

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 9 November 2025 Yr C



The retiring collection is for the Archbishop's Appeal

RED POPPIES

This Sunday morning, thousands of people from across the country – as here in Beckenham - will attend services at their neighbourhood war memorials to remember men and women from the armed services and emergency services who have died in war or in other military conflicts. Many thousands more will attend the main national commemoration centred on the Cenotaph in Whitehall, with millions more watching on television. For many of these, Remembrance Sunday is one of the most important days in our collective national calendar. Not everyone agrees.

Some consider such ceremonies outdated: historic events that have outlived their time. Most of those who survived the two great world wars of the twentieth century, they might argue, are themselves now dead: isn't it time to let go? Some argue: what about all the civilians who have perished in wars? Don't they deserve commemorating as well? Some, from the former colonies, or from Ireland, remember that, in their own countries, and well into the twentieth century, British forces were often used as instruments of brutal oppression. And some of the millions from Asia, Africa, or the West Indies who fought on the Allied side find it hard to overlook the rampant racism within the forces at the time and the deliberate decision by post-war British governments to erase from our national consciousness the huge contribution made by non-white men and women toward the war effort in both world wars. Some will argue that war, or violence of any kind, are abhorrent and inconsistent with their Christian beliefs, and that commemorating those who died during such conflicts is tantamount to approving of war.

I have more sympathy with some of these arguments than with others, but I respect them all, even if I do not agree with them. To those who consider Remembrance Sunday outdated, I would simply ask: do you think that our lives would be better now, in 2025, if men and women had not been prepared to put their neck on the line in 1939? And what of those who have died in action since then – do they not deserve our gratitude? As to the argument about 'civilians as well', I would suggest that it is a matter of proportion. Civilian deaths in this country from enemy action during the second world war, excluding members of the merchant navy, were less than one in a thousand of the population. By contrast, in both world wars, the death rate among those on active service was 12 to 13 per cent and in the merchant navy the figure was even higher. The risk of dying as a civilian, though real, was still very small, even in London and the major cities. But those joining up, whether voluntarily or through conscription, had a one in eight chance of not coming back. That, to my mind, is courage on a noble scale.

As for the 'Christian principles' argument, I would remind you that the Church does not require total, non-violent submission in the face of aggression, and it not only supports the principle of national self defence but also that of military conscription – albeit with very rigorous qualifications (See Catechism of the Catholic Church 2308, 2310).

But there is one argument against the marking of Remembrance Sunday that I wholly object to, and that is the assertion that it glorifies war. It does not. The entire emphasis on Sunday will be on those who died in wars and conflicts from the First World War onwards. Yes, there are people on the right who have tried to hijack Remembrance Sunday commemorations for their own nationalistic, and sometimes racist purposes. And, yes, it is not unknown for Governments to try to manipulate the occasion, and the memory of those who died, for their own purposes. But the vast majority of those attending or watching the ceremonies on Sunday will be honouring, in gratitude, sometimes with prayers, those who died not only in two world wars but also, let us not forget, in many other military actions since. Yes, there will be some uniforms and some flags at the cenotaph: it is, after all, servicemen and women that we will be honouring. But that will be the end of it. The ten thousand people who will march or be wheeled down Whitehall after the main ceremony will not include a single serving member of the armed services. The veterans and their family members who make up the parade will not be wearing uniforms, apart from berets, for some, and military decorations. There will be no flag-waving, no tub-thumping, no displays of tanks and military hardware – nothing that could possibly be construed as glorification of war. Instead, there will be poppies. Let me finish by recording what the British Legion has to say about the role of this spindly, fragile, wispy, but beautiful, flower:

'During WW1, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. The countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over repeatedly. Previously beautiful landscapes turned to mud; bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow'.

'There was a notable and striking exception to the bleakness - the bright red Flanders poppies. These resilient flowers flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, growing in the thousands upon thousands'.

'Remembrance does not glorify war, and its symbol, the red poppy, is a sign of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.' (From the British Legion website.)

Deacon Seán

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

SVP CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Monday 8 December in the Hall at 1.00 pm

Booking is now open for the annual SVP Christmas lunch.

There will be a full Christmas meal and some seasonal entertainment.

No charge for those on a low income but a suggested donation of £15 for all others.

Please email beckenhamsvp@gmail.com or call 07784 497 482 and leave a message or text/WA to reserve your place, to advise of any dietary requirements or to arrange transport.

Our Prayer Tree for the Holy Souls is now on the sanctuary.

By our Remembrance Book, you will find blank templates to complete and hang on the tree.

If you are unable to get to St Edmunds, please contact the Parish Office by email who will hang your names for you.

