

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP Website: www.saintedmunds.net

Parish Office - Phone: 020 8650 0970 - Email: beckenham@rcaos.org.uk

Fr. Steve Wymer - Parish Priest 020 8650 3390 - stephenwymer@rcaos.org.uk

Fr Andrew Bishop - andrewbishop@rcaos.org.uk

Fr Boniface Arapa - bonifacearapa@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon Seán Murphy - 07960 958 441 - seanmurphy@rcaos.org.uk

Safeguarding - Yvonne Epale - safeguardingSG3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver 020 8313 3915

sspc.echo.uk@googlemail.com

Sunday 14 September 2025 Yr C



Our retiring collection is for the
Catholic Education Service

Congratulations to our Folk Choir on 55 years of music

CHRIST'S TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

It is often said that what we fear is not death, but dying, and it was no different for Jesus. The closer Jesus came to his own death, a death that he knew would be one of appalling, cruel torture, the more the horror of what he would have to undergo began to undermine his resolve.

It was while he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane that his agony truly began, culminating in the cry, 'May this cup be taken away from me!' He even knew that he had it in his power to escape from those who were on their way to arrest him. All it would take would be to do as his ancestor, King David, had done, many centuries earlier, when he had fled from Jerusalem to escape the army of his rebellious son, Absalom: to carry on up the Mount of Olives and escape from there into the seclusion and safety of the wilderness beyond.

So great was his consternation as he awaited his Father's answer that, as Luke tells us, Jesus sweated blood. This is a rare phenomenon, but it does sometimes happen – its technical name is 'haematohidrosis'. Around the sweat glands there are delicate networks of very fine blood vessels, and under the pressure of great stress these blood vessels constrict. Then, as the anxiety passes, the blood vessels dilate and rupture, the blood passes into the sweat glands, and out through the skin. We should notice that detail: the blood is squeezed out *once the anxiety has passed*. With his Father's help in response to his prayer, by the time he is sweating blood Jesus has already *triumphed* over his fear of what will befall him: his agony has passed because he has completely accepted his Father's will. This is the beginning of Christ's triumph, and it is surely a source of deep consolation to us to know that, in his love for us, and for his Father, he went willingly, and with total readiness, to his death, enduring his final hours of insult, humiliation and pain in a state of utter inner peace. There, in the Garden of Gethsemane, the battle had already been won.

Deacon Seán

BEHAVIOUR AT MASS

Everyone is most welcome to attend and participate in the Mass and we are blessed here at St Edmund's to have five Sunday Masses.

To see young families at these Masses is very inspiring and fills me with hope for the future. However, I feel I must address an issue which has been a problem for a while and was particularly noticeable at last Sunday's 9.30 Mass.

There were one or two children who were clearly in some distress and crying very loudly so that many of the congregation were greatly distracted: they couldn't concentrate on their prayers or what Fr Boniface was saying.

When children become too boisterous or

agitated it is the duty of the parents to take control of the situation and remove their child to a place where he or she cannot be a distraction and hopefully be happier in themselves.

Please take your child to the narthex till they quieten down - you can hear the Mass there, and can return when your child is calm.

Children must not be allowed to run around in the church. This is a safety issue in a crowded church and is completely unacceptable. Children should sit with their parent at all times.

Fr Steve

This Sunday, the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross, parishioners will have an opportunity to venerate a fragment of the Holy Cross. This will be after the dismissal at the vigil Mass on Saturday and the 8.00 am and 11.00 am Masses on Sunday.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING **Calling all Parishioners:**

You are invited to our Coffee and Cake Morning on Saturday, 27 September in the Church Hall between 10.00 am. and 12.30 pm.

Please do come with family and friends to raise money to support this very worthy cause.

Calling all Bakers: please consider also baking a cake(s) or tray-bake to donate! Some suggested recipes are available at the back of Church.

If you don't bake please would you perhaps donate a shop-bought cake?

Cake donations can be received in the Hall from 9.00 am. on the day or you can drop them off to the Office on Friday.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!
Thank you!



On Monday, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Deacon Sean will lead the congregation in praying the Chaplet of Our Lady of Sorrows during Adoration as we offer prayers for the victims of sexual abuse.



Please bring your red boxes to the Office for emptying.

DAY OF RETREAT FOR LECTORS AND EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

There are two days to choose from:
Saturday 18 October at St Stephen's Church, Welling or Saturday 25 October at Bishop Thomas Grant School in Streatham.
Places need to be booked through the Parish Office. Please send an email giving your name and the session you would like to attend.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

Church Hall
Wednesday 17 September

7.45 pm Praise and Worship

8.00 pm Holy Mass

Followed by Informal Prayer meeting
10.00 pm Evening concludes

MASS OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This Mass will be on Saturday 27 September at 2.30 pm. Anyone who is ill, in any way, and wishes to be anointed is encouraged to attend.

After the Mass we will have refreshments in the Hall.

If you need transport please email
beckenhamsvp@gmail.com
or call 07789 497 482 and leave a message or send a text

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN MORNINGS

Our parish school St Mary's Catholic Primary, will be holding open mornings for parents of children due to start Reception in September 2026 at 10.45 am on Thursday 2 October; Wednesday 15 October; Wednesday 5 November and Wednesday 26 November.

If you would like to attend any of these open mornings, please contact Mrs Tracey - School Admissions Officer by email at admin@stmaryscp.co.uk

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

MAUDE HERRING RIP

Maude Herring was a well-known and respected parishioner of St Edmund's for most of her long life. She died peacefully this week having spent a couple of weeks in a care home following a fall in which she fractured her hip. Maude was 103.

