CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver 020 8313 3915 sspc.echo.uk@googlemail.com Sunday 19 October 2025 Yr C



Retiring collection is for MISSIO

WHY CATHOLICS GO TO HOLY MASS

Holy Mass is a communal gathering where Catholics come together as a community of believers to worship and be united with God and with one another. It is considered the highest form of worship, and a way to give thanks and praise to God for all that he has done for us. It is also a central re-enactment of the last supper when Jesus was with his disciples, and a memorial of His sacrifice on the cross. During Holy Mass Catholics receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, which provides spiritual strength and grace.

Hence attending Mass is essential spiritual food, providing the necessary words and sacrament, to avoid spiritual weakness and emptiness. It is an opportunity for Catholics to be sorry for their sins and receive forgiveness from God.

Nowadays however, not many people take going to Mass seriously. Some people attend Mass online, even when they have no reason to. Others listen to Mass on radios and televisions. From the time COVID struck to now, Mass attendance the world over has declined. For instance, in our church the attendance has dropped from an average of 1035 pre covid to 653 in the count just carried out. It is worth noting that the normal way of attending Holy Mass is for the members of the Christian community to come together to the church or to a community as circumstances may allow and other ways are exceptional. (We do of course give thanks that our housebound parishioners are able to join with us each day on our live streamed Masses and receive communion at home thanks to our Eucharistic Ministers and the clergy team).

Let it be clear to us that if we miss going to Mass, we miss that aspect of "coming together as a community of believers" therefore our community life is weakened. We also miss receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, thereby missing the spiritual food, which cannot be received through attending Mass online or through other channels.

If there is not a compelling reason, let us not avoid coming to Mass in person, so that we can build our spiritual life and strengthen our community life too.

Could each one of us reach out to a friend who has not attended Mass for some good time, and in a loving way explain to the friend and encourage them to resume Mass attendance for their spiritual wellbeing and for the growth of the church.

Thank you,

Fr Arapa Boniface

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

This Sunday is World Mission Sunday. The Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio, his charity for world mission, through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics world-wide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world.

To donate, use the Missio envelopes, call 020 7821 9755 or visit https://missio.org.uk/to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation, if possible.

2026 SOUTHWARK DIRECTORY



We will shortly be placing our order for the 2026 edition of the Southwark Directory. The price is £7.50 for a spiral bound copy and £6.50 for a plain binding. We will not be ordering extra copies to sell so

if you wish to have one please let the Office know by November 1 which type you want and post your payment through the Office door.

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

FR JOHN OLANIRAN

31 October at 7.00 pm

St Theresa of the Infant Jesus Haig Rd, Biggin Hill, Westerham TN16 3LJ

Fr John would be delighted to welcome his St Edmund's friends at his Induction Mass.

If anyone thinking of attending would let the Office know we might be able to arrange car shares, or a minibus.

Please get in touch by Wednesday 22nd.

300 Club

Congratulations to our October draw winners:

Barbara Ferrando £100 Mary O'Toole £50 Matthew Watchorn £25

Please consider joining the 300 Club.
It is £39 for 12 monthly draws.
Email Isabelle Blake-James
at iblakejames@talktalk.net if you would like to find out more.

BOOKS FOR THE CHILDREN



Pre covid we had a box at the back of the church full of little religious books for young children to look at during Mass. We should like to re-start this and hope that parishioners would be happy to donate religious books that their children have grown out of, or would be happy to purchase some to donate for the box. The box will be on the table in the centre aisle this weekend.

Thank you

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

Church Hall, Wednesday 22 October 7.45 pm Praise and worship 8.00 pm Holy Mass Celebrant Fr Antony Megalan Sellum Followed by Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament with healing ministry.

10.00 pm Evening concludes.

SEEKING FACILITATORS

The Southwark Marriage and Family Life (M&FL) Team are seeking married couples who are practising Catholics to join their growing team to present courses for Marriage Preparation, Building a Better Marriage and other initiatives in 2026. Salary: £30,000 pro rata (£7,000) for the couple. Mileage paid in All training given. For full job addition. description and further details, please contact liamgallagher@rcaos.org.uk Closing date for applications is October 31st.

JOIN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK WHATSAPP CHANNEL

For the latest updates in the Archdiocese of Southwark, including reflections and homilies from Archbishop John Wilson, as well as prayers and music, join the WhatsApp channel. The channel aims to help you draw closer to the

Lord Jesus through engaging and prayerful content, so please subscribe and share.

Join via this link rcaos.org.uk/whatsapp or by scanning the QR code.



MASS FOR THE BEREAVED

Saturday 15 November at 2.30 pm During November when we particularly remember those who have gone before us, we are holding a Mass for those who have lost someone dear to them.

If you wish to light a candle for them during the Mass please let the Office know the name you wish to be remembered.

There will be refreshments for all in the Hall afterwards.

The team preparing Christmas Wreaths for the Parish Christmas Fair would be grateful for any unwanted Christmas decorations. You can leave your donations at the Office and we will pass them on.

Please take a moment to look through your boxes of decorations and donate items you no longer use.



ENTRY INTO CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2026

All applications to Catholic schools need to be accompanied by a Certificate of Catholic Practice signed by a priest.

There are two remaining signing sessions: Sunday 19 October

10.30 - 12.30 pm in Meeting Room in the Hall

Sunday 23 November

10.30 - 12.30 pm in Meeting Room in the Hall

Please attend at the designated times. Due to the volume of applications we are not able to arrange individual appointments.

Certificates of Catholic Practice can be downloaded online but there will be copies available if needed.

