

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 17 May Yr A

The retiring collection this Sunday is a national collection for the Catholic Communications Network

Retirement rarely arrives with fanfare. More often, it comes quietly, like a courteous guest who slips through the front door and gently rearranges life before we quite realise what has happened.

For many years, work shapes our days. We rise to the alarm clock, follow familiar routines, and spend our time among colleagues, meetings, deadlines, and daily responsibilities. Yet when retirement finally comes, the silence can feel surprisingly unfamiliar. The routines we once complained about are suddenly the very things we miss.

Many retirees find themselves waking early out of habit, only to discover there is nowhere pressing to be. The newspaper is read thoroughly, the crossword completed with determination, and by mid-morning the day already seems long. Retirement, we soon discover, is not simply a financial change; it is an emotional adjustment as well.

There are practical concerns too. Income changes, while household bills and expenses continue much as before. Savings that took decades to build can feel difficult to spend. At the same time, the roles that once defined us — teacher, engineer, manager, nurse, administrator — quietly fall away, and we may wonder who we are without them. Perhaps the greatest challenge can be loneliness. Former colleagues become busy with their own lives, the telephone rings less often, and days can begin to lose their structure. Without care, boredom and isolation can slowly take root.

Yet retirement need not become a time of decline. For many, it becomes an opportunity for renewal.

Those who enter retirement with interests, friendships, faith, and a willingness to remain involved often discover a new freedom. There is time for morning walks, leisurely cups of tea, reading for pleasure, gardening, music, volunteering, and long-postponed visits to local places of interest. Church groups, community projects, book clubs, and charitable work offer both companionship and purpose. Retirement also gives us the chance to share the wisdom gathered over many years. Experience becomes a gift that can encourage younger generations and strengthen the wider community.

Most importantly, retirement reminds us that purpose does not disappear with employment. It simply changes shape. While family support is a blessing, it is wise not to place unnecessary financial expectations upon our children. Many younger families face their own pressures of mortgages, careers, and rising costs. Strong family relationships flourish best when built on love, encouragement, and mutual respect rather than obligation.

In the end, retirement is not merely about stopping work. It is about learning to live differently — with gratitude, balance, and renewed purpose. After years spent serving employers, meeting deadlines, and caring for others, retirement offers the opportunity to rediscover simple joys, deepen friendships, strengthen faith, and make good use of the precious gift of time.

— Fr Boniface Arapa

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

All young people who have made their first holy communion are able to become altar servers. Anyone who will make their first communion this weekend and any young person who has only recently started serving at Mass are invited to learn a little more about what being an altar server involves.

There will be a welcome and short training session in the church at 4.00 pm on Sunday 21 June. All are invited. Parents can accompany their children if they wish.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Over sixty of our parish children will be making their first holy communion at Masses on Saturday morning. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

A heartfelt thank-you is owed to the team of volunteers which has prepared the children for this day. We are so grateful for their work. Katherine Jarrett who has led the team for quite a few years now is stepping back and at the moment we have no replacement for her. If you would be interested in finding out more about this role please contact Fr Steve to talk more about it.

WE NEED YOU

We would love you to join us on a trip to **Walsingham on 27th June** at a cost of approximately £30 per person.

Why Walsingham?

Walsingham is known for its spiritual significance and beautiful scenery. It is an opportunity to unwind, enjoy time together and explore the lovely location.

We need you for the trip to Walsingham to go ahead.

We have extended our deadline and are trying to source a smaller coach for the trip. Please email the parish office to book your place.

DEBORAH'S PALM

Every last Thursday of the month the Sisters of St. Peter Claver offer the opportunity for people to come to the convent in the afternoon, share a cup of tea, chat with the Sisters, share their thoughts and needs and, if they wish, also pray with them. At 3.00 pm we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (10 minutes) and from 6.00 pm till 7.00 pm we will have adoration. All are free to come and participate if they so wish.

From 3.10 pm till 6.00 pm one or other of the Sisters will be available to talk to whoever may desire to come to the convent at 89 Shortlands Rd, Bromley, BR2 0JL

Sr. Assunta Giertych

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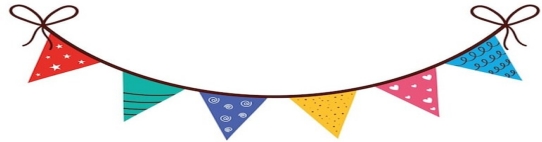
AFTERNOON TEA AT THE CLAVER CONVENT 20 June 2.00 - 4.00 pm

A fund-raising event to build houses for destitute families in Pakistan.

Save the date and if you can contribute or volunteer, please contact
Sr. Assunta.

Tel: 020 8313 3915

Tickets will be on sale nearer the date.



PARISH FAIR Saturday 6 June 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

The fair is less than a month away and we need you to bring in your donations now.

What do we need?

Bottles
Quality items for the
bric-a-brac table
& for raffle prizes
Cakes
Hand crafted items
Plants

Money Mountain tickets will be on sale at all Sunday Masses on the two weekends before the fair.

OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS FROM THE HOLY LAND

We are the Good Shepherd Company, originally from Bethlehem and now based in Nottingham. Through the sale of olive wood carvings, we support the Christian families in the Holy Land, for whom this craft is a vital source of income.

