

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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19 June 2022

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[salesiansisters.co.uk](mailto:salesiansisters.co.uk)

25 Village Way, BR3 3NA

020 8650 6313

### Missionary Sisters of

#### St. Peter Claver

89 Shortlands Road, BR2 0JL

020 8313 3915

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## THE CHURCH AS AN OPERA HOUSE



One of the great things about BBC Radio 3 is the relaying of operas on Saturday evenings from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York (where of course it's the afternoon). In one of the intervals last Saturday of *The Rake's Progress*, someone from the management of the house explained their post-lockdown strategy: not to cut back their operations or go back to 'safe' and popular pre-covid productions of well-known operas, but to be bold and put on new productions of contemporary operas (such as *Akhnaten* by Philip Glass). I don't know how successful this has been, and of course the 'Met' is not short of money, but it seemed to me to offer food for thought in terms of the mission of the Church post-Covid (if we are post-Covid).

If numbers or income decline it's a natural temptation to cut back activities, to reduce what a community does. Sometimes this can be right for a church, or unavoidable, but if you look at the history of the Church it doesn't really make sense. The best things have been achieved, with the grace of God, when people have been bold and innovative. Look at the beginnings of the great religious orders: again and again men and women of vision responded to crises not by cutting back but by expanding and starting something new. Or look at the sudden and unexpected decision by Pope St John XXIII, shortly after his election (in the year when two of your priests were born) to call the Second Vatican Council, which has renewed the life of the Catholic Church so much; closer to home, consider the Family Mass in the hall on Sunday mornings here. This started out of necessity as an 'overflow' when numbers in the church were restricted - one year on the Mass is an essential part of parish life and a real point of growth. Of course, sometimes innovations

don't work; but what is important for all of us is to have a bold and imaginative state of mind.

Someone who sees this clearly is Pope Francis, always encouraging us to be adventurous in our thinking and generous in our love for God and for other people. Another example of what boldness can be like: Father Steve last month wrote about the shrine at Medjugorije, and in particular of how the place, like many such shrines, is alive with the sacramental and spiritual life of the Church: hundreds of people at Mass and Exposition, and long queues for confession all day, every day. You might think, 'Well, that's a shrine, a holy place where Our Lady appeared, what do you expect? It's not like an ordinary church.' But the Holy Father has pointed out that the shrine 'model' can be good for all our communities - it doesn't have to be in a holy or special place. In some Latin American cities there are urban 'shrines', and as cardinal in Argentina and as pope he has commended these as a model. Not only are the sacraments celebrated constantly, and with large numbers of people - the communities provide counselling and welfare services, together with refreshments and meals for those in need. This is practical evangelisation and rooted in Catholic teaching, particularly the concept of the 'preferential option for the poor.' Some of these possibilities should form part of the mission of the Church in this country as we seek to rebuild life after the pandemic, as we try to respond to people's needs amid growing poverty and deprivation in this country.

This all needs boldness and an imaginative frame of mind. For any community such a vision also needs many people to share responsibility and show commitment: this is why the synodal pathway which the Holy Father launched in the autumn is so important. Only if we all realise the part we have to play in the life of the Church, only if we find new ways of being the Church by engaging with one another in dialogue and mutual respect, can we make a real difference. We certainly have a long way to go: we have found, as restrictions have been lifted, how difficult it is at the moment to find volunteers for many essential tasks in the parish. Some of the boldness we need to have will take some time to find; but we need to get the vision right, like the New York opera house.

Fr Ashley Beck

### ORDINATION OF JOSEPH GULLIFORD

Many of you will remember Joseph who came to St Edmunds for a year's work experience just six months before the first lockdown.

Joseph enriched our liturgy with his wonderful music and as lockdown started he livestreamed a daily personal reflection of words and music that was picked up by people across the world.

Joseph is to be ordained as a priest in July and has asked Fr Steve if he may celebrate his first Mass at St Edmund's Church.

This Mass will be on **Sunday 17 July**. It will start at 1.00 pm with half an hour of praise & worship songs followed by Mass at 1.30 pm.

There will be a reception afterwards in the church hall.

The Mass will be attended by many relatives and friends of Joseph and the Gulliford family (currently 200 and rising) but parishioners are welcome also. We need to know how many to expect so there is a **sign up sheet in the porch**. If you are coming please sign the sheet by the end of the month or email the office.

### GIFT FOR FR JOSEPH

When a seminarian finishes his 'work experience' in a parish it is the custom to have a collection for them. This could not be arranged when Joseph was recalled to the seminary during the pandemic and Fr Steve has asked that this collection been taken now for Joseph.

