ita who want to attend Archbishop Peter's mass in celebration of the sacrament of marriage please leave their address at the parish office.

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN (20s and 30s)

Theme: Discerning God's Call in my life

Dates: 25-27 May 2018

Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the sisters of the order of the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life.

It is an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters!

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj

at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our

website www.fcjsisters.org

MIGRANTS MASS 2018

7 May, St George's Cathedral

Parishioners from Southwark, Westminster and Brentwood parishes will be celebrating migrants' contribution to London's Catholic community in a special Mass in our cathedral.

Singers and experienced instrumentalists are encouraged to join. Please see the poster in the porch.

ST EDMUND'S WALKING GROUP

Monday 30 April - Beckenham Place Park.

Meet at Mansion at 11am. Gentle walk suitable for all. Just turn up. Margaret will have car outside St. Edmund's church at 10.45am if anyone requires transportation.



Saturday 12 May

Meet at Beckenham Junction tram stop at 9.30am.

Long, hilly, muddy walk for experienced walkers.

Boots and packed lunch required.

Margaret 0208 650 2175 or 07880 793175

BOOK APPRECIATION GROUP

Tuesday 1 May in no 11 after 10.00am Mass

Six people met last month and recommended: I Wanted Trousers or in Italian 'Volevo I Pantaloni' by Lara Cardella (not sure there is an English translation, This Is Going To Hurt by Adam Kaye (about illness, curing and the NHS), No Place to Hide by Glen Greenwald, a non-fiction book about Edward Snowden, the NSA and the Surveillance State. Do come along and talk about a book you have enjoyed.

Mavis Alagar

MARCH FOR LIFE

Saturday 5 May.

Family-friendly, life-fest starts at 9.30am at

De Vere Connaught Rooms,

61-65, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5DA.

Children Zone, music, workshops, Confessions, stalls, and much more.

1.00pm march to Parliament Square for speakers, including Clare McCullough of the GoodCounsel Network.com. The day ends at 4.15pm.

See www.marchforlife.co.uk for more details.

MASSES AND SERVICES APRIL 29 - May 6

Sunday 29 April

8.00 am Church
9.30 am Church
11.00 am Church
5.30 pm Church
7.00 pm Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Cathy McNamara RIP
Alice Gino and Secondina Rabbini RIP
Ints of John and Kathleen Sylvester
Patrick Curley RIP
For the people

Monday 30 April

8.15 am Church
10.00 am Church
7.30 pm Salesians

Feria (St Pius V, Pope)

No Mass today
Gaynor Mullane RIP
Adoration

Tuesday 1 May

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church

Feria (St Joseph the Worker)

Benefactors & promoters of the Claver Sisters
Bridie & Joe Curran

Wednesday 2 May

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
7.30 pm Church

St Athanasius, Bishop

Rev Jesue Pooley
The Forgotten Holy Souls
Anthony Leonard RIP

Thursday 3 May

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
8.00 pm Claver

Saints Philip and James, Apostles

Manolino & Henneveld families
George Mariathas RIP
Adoration & Benediction

Friday 4 May

8.15 am Claver
9.10 am St Mary's
10.00 am Church

The English Martyrs

Michael Ekong - in thanksgiving
Private Intention
Handmaids of the Sacred Heart

Adoration and Benediction

Saturday 5 May

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
6.00 pm Church

Feria (Our Lady)

No Mass today
Felix De Souza RIP
Bessie Boudville RIP

Reconciliation from 10.30 - 11 am and 5 - 5.55pm

Sunday 6 May

8.00 am Church
9.30 am Church
11.00 am Church
5.30 pm Church
7.00 pm Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prem Ward RIP
Ike & Ok Okezie RIP, Mary & Stephen
Anyim RIP, Jenny Ibe RIP
Richard Graves RIP
Tommy McCabe RIP
For the people



