

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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29 January 2023

YR A

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver

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Next weekend the second collection will be for Racial Justice.

Healing Wounds that are Still Bleeding

On Tuesday 31st January Pope Francis flies to Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and on 3rd February he travels on to South Sudan in an apostolic journey of great significance.



The conflict in the eastern part of DRC has seen 6 million lives lost since 1996 making it one of the deadliest conflicts in the history of mankind. Meanwhile the civil war in South Sudan continues to rage 10 years on, having claimed over a million lives. The visit to South Sudan is an unprecedented show of Christian unity (which is appropriate following on from the week of Christian Unity which ended on 25th January), as the Holy Father will be joined by both Justin Welby the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Iain Greenshields the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, for what has been described as a “pilgrimage of peace”. Their visit will culminate in an Ecumenical Prayer meeting. DRC and South Sudan are united by crippling poverty and seemingly unending conflict, but these three Christian churches are united by a thirst for peace.

DRC is home to 45 million Catholics, the largest population of the faithful in the whole of Africa, who have not received a papal visit since St John Paul II in 1985. The Church plays a significant role in the country with nuns responsible for around 40% of the DRC's health facilities, whilst 6 million children are taught in Catholic schools. The Church there is also engaged in election observation missions, one of the few reliable guarantors of free and open elections in this allegedly democratic republic.

DRC's poverty is a tragic irony as the country is estimated to have \$24 trillion of untapped mineral resources. But these ‘conflict minerals’ are being used to fund warring factions, who have spilled over from neighbouring Rwanda.

“Love... impels us towards universal communion,” writes Pope Francis in his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (§95), and yet the first casualty of war, he states, is “the human family's innate vocation to fraternity” (*FT* §26). One in four human beings lives in a conflict zone. That is a

staggering statistic and yet for so many people war is simply part and parcel of their everyday lives. This is not God's plan, which instead is “to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth” (Ephesians 1:10).

We are rapidly approaching the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine; disbelief has given way to fatigue. The plight of Ukraine still receives some coverage in the media, but nothing like that it received at the beginning of the conflict. Of course, that changed this past week with the announcement that tanks are to be supplied to Ukraine from the UK, Germany and USA. There is potential for escalation of this conflict with impacts that could be felt far beyond the Ukraine. In common with the conflicts in DRC and South Sudan there is an understandable resistance on either side to be seen to “give in”, but there can be no peace without forgiveness and reconciliation. The longer conflict continues, and the greater the death toll and the devastation, the more difficult it is to forgive and to rediscover that innate vocation to fraternity. To paraphrase the words of Ettore Balestrero, the Vatican's envoy to Kinshasa, the healing wounds continue to bleed. Without genuine reconciliation those wounds simply cannot heal.

On Saturday 4th February let us join our prayers with those of Pope Francis and of the Churches of England and Scotland for peace in our time for every country ravaged by war, for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Deacon Ray

HELPING CATHOLICS TO RETURN

The Landings team offers a **non-judgemental forum** to help you to reconnect with the Catholic faith.

The next Landings programme starts on Tuesday, 7 February in Beckenham.

For more information contact Andrew at: LandingsBeckenham@gmail.com

CHURCH SHOP

We now have a small team of volunteers who will be opening the church shop after Mass as often as they can. Thank you to Breda, Cornel, Kathryn, Miriam, Pauline and Sirus. Please come and say hello and see what we can tempt you with!! Following Fr Ashley's homily last week, we now stock copies of the Revised New Jerusalem bible (and other bibles). We also have some new wooden children's crosses.

New volunteers will be very welcome and if you have any comments or queries please contact Annie on

anniepwilliamson@gmail.com

ST EDMUND'S WALKING GROUP

Sunday 5 February to St Blaise's Well.

Meet at 2.00 pm at the Mansion in Beckenham Place Park.

If you are unable to tackle

Bromley Hill join the group at 3.15 pm at the Churchill Theatre.

