

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 14 July 2024

Yr B

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver  
020 8313 3915  
[sspc.echo.uk@googlemail.com](mailto:sspc.echo.uk@googlemail.com)

**Our second collection  
is for Stella Maris**

### Called and Sent

The Permanent Diaconate was reinstated nearly 60 years ago by Pope Paul VI, as one of the three orders of ordained ministry in the Church, alongside bishops and priests. Deacons have been part of our clergy for most of my life and yet our Deacons remain relatively few in number, while the distribution of those Deacons across our Church varies enormously. We have been fortunate in our parish, and in our deanery, to have enjoyed a rich and diverse diaconal ministry over many years. Archbishop John greatly values this Diaconal Ministry and has a dream that there will be, before he retires, a Deacon in all 179 parishes across our archdiocese. This is why Archbishop John has instituted the 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, this weekend, as a Diaconate Day. This weekend (and hopefully for years to come) you will see promotional material about vocations to the diaconate across the archdiocese and, we hope, many Deacons and Priests addressing diaconal ministry in their homilies.

Deacons were a vital part of the church from its earliest days, the first seven men chosen by the congregation are named in Acts 6:1-15, "seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom". It is a job description without equal, and deeply humbling, but modern Deacons continue to answer the call, to volunteer their time, and their talents. Many are married and most rely on secular jobs to support their families (who must come first), in addition to giving their time to ministry.

The process of discernment and formation is long, taking 5-6 years from initial enquiry, and can be arduous, requiring academic study and spiritual and pastoral development, but the spiritual rewards are beyond measure.

The restoration of the diaconate came about through the reforms of the Church at the second Vatican council in the 1960s and was a response to a need to rebuild the relation-



ship between the people of God and their clergy. Whilst priests are set apart from the people, Deacons are part of the congregation and the clergy, we serve as one among you. Deacons can, and do, play a vital role in building the community of Christ. In our Gospel reading this weekend Christ sends the apostles in pairs to continue his mission, this was outreach in its truest sense, a model for what our diaconate community can achieve with the Holy Spirit. We can achieve this because we were each chosen, before the world was made, to be holy and spotless, we are each called. Every Deacon has, in the same way, been called and sent out into the world to proclaim the Gospel, both in their deeds and their words.

Nearly ten years ago now Father Ashley opened a door for me to a different, more fulfilling life. I am so glad that he gave me that opportunity and that I was brave enough to seize it.

So, please pray for Deacon Seán and me, pray for our wider diaconal community, and pray that more men will be called to serve among you. There are prayer cards available at the back of the Church.

Thank you for your prayers and may God bless you whatever your calling.

Deacon Ray



This weekend the second collection is for Stella Maris, the Catholic charity for seafarers worldwide. The charity provides practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality or belief.

You can donate direct to their website using this link: <https://stellamaris.org.uk/donate/>

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

If your child wants to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and is starting Y3 (or above) in September this year, please register them for the preparation course by the end of July.

The registration form is on the sacraments page of the St Edmunds website or can be reached by using this link <https://stedmunds.churchsuite.com/events/hatm91iy>

The course will start in September, and meets twice a month until the First Holy Communion Masses in May.

There is a course fee of £35 to cover room hire and course materials; financial assistance is available for those who need it.

Some time ago children's author Tammy Fernando put on a session in the Hall after Family Mass to introduce you to her books and to ask for your help in naming her latest one. Tammy thanks you for all your suggestions and has decided that Book 3 will be called **The Road to Joseph**.

There are some sheets in the porch with a piece written by Kevin Hartley which offers a reflection on the important ministry of reading at Mass. It is intended to help everyone, clergy and laity, who are responsible for communicating the scriptures in church using the spoken word.

A reminder there is a defibrillator on the wall in the inner porch at the back of the church. It is alarmed, so please don't touch it until it is needed, but when opened it directs you to what needs to be done if you suspect someone is in cardiac arrest.

There is also a well stocked first aid kit and a grab bag containing wipes etc in the sacristy. The welcomers at your Mass know where these are.

### LIGHT OF CHRIST CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 17 July

7.45 pm Praise and Worship

8.00 pm Holy Mass

Celebrant Fr Boniface Arapa  
(Uganda)

Followed by informal prayer  
meeting

10.00pm Evening concludes

The Mass celebrated each week in the Hall at 8.00 pm is a Mass just as would be celebrated in our church. It is not a Charismatic Mass.