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.

All are welcome to attend this Mass and 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.

LADY CHAPEL REFURBISHMENT

The diocesan expert who needs to advise us on what we can do in the Lady Chapel is still unwell which is why there has been no progress for some months. He will visit us as soon as he is able to travel.

The Church Shop now has Christmas Cards, calendars, 2026 diaries, Christmas candles and children's Christmas books in stock.

Please let Patrick know if there is anything you would like ordered from <https://www.cbcdistributors.co.uk/>

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL



Thank you

Your beautiful shoeboxes flooded in over the weekend and on Monday **94** were collected to join all the others going to Kosovo.

Everyone who came to the Office to give their boxes had a smile on their face; clearly they had enjoyed preparing them. We will never see the smiles on the faces of the recipients, but we know they will be there.

Thank you for your generosity and love in making this a wonderful year for Blythswood.

My dear Parishioners of St. Edmund of Canterbury - Beckenham.

This is to express my sincere gratitude for the Cash gift sent to me through Fr Stephen Wymer. This is quite thoughtful and generous of you. Thanks very sincerely. Be assured of our prayers for you and your families.

May the Lord bless you all from the plenitude of His mercy.

Fr. John Olaniran.

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.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 18 November.

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**.

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.

300 CLUB

This year's main prizewinning draw will take place at the Advent Carol Service on Saturday 13 December, so if you are thinking of joining the club, now is a good time to do it.

Membership is £39 pounds for 12 draws with the chance to win one of 36 prizes throughout the year. There is a bumper £250 first prize in December, £100 second prize and a beautiful Xmas hamper as third prize.

Registration forms are at the back of the church so please take one and return it immediately if you would like to be in the Christmas draw.

BAPTISMS AT ST EDMUND'S

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

beckenhambaptism@rcaos.org.uk

BROMLEY HOMELESS SLEEP OUT 2025

Norah Agiru, one of our parishioners, is joining the Sleep Out on Saturday 15 November. If anyone would like to support her please go to her Justgiving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/norah-agiru-1?newPage=true>

There is a poster in the porch.

MASSES

Sun 9 Nov	The Dedication of The Lateran Basilica
6.00 pm VIGIL	Delisa & Crescenzo Panetta RIP
8.00 am	Sean Connolly RIP
9.30 am	For the people
11.00 am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
	For the dead of both world wars
	<i>Please arrive before 11.00 am so the Two Minutes Silence can be observed.</i>
5.30 pm	Howard & Piatek Families RIP
Mon 10 Nov	St Leo the Great
10.00 am	Brian Lennon RIP
	No Adoration
11.30 am	Requiem of Betty Stephens
Tues 11 Nov	St Martin of Tours
10.00 am	Requiem of Mary Totterdell
Wed 12 Nov	St Josaphat
10.00 am	Ints of Bernie Walsh
8.00 pm	Charismatic Mass in Hall
Thurs 13 Nov	Feria (St Frances Xavier Cabrini)
10.00 am	Benefactors & promoters of the Claver Sisters
6.00 pm CLAVER	Adoration
Friday 14 Nov	Feria
10.00 am	Monica Grima RIP
Sat 15 Nov	Feria
10.00 am	A private intention
2.30 am	Mass for the Bereaved
6.00 pm VIGIL	Gervais Virassamy RIP
Sun 16 Nov	Thirty-third Sunday
	World Day of the Poor
	Feast of St Edmund of Canterbury
8.00 am	For the people
9.30 am	Edmund Mayungbe RIP
11.00 am LATIN	Eily Moore RIP
5.30 pm	Sandy Baron 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:

Betty Stephens, Rosemary Horsley, Patrick Gunning, Mary Totterdell, Jonathan Panglose, Joseph Maximé, Michael Waldron.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Cardinal Heenan, Fr Robin Mountford, Mary Ward, Patricia Ross, Eddie Finch, John Basquill, Madeline Ellis, Maureen Tyler, John Pedler, James Hussey, Michael Sullivan, John Taylor, Frank Bond, Elsie Callaghan, Brian Cardell, Margaret Feagan, John O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Rourke, Rosi Baruffi, Robert Reed.

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, Marie Alford.

DIARY

November

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
 Mon 8 SVP Christmas lunch
 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



ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL RETIRING COLLECTION 9 NOVEMBER

This mandatory diocesan collection funds three key mission areas: Youth and Evangelization, Our Faith in Action and Clergy Care and Formation.

It expresses something vital about who we are as a family of faith in Southwark.

- Donate Online: rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal
- Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (right)
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504

Cash / Cheque – please use the Archbishop's Appeal envelopes at the back of church

