



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-

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11 OCTOBER 2026

Parish Newsletter

TWENTY-EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, Page 140

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23(22)

Second Reading: Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22: 1-14

My dear brothers and sisters, today's readings present God as a generous host who invites us to share in his joy. In the first reading, Isaiah describes a rich banquet where God will wipe away tears and destroy death. In the Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast. God wants us at his table. He wants us to share his life. Yet those first invited refuse to come. Some go to their farms, others to their businesses. These are ordinary responsibilities, but they become more important to them than the king's invitation. We can recognise ourselves here. We may intend to pray, to return to confession, to forgive someone or to help a neighbour, but keep saying, "Later." Life becomes busy, and God receives only whatever time is left. Today, Jesus asks us to consider what truly comes first in our lives. When the invited guests refuse, the king opens the doors to others. His servants gather everyone they can find, both good and bad. This is a message of hope. God's invitation reaches us even with our weaknesses and failures. We do not have to become perfect before we come to him. But what about the guest without a wedding garment? This part of the Gospel reminds us that accepting God's invitation also means allowing him to change us. Being present at the feast is only the beginning. The wedding garment can help us think about the life we are called to put on in Christ: compassion, honesty, humility, forgiveness and love. We gather at Mass because God has invited us. But our response continues when we leave the church. It shows in how we speak to our families, how we treat someone who has offended us, and whether we notice those who need our help. Saint Paul tells us today that he can face both plenty and hardship through Christ who strengthens him. That same strength is available to us. God gives us grace to live the invitation we have accepted. Let us ask ourselves: What keeps me from giving God my full attention? And what needs to change in my life so that my faith bears fruit? May we joyfully accept God's invitation and allow his love to shape our lives, until we share in the everlasting banquet of his kingdom. Amen.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

Pope's October prayer intention: For mental health ministry. Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses

Collection: With grateful thanks for the generosity of our parishioners and visitors. Total collection last Sunday £260.86(cash), £119.06 (online), (CAFOD) £377.08.

Prisoners' Sunday 11h October - marks the first day of the ecumenical Prisons Week (11th - 17th October), a week of prayer which raises awareness of issues faced by those affected by the criminal justice system. On Prisoner's Sunday, we pray for prisoners and their families, and for all those affected by crime and imprisonment. Pact, the national Catholic prison charity, offers practical and emotional support to prisoners and their loved ones, helping families stay connected and people rebuild their lives. Our 2nd collection will support this work. Thank you for whatever you can give and please keep those who Pact serves in your prayers.

ONE IN CHRIST UNITED IN MISSION :Next Sunday 18th October is World Mission Sunday (WMS) when the Holy father invites all Catholics to support Missio - his charity for world mission - through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the Missio envelopes or visit: missio.org.uk to give a gift

A Day With Mary Westminster Cathedral: Saturday 7th November 9.45am. Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

Youth day John Fisher School, Purley (10-14 year olds) - Saturday 17th October, 11.00am – 5.30pm. Cost £5. Free Coach from Dartford leaving at 9.30am, contact Fr. Stephen Boyle by email to book: dartford@rcaos.org.uk. This great initiative of the Southwark youth service and is a day of prayer, activities including sport, as well as lunch. We commend it to youth in the parish. Visit to book: <https://scys.org.uk/youth-under-18/youth-days-10-14-years/>

Fourth National Count: all masses this weekend.

October should be considered in all countries as the month of the World Mission. The penultimate Sunday, the day proclaimed 'World Mission Sunday', is the high point. That day will be celebrated in all the local churches as a feast of catholicity and universal solidarity. On that day, Christians the world over will recognize their common responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world.

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

Visit of the Relics of St Gerard Majella, Celebrate St Gerard's 300th anniversary at Tuesday 6th October, St Augustine's Royal Tunbridge Wells TN11 2LY, with Mass at 7pm. St Gerard is the Patron Saint of mothers, couples trying to conceive, those looking for work, and making a good confession.

Paddy Walsh: The Funeral Mass for the late Paddy Walsh will take place at St Matthew's Catholic Church, West Norwood, on **Thursday 29 October at 1.00 pm**. Please keep Paddy and his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace .Amen.

Confirmation Mass; for our young person who are currently undergoing confirmation class will be on Sunday 8th November, 11am mass.

Finance Committee: An emergency meeting of the Parish Finance Committee will take place on Friday, 16 October, at 7.00 pm. All committee members are kindly requested to attend, as urgent parish matters need to be discussed. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Youth day John Fisher School,(10-14)Saturday 17th October, 11.00am – 5.30pm. Cost £5. Free Coach from Dartford leaving at 9.30am, contact Fr. Stephen Boyle by email to book: dartford@rcaos.org.uk. This great initiative of the Southwark youth service and is a day of prayer, activities including sport, as well as lunch. We commend it to youth in the parish. Visit to book: <https://scys.org.uk/youth-under-18/youth-days-10-14-years/>

May	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 10	6:30pm	Vigil, 28th Sunday	Robert Rogers; RIP.
Sunday 11	9:00am	28th Sun Ord Time	Sam Thompson; RIP
	11:00am	28th Sun Ord Time	John Fernandes; RIP
Monday 12	9:30am	Feria	No Mass
Tuesday 13	7:00pm	St Edward	Holy Souls
Wednesday 14	9:30am	Feria	Those born in October
Thursday 15	11:00am@BH	St Theresa Avila	Wellbeing of Residents
Friday 16	9:30am	Feria	Holy Souls
Saturday 17	6:30pm	Vigil , 29th Sunday	Maureen Marshman; RIP
Sunday 18	9:00am	29th Sunday ord time	Holy Souls
	11:00am	29th Sunday ord time	Holy Souls

PARISH MINISTRY: 10th/11th

17th/18th

READERS: 6:30pm: Preethe

Ann

9:00am: Kene

Savio

11:00am: Juliana/Jessica

Nana/Onyekachi

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

6:30pm: Russell

Annabel

9:00am: Lawrence

Zena

CYCLE OF PRAYER - Intentions for Ordinary Time – Autumn

For Students and Teachers, especially on Education Day

For the Spread of the Gospel, especially on Home Mission Sunday & World Mission Day

For the Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work and for the Reverent Use of creation, especially on World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

For Justice & Peace in the World, especially on Harvest Fast Day

For All Victims of War, especially on Remembrance Sunday

For Young People, Especially on Youth Day (Christ the King)

Please remember in your prayers **Paddy Walsh** who recently passed. Funeral mass at St Matthews, on Thursday 29th October 2026 by 1:00pm. May she rest in peace, Amen. Pray for her family as well..

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!