BECOMING AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

I run a local home care service (Capable Care), and during the pandemic it became clear that some of our clients and other parishioners couldn't get to Mass to receive Communion. I wanted to help, and when St Edmund's invited volunteers to become Eucharistic Ministers, I responded.

I'll admit, I initially thought it was something for the especially holy or those who knew a lot of theology — but I was wrong. Being an Extraordinary Minister isn't about being perfect; it's about helping with one of the most sacred parts of Mass — sharing the Eucharist.

Last Saturday I attended a Formation Day at St George's Cathedral which was relaxed and uplifting, with two talks, a session of adoration, and Mass. Over 70 people from across the Diocese — from teenagers to people in their 80s — took part. Everyone shared the same simple desire: to help make this part of the Mass run smoothly.



If you'd like to serve in this way, please speak to one of the clergy team

Anne-Marie and Leon, with Canon Victor Darlington at St George's Cathedral

ROOTED IN LOVE - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MARRIED AND ENGAGED COUPLES

Want to grow closer as a couple while deepening your faith and meeting new people?

All engaged and married couples are invited to a **monthly online meeting** where we share friendship, reflect on real-life topics, and pray together as we grow in love rooted in Christ.

Gathering monthly on Zoom **Thursdays**: 30 October at 8:30pm, 27 November at 8:30pm, 11 December at 8:30pm

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL





Unbelievable but it is Christmas shoebox time of year again!

Leaflets for this year's appeal are at the back of church; it would be wonderful if you could fill a box for our St Edmund's Blythswood appeal this year. Once again, all

the boxes we collect will be distributed in Kosovo.

There is more information about the 2025 shoebox appeal and videos of last year's boxes being distributed on Blythswood's website https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/

If you can share details about the shoebox collection with family and friends to help us collect as many boxes as possible, we would be very grateful.

It is easy to choose gifts for people who have so little. Shampoo, a pair of socks, a notepad, a small toy, a bag of sweets – things we take for granted are luxuries to people living in poverty.

By filling a shoebox with simple things you can bring hope this Christmas.

This year please bring your filled boxes to the Parish Office – boxes can be dropped off until Sunday 2nd November.

If you have any questions, then do get in touch.

Lucienne Vella 07884 184534 or Susie Watchorn 07956 574789.

Thank you so much for your generosity every year with the shoebox appeal.

MASSES

Sun 19 Oct	Twenty-ninth Sunday World Mission Day
6.00 pm vigiL	Ronald & Eileen Furlong RIP
8.00 am	For the people
9.30 am	For dec'd members of Ransford Marbach Families
11.00 am LATIN	Fabiola Zorilla RIP (1st anniv)
5.30 pm	Manuel Pampin Mosquera RIP (3rd anniv)
Mon 20 Oct	Feria
10.00 am	Tom & Babs Griffin RIP
Tues 21 Oct	Feria (St Margaret Clitherow) Claire West RIP
Wed 22 Oct 10.00 am 7.30 pm	Feris (St John Paul II) Jan & Tim Banfield & Family Charismatic Mass in Hall
Thurs 23 Oct 10.00 am 6.00 pm claver	Feria Theresia & George Halpin RIP Adoration

Sat 25 Oct Feria (The Blessed Virgin Mary)

10.00 am Adrian Wyborn RIP

Feria

Friday 24 Oct

10.00 am

12.30 pm

6.00 pm vigit Dec'd Brothers of Beckenham

Catenians

Sun 26 Oct Thirtieth Sunday For the people

9.30 am Baby Arthur Gregory RIP and

healing of parents & grandparents

Dushy Devendra (1st anniv)

Requiem of William Kelly

11.00 am Rosemary Elmer RIP

There will be the baptism of baby Astrid

during this Mass

5.30 pm Margaret Paes 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 Adoration after morning Mass from Monday to Saturday, unless otherwise announced.



We pray for all who have died: Desmond Johnson, Fr John Ryan, Paul Stone, Fr Patrick Hayward, William Kelly, Marie-Therese Sinon, Peter Kuhn, Rose Westgarth, Betty Stephens, Rosemary Horsley, Edith Emenike, Patrick Gunning.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Christina Pamment, Patricia McGrory, Marie Lavender, Roy Anggiansah, Peter Cole, Eugene Gilkes, Eileen Gallen, Patricia Hitchcock, Mary Holleran, Riccardo Ling, Monica Jones, Rosemary Elmer, Nicholas Beedle, Theresia Halpin, Brian Knowles, France Fleming, Frieda Pereira-Rego, Ann Berry, Louis Bonello, Marguerite Hankin, Denise Ricketts, Margaret Deeks, Pamela Keen.

We pray for all who are in ill health, for their families and for their carers: Fr Ray Brennan, Woollard, Wendy Adams, Elizabeth, Rosanna, Hans Halpin, Paul M Williams, Norma Powell, Joan Morris, Paul Hixson, Mary-Jo McCarthy, Jacqueline Diasrabe, Margaret Brocklehurst, Leyla Pattison, Janice McIntosh, Sobelewski, Jessica Ram, Zygmunt James Creedon, Sarah-Marie Kench, Duncan, Grace, Nora Haugh, Mary Totterdell, Sue Shaw, Linda Magness

DIARY

October Friday 24 Requiem for William Kelly at 12.30 Sat 25 Contemplative Saturday in Hall from 1112

November

Tuesday 4 Requiem for Peter Kuhn at 12.30

Mon 10 Requiem for Betty Stephens at 11.30

Sat 15 Mass for the Bereaved at 2.30 followed by refreshments in the Hall

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

Contemplative Saturday is on 25 October in the Hall from 11.00 am until noon.