The walk will finish at St Blaise's Well in the grounds of the Civic Centre.

CHURCH SUITE

Is the database on which we hold parishioners contact details.

We chose Church Suite as it gives parishioners the ability to input and update their own record, but we do rely on you to keep the information current. If you need the Office to assist you please either email the changes to us or write them down and post them through the door.

Thank you

WEBSITE ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Nankesido Education and Welfare Trust, **NEWT** for short, perhaps better known as Deacon Sean's Ghana Charity, needs to set up its own web site.

The aims of the charity, and what it has achieved since its foundation resonate with many people and we would like to broaden that support

Do you, or someone you know have experience of web design and would be willing to create a simple web site that will get our charity noticed by the wider Community?

If you could help please email the Parish Office using NEWT in the subject line.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

In the Southwark Diocese couples wishing to marry in church are asked to contact their parish priest at least six months ahead of their intended wedding date. This is to allow sufficient time for them to attend the Marriage Preparation Course but also for all paperwork to be completed.

Our priests would prefer to be given a year for this and ask that couples do not set a date for their wedding until they have first spoken to a priest.

Parishioners born outside the UK will need to obtain documentation from their previous parishes. This can take some time.

There is also extra paperwork to be completed for those who are having their ceremony overseas 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 Priest or the Parish Office with your names and addresses and we will send a preliminary marriage application form to you plus a link to enrol on the Marriage Preparation Course.

If you intend to get married at a church other than St Edmund's but you live in our parish, our clergy is still responsible for all the paperwork.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our SDC Bible group meets **virtually** every Friday at **7.30 pm** on **ZOOM**.

Once a month, meetings are held in person at the SDC House, Upper Norwood, and in other parishes but also streamed online for those who can't attend in person.

The main theme for this year's meetings is **'THE BIBLE TIMELINE'**.

Join us **EVERY FRIDAY** at **7.30 pm**.

Go to pwa.zoom.us/jc and join the meeting using the following **ZOOM ID - 4454292726**

SDC is the *Societas Doctrinae Christianae*
For more information email sdcm meetings@gmail.com or visit our website at www.sdc.me.uk

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

24-31 MAY

There are a few places still available on this pilgrimage. If you are interested please call Diane on 07951 194 036

POSTAL SERVICE

Quite a few envelopes are left with the Office for onward posting to parishioners. We are happy to address these for you and to post them but would appreciate it if they could carry a stamp on when they are left.

Is there anyone who lives near Worsley Bridge Road and attends Sunday Mass at 5.30 pm, who would be able to give a lift to an elderly couple? If you could help on a regular or occasional basis please email the office. Many thanks for the offer already received.

PRO LIFE MEETING

St Anselm's Pro Life Group

Tuesday 31st January

7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Madeleine Page, leader of Pro-Life students

Madeline Page, leader of pro life students will be the guest speaker at this meeting. The venue is Upper New Hall – entrance on Tooting Bec Road next to the tube station, SW17 7BA

For more information contact Sean Naughton at st.anselmsplg@gmail.com



A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope, and helps nourish and grow your marriage.

Thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided.

There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about **Retrouvaille** or to register for the next programme commencing with a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on **24 - 26 February**, or a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



NEXT SUNDAY

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY

At the Inaugural RJS Mass in 2022, Archbishop John Wilson stated strongly that there was no place for Racism in the Catholic Church, and encouraged all to *'broaden our hearts to love and minds to understand and to recognise that in the cultures of others, in the languages and traditions of others, there is something enormously enriching for the whole of the world.'*

This year on Racial Justice Sunday, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland encourage us to remember Stephen Lawrence. The 30th anniversary of the racist killing of the black teenager in Eltham will fall on 22nd April 2023. In life he aspired to be an architect, but his legacy has seen him become an architect for justice, equality, dignity and unity.