By helping sell their work here, we contribute to keeping families employed and rooted in their homeland.

We are delighted to welcome back the Good Shepherd Company to sell their beautiful work at St Edmund's. Parishioners loved their items last time they visited us and we hope you will take as much pleasure from them this time.

JOHN CAMPOLINI RIP

John Campolini passed away peacefully on 25 April, surrounded by his family. He was a parishioner of strong faith, shown by lifelong service to the Catholic charities, The Knights of St Columba and The Catenian Association.

Having recovered from Oesophageal Cancer, he became committed to educating and supporting other patients and was the Chair of the Oesophageal Patients Association, a cancer charity until March 2026. John's body will be received into the church at 4.00 pm on Wednesday 27 May.

There will be Mass at 7.30 pm organised by the Knights of St Columba and John's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 28 at 12.00 pm.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

MASSES

Sun 17 May 6.00 pm VIGIL 8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Seventh Sunday of Easter Aquilina & Manuel Pampin Mosquera RIP Ints of Angela Dowling & Family Fionnuala Hartigan RIP For the people Umberto Ferrando RIP (8th anniv)
Monday 18 May 10.00 am	Feria John Brooks RIP
Tues 19 May 10.00 am 11.00 am	Feria Mrs Grace Eto Eseanobi RIP Requiem for Michael Northwood
Wed 20 May 10.00 am	Feria Madeleine Ruddy RIP
Thu 21 May 10.00 am 6.00 pm CLAVER	Feria Louise Mayungbe (b'day ints) Adoration
Fri 22 May 10.00 am	Feria Denise dos Santos Zanardine RIP
Sat 23 May 10.00 am 6.00 pm VIGIL	Feria Robertson Family Marie Alford RIP
Sun 24 May 8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Pentecost Frances Joseph Friend-Pereira RIP Leokadia—God's care & blessings Ann Dougan Johanna Pauline Piatek RIP (10th anniv)

EXPOSITION

Monday to Thursday and Saturday from
9.00 –9.45 am and Friday after Mass

ROSARY

Monday and Wednesday after
Mass, and Friday before Mass

CONFESSION

Saturday after morning Mass until noon and
Saturday evenings from 5.00 pm to 5.45 pm.
*On occasion exposition or rosary will not take place
owing to a funeral being held
in the church*

FORTHCOMING COLLECTIONS

For those of you who like to put your offering in the
plate, here is a list of the coming collections:

May 17	World Communications Sunday
May 31	LEPRA
June 14	SVP
June 28	Peter's Pence

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 20 May

7.45 pm. Praise and Worship
8.00 pm. Holy Mass
Celebrant. Fr Boniface Arapa
Followed by. Adoration before the Blessed
Sacrament
10.00 pm. Evening concludes.

We pray for all our parishioners

The recently deceased: Michael Northwood, John
Campolini, Colleen Swan, Francis Coccozza, Mandy
Parker.

Those whose anniversaries are at this time: Silvana
Verlengia, Umberto Ferrando, Finola Butler, Anna
Fleming, Msg Peter Strand, Anthony Mensa, Kathleen
Yourell, Doreen Griffin, Geraldine O'Connor, Catherine
'Kay' O'Sullivan, Joseph Keappock, Mary Smith, Patrick
Callaghan, Paul Skelly, Joseph Cahoon, Suzanne
Podesta, John Banfield, Eliana Palacios, Arthur Michael
Gregory.

Those in ill health: Chris Elgar, Peter Anthony Jones,
Katherine McLaughlin, Henry Ginn, Margaret Mattison,
Paul Hixson, David Back, Arlene Sinclair, Margaret
Russell, Emma Rodrigues, Christine Parker, Don,
Beatrice Allegretti, John Hughes, Yvonne Forshaw.

And all those suffering with long term sickness.
May the Lord bless them and keep them – Amen.

DIARY

May	
19	Requiem for Michael Northwood at 11.30
28	Requiem for John Campolini at noon.
28	Deborah's Palm at the Claver Convent at 3.00
29	Requiem for Francis Coccozza at 1.00
June	
4	Requiem for Colleen Swan at 12.00
6	Parish Fair
19	Quiz Night in aid of Deacon Sean's Ghana charity
20	Afternoon Tea at the Claver Convent

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Christian Meditation in the hall every Monday from
5.30-6.20 except on 2nd Mondays.
Quiet Monday in the Hall on second Mondays from 5.30
- 6.20 - see flyer in porch.

Please note the need to arrive promptly and
respect the need for silence.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

16 - 20 June

Something for half term

The Story of Jesus, Brought to Life

Discover the wonder of Jesus' life with an unforgettable
event for all the family. The Life of Christ is a play like
no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive
theatre experience. Join over a hundred actors in the
stunning grounds of Wintershall Estate as this
magnificent story is movingly recreated with authentic
detail in an epic open-air production. Watch the
Wedding in Cana, the Feeding of the 5000 and the Last
Supper unfold before your eyes. It's the perfect day out
for families, faith groups, theatre lovers and schools.
<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/life-of-christ/>

*16 & 17 June are schools only days and there is limited
availability on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 June. At
present there is availability on Saturday 20 June but
please book as soon as possible to avoid
disappointment.*