

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 2 November 2025 Yr C



The Retiring Collection
is for the SVP.

ALL SAINTS ALL SOULS

These are usually celebrated on the first and second of November. I have lived in both France and Italy where All Saints Day is a public holiday and, even in this secular age, is well observed in French and Italian society, in the same way that 'cultural Christians' in this country celebrate Christmas and Easter and would eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. In fact, when I lived in France, I was surprised when a Jewish lady I knew said she would be visiting her Jewish relatives graves during the holiday. If you are in France at this time the florists will all be selling chrysanthemums, as this is the flower typically taken to the cemetery. Don't make the mistake of taking a bunch to give to your hostess at a dinner party though, as chrysanthemums are considered the flower of death and mourning. It would be a bit like taking her a wreath.

As people may only have the public holiday itself off work, the cemetery visits for All Souls that day are thus made a day earlier than they should be. The French and Italians have half an excuse in confusing the two celebrations due to the holiday, but many English Catholics do the same. On All Saints Day the liturgical colour is white as we celebrate not only all the canonised saints but also all those 'little people' who lived a hidden life of sanctity, but have never been formally recognised as saints. Pope Francis used to have a very apt phrase; 'the saints next door.' He meant not just those living literally next door, but those who live around us and whom we meet in our daily lives. Those who, quietly and without fuss, simply do the will of God.

On All Souls Day the priest wears purple or black- these colours are used for the Requiem Mass on Remembrance

Sunday as well - as we remember the Holy Souls in purgatory, those who have died in God's friendship but who have not yet progressed enough in sanctity to enter heaven straight away. The Bible tells us 'Nothing unclean will ever enter it' (heaven) Revelation 21:27. So on All Souls Day, and for the rest of November, the emphasis shifts to praying for the faithful departed. The prayers and masses we offer for them help them to stay firm in their resolve to purify themselves, 'It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins.' 2 Maccabees 12:46. (Douay-Rheims.) This verse, from an Old Testament book set in the second century BC, shows that the Jews prayed for the dead. Martin Luther and other Protestants rejected the concept of praying for the dead and Catholic teaching on purgatory. They rejected 2 Maccabees and other books, e.g. Tobit, Wisdom, Baruch, that had always been in Christian Bibles. These were in the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament used by the early Christians, but Luther restricted the list of books of his Old Testament to a shorter list of books drawn up by Jewish rabbis after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70. That is why Protestant Bibles have fewer books than Catholic and Greek Orthodox ones. Some Protestants will loudly insist there is no Biblical warrant for praying for the dead, but they are not using the same Old Testament as the first Christians! Catholic and Greek Orthodox Christians continue to pray for the faithful departed as they have always done, considering this to be a "Holy and wholesome thought."

Fr Andrew Bishop

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

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Please keep these coming.



Our Prayer Tree for the Holy Souls will be on the sanctuary this weekend.

At the back of the church, by our Remembrance Book, you will find blank templates for you to complete and then hang on the tree.

If you can't get to St Edmunds, then please contact the Parish Office by email beckenham@rcaos.org.uk - please mark the subject box 'Holy Souls' and include the names of your friends and family, or **Tel: 020 8650 0970** and your flower will be completed and then placed on our tree on your behalf.

Thank you



ADMINISTRATOR - PARISH OFFICE

We are looking to recruit a part-time administrator for the Parish Office.

The successful candidate will need good IT skills (including Word, Excel and Publisher) and be comfortable with bookkeeping software. A can-do attitude and a welcoming smile are mandatory 😊

If you would like to be considered for this position please contact Fr Steve by email stephenwymer@rcaos.org.uk with an outline of your experience and why you believe you are well suited for this role.

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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

Church Hall, Wednesday 5 November

7.45 pm Praise and worship

8.00 pm Holy Mass

Celebrant to be advised

Followed by Fellowship

10.00 pm Evening concludes.

LAW SURGERY

Law Surgery is this **Monday 3 November**

Please come to the side door of the Hall at 6.00 pm and you will be seen in turn.

A DAY WITH MARY

Westminster Cathedral

Saturday 8 November

Further information is available at

<https://www adaywithmary.org/>

or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

As we have been unable to arrange a date for Fr John Olaniran to visit us for a farewell party, Fr Steve will give him a cheque from the parish at his Induction Mass this evening (Friday).

Thank you for your generosity.

AN INVITATION FROM OUR MP

INTERFAITH WEEK COMMUNITY EVENT WITH LIAM CONLON MP

Liam Conlon MP, Member of Parliament for Beckenham and Penge, invites local faith communities to come together to celebrate the positive contribution faith groups make across our area.

 **Date:** Monday 10th November

 **Time:** 5:30pm – 7:30pm

 **Venue:** St George's Church, Beckenham, BR3 1AX

For security reasons and due to limited spaces, RSVP is essential:

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/interfaithweekBP>

Or you can email liam.conlon.mp@parliament.uk or call **020 8016 6604**.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL



Today is the last day to drop off your box.

