

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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Sunday 11 October
Yr A

Prisoners Sunday Retiring
Collection for PACT

FINAL
MASS COUNT
WEEK 4

INTRODUCING THE SACRAMENTS

Dear people of God, we are going to do some catechesis in our newsletter in the next few weeks so as to remind us, and also help people intending to know more about the Catholic church, who may not have had the chance to do so. It would be very important to be consistent, to read all these pieces in order to have a deeper understanding of our faith. We shall begin by discussing the Sacraments in the Catholic church, and later other aspects of our faith. Today we shall just introduce the sacraments, and next week we shall go deeper into each sacrament, for a better understanding of each. Thank you.

Catholic definition of sacrament:

A Catholic sacrament is a sacred, visible sign instituted by Jesus Christ to give invisible grace and divine life to believers. They are not just symbolic gestures; they are "efficacious," meaning they actually bring about what they represent.

The Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church:

There are seven Sacraments in the Catholic church, divided into three core groupings:

The first three sacraments are called the sacraments of *Christian initiation*. They are:

1. **Baptism:** It cleanses original sin, welcomes the person into God's family, and incorporates them into the Church using water.

2. **Eucharist:** Provides the actual Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ under the appearance of bread and wine.

3. **Confirmation:** Deepens baptismal grace, seals the person with the Holy Spirit, and strengthens them to witness to Christ.

Sacraments of healing address spiritual and physical sickness.

4. **Reconciliation (Penance / Confession):** Forgives sins committed after baptism through contrition, confession to a priest, and absolution.

5. **Anointing of the Sick:** Offers spiritual and physical strength, peace, and healing to those dangerously ill, weakened by age, those on long travels, those undertaking dangerous missions that can lead to death or facing surgery.

Sacraments at the service of communion and mission build up the people of God and serve the community.

6. **Holy Orders:** Ordains men as bishops, priests, or deacons to minister in the person of Christ.

7. **Matrimony (Marriage):** Unites a man and a woman in a lifelong, covenantal bond that mirrors Christ's love for the Church.

Frs Boniface Arapa and Theodore Uzochukwu

EVENING MASSES

A few weeks ago, we shared the news that evening Masses would be returning to St Edmund's, and we invited you to tell us which days and times would suit you best. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond and share their preferences and thoughts.

After considering the feedback received, we have decided to keep things simple to begin with. Evening Mass will be celebrated at **7.30 pm** on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays**. These arrangements are not set in stone and can be reviewed and adjusted as needed in the future.

We are delighted that our first evening Mass will be celebrated on **Monday 2 November, the Feast of All Souls**. We look forward to gathering together in prayer and hope that many of you will be able to join us.

BABY LOSS AWARENESS WEEK

Baby Loss Awareness Week continues until 15 October.

We once again have a Remembrance Tree on the sanctuary. You are invited to add a ribbon bearing the name of a baby you wish to remember. The tree offers a quiet and prayerful space for reflection, remembrance, and hope.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Any parent/carer who is applying for a place at a Catholic secondary school will need a Certificate of Catholic Practice signed by Fr Steve. To have this done parents/carers should come to the Hall after the 9.30 mass on **Sunday October 18**. Fr Steve will be in the small meeting room to see the families and to sign the forms. We are not booking times for this so please be patient.

We have copies of the form you will need.

Please make every effort to attend as this is the only time we can guarantee that Fr Steve will be available.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Signing sessions for applications to Catholic primary schools will be publicized shortly. Times will be in the newsletter and in the notices at mass.

FORMATION DAY FOR LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday 24 October

Bishop Thomas Grant School
10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Saturday 31 October

Capuchin Franciscan Friary, Erith
10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Please email the Parish Office to register stating which date you are attending.

We need responses by Wednesday 14 October please.

Please could we encourage all who leave a message for the Parish Office to give their phone number slowly and clearly. Every week there are numbers which we cannot hear clearly and therefore the messages cannot be dealt with.

SPECTACLES—FINAL CALL

No one has come to the Office to claim any of the spectacles that have been left in the church or the pair of Ray Bans. These will be given to an optician during the week so they can be recycled.

ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL



**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Isobel Vassallo, Head Teacher of St Mary's Primary School, is retiring at the end of this month and her last day in school will be this coming Friday 16 October. Mrs Vassallo has been Head Teacher for 21 years and is much loved and respected by staff, parents and children. Under her leadership, the School was judged.

Outstanding by Ofsted in 2024 and pupil places continue to be greatly in demand. The Parish is hugely grateful to Mrs Vassallo for her wonderful service to our parish school and we all wish her a long and happy retirement.

Also this week, the School is celebrating Fr Ashley's 30th year as School Chaplain. He has been a great supporter and adviser to the school and again the Parish is very grateful to him for his continuing commitment to the role.

MARY'S MEALS



Thank you for your wonderful response in buying raffle tickets to raise funds for Mary's Meals.

The cost of feeding a child a hot meal every school day is £19.15. Your generosity has already fed a school for an entire year.

Tickets will again be on sale after most masses up until 18 October.

A ticket costs £5, not even the cost of a coffee and a cookie, but one ticket purchased will give a child a hot lunch for a quarter of the year.

Thank you for your generosity.

More information about this charity can be found at: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Pope Leo XIV has recorded a special video message for the celebration of World Mission Sunday which we focus on next weekend.

Watch Pope Leo's Message for World Mission Sunday: <https://youtu.be/i318XLeZV4s?>

NEWT

Friday November 6 from 7.30 -10.30 pm

Many of you will remember Deacon Sean's charity in Ghana which helps young people continue their education or finance their apprenticeships.

We are holding a fund raising evening so we can continue to do this. It is a re-run of the event we held last year which was such a great success and attracted people of all ages.



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX TIME IS UPON US AGAIN!

Leaflets are at the back of church giving all the details you need to help you fill a shoebox. This year our boxes are being distributed in Ukraine where families have been experiencing extreme hardship every winter since the outbreak of war.

Please share details about the shoebox collection with family and friends to help us collect as many boxes as possible..

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

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

This year please bring your filled boxes to the Parish Office – boxes can be dropped off until Sunday 1st November and will then go on to the Blythswood depot.

If you have any questions, then get in touch with
Lucienne Vella 07884 184534 or
Susie Watchorn 07956 574789.

A POEM

Parishioner Michael Elmer attended the funeral of the wife of his oldest friend; she latterly worked at Lancaster University. She wrote this poem which was printed in her Order of Service.

Entrance Exam *by Mary Hodges*

If I get to heaven
Will I have to take a test
To see if I can sing the hymns
And keep time with the rest?
I never made it to the choir,
I couldn't sing in tune,
Instead I tried to mime the words,
They spotted me quite soon.
Does Peter at the pearly gates
When counting good and sin,
Ask simply, "Can you play the harp?"
And if you can, you're in!

God smiled: "My child, there's something
You really ought to know;
I made the tuneful nightingale,
I also made the crow,
The peacock with its gorgeous tail,
Its harsh and jarring cry,
The braying ass, the croaking frog,
Who made them all but I?!"

"All animals - all humans too -
Have unique worth for me,
Don't fret because you cannot sing,
Come in and brew the tea!"

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION, INTEGRATION AND HUMAN DIGNITY Saturday 21 November 9:30 am-4 pm

We warmly invite you to join us for the National Conference on Migration, Integration and Human Dignity at this important moment. Inspired by the vision and teaching of Pope Leo XIV, the conference will explore how migration affects people, families and communities, and how the Church can uphold human dignity in a rapidly changing, increasingly AI-driven world.

This gathering offers an opportunity to reflect on how our parishes, communities and organisations can become places of encounter, dialogue and integration. Together, we will consider how migration can enrich the life of the local Church and how we can respond with compassion, openness and creativity while respecting the dignity of every person. We invite you to join the conversation, share your experience.

For further information and registration, please search **local.magnicharity.org** Tickets are £12.00, this will include refreshments and a light lunch. Tickets can be purchased by registering on the conference website **local.magnicharity.org** or email **blackfen@rcaos.org.uk**

If any parishioner is interested in attending this day please let the Parish Office know.

