

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 19 January 2025 Yr C

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver
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This weekend the second
collection is for Pax Christi

I GOT DRUNK, GOT ANGRY, SMASHED UP MY FRIEND'S HOUSE AND BROKE A WINDOW. HOW CAN I BE FORGIVEN AND PUT THINGS RIGHT?

While everyone seems pleased that the Archbishop has designated St Edmund's as a place where the Jubilee Indulgence may be obtained, I also picked up quite a bit of scepticism about indulgences. I am afraid living in (what was) a Protestant country we have often been subject to Martin Luther's criticism of them as attempts to buy forgiveness. Put simply he was wrong because he mixed up two things: forgiveness of the sin - in theological language "Justification" - and growing holy - Sanctification. Penance is often seen as a sort of punishment but it would be better seen as medicine for the soul to help it rid itself of sin. Of course medicine can be somewhat nasty, even if it is doing us good in the long run.

I can best explain this with a little story. One Saturday evening at a party at my friend's house I get blind drunk, trash the furniture and smash a window. The next morning I sober up and realise what I have done; I ask forgiveness of my friend and he forgives me. Relations are restored and we remain friends. (The friend in my story is God who is merciful and always forgives, we might be less perfect.) So I am forgiven, "justified", and do not suffer punishment - my friend could have called the police and have me sent to gaol. Hmm, I got off that. BUT, BUT.....if I am truly sorry I should repair the damage I caused, pay for the broken window, or otherwise compensate my friend. AND, AND I have a drink problem and an anger management problem. Both need dealing with or I will certainly commit other sins if I don't change. I need to grow holier.

I cannot do anything to earn God's grace and forgiveness, it is His gift to me. But I can co-operate with Him to become holier, I can take the medicine of penance. An indulgence can be considered a little boost to help us on the way, we are given a help from the "treasury of the satisfaction of Christ and the saints." Remember we are never alone.

Fr Andrew

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR ARCHDIOCESE

In today's pastoral letter the Archbishop invites you to play a vital role in shaping the future of our Archdiocese. He encourages everyone to reflect on the themes in the ***Called to Bear Fruit*** booklet and participate in small group discussions over the coming weeks. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Form a group:** Gather 4–12 people.
- **Choose your schedule:** Discuss all six themes across six sessions, or combine them into fewer meetings - whatever works best for you.
- **Share your insights:** Submit your group's reflections via our online form or as a typed hard copy.

The more people who take part, the richer our understanding of the needs of our archdiocese will be. Let's work together to shape our future!

Thank you for your involvement.

At St Mary's Primary School, the children have been learning that 2025 is a Jubilee year. The theme for the year is **Pilgrims of Hope**. We know that pilgrims travel to Holy places that help them to grow closer to God. So, in this Jubilee year our classes are going to go on a pilgrimage to St Edmund's! The children are looking forward to walking to the church to join the congregation for 10 o'clock Mass. They will prepare the bidding prayers and some hymns to sing. We will start with Year 6 on Friday 24 January, Year 5 on Friday 7 February and Year 4 on Friday 28 March. We hope that our other classes will be able to have their pilgrimage later in the year.

We are really looking forward to celebrating Mass with you!

Mrs Beirne RE Leader
St Mary's Catholic Primary School

300 CLUB

Thank you to all the 300 Club members: your involvement is invaluable. In 2024 we peaked at 227 members, generating just under £9,000 for the Parish (before deduction of the monthly draws). This funded the refurbishment of the book shop as well as the purchase of new smart and stackable chairs for the Parish Hall, as well as garden furniture for the Hall Garden. The year ended with three lucky winners in the December draw, Jim Lennox who won the first prize of £250, Clare Huijnen who won £100 and Bernadette Lyons who won a beautiful Christmas Hamper.

We are now looking for new projects to fund and if you have any ideas, please email Isabelle at iblakejames@talktalk.net who would be delighted to hear from you.

We have a rough attrition annually of about 10% of members which means that we are starting 2025 with "only" 202 members. Please do consider joining the Club: the annual contribution is £39 for a number and has remained the same for many years; there is a monthly draw when you can win £100, £50 or £25 and a Christmas draw which is the BIG one as mentioned above.