So far we have over 50 boxes, some cash donations and many loose items.

COLOMA MASS OF REMEMBRANCE TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER AT 4.00 PM

Coloma Convent Girls' School is holding a Mass of Remembrance to remember all deceased Coloma students, staff & family members. Families of those who have died are warmly invited to attend this Mass which will take place at the school.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to liturgy@coloma.co.uk by 18 November giving the name of your loved one so that they can be remembered at this Mass.



Saturday 6 December

11-4.00 pm in the Church Hall



Lovely Stalls, Hot Food and Drinks in the Cafe,
a Children's Room with Crafts and a
special visit from Father Christmas!



Grand Raffle, Craft, Christmas Wreaths, Tombola, Church Shop,
Children's Room and Claver Sisters Stall

More information will follow but at the moment we are looking for donations for the
Tombola Stall - New or Unwanted gifts, Toiletries and Bottles!

We also need Christmas Decorations to decorate our Hall Christmas Tree!

Please bring any donations to the Office on weekday mornings.

CAFOD Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

CAFOD World Gifts

As the countdown to Christmas begins, why not start giving with World Gifts.

Every purchase helps families overcome poverty, build brighter futures and celebrate Christmas with dignity. Discover more of our gifts by visiting cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.



Teach someone to read
£12.00



Water for a family
£35.00



Sewing kit
£22.00



Trees for life
£8.00

CAFOD Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

At the end of the summer you, the St Edmund's parishioners signed the global church petition calling for the cancellation of unfair debts, a need to build better financial systems and implement fairer laws to prevent future debt crises.

Please help CAFOD to reach our target

We're currently 203 away from 10,000 signatures

<https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/164876/action/1>

Thank you

MASSES

Sun 2 Nov

All Saints
 6.00 pm **VIGIL** Anthony Griffith RIP (33rd anniv)
 8.00 am Bustard & Baker Families
 9.30 am Colm Ruddy RIP
 11.00 am Dr Michael Ekong, Caroline Aaele, Mary & John Edet RIP, & dec'd members of the Edet & Ekong Families.
 5.30 pm Pro populo

Mon 3 Nov

THE COMMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
ALL SOULS DAY
 7.30 am William & Patricia Ross RIP
 10.00 am Keith Roy Kench RIP, Ken, Karl & Karen & their parents Henry & Margaret Kench RIP
 Noon Helen Donnelly RIP
 6.30 pm Dec'd members of the O'Connor, Breen & Murray Families

Tues 4 Nov

St Charles Borromeo
 10.00 am Stan Ziolek RIP
 12.30 pm Requiem of Peter Kuhn
No evening Mass at St Mark's as there is work being done in the church.

Wed 5 Nov

Feria
 10.00 am Fr Tomas Creagh-Fuller RIP (anniv)
 7.30 pm Charismatic Mass in Hall

Thurs 6 Nov

Feria
 10.00 am For the deceased Claver Sisters
 6.00 pm **CLAVES** Adoration & Benediction

Friday 7 Nov

The Dedication of the Cathedral Church of St George
 10.00 am Margaret & Charles Paes RIP & their son Malcolm RIP
 7.00 pm Esseline Nunes d'Agretta

Sat 8 Nov

Feria
 10.00 am Bridie Gitter RIP
 Noon **Jubilee Mass**
 6.00 pm **VIGIL** Delisa & Crescenzo Panetta RIP

Sun 9 Nov

The Dedication of The Lateran Basilica
 8.00 am Sean Connolly RIP
 9.30 am For the people
 11.00 am **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
 For the dead of both world wars
Please arrive before 11.00 am so the Minute's Silence can be observed.
 5.30 pm Howard & Platek Families 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:

Paul Stone, Peter Kuhn, Betty Stephens, Rosemary Horsley, Patrick Gunning, Mary Totterdell, Jonathan Panglose and Joseph Maximé.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Brian Herring, John McKeon, Michelle Kuhn, Patricia Furlong, Kathleen Roche, Fr Desmond Trant-McCarthy, Margery May, Fr Martin Breen, Brian Cooper, Harry Leamon, Mark Parsons, Fr John Redford, Valentine Potts, Sandra Richards, Jim Byrne, Eileen Hixson, Dorrien Flood, Mary Phelan.

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, Margaret Brocklehurst, Leyla Pattison, Janice McIntosh, Zygmunt Sobolewski, James Creedon, Sarah-Marie Kench, Duncan, Grace, Nora Haugh, Sue Shaw, Linda Magness, Charles, John Warren Dene.

DIARY

November

Mon 3 Law Surgery at 6.00 in the Hall Meeting Room
 Tues 4 Requiem for Peter Kuhn at 12.30
 Mon 10 Requiem for Betty Stephens at 11.30
 Tues 11 Requiem for Mary Totterdell at 10.00
 Sat 15 Mass for the Bereaved at 2.30 followed by refreshments in the Hall
 Wed 19 Requiem of Patrick Gunning at 11.15

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