### A Pastoral Message from Archbishop John Wilson to Catholics from Nigeria, or with Nigerian Heritage, in the Archdiocese of Southwark

Archbishop John has recently returned from a visit to Nigeria and he has asked for this Pastoral Message to be made widely available. There are paper copies in the porch (please ask the Office if they appear to have run out), but the following two links will take you to his Message and some press coverage.

The Pastoral Message can be found on the Archdiocese of Southwark website: <https://rcaos.org.uk/diocese/archbishop-john-wilson/archbishop-wilson-s-letters/pastoral-letters/pastoral-message-to-nigerian-catholics/>

The news story, which links both photos and the Message, can be found here: <https://rcaos.org.uk/news-events/news/archbishop-john-visits-nigeria-to-ordain-priests/>

### FOLK CHOIR

The Folk Choir will be taking their summer break after 5.30 Mass on Sunday 21 July and will return on Sunday 1 September.

### 9.30 AM MASS CHOIR

This choir will also break up on the 21st but will return on 8 September.

### CHORALE

Their last Mass before summer break is also 21 July and they return on 8 September.

We wish them all a safe and enjoyable Summer and look forward to welcoming the choirs back in September.

### **SUMMER REFRESHMENTS AFTER MORNING MASS**

We have a few weeks in the summer when our Hall is not being used during the day, so, as we did last year, we would like to offer teas and coffees one morning each week after Mass to enable those who can, time to get together with friends and have a catch up.

We plan to do this on Thursday mornings but need volunteers to come forward to organise it. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered - a couple more would be great.

There are only six Thursdays that need to be covered, so if you could offer your services for one of these, please will you let the Office know.

### **ANNUNCIATION & ST AUGUSTINES CHURCH, BECKENHAM HILL**

Is in need of a part time parish secretary  
Two days a week from  
9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

If you are interested please contact  
Fr Uduak Abara, MSP 07577 412174.

### **MOTHER AND TODDLERS - Church Hall**

Our group runs every Monday during term time from 10.00am until 11.30am. £3.00 per family, which includes tea/coffee, juice & biscuits craft materials etc. This Monday is the last one before the summer break. The new term starts in September and we would be very happy to welcome some new adult helpers. Please contact the parish office if you can help.

### **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED**

We have received a thank you letter from Jerry Lohan who visited St Edmund's a couple of weeks ago. Your donations to the charity amounted to £3350.68 which is a truly astonishing amount. Thank you so much for your generosity.

### **QUESTIONS FOR FR ANDREW**

Some weeks ago several parishioners came to me with roughly the same questions about the day's readings. So, I have decided to invite you to ask me questions and I will try to reply. You can ask me in person, leave them on paper, or email me.

#### **Question 1 Why are we getting a new translation of the Bible to use at Mass?**

It is over 10 years since we had a new translation of the Mass and the simple answer is that it was felt we should have one that matches it. In the 1960s the theory behind the translations, of the Mass or the Bible, was to get across the idea in a way that is easily understandable to modern people. Think of the old translation, "God of power and might." Whilst this is not difficult to understand, we have gone back to the more literal "Lord God of hosts." Why? The literal translation has a richness of meaning that was not obvious before. Host means army and it recalls that the Israelites literally went into battle with the Ark of the Covenant. The Lord was the commander of His army. It has also traditionally been seen as a reference to the "hosts of heaven." Remember the Christmas story, Luke 2:13, where the phrase "heavenly host" is used to mean the angels.

The new ESV Bible version is a bit more literal and a revision of the RSV. So, we shall once more hear readings such as "*Blessed are the poor in spirit*" (Matthew 5:3) rather than the "*Happy*" of the Jerusalem Bible. The ESV uses inclusive language where none of the richness of the original text is missed, and where it makes the text sound more natural to our modern ears. However, in other cases it sticks to traditional translations such as "*Son of Man*." Quite a few modern translations render this, where it occurs in the Old Testament, as "*human being*," but Jesus frequently uses the phrase of Himself, and it was thought the traditional translation should be retained for the reader to be aware of the resonance. Similarly, when Luke 2:7 says that "*Mary brought forth her first born son*" it would be wrong to translate *son* as *child* because the first born son is a term used in Jewish Law. He, as "son and heir," has a privileged position. Luke is not implying there were other later born sons, just that Jesus has this special position, even though He is the only son. Of course, it does imply that clergy and catechists have a duty to explain these translation choices so that the implications are clear.

