

St Matthew's Church Newsletter

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)



Parish Priest : Fr. Anthony Cassidy

37 Norwood High Street, London SE27 9JU

Telephone: 020 8670 1765

Email: norwoodwest@rcaos.org.uk

Website: www.stmatthews-westnorwood.org.uk

Diocese Website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

Father Anthony's Desk

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make our Parish Autumn Fair last Saturday such a success in every way – despite the weather! Special thanks are due to Kate and the team who saw to all the preparations and practicalities involved. It was truly a parish event, and hopefully there will be more such occasions in the New Year to help build up the social side of life here at St Matthew's.

Congratulations also go to Teresa de Bertandano and Anna Greentree who recently completed a course in Pastoral and Spiritual Aspects of Mental Health Care.

Best wishes go as well to our parishioner, Fergal Martin, who will shortly retire from his responsibilities as General Secretary of the Catholic Truth Society, and to Carmel and the rest of their family.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK Church Maintenance Fund

Order of Mass: Parish Mass Book Page 7
Vigil & 9am: Preface 1 Advent Page 65
 Eucharistic Prayer III Page 28
11am Eucharistic Prayer with Children

Parish Mass Book for Readings: Page 82

Response to the Intercessions:

...and give us the courage to go forward.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Next Sunday's Readings:

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
 Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6; 8-11
 Gospel: Luke 3:4, 6

SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

If you have any concerns about safeguarding at St Matthew's please email: safeguardingstmatthewwn@gmail.com

Confessions: Thurs 10:15-10:45, Sat 5:30-6:00pm & at call
 Marriage and Baptism Preparation by appointment only
 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Thurs 10-11am
 Taizé Mass: Last Saturday of the month at 6:30pm

Fr Anthony will be available on Saturday 8th December between 10:30-11am to sign forms for school applications, passports, etc.

DATE	MASS TIME	INTENTION
SATURDAY (VIGIL)	6:30pm	People of the Parish
SUNDAY 2ND DEC	9:00am	UCM Intention - Canon Devane
	11:00am	Roy Carter RIP
MONDAY	No Mass	
TUESDAY	10:15am	Eucharistic Service at the British Home Crown Lane, London SW16 3JB
	7:00pm	Mass in the Presbytery
WEDNESDAY	9:30am	Holy Souls—Foundation Mass
THURSDAY	9:30am	Private Intention (BK)
FRIDAY	9:30am	Ellis - Holy Souls
SATURDAY (VIGIL)	6:30pm	Canon John Devane RIP
SUNDAY 9TH DEC	9:00am	John Xavier Fonseca RIP
	11:00am	People of the Parish

TAKE SOME TIME TO REFLECT THIS ADVENT

Advent is a very special season of the year – and yet it can sometimes pass us by, because we're so busy preparing for Christmas. For the past couple of years, our diocesan Spirituality Commission has produced a series of short daily emails, to help us focus on the true meaning of Advent. These have been very well received, so they would like to make more people aware of them.

To sign up, please visit www.southwarkdsc.org.uk

PRAYER TO OUR LADY

Mother of Christ, hear thou thy people's cry,
 Star of the deep and portal of the sky.
 Mother of him who thee from nothing made,
 Striving we sink and call to thee for aid.
 O by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,
 Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.

ROTA 2-9 DECEMBER

HOUSE CALLS (9th) Mrs A Doe, Miss M McGee, Mr L D'Costa, Mrs G John Baptiste, Miss V Marshman

READERS (8th-9th) Mrs P Abraham (Sat 6:30pm), Mrs A Doe (Sun 9am) Miss C Leonard (Sun 11am)

OFFERTORY (8th-9th) Mrs P Burns (Sat 6:30pm), **Volunteer required please** (Sun 9am), Swain Family (Sun 11am)

CHURCH CLEANING (5th) Ms K Questelles, Ms T de Bertodano **(8th)** J Nweke, J Ahunanya

FLOWER ARRANGING (8th) Ms K Walker

COUNTERS (3rd) Mr S Thompson, Mr G Fonseca **(9th)** Mr J Remedios, Ms B Cunningham

TEAS & COFFEES (2nd) UCM 9am, French Community 11am **(9th)** Mrs M Schwartz, Mrs E Sanders

If you cannot fulfil the above duty please arrange for a substitute to fill your place. Thank you.

