



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

6 September 2026

Parish Newsletter

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, Page 125

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95(94): 1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R. 7c, 8a

Second Reading: Romans 13: 8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20.

God calls us to care for our brothers and sisters, especially when we see them taking a path that may lead them away from God or cause harm to themselves and others. In the first reading, God appoints Ezekiel as a watchman for the house of Israel. Here God gives him the responsibility of speaking truth to his people. This message also applies to us. We are called to be watchmen and women for one another. Parents have a responsibility to guide their children. Priests have a responsibility to teach and correct their people. Teachers must guide their students. Friends should care enough to warn one another when something is going wrong. Today, we live in a society where people often say, "It is none of my business," or "Let everyone live as they please." Certainly, we must respect the freedom of others. But genuine love cannot remain silent when someone we care about is walking towards danger. Gospel teaches us to correct them with in the right way. Jesus says: "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone." Jesus does not say, "Go and tell everybody what that person has done or "Post it on social media," "Discuss it in your group," or "Publicly disgrace the person." He says: "Go and speak to the person privately." This is where we often fail. Instead of speaking to the person who has offended us, we speak to everyone else. We discuss the person's faults with friends, relatives and colleagues. By the time we finally speak to the person, anger has grown, the story has spread, and reconciliation has become more difficult. Jesus gives us a different approach. Speak directly, privately and respectfully. The purpose of Christian correction is not to embarrass, condemn or defeat someone. It is to win the person back. Jesus says, "If he listens to you, you have won back your brother." Before correcting someone, therefore, we should ask ourselves some honest questions: Am I doing this because I genuinely care about the person? Am I speaking out of love or anger? Do I want the person to change, or do I simply want to prove that I am right? Saint Paul gives us the guiding principle in the second reading: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does not mean approving everything another person does. Sometimes love comforts, but sometimes love challenges. Sometimes love encourages, but sometimes love warns. Nevertheless, we must remember that none of us is perfect. When we correct others, we do so as fellow sinners who also need God's mercy. Jesus warns us elsewhere to remove the plank from our own eye before attempting to remove the splinter from another person's eye. Therefore, correction must always be accompanied by humility. Let us ask the Lord to give us the courage of Ezekiel to speak when necessary, the love described by Saint Paul, and the wisdom of Jesus in dealing with conflict. May our words never be used to humiliate or destroy others. Instead, may everything we say be guided by truth, humility and love, so that those who have wandered may be won back, broken relationships may be healed, and our Christian community may become a true sign of the reconciling presence of Christ.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

Pope's September prayer intention: For the care of water Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

The Archdiocese of Southwark; will be holding their annual service for those that have been harmed by abuse on the 30th September 2026, at 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral. The service will be lead by Archbishop John Wilson and is an opportunity for the archdiocese community to express their solidarity and compassion to those that have been hurt by abuse and our commitment to building safe environments for all. Please attend if you are able.

Lectors' & Eucharistic Ministers' Formation Day: Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East Area, warmly invites all Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to a Formation Day on the theme "Nourished by the Word, Sent with the Eucharist." The day will include Holy Mass, formation, discussion and Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. **Camberwell, Lambeth & Lewisham Deaneries:** Saturday, 24th October, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Bishop Thomas Grant School, SW16 2HY.

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

Bereavement Ministry Training - Saturday 19th September, 9am–5pm at Aylesford Priory, Kent. This training equips parishioners to offer sensitive, empathetic support to the bereaved. Contact Barbara Salamonczyk to book: mflbereavement@rcaos.org.uk

Home Mission Sunday: On Sunday 20th September, we will celebrate Home Mission Sunday, a day for us as the Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate our faith in these lands, and our shared commitment to communicate the beauty and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. . The Second Collection on this weekend is to support the work carried out by the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. Through the Mission Directorate, we support our Church in a wide field of service and mission here in England and Wales. Please hold this important work in your prayers and give as generously as you can. Thank you."

Diocesan Day for Catechists, Saturday 3rd October 26 at the Amigo Hall and St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HU. This Day is for all the catechists of the diocese, including those involved in Liturgy of the Word for Children and the RCIA process. Booking and further details here - <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists2026>.

The theme is year is: Truth and Beauty in Catechesis in the Age of AI.

IMPORTANT! Statement on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. Ahead of the Bill's Second Reading this Friday 11th September, parishioners are urged to contact their MP to vote NO, it takes 30 seconds using an easy tool via Right to Life UK . Please pickup the card for this at the narthex.

Confirmation Classes: to start today after 11am mass. Class to run from today until 7th of November.

May	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 5	6:30pm	Vigil, 23rd Sunday	Libia Cuervo, RIP. Paul & Brenda Rogers; 60th Wedding anniversary.
Sunday 6	9:00am	23rd Sun Ord Time	UCM
	11:00am	23rd Sun Ord Time	Awele Ezeana; RIP
Monday 7	9:30am	Feria	No Mass
Tuesday 8	7:00pm	Nativity of BVM	No Mass
Wednesday 9	9:30am	Feria	Fr Celestine Ekwueme; w/b
Thursday 10	11:00am@BH	Feria	Wellbeing of Residents
Friday 11	9:30am	Feria	Enoch & Nathan Dakouri: w/b
Saturday 12	6:30pm	Vigil , 24th Sunday	Corporal B Daly; RIP.
Sunday 13	9:00am	24th Sunday ord time	Patrick Wafer; RIP.
	11:00am	24th Sunday ord time	Holy Soul

PARISH MINISTRY: 5th/6th

12th/13th

READERS: 6:30pm: Liane
9:00am: Brenda

Preethe
Eliza

11:00am: Juliana/ Jessica

Chiebuka/Munachi

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

6:30pm: Ann Doe

Russell

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!