**That said, I would encourage you to carry on reading your Bibles in whatever version you have and prefer!**

Fr Andrew  
andrewbishop@rcaos.org.uk

**MASSES**

**Sunday 14 July** **Fifteenth Sunday**  
**Sea Sunday**  
 6.00 pm **VIGIL** In honour of our Blessed Mother  
 8.00 am Tommy Ruddy RIP  
 9.30 am Monica Grima RIP  
 9.30 am For the people  
**FAMILY MASS IN HALL**  
 11.00 am Ints of Leon Carberry  
 5.30 pm Jeanne & Pierre Champetier

**Monday 15 July** **St Bonaventure**  
 10.00 am Welfare of the family by Valentine  
 Church closed from 3.00-4.45 pm

**Tues 16 July** **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**  
 10.00 am Hans Halpin - health and blessings  
 for his birthday  
**NO ADORATION**  
 11.30 am Requiem of Jose Freitas

**Wed 17 July** **Feria**  
 10.00 am Annita Giorri RIP  
 8.00 pm **HALL** Light of Christ

**Thurs 18 July** **Feria**  
 10.00 am Ints of Stephen & Manesha  
 Banfield (wedding anniv)  
**NO ADORATION**  
 8.00 pm **CLAVER** Adoration

**Friday 19 July** **Feria**  
 9.00 am **St Marys** St Mary's End of Year Mass  
 Bob Durand RIP (10th anniv) &  
 the St Mary's community, past &  
 present  
 10.00 am John & Freda Locke RIP  
**NO ADORATION**  
 12.00 pm Requiem of Michael McManus

**Sat 20 July** **Feria (St Apollinaris)**  
 10.00 am Annetta Floris RIP  
 6.00 pm **VIGIL** In honour of St Benedict

**Sunday 21 July** **Sixteenth Sunday**  
 8.00 am Joanna Duguid RIP  
 9.30 am Divine assistance for Valentine  
 9.30 am For the people  
**FAMILY MASS IN HALL**  
 11.00 am Steven & Nancy Dennis RIP  
 5.30 pm Josie Croft RIP

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

There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and  
 Friday at 9.30 am and Adoration Monday to Saturday

**We pray for those who have died:** Michael McManus, Ted Billy, Elfrieda Gill, Dolores Jones, Jose Freitas and Lorenzo Fiorentini.

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur this week:** John Sullivan, Anna Newton, Geoff Wallis, Joyce Greaves, Maryann Lilly, Agnes Olarita, Maurice Tydings, Anthony Guinle, Margaret Theodorides, Clifford Moore, Charles Boulton, Christina Carroll, Thomas Morris, Bridget D'Souza, Joanna Duguid.

**We pray for those suffering from ill health, for their families and for those who care for them:** Hedwig Harper, Keith Kench, Fr Ray Brennan, Terry Woollard, Wendy Adams, Elizabeth, Rosanna Sookram, Anne Flynn, Ursula Dyer, Michael Stannard, Hans Halpin, Paul, Norma Powell, Joan Morris, Claudette Seebrouth, Kathleen Hayes, Francesca Walkington, Marie Rennie, Bob Swan, Fitzroy Maxima Saunders, Paul Hixson.

Meditation in the Hall every Monday from  
 5.30 - 6.20 pm except bank holidays.  
**First Monday of the month in the  
 Lady Chapel.**

Contemplative Saturday on 27 July from  
 11-12 in the Hall.

**DIARY**

**July**  
 Tues 16 Requiem of Jose Freitas at 11.30  
 Fri 19 Requiem of Michael McManus at  
 noon  
 Mon 22 Requiem of Elfrieda Gill at 11.30

**Sept**  
 Sat 21 Safeguarding Training at 10.30  
 in the Hall  
 Sat 21 Mass of Anointing at 2.30,  
 followed by refreshments in the  
 Hall.

**Oct**  
 Sat 19 Day of Recollection for Readers  
 and Extraordinary Ministers in  
 Welling  
 Sat 26 Day of Recollection for Readers  
 and Extraordinary Ministers in  
 Streatham

<b>OFFERTORY WEEK ENDING 7.7.24</b>	
Plate Collection	967.40
Contactless	377.60
Bank Standing Order	1836.00
Church Suite Regular Giving	2222.56
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5403.56</b>