MASSES FOR WEEK BEGINNING 29 JANUARY YR A

Sunday 29 January	Fourth Sunday
6.00 pm Church VIGIL	Gerard Baker RIP
8.00 am Church	In thanksgiving to Our Lady
9.30 am Church	Mick Westgarth RIP
9.30 am Hall	Pierre & Jeanne Champetier RIP
	FAMILY
11.00 am Church	Carmel Watt RIP
5.30 pm Church	Pauline Cope RIP
Monday 30 January	Feria
10.00 am Church	Requiem for Glen LeFleur No Rosary or Adoration today.
6.00 pm Church	Good health for Bonifacio Portillo
Tuesday 31 January	St John Bosco, Priest
10.00 am Church	Mick Westgarth RIP
6.00 pm Church	Gerard Baker RIP
Wednesday 1 February	Feria
10.00 am Church	Frank Dyer RIP (anniv)
6.00 pm Church	Peter Dias RIP
8.00 pm Hall	Life of Christ Charismatic Mass
Thursday 2 February	The Presentation of the Lord
	Candlemas & Blessing of Throats
10.00 am Church	Mark Clapson RIP
6.00 pm Church	John Sheehan RIP
8.00 pm Claver	Adoration
Friday 3 February	St Laurence of Canterbury
	First Friday Devotion
9.00 am St Mary's	
10.00 am Church	Thomas Keane Snr RIP
6.00 pm Church	Ints of Ann
Saturday 4 February	Feria (St Henry Morse)
10.00 am Church	Welfare & ints of Rae Fleming
6.00 pm Church	All persecuted born & unborn children
	VIGIL
Sunday 5 February	Fifth Sunday
8.00 am Church	Herbert (<i>Bert</i>) Wood RIP
9.30 am Church	Ints of Von Westgarth & family
9.30 am Hall	For the people
	FAMILY
11.00 am Church	Carmel Watt RIP
5.30 pm Church	Marie & David Murtagh RIP

There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am, and, after the 10.00 am Mass Monday to Saturday there is Adoration unless there is a Funeral.

Friday Adoration concludes with Benediction. Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 am - 11.00 am and from 5.00 pm - 5.55 pm.

DIARY

January	
Mon 30	10.00 am Requiem for Glen Lefleur
February	
Wed 15	Reception of body of Nikolaos Klokanas - time tbc
Thu 16	Requiem of Nikolaos Klokanas - time tbc
Thu 23	10.00 am Requiem for Mary (Annick) Lynch
Tues 28	Requiem for Brigitte Savreux O'Driscoll - time tbc
March	
Fri 3	11.00 am World Day of Prayer

We pray for those who have died: Glen Lefleur, Mark Clapson, Fr Paul Teece, Dan Raynor, Dcn James Burleigh, Dcn Fred Carter, John O'Connell, Rosina Bannon, Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll, Nikolaos Klokanas, Anne Lynch.

We pray for those whose anniversaries are about this time: Richard Lee, Jim McNamara, Michael Akpenyi, Catherine Jones, Victor Parascandolo, Frank Dyer, James Doherty, Josephine Wesson, Patricia Edwards, John Hatfield, Derek Ransley, Dolly Lock, Patricia Jenkins, Mary Li, Gaynor Mullane, Mary Weeks, Richard Armstrong, Mary 'Kate' Morley, David Young, Aileen Dunning, Michael Greaves, Mary Weeks, Richard Armstrong.

We pray for all members of our parish and beyond, and in particular those suffering from ill health.

Lord, You invite all who are burdened to come to You.

Allow Your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all.

Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need, and help me to lead others to You by my example.

Most loving Heart of Jesus, bring me health in body and spirit that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently this life which You have created, now and forever.

Amen.

(source: The Franciscan Prayerbook)

Meditation every Monday (except bank holidays) in the Hall from 5.30-6.20. Please respect the need to arrive promptly and observe the silence.

Next Contemplative Saturday is 25 February in the Hall from 11.00 am - 12.00.

Being formed in the likeness of Christ we strive to become a truly Christ centred community, through humble witness, love, compassion and communion.