CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
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Sunday 8 November
Yr A

The Retiring collection will be for the Archbishop's Appeal

NOVEMBER: THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Why do we offer Masses for the dead?

Many Catholics have Masses offered for deceased family members and friends, especially on anniversaries and during the month of November. But why is this such an important part of our faith?

The Church teaches that death does not break the bond of love between members of Christ's Church. We continue to pray for one another, both in this life and after death.

Catholics believe that some souls, although destined for heaven, may still need purification before entering the fullness of God's presence. This state of purification is known as Purgatory. Because we are united in Christ, our prayers can help those who have died and are being purified.

The greatest prayer we can offer for the faithful departed is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. During Mass, we unite ourselves with Christ's perfect sacrifice and entrust our loved ones to God's mercy and love.

The Church has always encouraged prayer for the dead. The Catechism teaches:

"From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic Sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God." (CCC 1032)

This practice dates back to the early Church and even has roots in the Old Testament. Christians throughout the centuries have remembered the dead in prayer, trusting in God's mercy and believing that our prayers can help them on their journey to eternal life.

Some people ask: "What if my loved one is already in heaven?"

We can never know God's judgement or timing. However, prayers offered in faith are never wasted. If a soul is already with the Lord, God can apply those prayers for the benefit of other souls in need of His mercy.

For this reason, having a Mass offered for someone who has died is one of the greatest acts of love we can perform. It is a beautiful way to remember our loved ones and to entrust them to God's care.

During this Month of the Holy Souls, let us remember all our departed family members, friends, parishioners and benefactors. May our prayers, sacrifices and Mass intentions help them find eternal rest in the peace of Christ.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Fr Boniface Arapa

November Lists of the Dead
Parishioners are invited to place the names of departed family members and friends in the envelopes at the back of the church. These intentions will be remembered at Mass throughout November.

Please also remember the Mass for the Bereaved on Saturday 14 November at 2.30 pm.

NOTE FROM FR ANDREW

Thank you for making me so welcome last Friday at my "leaving do." And thank you all for your generous gift, and a particular thanks to Sue and her team of helpers who got everything ready. I hope it is *au revoir* not *adieu.* God bless you all. Fr Andrew.

EVENING MASSES

Our evening Masses started last week. They will be celebrated in the church on every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

On **Monday and Tuesday** the Mass will start at **6.30pm** and on **Thursday at 6.45pm**.

Many parishioners have wished for evening Masses for some time, so we look forward to welcoming many of you to these Masses.

MASS FOR THE BEREAVED
Saturday 14 November at 2.30 pm

November is the month when we particularly remember those who have gone before us.

Once again in St Edmund's we will be having a Mass for those parishioners who have lost someone dear to them.

If you wish to light a candle during this Mass for a person you have lost, please let the Office know the name you wish to be remembered.

After the mass there will be refreshments in the Hall.

HOLY SOULS MASS INTENTIONS

In addition to the Mass for the Bereaved (above) the clergy would like to draw attention to the tradition of Mass intentions for Holy Souls.

As members of the Communion of Saints, we continue to pray for the faithful departed, entrusting them to God's mercy and love.

One of the greatest gifts we can offer for our deceased loved ones is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The Mass is the Church's most powerful prayer, and offering a Mass intention for someone who has died is a beautiful way of asking God to grant them eternal rest and bring them into the fullness of His presence.

Many parishioners may not realise that it is possible to have a Mass offered for the repose of a loved one's soul. However, in our parish, as in many churches, Mass intentions are often booked well in advance by those that do, and our available dates are currently filled until the New Year. For this reason, during the Month of the Holy Souls we will be providing envelopes at the back of the church for those who would like a Mass intention for a deceased family member or friend.

Simply take an envelope, write the name of your loved one clearly, and return it to the parish office. A stipend may be included if you wish, but this is entirely voluntary.

Throughout November (and into December if necessary depending on the number received) these names will be included as the Mass intentions whenever a Mass is concelebrated (that is, when more than one priest celebrates the Mass). Please note that individual dates cannot be requested or allocated; names will be included as opportunities arise during the period and names from the same family will be said together. These will not be printed in the newsletter.

TABLE-TOP SALE

Following the success of the Table Top Sale a few years ago, St. Edmund's will be hosting a repeat event in aid of Church Funds on

Saturday, 21st November 2026
10.00 am to **2.00 pm.**

We can accept quality, saleable items should you wish to donate for us to sell. Please leave them at the Church Office (Monday–Friday between 9.30– 1.00 pm).

Many tables will be selling items and giving all their profit to St Edmund's
.
Please put the date in your diary and come and pick up some wonderful items at great prices.

There will be Tea, Coffee, Cakes, Pastries and Biscuits for sale.
Entrance: Adults £1- Children Free.
Spread the news to Family and Friends!

All the tables are now sold.

8.00 AM SUNDAY MASS

This mass is short of helpers and needs to recruit more. Each role has a weekly rota so can accommodate an individual's availability so no-one need commit to every Sunday.
They need:

Experienced altar servers
Extraordinary Ministers
Readers

Training and instruction can be given for all roles.

If you can help please provide your name, contact email and role you can assist with to the Parish office.

