



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-

www.stmatthews-westnorwood.org.uk

02086701765

norwoodwest@rcaos.org.uk

37 Norwood High Street

West Norwood

London SE27 9JU

12 JULY 2026

Parish Newsletter

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, Page 102.

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 65(64): 10a-d. 10e-11. 12-13. 14.

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23.

Today's readings remind us that God is always speaking. The question is whether we are listening and whether our hearts are ready to receive His word. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah compares God's word to the rain and snow that fall from heaven. Rain never falls without a purpose. In the same way, God's word is never wasted, it has a purpose it must accomplish. God is always at work, even when we cannot immediately see the results. This should encourage us. There are times when we pray for someone, preach the Gospel, teach our children, or invite others to return to the faith, yet nothing seems to change. Isaiah reminds us that God's word has a power of its own. It may take days, months, or even years, but God continues to work beneath the surface. In the Gospel, Jesus explains why people respond differently to the same message. The seed is always good because it is God's word. The difference lies not in the seed but in the soil. Some hearts are like the path: closed and hardened, where God's word cannot even take root. Others are like rocky ground. They receive God's word with enthusiasm, but when difficulties arise, their faith quickly fades. Others are like the thorny ground, where worries, materialism, and the pursuit of success slowly choke the life of faith. Finally, there is the good soil: hearts that hear God's word, welcome it, persevere in it, and bear abundant fruit. Today, ask yourself, "What kind of soil am I?" Perhaps the greatest danger for many Christians today is not open rejection of God but distraction. We hear God's word every Sunday, yet by Monday it is crowded out by anxiety, busyness, social media, work pressures, financial concerns, and endless noise. The seed is planted, but it struggles to grow because our hearts have become overcrowded. Good soil is not perfect soil. A good heart is simply one that remains open, humble, and willing to be changed. Every time we pray, receive the sacraments, forgive someone, or make time for Scripture, we are cultivating the soil of our hearts so that God's word can bear fruit. Saint Paul, tells us today that the whole of creation is longing for renewal. Our present sufferings are real, but they are not the final chapter. God is preparing a glory far greater than anything we endure today. Just as a seed must first be buried before it produces new life, our struggles, sacrifices, and moments of waiting can become the very means through which God brings about new growth. Growth is often slow and hidden. A farmer does not dig up the seed every day to check whether it is growing. He trusts the process. Likewise, we must trust God's work in our lives, even when we cannot immediately see the results. Let us ask the Lord for hearts that are fertile soil, so that His word will not only remain in us but will bear fruit in our families, our parish, our workplaces, and our community. May we leave this church today not merely as hearers of God's word but as people whose lives proclaim it by the fruit we bear. Amen.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

Pope's July prayer intention: For respect for human life. Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

PARISH NOTICES

Become a CAFOD Parish Volunteer. Want to make a real difference in the world? We offer a flexible role with full support. No experience needed, just a willing heart. Get in touch call 07775704546 or email southwark@cafod.org.uk to find out more.

Summer Stillness Retreat – The Friars, Aylesford. 10–14 August 2026 with Fr Ged Walsh O.Carm and Angela Black. £582pp single/£542pp shared, all meals included. £30 deposit to book. Call 01622 717272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

A Grief in Loss Weekend – The Friars, Aylesford, 9th–11th October 2026. For anyone who has experienced bereavement, whether recently or some time ago. We grieve, remember, hope and give thanks for our loved ones in the light of the resurrection of Jesus. Cost: £280 single or £250 shared. For further details and booking Call 01622 717272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk



CAFOD Venezuela Earthquake Appeal: CAFOD is already working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your support to help more

survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives. To donate visit: cafod.org.uk/Venezuela or scan the QR code.

Pilgrimage of Reparation - Walsingham, 1st August 2026. All are welcome to join the annual Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. The day begins with the 12pm Angelus and Pilgrim Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany of Life, Benediction, the Sorrowful Mysteries, and a silent Act of Reparation, concluding with the Salve Regina. Those unable to attend are asked to join in prayer. For information visit prolifepilgrimage.org.