You can collect a registration form at the back of the church or email Isabelle Blake-James if you have any questions.

Let's make 2025 the best year ever and get to 300 Club Members!

HOUSEBOUND & WANTING COMMUNION?

Do you know of any parishioners who are housebound and unable to come to Mass? Would they like to receive communion at home? If they would, please contact the parish office with their details, and home visits can be arranged for them.

ADVENT SERVICE 2024

We are delighted to tell you that after our JustGiving page closed at the end of the year we had raised a total of £671.00 for St. Christopher's Hospice!

Thank you very much for your generosity.



PAX CHRISTI PEACE SUNDAY 19 January

The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice.

Please give to this second collection with your usual generosity.

BAPTISMS AT ST EDMUND'S

If you are wishing to have a child baptised at St Edmund's, you are asked to email the **dedicated account**

beckenhambaptism@rcaos.org.uk
and not the Parish Office

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse?

Retrouvaille has helped tens of hundreds of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on Zoom *27 February to 2 March*: email: info@retrouvaille.org.uk or call or text 0788 729 6983.

GRIEF IN LOSS, HOPE IN CHRIST RETREAT

This weekend takes place away from the pressures of day-to-day life and can help one begin to come to terms with bereavement. It is a time for quiet, prayer, talking and acceptance.

Due to the special nature of this weekend retreat, held at Aylesford Priory, places are limited and subject to a telephone call to determine if it is right for you.

Dates for 2025:

March 21-23 & October 10-12
For details phone 01622 717 272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is an ecumenical Christian observance celebrated across the world. It starts on Sunday 18 January and ends on 25 January. It is an *octave*, that is, an observance lasting eight days.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is coordinated annually by the World Council of Churches. The Roman Catholic Church, which is an observer in the World Council of Churches, also celebrates the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

CTiB, Churches Together in Beckenham, co-ordinates shared worship, pulpit swaps, coffee mornings, music sessions - please see the poster in the porch. At St Edmund's we are offering an afternoon of guided meditation in our Lady Chapel on Friday afternoon. Please come when you can and leave when you need.

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE

The Southwark Catholic Youth Service has a number of forthcoming activities for youth and young adults.



For regular updates on events, sign up to its network at www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork.

For queries on youth activities email youth@rcaos.org.uk

Dorio Melfi, a parishioner at St Mark's, West Wickham, died on 18 December. In past years Dorio often played the organ at Masses at St Edmunds, particularly during the week.

Dorio's cremation service will be at the Bluebell Crematorium at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 22 January. His family is happy to welcome anyone who wishes to join them at this service.

MARRIAGES

Are you one of the many couples in the country who became engaged over Christmas? If you are, and your intention is to be married in church, then you need to contact a priest or deacon at least six months before your marriage date to begin the necessary preparation.

MOTHER AND TODDLERS - Church Hall

Our group runs every Monday during term time from 10.00 am until 11.30 am. Entry is £3.00 per family, which includes tea/coffee, juice & biscuits, craft materials etc. We would be very happy to welcome some new adult helpers. If you are interested in helping please contact the Parish Office.



BLYTHSWOOD CARE

We have received a letter from Blythwood thanking you for your wonderful and generous response to their Shoe Box Appeal. We were able to send them 65 shoeboxes filled with lovely gifts and practical items for young people in Kosovo who have absolutely nothing.

Many thanks as ever to Susie and Lucienne who have organised this appeal for such a long time.

The Light of Christ
Catholic Charismatic Prayer Meeting invites
you to join them in the Hall on
Wednesday 22nd January.

7.45 pm Praise and Worship

8.00 pm Holy Mass

Celebrant Fr Damian Oligigwe
Followed by Adoration and healing
before the Blessed Sacrament.