BROMLEY HOMELESS BIG SLEEPOUT

Our parishioner Norah Agiru will once again be taking part in the Bromley Homeless Big Sleep Out on **Saturday 14 November,** raising funds and awareness for people experiencing homelessness in the local community.
Parishioners are invited to support Norah as she takes on this challenge for such a worthwhile cause. Every donation, no matter how small, will help provide vital assistance to those facing homelessness and hardship.
Donations can be made through Norah's JustGiving page:
https://www.justgiving.com/page/norah-agiru-2
Thank you for your kindness, generosity and support.

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL SECOND COLLECTION

The Archbishop's Appeal is a Diocesan second collection that funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation. Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve.
Please be generous to the Archbishop's Appeal 2026. Every gift is welcome.
Find out more, or donate online:
www.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.

Thank you for your generosity of heart.

COLOMA MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Coloma Convent Girls' School is holding a Mass of Remembrance on Thursday 26 November at 3.30 pm to remember all deceased Coloma students, staff and family members.

Former students and staff, and the 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 19 November indicating the name of your loved one so that they can be remembered at this Mass.

CAFOD

On the reading slopes there are copies of Cafod's WORLD GIFTS for Christmas for you to take home, or you can go online to cafod.org.uk/ world gifts to see their full range.

LIGHT OF CHRIST PRAYER MEETING

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

RECEPTION ENRY SEPTEMBER 2027

Fr Steve will be signing Certificates of Catholic Practice in the Hall after 9.30 Mass on Sunday 15 November. This will be the final signing session.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 CANDLE FUNDRAISING

We are a group of young people from Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Brixton, hoping to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. For us, this pilgrimage is much more than a trip. On previous pilgrimages, young people from our community have discovered their vocations, met their future spouses, and even gone on to become priests. We hope to give every young person the chance to experience something equally life-changing, regardless of their financial circumstances. To help make this possible, we've been making handmade candles, which we'll be offering after Mass on Sunday 29th November. Any support would mean so much to us!

MARIPOSA TRUST

So many parishioners tied names on our Baby Loss Tree that we though it might be helpful to let you know of the annual service being held at the end of the month:

Methodist Central Hall Westminster
Sunday 29 November at 2.30 pm

This is a service of remembrance for those who have suffered the loss of a baby at any stage recently or decades ago, and for those who were unable to have a child. The service is for people of any faith or none and you can just turn up.

SVP CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Monday 7 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 07789 497 482 and leave a message or text/WA to reserve your place, to advise of any dietary requirements or to arrange transport.

NORMAN WATSON RIP

The funeral service for Mr Watson will be held in the chapel of Beckenham Crematorium on Tuesday 10 November at 3.00 pm

His family is happy for those who knew him to attend.

MASSES

Sun 8 Nov	**32nd Sunday**
6.00 pm	Delisa & Crescenzo Panetta RIP
8.00 pm	Patricia, and past and present patients of Fitzmary II ward
9.30 am	Bill & Patricia Ross RIP
11.00 am	Federico Biancucci RIP
5.30 pm	For the people
Mon 9 Nov	**The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**
10.00 am	Michael Campbell RIP
12.00 pm	The Holy Souls
6.30 pm	Margaret & Gerald Baker RIP
Tues 10 Nov	**St Leo the Great**
10.00 am	Dec'd benefactors & promoters of the Claver Sisters
6.30 pm	The O'Connor Family RIP
Wed 11 Nov	**St Martin of Tours**
10.00 am	Fr David Fox, O Carm. RIP
8.00 pm **HALL**	Charismatic mass
Thurs 12 Nov	**St Josaphat**
10.00 am	Malcolm Paes RIP
6.45 pm	Una Heeley RIP
6.00 pm **CLAVER**	Adoration
Fri 13 Nov	**St Frances Xavier Cabrini**
10.00 am	John Walsh RIP
Sat 14 Nov	**The Blessed Virgin Mary**
10.00 am	Jimmy O'Neil RIP
2.30 pm	Mass for the Bereaved
6.00 pm	Margaret Russell RIP
Sun 15 Nov	**33rd Sunday**
8.00 pm	Monica Grima RIP
9.30 am	Grazyna Biedka RIP
11.00 am **LATIN**	Esseline Nunes d'Agella RIP
5.30 pm	Angie, Diane, Anne & Paddy O'Hare

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: Colleen McLeod, Norman Watson.

Those whose anniversaries are at this time: Eileen Hixson, Mary Phelan, Cardinal John Heenan, Fr Robin Mountford, Mary Ward, Patricia Ross, Eddie Finch, John Basquill, Madeleine Ellis, Maureen Tyler, John Pedler, Michael Sullivan, John Taylor, John O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Rourke, Rosie Baruffi.

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, Sarah Marie Kench, Bishop John Keenan, Domenica Rasuro, Patrick Francis Dunn,

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 welcome a visit from the clergy team, please make contact with one of them or call the Parish Office.

If a family member is in hospital please ask the ward staff to notify the hospital chaplain.

DIARY DATES

November

8	Service of Remembrance at Beckenham War Memorial 10.45 am
12	Open Morning at St Mary's. See poster in church porch
12	Adoration at the Claver Convent
14	Mass for the Bereaved at 2.30 pm followed by refreshments in the Hall
21	Fundraising Table Sale in the Hall (see item in newsletter)

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.