SAVE THE DATE: On **Saturday OCT 3rd 2026** couples are invited to a day where they can **privately** explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to be married at St Matthew church hall, 37 Norwood High St, **West Norwood**, London **SE27 9JU** 9.00am till 4.30pm. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 plus years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives make their marriages better and to improve their communication skills and learn how to raise issues without hurting each other. **There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple.** The unique selling point of this day is it is NOT marriage counselling - Marriage Care and Retrouvaille do a brilliant job at this! Refreshments will be provided but please bring a **packed lunch**. **Booking is essential.** To apply please contact: **Carole** on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or by phone on **07983 524 727**

A Day With Mary: International Symposium, 29th to 31st July at St Mary's Croydon. Please see poster at the narthex.

120th Anniversary – Saints Simon & Jude (Streatham) - Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Canon Victor Darlington, Monday 20th July at 7pm (procession 6.50pm), followed by a garden party with the launch of the parish anniversary wine and commemorative history book. 5 Hillside Road, SW2 3HL. Visit saintssimonandjude.org.uk.

Building a Better Marriage. A one-day course for married couples Dates (9am–4.30pm): 13 June (Hythe); 27 June (Tooting); 3 October (West Norwood) Book via mflkent@rcaos.org.uk.

IMPORTANT - Deadline of interest for Flame (Take courage! I have overcome the world) on Saturday 6 the March 2027 at the OVO Arena Wembley is 12/07/26. Our Parish is hoping to get a group together to attend, if you are interest please email the parish office. Tickets are £30pp, the cost of travel to be advised nearer the time

May	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 11	6:30pm	Vigil, 15th Sunday	Patricia Johnson, RIP.
Sunday 12	9:00am	15th Sun Ord Time	Alfredo Moniz, RIP.
	11:00am	14th Sun Ord Time	Patience Obichukwu, t/giving
Monday 13	9:30am	Feria	No Mass
Tuesday 14	9:39am	Feria	No Mass
Wednesday 15	9:30am	St Bonaventure	w/being of Fr Celestine
Thursday 16	11:00am@BH	Our Lady Mt Carmel	Wellbeing of Residents
Friday 17	9:30am	Feria	Cornelius Sihs, t/giving.
Saturday 18	6:30pm	Vigil , 15th Sunday	Mary Marshman, RIP.
Sunday 19	9:00am	16th Sunday ord time	Calcida Fernades; RIP.
	11:00am	16th Sunday ord time	Victor Carrick; w/being.

PARISH MINISTRY: 11th/12th

18th/19th

READERS: 6:30pm: Bernice

Ann Doe

9:00am: Kene

Savio

11:00am: Nana/Isabelle Ramos

Marie-France/ Daniel

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

6:30pm: Jenny

Russell

9:00am: Albertina

Lawrence

11:00am: Kereine

Kereine

ORDINARY TIME AFTER EASTER - CYCLE OF PRAYER - Intentions for Ordinary Time:

For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews.

For those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights - especially on 22nd June, the Feast of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More.

For Human life - especially on the third Sunday in June

For Seafarers - especially on the second Sunday in July, Sea Sunday

For Europe - especially on the Feasts of St Benedict, St Bridget and St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Patrons of Europe

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY , AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME, MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

HOSPITAL CONTACTS: If you or a member of your family are admitted to our local hospitals, do please let the hospital's Catholic chaplain know.

St George's Hospital: 02087253069 / 02086721255)

Kings Hospital: If outside hospital—02032993522. inside the hospital call extension 33522

Croydon University Hospital: 02084013105

St Thomas' Hospital: 02071881187/02071881186

Guy's Hospital: 02071881185/02071889576



PARISH SCHEDULES

Sunday Mass Times :

6:30pm (Sat), 9am and 11am

Week Day Mass Times:

Tuesday ; 7pm

Wednesday & Friday; 9:30am

Thursday; 11am @ British Home

First Fridays; 12noon.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Tuesdays; 6:00pm

Baptisms, Marriage, Funerals: Contact the Parish Office.

Youth Club:

4:30pm Every 3rd Saturday

RCIA: Contact Parish Office

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 5:30pm to 6:15pm and on call.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Open Office: Fridays 10am to 12:30pm and 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

Other days with appointment, please.

UCM:

12noon Every First Friday

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Wednesdays; 7:30pm @ the Church.

DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Sundays; after 11am mass @ the Divine Mercy Altar

We are grateful for all you do to support the parish.

Setting up a Standing Order is the most efficient way to make a donation to the parish without incurring fees. You can use the following details for one-off donation or to set up a Standing Order or Direct Debit. NatWest Bank: Account Name: RCAS Norwood West, Sort Code: 60-23-19; Account Number: 44115369. Thank You!