MASSES

Sun 11 Oct

6.00 pm
8.00 am
9.30 am
11.00 am
5.30 pm

28th Sunday

Betty Stephens RIP (1st anniv)
Ian Scott
Pro populo
Beckenham Catenians
Edward Piatek RIP

Mon 12 Oct

10.00 am

St Wilfrid, Bishop

Violet Cronin

Tues 13 Oct

10.00 am

St Edward the Confessor, King

Anna Knell RIP

Wed 14 Oct

10.00 am

St Callistus, Pope & Martyr

Monica Grima RIP
Charismatic mass

8.00 pm **HALL**

Thurs 15 Oct

10.00 am

St Teresa of Jesus

Dec'd benefactors & promoters of
the Claver Sisters

Fri 16 Oct

10.00 am

St Hedwig

For the Lataz Family
Requiem of Noreen Griffiths

11.30 am

Sat 17 Oct

10.00 am

St Ignatius of Antioch

Clara Mayungbe (b'day ints)
Ronald & Eileen

6.00 pm

Sun 18 Oct

8.00 am

29th Sunday

Sr Monica

9.30 am

Pro populo

11.00 am **LATIN**

Anna Lee Cabilin RIP

5.30 pm

Manuel Pampin Mosquera RIP
(4th anniv)

EXPOSITION

Monday to Thursday and Saturday: 9-9.45am
Thursday evening: 6-7pm at Claver Convent
Friday: after Mass.

CONFESSION

Saturday after morning Mass until 11.30, and
Saturday evenings from 5.00 pm to 5.45 pm.

**On occasion exposition will not take place owing
to a funeral being held**

MASS TIMES AT ST MARK'S, WEST WICKHAM

Weekdays

10.00 am daily
(except Monday)
6.00 pm
(Monday only)

Sunday Mass

8.00 am
10.00 am
11.30 am

MASS TIMES AT ST ANTHONY'S, ANERLEY

Monday to Saturday

9.30 am daily
Tuesday evenings at
7.30 pm

Saturday

6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday Mass

9.30 am
11.15 am
5.30 pm

We pray for all our parishioners

Those who have just died: Noreen Griffiths, Brian Gooch, Colleen McLeod, Maureen Hogwood, Decio Marin.

Those whose anniversaries are at this time: John Sylvester, William Fitzgerald, Anna Knell, Peter Fagan Sr, Peter Fagan Jr, Geoffrey Burnham, Frances Wilson, Poppie Howie, Patrick Cummins, Istvan Mod, Patrick Gunning, Paula Marbach, Betty Banfield, Christopher Gunnapala, Dave Webb, Bernadette Murray.

Those in ill health: Chris Elgar, Peter Anthony Jones, Katherine McLaughlin, Henry Ginn, Paul Hixson, Arlene Sinclair, Emma Rodrigues, Christine Parker, Don, Beatrice Allegretti, Yvonne Forshaw, Elizabeth Hardaker, Sheila Crozier, Margaret Arnold.

And all those suffering with long term sickness.

May the Lord bless them and keep them – Amen.

If you are aware of any parishioner who is sick or housebound and who would like a visit from the clergy team, please make contact with one of them or call the Parish Office.

DIARY DATES

October

- 9 Start of baby loss awareness week
- 15 Remembering our Babies - service at Beckenham Crematorium
- 10 After morning mass a training session for Eucharistic Ministers
- 16 Requiem of Noreen Griffiths at 11.30 am
- 23 Mary's Meals Fundraising Evening
ALL TICKETS SOLD - PLEASE BUY RAFFLE TICKETS INSTEAD
- 24 Formation Day for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers at Bishop Thomas Grant School
- 30 Friday evening 6.00 pm mass followed by farewell party for Fr Andrew

SILENT PRAYER

Silent prayer time in the Hall on Mondays from 5.30 - 6.20 pm

Every Monday (except second Monday and bank holidays).

John Main Christian Meditation Group

Second Monday

Quiet Monday (reaching out to other local churches) - see flyer in porch for details

Please note the need to arrive promptly and observe the group silence. Access is via stairs.

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