10.00 pm Evening concludes

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

MASSES

Sunday 19 Jan	Second Sunday Peace Day
6.00 pm VIGIL	Baby Charlotte Flannery RIP
8.00 am	Ints of the Ewings Family
9.30 am	For the people of the parish
9.30 am HALL	Sr Pat Devine
CHILDRENS MASS	
11.00 am	Ellen Keane RIP
5.30 pm	Noreen Dowling RIP
Monday 20 Jan	Feria (St Fabian, Pope & Martyr)
10.00 am	Esther Browne RIP
Tues 21 Jan	St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
10.00 am	For the family of Mary Long
Wed 22 Jan	Feria (St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr)
10.00 am	Tony Simmonds
NO ADORATION	
Noon	Requiem of Christopher Power
Thurs 23 Jan	Feria
10.00 am	Clive Somers RIP
Friday 24 Jan	St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
10.00 am	Eileen & Paddy Murphy RIP
Yr 6 from St Mary's will be joining us for this Mass	
2.00 pm—4.00 pm	A Quiet Time for Prayer & Reflection - Guided meditation in the Lady Chapel. Please feel free to leave at ant time.
Sat 25 Jan	The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle
10.00 am	Buddy Gibbons RIP
6.00 pm VIGIL	Bruno Panetta RIP
Sunday 26 Jan	Third Sunday Sunday of the Word of God
8.00 am	Ints of the Cotter Family
9.30 am	Geoffrey & Frances Sisley & their dec'd relatives & friends
9.30 am HALL	For the people
CHILDRENS MASS	
11.00 am	Mary & Sharon O'Reilly
5.30 pm	For the wellbeing of Nicole Hudson

**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 after morning Mass.**

OFFERTORY WEEK ENDING 12.1.25	
Plate Collection	916.40
Contactless	377.90
Bank Standing Order	616.00
Church Suite Regular Giving	1340.08
TOTAL	3250.38

We pray for all who have died: Roy Edwards, Fr Wenna Henry Tiku, Fr John Lawrence, Dorio Melfi, Keith Gard, Christopher Power, Jacqueline Mary Galea, Fr Paddy Cannon, Kathleen Hayes, Sam Candasamy, Bridget Obiageli Ildigwe, Gaetan Lewis Goa.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Baby William 'Wotsit' Pemberton, Maureen Finch, Linda Turp, Geoffrey Sisley, Samuel Sana, Emily Edwards, Eleanor Harrington, Patrick McInally, Monica Cronin, Michael O'Sullivan, Nikolaos Klokanos, Colm Byrne, Dr Alexander Uchwe, Walter Grubb, Juana Chacaltana, Joan Salmon, Mary Callaghan, Katrina Maria Fleming, Brigitte-Savreux-O'Driscoll, Kathleen Phelan, Mabel Graves, Raymond Willis, John O'Hagan, Monica Hyland, Anne Lymbery, May McMahan, Dr Eamon Fenton, Tom Gower, Jean Cullen, John O'Sullivan, Cheryl McGoldrick, Gibson Sikaleya, Frank Donagh, Alice Appiah-Gyan, Caroline Pearson, Bill Boyd.

Your prayers are asked for: Hedwig Harper, Keith Kench, Fr Ray Brennan, Terry Woollard, Wendy Adams, Elizabeth, Rosanna Sookram, Anne Flynn, Hans Halpin, Paul M Williams, Norma Powell, Joan Morris, Fitzroy Maxima Saunders, Paul Hixson, Susan McWilliams, Mary-Jo McCarthy, Jacqueline Djasrabe, Christine Parker, Paul, Margaret Brocklehurst.

DIARY

January

- Wed 22 Requiem for Christopher Power at noon
- Fri 24 Christian Unity Week - A Quiet Time for Prayer & Reflection 2.00 - 4 00 pm. In the Lady Chapel

February

- Tues 4 Requiem for Kathleen Hayes— at 10.00 am

Meditation every Monday in the Hall from 5.30 - 6.20 pm, except for the first Monday of each month when it is in the Lady Chapel.

Contemplative Saturday 25 January between 11 and 12 in the hall.

Bank details to set up a regular standing order:

Account name: RCAS Beckenham
Sort Code: 60 02 12
Acc No: 14282887
Link to set up a regular donation through ChurchSuite:
<https://stedmunds.churchsuite.com/donate/>