Please make cheques payable to RCAS Beckenham with Joseph's name written on the back. We can accept cash at the Office in a clearly marked envelope and you can also give by using this link to the donations page on Churchsuite:

<https://stedmunds.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/tn6fqelw>



### Claver Convent Garden Sunday 31st July Afternoon Tea

Two Sittings

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

3.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Tickets must be booked in advance by phoning  
020 8313 3915

Adults £6.00 and children £3.00

Donations of cakes and prizes for the raffle are most welcome.

The sisters are fundraising to provide an all terrain vehicle for the rocky and mountainous terrain in north east Argentina. Currently the priest travels on foot or by donkey to villages many miles apart.

### 9.30 SINGERS

As things slowly return to normal we find ourselves short of singers to help lead the congregation at the 9.30 am Mass on Sundays.

We are particularly looking for more men to join us but would welcome anyone who could sing on a regular basis. Come and chat to any of us after Mass or contact me on [cathpaints2@msn.com](mailto:cathpaints2@msn.com)

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Now that the English Bishops have 'invited' us back to church to fulfil our Sunday obligation it has been decided that we no longer need to recite the prayer of spiritual communion as most of us will now be present in the church and therefore able to receive communion.

Those of you who still have concerns about coming back into the church might like to consider attending the 6.00 pm Mass on a weekday. This is a quiet Mass with plenty of space to spread out, and during the lighter summer evenings might offer a less threatening way back for some of you.

For those who wish to continue to recite this prayer it is re-printed below.

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.**

**I love You above all things,  
and I passionately desire to  
receive You into my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive You  
sacramentally, come spiritually into my  
soul so that I may unite myself wholly to  
you now and forever.**

**Amen**

The prayer of St Alphonsus

### CHURCH HEATING

It may have gone quiet, but much work has been undertaken with the assistance of church heating specialists to secure a more realistic and cost effective solution than we were originally quoted.

I am pleased to say that we are now at the final hurdle and waiting only for formal approval from the Diocese. I hope to be in a position to give you full details and costings in next week's newsletter.

**Fr Steve**

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

This Saturday at noon, 28 of our young children will be celebrating their first Holy Communion.

We will keep them in our prayers.

Many thanks to the entire Catechism Team which has worked tirelessly to bring these youngsters to this point in their sacramental life.

**\*\*\*\* A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY\*\*\*\***

**Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver**

6 July at 11.30 am  
Convent Garden  
89 Shortlands Road  
BR2 0JL

Mass in commemoration of the  
100th anniversary of the death of their foundress  
Blessed Mary Theresa Ledochowska.  
Please call the convent on 020 8313 3915 by **18 June**  
if you will be attending.

**CAN YOU HELP?**

The Sisters are borrowing chairs from our Hall for this special Mass. Is there anyone who has a large van and would be able to transport them from the Hall to the convent and return them to Village Way on the following day?

Collection needs to be after 4.15 pm on Tuesday 6 July. There is a little more flexibility about returning them to the Hall. If you can help please call Sr Reena at the convent on 020 8313 3915.

**Archdiocese of Southwark Spring Assembly  
Justice and Peace Commission  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

Programme 11am to 4pm.

Entitled: **Caught in the Act:** Tackling the injustice of the Nationality and Borders Act: removal to Rwanda and difficulties for Ukrainians in the UK.

Everyone welcome. Entrance is free.  
Lunch provided. Donations suggested.

Email: [jpcontact@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:jpcontact@rcaos.org.uk) or just turn up.



The Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place between 19th and 26th August. We are sad that, like most Lourdes pilgrimages this year, we have not been able to include pilgrims who need medical support. At the same time, we are delighted to be returning to

Lourdes after two years of absence. Details are available at [www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/catholic-association](http://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/catholic-association).

Southwark contacts: Canon Ed Perera: [edwardpere-ra@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardpere-ra@rcaos.org.uk)) and Bishop Paul Hendricks ([paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk))

**A JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA).**

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS IS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH; OR THOSE WHO ARE CONSIDERING BECOMING CATHOLIC. WE ALSO WELCOME ADULTS WHO ARE ALREADY BAPTISED CATHOLICS AND WOULD LIKE TO BE CONFIRMED.

WE WILL BE STARTING THE NEXT COURSE IN SEPTEMBER AND WE WILL GIVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS IN THE COMING WEEKS. IN THE MEANTIME IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW MIGHT BE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT US AT

[beckenhamrcia@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:beckenhamrcia@rcaos.org.uk)

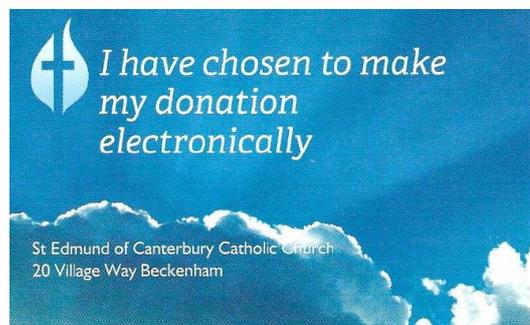
Cathy and Mary.