Maude worked for many years as school secretary at Bishop Challoner School, retiring in 1985, and was an active member of the CWL, where she was a strict treasurer but also famous for her catering skills. She and her friend Joan Harvey undertook most of the catering for parish events of which there were many, in addition to producing impressive quantities of home-made cakes and jam for the Christmas Fair.

Maude was awarded the Benemerenti Medal which is bestowed by the Pope in recognition of service to the Catholic Church

She was a great character and still remembered by many of us at St. Edmund's.'

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE FURTHER ACTION NEEDED!

As the Assisted Suicide Bill progresses through the Lords, Peers have made it clear that receiving physical letters will have the most influence at this stage of the process.

Right To Life UK has launched a new *EasyAction* tool that creates a personalised letter to be sent in the post to a Peer highlighting a key concern with the Bill, selects a Peer to receive it, and customises the letter so that it is addressed from you.

***Please take action now and visit:
www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeersletter
to send a letter to Peers asking them to***



MARRIAGE SUPPORT Starts 17 October

Does your relationship need some TLC?
Need help with deeper issues?
Contact www.retrouvaille.org.uk

SERVICE FOR HOPE AND HEALING

Archbishop John Wilson and the Safeguarding team, invite all parishioners to join them on 24 September at 6.30pm, for the Service for Hope and Healing, for all those that have been harmed by abuse. The service is to express the archdiocese's commitment to all those that have been harmed, their family and friends, and to come together as a community and demonstrate our solidarity for those harmed.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS

Saturday 20 September
St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HU
Day begins at 10.00 am.

Registration is now open.

aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2025
Places are always booked up very quickly so please register promptly.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

21ST – 25TH OCTOBER COST £399:

Dartford parish is running a pilgrimage at half term which has a few spaces left.

They are offering a very generous discount for young people under 16.

Costs include return flights from Stansted, half board accommodation, transfer from/to Lourdes, £70 single supplement.

Children under 16 go for £199.

DAY OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND THANKSGIVING

This day is intended for those who followed the Archdiocese's Pilgrimage to Pentecost and the Jubilee Celebration Day at Aylesford.

Saturday 4 October
St George's Cathedral
10.15 am - 5.00 pm

2025 celebrates the
75th Anniversary of the
consecration of
St Edmund's Church.

MASSES

Sun 14 Sept	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
6.00 pm VIGIL	Siobhan Donnelly RIP (anniv)
8.00 am	Peter May RIP
9.30 am	Monica Grima RIP
11.00 am	In thanksgiving - The Ekong Family
5.30 pm	In thanksgiving & appreciation of the Folk Choir on its 55th Anniversary
Mon 15 Sept	Our Lady of Sorrows
10.00 am	Tom Spillane RIP
Tues 16 Sept	Sts Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian,
	Shiroma Dabrera (b'day)
Wed 17 Sept	Feria
10.00 am	Dec'd benefactors & promoters of the Claver Sisters
7.30 pm	Mass in Hall
Thurs 18 Sept	Feria (St Edith of Kemsing)
10.00 am	Evelyn Reilly RIP
6.00 pm CLAVER	Adoration & Benediction
Friday 19 Sept	Feria
10.00 am	In thanksgiving to St Joseph
Sat 20 Sept	St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Paul Chong Ha-Sang Companions, Martyrs
10.00 am	Liz Bennett RIP
1.00 pm	Marriage blessing of Bernice Moss & Olumba Ekpo
6.00 pm VIGIL	Christine Wallner RIP (14th anniv)
Sun 21 Sept	Twenty-fifth Sunday
8.00 am	Pro populo
9.30 am	Dr Alexander Uche RIP
11.00 am LATIN	Margaret Paes RIP
5.30 pm	Paul Stephens RIP

Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 - 11.00 am and 5.00 - 5.55 pm, and usually during Adoration

There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am and there is Adoration after morning Mass from Monday to Saturday, unless otherwise announced.

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/>

We pray for all who have died: Sean Connolly, Alan Fine, Marietta D'Castro, Desmond Johnson, Fr John Ryan. Maude Herring.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: John MacNamara, Alan Burfield, Paula Frampton, Martin Norris, Thomas Spillane, Narciso Andrion, Olga Roberts, Margaret Leeks, Ann Zacaroli, Margaret Cregan, Marisia Nawara, Maria Okafor, Pat McAvoy, Evelina Rettie.

We pray for all who are in ill health, for their families and for their carers: Fr Ray Brennan, Terry Woollard, Wendy Adams, Elizabeth, Rosanna, Hans Halpin, Paul M Williams, Norma Powell, Joan Morris, Paul Hixson, Mary-Jo McCarthy, Jacqueline Djasrabe, Paul, Margaret Brocklehurst, Leyla Pattison, Janice McIntosh, Jessica Ram, Zygmunt Sobolewski, James Creedon, Baby Hector Winston, Sarah-Marie Kench, Duncan, Grace, Marie Benham, Nora Haugh, Marie Benham, Monica Lajwii.

DIARY

September

- Sun 14 Folk Choir anniversary Mass followed by reception in the Hall
- Sat 27 Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Hall
- Sat 27 Mass for the Sick at 2.30, followed by refreshments in the Hall

October

- Mon 13 CWL Meeting with guest speaker from Mary's Meals. All welcome
- Sat 18 & Sat 25 Retreat days for Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers (details to follow)

December

- Sat 6 Christmas Fair
- Sat 13 Advent Carol Service

Meditation every Monday in the Hall from 5.30 - 6.20 pm, except for the first Monday of each month and bank holidays.
Please respect the need to arrive promptly and observe the silence

The next Contemplative Saturday is
13 September, in the Hall from 11.00 am to 12 noon.

