

ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-

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26 JULY 2026

Parish Newsletter

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, Page 108.

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 119(118): 57, 72. 76-77. 127-128. 129-130. R. 97a.

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us three very short parables: the treasure hidden in a field, the pearl of great price, and the net cast into the sea. Although they are different stories, they all teach us one central lesson: the Kingdom of God is worth more than anything else in life. The man who finds the treasure sells everything he has to buy the field. The merchant who discovers the finest pearl also sells everything to possess it. They are not sad about what they give up because they know they have found something far more valuable. Jesus is asking us a simple but important question today: What is the greatest treasure in your life? Many people spend their lives chasing money, success, power, or popularity. These things have their place, but they cannot satisfy the deepest longing of the human heart. Wealth can disappear. Health can fail. Careers come to an end. Even our earthly relationships are temporary. But a relationship with God lasts forever. To discover Christ is to discover the greatest treasure. Once we truly know Him, everything else finds its proper place. The first reading gives us a beautiful example. When God appeared to Solomon and invited him to ask for anything, Solomon did not ask for riches, long life, or victory over his enemies. Instead, he asked for wisdom, a heart that could distinguish right from wrong and govern God's people well. God was pleased with Solomon's request because he sought what was most important. As a result, God blessed him with wisdom and many other gifts as well. This reminds us that when we put God first, everything else falls into place. As Jesus would later say, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." In the second reading, St Paul reassures us that "all things work together for good for those who love God." That does not mean life will always be easy. We all experience disappointments, illness, loss and uncertainty. But when we place our lives in God's hands, He can bring good even from our struggles. The final parable of the net reminds us that one day there will be a final judgement. The fishermen separate the good fish from the bad. Jesus uses this image to remind us that our choices matter. We cannot simply admire the Kingdom from a distance; we must live as faithful disciples every day. So today's Gospel invites us to examine our priorities. What occupies most of our thoughts and energy? What are we willing to sacrifice for? Is Christ truly the treasure of our lives? If Jesus is our greatest treasure, then prayer is not a burden but a joy. Sunday Mass is not an obligation we endure but a privilege we cherish. Forgiving others, serving the poor and living honestly become natural expressions of our love for Him. As we gather around this altar today, let us ask God for the wisdom of Solomon, the faith of the man who found the treasure, and the courage of the merchant who gave everything for the pearl of great price. Amen.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

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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 report any suspicious messages and the phone numbers to Action Fraud <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/>.

Peter's Pence: The Apostolic Nunciature has acknowledged the receipt of £1,965.79, collected in the Archdiocese during May 2026 for Peter's Pence. The sum will be transferred to the Holy See. The Apostolic Nuncio expressed his gratitude for the faithful support given to the Holy Father in his mission.

Hearts in Search of God: Walking Pilgrimage. A walking pilgrimage for England & Wales has been organised, to take place from 5th to 9th October this year. The pilgrimage will go from Maidstone in Kent to Southwark. This is in preparation for the Adoremus Eucharistic Celebration on 10th October. Please see poster at rear of Church for further information.

Fundraising For Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: One of the trustees of our Lourdes pilgrimage has been doing a sponsored walk to raise money to help disabled pilgrims to go to Lourdes. He will be in parts of Kent and SE London this week. If you would like to contribute, he has a fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/page/calourdes125sw

Requesting Mass for a Particular Intention: It is a long-established and laudable Catholic custom to ask that Mass be offered for a particular intention. Every Mass is offered for the glory of God and the salvation of the world; nevertheless, the priest may also offer the Mass for a specific intention. In this parish, Mass intentions are usually published in the newsletter. Anyone may request that Mass be offered for a particular intention. Masses are commonly offered for the welfare of an individual or family, in thanksgiving, for a special need, or for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. When requesting a Mass, it is customary to make an offering as a sign of one's particular participation in the offering of the Mass and in support of the Church's ministry. This offering is not a payment for the Mass, and no one is obliged to make one. The suggested offering is £10; some give less, some give more, and some are unable to give anything. Please never feel that a Mass cannot be offered for your intention because of financial difficulty. The grace of the Mass is never bought or sold. Its true price has already been paid for us in the saving death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Mass intention envelopes are available at the entrance to the church

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.

Mr Sam Myron Thompson: Funeral mass to hold at St Matthews on Monday 10th August 2026 by 11:30am. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sam.

May	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 25	6:30pm	Vigil, 17th Sunday	Mary Marshman, RIP.
Sunday 26	9:00am	17th Sun Ord Time	Noberta Desouza; RIP.
	11:00am	17th Sun Ord Time	Celestina Isamah; in t/giving.
Monday 27	9:30am	Feria	No Mass
Tuesday 28	9:39am	Feria	No Mass
Wednesday 29	9:30am	Mary, Martha, Laz	Annie D'Souza; RIP.
Thursday 30	11:00am@BH	Feria	Wellbeing of Residents
Friday 31	9:30am	St Ignatius	Nestor Onyebuchi; RIP.
Saturday 1	6:30pm	Vigil , 17th Sunday	George & Jpyce Betts; w/b
Sunday 2	9:00am	17th Sunday ord time	UCM
	11:00am	17th Sunday ord time	Nkemdilim Maduekwe; t/g

PARISH MINISTRY: 25th/26th

1st/2nd

READERS: 6:30pm: Liane

Preethe

9:00am: Brenda

Eliza

11:00am: Juliana/ Jessica

Chiebuka/Munachi

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

6:30pm: Jenny

Annabel

9:00am: Zena

Albertina

11:00am: Patience

Yvonne

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.

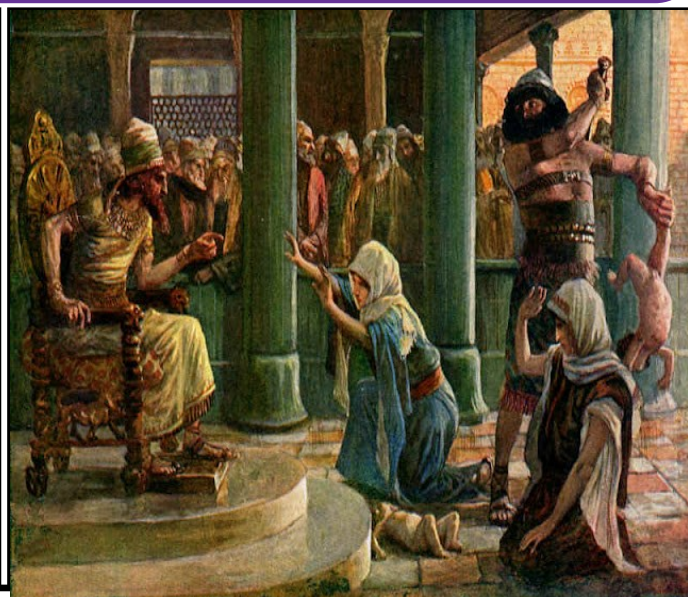
St George's Hospital: 02087253069 / 02086721255)

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!