Readings for Sunday 6 May

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B) Psalter Week 2

Acts 10: 25-26
Psalm 97
1 John 4: 7-10
John 15:9-17

DIARY DATES

APRIL

Meditation every Monday in no11 from 5.30-6.15pm
Sunday 29 - Rosary on the Coast

MAY

Meditation every Monday in no11 from 5.30-6.15pm
Tuesday 1 - 3.30pm CWL meeting in no11
Wednesday 2 - 10.30-12 noon Bereavement Open Door no11
Saturday 5 - 5pm - Fatima Prayer Group - church
Tuesday 8 - Requiem of Jan Bula 11am
Saturday 12 - SVP Coffee & Cake morning
Monday 14 - Law Surgery no 11 7.00pm

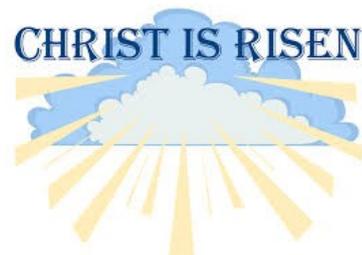
JUNE

Saturday 30 - Parish pilgrimage to Walsingham

JULY

Saturday 14 - Claver Sisters' Garden Party

The collection last weekend raised £2130.33 plus
£1323.28 donated electronically.
The collection for Ecclesiastical Education raised £1186.12
Thank you so much for your continued generosity.



We pray for those who have died recently: Jan Bula, Aidan Smith, Marie Keene, Albert Slater, Karen McGee, William Fox and Mary (Maureen) Dickson,

Those whose anniversaries are this week: Fr Anthony Porter, Cathy MacNamara, Peg Fleming, Kieran Fuller, Marie-Therese Jameson, Winifred Kourkgy, Nancy Galea, Dani Candasamy, Carol Clemens, Christopher McNamara, Maureen Hodgson, Roland Doyle-Davidson, Stephen Barry, Marie Manolino.

We pray for the sick: Peter Appleyard, Baby Valentina Attard, Mary Atsu, James Bekoe, Kim Benardis, Roy Brocklehurst, Christopher Browne, Edith Campos, Vienna-Marie Carpenter, Paul James Claridge, Tony Cox, Ann Couper-Johnson, Christine Curl, Giacomo Dillon, Kate Dillon, John Dillon, Rita Dixon, Elizabeth, David Edwards, Ann Elmer, Margaret Fennessy, Umberto Ferrando, Luigi Ferrara, Suzette Fox, Barry Gardiner, Baby Megan May Gavey, Isabelle Ghawi, Philomena Guard, Hans Halpin, Eileen Hayes, Pat Hibberd, Norman Holland, Frank Holmes, Daphne Hoyles, Dave Hustwayte, Monica Hyland, Kathy Jobson, Alabooso Joe-Jim, Victoria Jovanov, Zara Kadi, Fr Peter Kelly, Keith Kench, Richard Kirin, Grace Knight, Peggy Lake, Noah Langan, Anita Leslau, Sarah Lister, Mim Lodge, Jo McCarthy, Eamonn McGeeham, Kathleen McGeehan, Dominic McGrath, Jim McGrath, Natalie McGrath, Mickey McGuigan, Paul McQuinny and family, Patrick Metters, Philip Mifsud, Halina Mikulko, Eddie Mitchell, Dominic Nash, Sean O'Connor, Valerie Parr, Leonard Pope, John Quaife, Kieran Quinn, Baby Isaac Ratinckx, Louise Ridge, Gabriella Rolls, Sandra Sekulic, Marie-Therese Sinon, Mike & Eileen Slemen, Mary Smith, Rebecca Strong, Jo Subieta, Eleni Symeou, John Sylvester, Sarah Thornton, Barry Thorp, Toma Toma, Katie Toone, Jeanne Tadier, Barbara Tucker, Shirley Turner, Hilary Walker, Jimmy Walters, Louise Walters, Patricia Weal, Terry Weal, Von Westgarth, Emma Winch, Freda Wukolz, George Wukolz and Maureen Young.

(Please advise the Office when names can be removed)