



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-

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19 JULY 2026

Parish Newsletter

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, Page 105.

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 86(85):5-6, 9-10, 15-16a. R. 5a.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43.

One of the hardest things in life is waiting. We want problems solved immediately. We want justice now. We want evil removed at once. When we see wickedness prospering and goodness struggling, we naturally ask, "Lord, why don't you do something?" In today's Gospel, Jesus is teaching us something profound about the patience and mercy of God. In that parable, the servants represent us. We are often quick to judge, quick to condemn, and eager to separate the good from the bad. God, however, sees much more than we do. He knows the human heart. He knows that people can change. Today's sinner can become tomorrow's saint. Think of St Paul. Before his conversion he persecuted Christians. If God had judged him only by his past, the Church would never have received one of her greatest apostles. Think of St Augustine, whose early life was far from holy, yet he became one of the greatest teachers of the Church. God delays judgement because He desires conversion. Power in the eyes of the world often means crushing one's enemies. But God's power is shown in mercy. His patience is not weakness. It is strength under perfect control. Every day that God gives us is another opportunity to repent, to grow, and to become more like Christ. In other words, this parable also speaks to us. Each one of us has both wheat and weeds growing within us. There is generosity, but also selfishness. Faith, but also doubt. Love, but also impatience. Holiness is not pretending that there are no weeds in our lives. Holiness is allowing Christ to help the wheat grow stronger than the weeds. Sometimes we become discouraged because we still struggle with the same weaknesses after years of trying. Today's Gospel reminds us not to despair. God has not given up on us. As long as there is life, there is hope. Paul tells us in the second reading that the Spirit prays with us when we lack words. There are moments when grief leaves us speechless, when anxiety overwhelms us, when we simply do not know what to say to God. At those times, the Holy Spirit prays within us. We are never alone in our weakness. Jesus continues with two short parables: the mustard seed and the yeast. The mustard seed is tiny, yet it grows into a large shrub. A little yeast disappears into the dough, yet it transforms the whole batch. God's Kingdom often begins in small and hidden ways. A simple prayer said each morning. A quiet act of forgiveness. A word of encouragement. A visit to someone who is lonely. A child taught to pray. Today, we should ask ourselves: Am I patient with others as God is patient with me? Am I allowing God to deal with the weeds in my own heart before pointing out those in others? Do I believe that the small acts of faith and love I perform each day can help build God's Kingdom? May we leave this Eucharist trusting in God's patience, cooperating with His grace, and becoming faithful wheat in His harvest, so that when the final harvest comes, we may rejoice forever in His Kingdom. **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

Urgent Security Alert – AI-Generated WhatsApp Scam Targeting Parishioners:

The Archdiocese of Southwark would like to make you aware of a new type of scam that is now targeting individuals within our parish communities through WhatsApp. Cyber criminals are increasingly using artificial intelligence (AI) to create convincing videos, voice messages and written communications while impersonating members of the clergy. Their aim is to deceive unsuspecting individuals into believing they are communicating with a priest, bishop, or other Parish representative before requesting money or donations. We ask that you all please remain vigilant and encourage you:

- Never assume that a WhatsApp message or video is genuine simply because it appears to come from a member of the clergy.
- Never send money, gift cards or bank details in response to unsolicited requests received via WhatsApp or other messaging platforms.
- Always verify the identity of the sender by contacting the priest or parish directly using a known telephone number or official email address before responding to any request. Report any suspicious messages and the phone numbers to Action Fraud [https:// www.reportfraud.police.uk/](https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/). Please help us spread awareness of this emerging threat, the more people who are aware of these scams, the less likely they are to become victims

CAFOD Venezuela Earthquake Appeal: Can you help those affected by the 24th June earthquakes, your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives. To donate visit: cafod.org.uk/Venezuela Please keep them in your prayers.

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**. contact: **Carole** on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or **07983 524 727**

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. For information visit prolifepilgrimage.org.

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.

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

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

May	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 18	6:30pm	Vigil, 16th Sunday	Mary Marshman, RIP.
Sunday 19	9:00am	16th Sun Ord Time	Calcida Fernades; RIP.
	11:00am	16th Sun Ord Time	Victor Carrick; w/being.
Monday 20	9:30am	Feria	No Mass
Tuesday 21	9:39am	Feria	No Mass
Wednesday 22	9:30am	St Mary Magdalene	Cornelius Siha; in t/giving
Thursday 23	11:00am@BH	St Bridget	Wellbeing of Residents
Friday 24	9:30am	Feria	Jenny Strong; w/being.
Saturday 25	6:30pm	Vigil , 17th Sunday	Maureen Marshman; RIP.
Sunday 26	9:00am	17th Sunday ord time	Noberta Desouza; RIP
	11:00am	17th Sunday ord time	Celestina Isamah; in t/giving.

PARISH MINISTRY: 18th/19th

25th/26th

READERS: 6:30pm: Ann Doe

Preethe

9:00am: Savio

Brenda

11:00am: Marie-France/ Daniel

Juliana/ Jessica

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

6:30pm: Russell

Jenny

9:00am: Lawrence

Zena

11:00am: Kereine

Patience

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

Source: Wikimedi



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!