

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 11 January 2026 Yr A

Next Sunday there will be a
retiring collection for Pax Christi

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year to you all.

Once again on behalf of the clergy and staff at St Edmund's I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for all the gifts and cards we've received over this Christmas Season and the kindness and support you have shown us throughout the year. Thanks indeed for your generous Christmas offerings for your priests.

You may recall Archbishop John's pastoral letter for the Solemnity of the Holy Family two weeks ago. Having reread it, I've selected one sentence and two longer passages for you to reflect on as we begin this year of 2026.

'In Christ, the radiant hope of God's love and mercy shines into every heart and family'.

'In the mystery of Christmas, the love of God took flesh and dwelt amongst us. How can we work together, co-responsibly, to help make that love real? How can we reach out and accompany those in need in our community: the housebound, the elderly, the bereaved, the isolated, the family new to the parish, and the person who sits alone at Mass? How can we strengthen what is already good amongst us: food banks, winter night shelters, parish support groups, care for prisoners, and school outreach?'

Today, we entrust our families, and our whole Archdiocese, to the Holy Family of Nazareth. Thank you to parents, grandparents, extended family and carers, for your patience and quiet sacrifices that bring the truths of the Holy Family to life. Thank you for your efforts to hand on our beautiful Catholic faith to your children. Thank you too, to our young people for your witness. None of us should ever be ashamed of the Gospel. Christ never diminishes life but enlarges it. Those who entrust themselves to him are never disappointed.

May God bless you all – Fr Steve.

CONFIRMATION 2026

Full information and enrolment details will be in next weekend's newsletter. Please sign up promptly as spaces are limited.

WELCOME & GOODBYE

We are delighted to welcome Michele to the parish office team and very much hope she enjoys her new role. Michele will be working with Barbara in the parish office and replaces Rosemary who retires next Friday – we wish her all the best.

MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – JOIN THE CATENIANS!

Whether you are new to the parish or just interested in making new friends, you will be assured of a warm welcome at the Catenians.

The Catenians play an important role in strengthening Catholic communities. The Beckenham branch of the association meets once a month and organises various other social events throughout the year.

Our focus is on faith, friendship and family, and we offer the chance to meet fellow Catholics and their families from Beckenham, Hayes and beyond.

We also organise raffles to raise money for good causes, including St Christopher's Hospice and the Priest Training Fund of the Archdiocese of Southwark. If you would like to come to one of our meetings or find out more about the association, please phone Andy Holmes on 07890 008458 or email acncarriman@ntlworld.com.

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

MASSES

Sun 11 Jan 6.00 pm VIGIL	The Baptism of the Lord Stewart, Elena and Sullivan families
8.00 am	Mary Totterdell RIP
9.30 am	For the people
11.00 am	Jane Morey RIP
5.30 pm	Anne Moys RIP & Alice Castle RIP
Mon 12 Jan 10.00 am	Feria Brian Mulcahy RIP
Tues 13 Jan 10.00 am	Feria Douglas Arthur RIP
Wed 14 Jan 10.00 am 8.00 pm	Feria Intentions of Jim Conner Charismatic Mass in Hall
Thurs 15 Jan 10.00 am 6.00 pm CLAVES	Feria Eamon Walsh RIP Adoration
Fri 16 Jan 10.00 am	Feria Intentions of Bridie Sharpe
Sat 17 Jan 10.00 am 6.00 pm VIGIL	St Anthony, Abbot Gerald Baker RIP Delisa and Crescenzo Panetta RIP
Sun 18 Jan 8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Second Sunday Intention of the Ewings Family For the people Wellbeing of Cynthia Tochi Ngba Mary Totterdell 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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

Church Hall, Wednesday 14 January
7.45pm Praise and Worship
8.00pm Holy Mass (Celebrant Fr Boniface Arapa)
Followed by Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament
10.00 pm Evening concludes.

Ambassadors for Christ: A Catholic apologetics resource.

The Archdiocese of Southwark has launched an exciting project to provide evidence-based answers to questions such as "Is Jesus God?" or "does prayer work?". Ambassadors for Christ is designed to equip you with a deeper understanding, so you can confidently answer questions and be a joyful witness for the Lord Jesus and his Church. YouTube videos are posted each Monday, along with worksheets for parishes, schools, youth groups and families to use in faith formation. To engage in this exciting project, please visit: rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist.

We pray for all who have died:

Mary Aileen Shannon, Chris Kelly, Giovanni Battista Collu and Fr James Hay

Please pray for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Fabrizio Lanzetti, Frank Penston, John Goodwill, Bridget Obiageli Ildigwe, Sr Laserian Fleming, Michael Fitzpatrick, Harry McGuigan, Jean Harrigan, Carol Williams, Kathleen Bryon, Agnes Burns, Leo Carroll, Nora Teresa Kidd, Ita Philomena Mary Smith, Sharon Oates, William Webster, Peggy Brown, baby Charlotte Mary Flannery, Geraldine Margaret Muir, Lourdes Ceniza

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, James Creedon, Sarah-Marie Kench, Duncan, Grace, Nora Haugh, Linda Magness, Charles, Reggie Rock, Teresa Cadogan, Joyce Edwins, Chris Elgar, Rose Elgar, Maureen Pinkett.

DIARY

January

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 runs from **Sunday 18 – Friday 23 January** (poster at the back of church has full details). This includes: **Tues 20 January – Vespers 4pm**

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.

ST EDMUND'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

When someone we love dies, it's natural to want to talk, share memories and reflect on our loss. Family and friends may offer comfort, but sometimes those around us may not fully understand what we're going through.

The **St Edmund's Bereavement Support Group** is a kind, safe, and understanding space for those grieving. In a warm and welcoming environment, parishioners can meet others experiencing loss, share their feelings, and talk about practical challenges that can feel overwhelming. There is no pressure to speak – simply being among others can bring reassurance. For those who wish to share, there is always a listening ear. This supportive group is open to all, regardless of faith. We run three groups a year, meeting weekly for six weeks.

A lovely quality of this group is the genuine friendship and mutual support that often grows among those who come together through shared loss.

If you would like to know more, please take a leaflet from the shelf near the Anniversary book at the back of the Church, or email: beckenhamsbg@rcaos.org.uk