**BASKET COLLECTIONS AT MASS**

We now have over 450 people making their offerings to the parish electronically, either by standing order or through ChurchSuite. These payments will be from individuals, couples and families and probably cover the majority of our parishioners. Thank you to those of you who are donating in this way.

We have noticed people who pay electronically struggling to find some coins to put in the basket as it comes round each week. Please, there is no need to do this.

If you search for a coin because you feel embarrassed that you are not seen to be contributing, we have once again put out cards for you to put in the basket as it comes around.



## MASSES

### Sunday 19 June

		<b>The Most Holy Body &amp; Blood of Christ</b>
		<b>CORPUS CHRISTI</b>
6.00 pm	vigil Church	Davy O'Shea
8.00 am	Church	Paul Pinkett RIP
9.30 am	Church	Ints of the Kavanagh Family
9.30 am	Family Mass in the Hall	For the people
11.00 am	Church	Patrick Chambers RIP
5.30 pm	Church	Cummins & Downey Families

### Monday 20 June

		<b>St Alban, Martyr</b>
10.00 am	Church	Stan Ziolk RIP (anniv)
6.00 pm	Church	Thanksgiving for prayers offered
7.00 pm	<b>25 VW</b>	Adoration

### Tuesday 21 June

		<b>St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious</b>
10.00 am	Church	Lucy & Bob Flynn RIP
6.00 pm	Church	Krys Mansi RIP

### Wednesday 22 June

		<b>Saints John Fisher, Bishop &amp; Thomas More, Martyrs</b>
10.00 am	Church	Ints of Gretta O'Reilly
6.00 pm	Church	Anna Murphy RIP (1st anniv)

### Thursday 23 June

		<b>The Nativity of St John the Baptist</b>
10.00 am	Church	Maureen Keating RIP
6.00 pm	Church	R Bannon (birthday)

### Friday 24 June

		<b>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</b>
9.10	St Mary's	Krys Mansi RIP
10.00 am	Church	Derrick Whiting RIP
		No Adoration
11.00 am	Church	Funeral service for Joseph Gerard Cahoon
6.00 pm	Church	Clementina Delotta RIP

### Saturday 25 June

		<b>The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
10.00 am	Church	The Holy Souls
6.00 pm	vigil Church	Crescenzo & Delisa Panetta RIP

### Sunday 26 June

		<b>Thirteenth Sunday</b>
8.00 am	Church	Private Intention
9.30 am	Church	Joseph Sayegh RIP & Adele Sayegh RIP (1st anniversaries)
9.30 am	Family Mass in the Hall	Archbishop Peter Smith RIP
11.00 am	Church	For the people
5.30 pm	Church	Erral Wilson Fernandes RIP

## DIARY

Sunday 19 June at 11.00 am If you have been invited to the get-together for families who have had a child baptised in the last few years we look forward to seeing you in the Hall.

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives. Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail. We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.



Thank you to everyone for raising donations for St Edmunds Church - Beckenham with easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 6,900 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tecb/?invite=U95BCP%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\\_content=srt](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tecb/?invite=U95BCP%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt)

## LIGHT OF CHRIST CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Wednesday 22 June

7.45 pm - Praise & Worship  
8.00 pm - Holy Mass  
Celebrant Fr David Gummet  
Followed by Healing Ministry before the Blessed Sacrament  
10.00 pm - Evening concludes

## MEDITATION

In the Hall on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) from 5.30 - 6.20 pm.

## CONTEMPLATIVE SATURDAY

In the Hall from 11-12 noon on every second Saturday. Next one is on **11 June**.

*There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am, and Adoration after the 10.00 am Mass Monday to Friday unless there is a funeral. On Friday Adoration concludes with Benediction.*

**Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 am - 11.00 am and from 5.00 pm - 5.55 pm**

**We pray for those who have died recently:** Rosemary Smoughton, Michael Grey, Bruce Kent.

**We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week:** Frank Mansfield, Bebe Lily Chui, Stan Ziolk, Hannah Marshall, Sadie Cummins, Sophie Peter, Carol Anaele, Patricia James, Adele Powell, Michael Thomas O'Brien, Honora Johnson, Canon Patrick Pearson, William Foster.

**We pray for all members of our parish and beyond, and in particular those who are suffering from ill health.**  
*Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*