UCM PRAYER

Lord Jesus you lived with Mary and Joseph at Nazareth and enjoyed family life, growing in wisdom and stature in the sight of God the Father and ourselves. Help the members of the Union Catholic Mothers to follow this example in prayer, love and active witness to Marriage, Family and Christian Life in the world.

Make us understanding and caring to all experiencing difficulties and generous in support, so that one day we may all rejoice together in our Eternal Home. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving Father, touch and transform us by the joy of your love. Make us missionary disciples, empowered to carry the love of Christ to our neighbour. May young people be inspired by our example to take up the path of Christian discipleship and dedicate their lives to the service of the Gospel. Raise up new vocations by the power of your Holy Spirit to the priesthood and the consecrated life: send us men and women inspired to be living signs of your mercy. Grant us all an openness of heart that we might readily respond to your call, and proclaim with joy the Good News to the whole world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO ALL

The UCM invite all parishioners to join them in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 4th December at 8pm for the screening of the film *Hostia, The Power and Presence of the Eucharist*.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY CONSULTATIONS

The Governing Bodies of **The Federation of St Joseph's Catholic Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools** and **Bishop Thomas Grant School** are each consulting on their Admissions Policy for entry in September 2020.

Feedback is welcomed by 14th December 2018 for BTG (Tel: 020 8769 3294 or website www.btg.ac) and by 31st December 2018 for St Joseph's (Tel: 020 8653 7195 or website www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

We remember in our prayers all those who are sick, the housebound members of our parish and those in hospital. We hold them all in our thoughts and prayers this week, trusting that God will watch over them.

YEATMAN'S CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Yeatman's Funeral Directors invite you to remember your loved ones at a Christmas Memorial Service on Wednesday 5th Dec at 7pm at St Matthew's. Refreshments will be available in our parish hall after the service.

COMMUNITY MASS AT CHEVIOT GARDENS SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER AT 2.30PM

Following the positive response and attendance at our previous Healing Masses at St Matthew's, we invite you to join us for a Community Mass at the sheltered housing accommodation based at 36 Cheviot Gardens SE27 ODD. We are grateful to Mary, the Manager at Cheviot Gardens, for this outreach opportunity, to join together with their community before Christmas. We hope many of our parishioners will join us for the Mass in the main Lounge and for refreshments afterwards.

A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS TO CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

Christmas is a time for giving. Here is a small act that will make a big difference. The Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jordan are among the most marginalised people in the Middle East. They would love to know that someone cares enough to remember them at this time of year. If cards arrive in early December, the Patriarch has promised to deliver them to the Gaza parish himself in person before Christmas.

*Mr Sami El-Yousef, Chief Executive,
Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem,
Jaffa Gate - Old City, P.O.B. 14152, 9114101 Jerusalem*

Cards to all other parishes will be delivered directly. Make sure you put the name of the parish on each envelope (see list of parishes online <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36072>) and write your own name and the name and address of your parish in the card. Thank you for your kindness.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 2nd Dec	12.15pm Parish Hub Meeting
Tues 4th Dec	8.00pm UCM Meeting and Film (Hostia)
Wed 5th Dec	7.00pm Yeatman's Christmas Memorial Service
Thurs 6th Dec	7.30pm Parish Open Forum - All welcome
Tues 11th Dec	7.30pm L'arche Carol Service AllSaintsChurchSE218Y
Sat 15th Dec	2.30pm Mass at 36 Cheviot Gardens SE27 ODD
Mon 17th Dec	7.00pm Bishop Thomas Grant School Carol Service at St George's Cathedral
Tues 18th Dec	2.00pm Carol Service at the British Home
Tues 18th Dec	8.00pm UCM Carols and Party
Wed 19th Dec	7.30pm Reconciliation Service