



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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26 October 2025

Parish Newsletter

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, from page 155

1st Reading (Sir35: 15b-17,20-22b). **2nd Reading** (2Tim 4:6-8, 16-18). **Gospel** (Lk.18: 9-14)

Readings Next Sunday: 1st Reading (Wis 11:22-12:2). 2nd Reading (2Thes. 1:11-22). Gospel (Lk. 19:1-10)

In the liturgy of the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C), the Word of God places before us a profound invitation to humility and trust in God's mercy. The readings remind us that God is close to those who recognise their need for Him, and that true righteousness does not come from self-promotion or spiritual pride, but from a sincere and humble heart. The first reading from Sirach highlights that the Lord is a God of justice who shows no partiality. He listens attentively to the cries of the poor, the oppressed, and those whose hearts are bowed low. Their prayers, we are told, "pierce the clouds," reminding us that God is especially moved by the humble and those who depend entirely on His love and compassion. The psalm similarly proclaims that "the Lord hears the cry of the poor" and draws near to the broken-hearted. This challenges us to consider whether we, too, stand in solidarity with those whose voices are often ignored in society. God's attention is not captured by power or prestige, but by sincerity and vulnerability. Saint Paul, in the second reading, gives us a living example of this spirituality of trust. Looking back on his life, he speaks of fighting the good fight and keeping the faith, even in times of abandonment. Though others failed to stand by him, Paul declares with confidence that "the Lord stood by me," strengthening him in trials. His witness shows us that Christian discipleship often means persevering quietly, without recognition, trusting that God sees the sacrifices that no one else applauds. Jesus brings all of these lessons together in the Gospel through the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector at prayer. The Pharisee stands confidently, recounting his good deeds, but his heart is closed off by self-righteousness. The tax collector, however, remains at a distance, unable even to raise his eyes to heaven, and whispers the simple plea: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Jesus declares that it is the tax collector, not the Pharisee, who goes home justified. This reveals that justification is not earned by boasting about our virtues but by acknowledging our sinfulness and dependence on God's grace. In our own lives, this Gospel calls us to recognise that holiness is not a competition, nor is prayer a stage for self-display. Each of us is invited to approach God with honesty, admitting that we are always in need of His mercy. Humility frees us from comparison, judgement, and pride. It opens the heart to grace. God desires not perfect performances, but contrite spirits. As we reflect on these readings, we are encouraged to imitate the faith of the humble: to serve quietly and generously, to remain steadfast when our good deeds go unnoticed, and to root our identity not in what we can boast of, but in God's everlasting love. May our prayer, like that of the tax collector, rise from a sincere heart. And may we, too, go home justified—transformed by God's mercy and strengthened to walk humbly with Him in all things. Amen

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

Pope's October prayer intention: For collaboration between different religious traditions. Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity

Prayer for October: Lord of the seasons, in this month of harvest and change, help us to see Your hand at work in all things.

As the year begins to fade, deepen our trust in Your promises.

Mary, our Mother, walk with us toward the light of Christ. Amen.

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Mass of Remembrance: All relatives and friends of those who have gone before us over the last year are invited to attend Memorial Masses celebrated at all 3 Masses on the weekend of 15th & 16th November. Please confirm attendance with Fr Celestine so we can provide a memorial candle which will be lit in their memory. Blessing of graves will take place on Saturday 15 November, 10am after a brief prayers at the church.

Missio - Thank you for celebrating World Mission Sunday and for you donations to the World Mission Sunday appeal. Your prayers and support will help missionaries work alongside communities worldwide, regardless of background or belief. Please continue to pray for all who share the love and hope of Christ with our sisters and brothers I need throughout the world. To support mission year-round, visit . To support mission year-round visit missio.org.uk.

During November, the Month of the Holy Souls, we remember and pray for our departed relatives and friends. Please write their names on the November deceased offering envelopes available in the narthex and place them on the altar.

GAZA: Please continue to pray that the current fragile ceasefire in Gaza holds. Restoring life and hope certainly isn't going to be easy in the devastated and embittered landscape of Gaza and your support is needed more than ever. Please visit cafod.org.uk to find out more and continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.

Rooted in Love - an opportunity for married and engaged couples - Want to grow closer as a couple while deepening your faith and meeting new people? All engaged and married couples are invited to a monthly online meeting where we share friendship, reflect on real life topics, and pray together as we grow in love rooted in Christ. Gathering monthly on Zoom Thursdays: 30th October, 27th November and 11th December at 8:30pm. Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to sign up or receive more information

Marriage and Family Life - Marriage Preparation course booking forms for 2026 now available at rear of church and we would urge couples to attend about 6 months before their wedding date. If you have any questions, please contact mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

All Saints Day, a holy day of obligation Sunday 2nd November, The Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed (**All Souls Day**) Monday 3rd November. Mass details will All Souls Day will be provided on Sunday.

Prayer Campaign: There have now been over ten and a half million abortions in Great Britain since the Abortion Act was passed 58 years ago, on 27th October 1967. On this terrible anniversary please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this country. On Monday 27th October please go to Mass, say an extra Rosary and give up some food for the day. Share this with your friends on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/events/208882739192>

Seeking Married Couples - The Southwark Marriage and Family life (M&FL) Team are seeking married couples who are practising Catholics to join their growing team to present courses for Marriage Preparation, Building a Better Marriage and other initiatives in 2026. Salary: £30,000 pro rata (£7,000) for the couple. Mileage paid in addition. All training given. For full job description and further details, please contact liamgallagher@rcaos.org.uk Closing date for applications: October 31st 2025

Pilgrimage: we still have spaces for the pilgrimage/ holiday to Guadalupe and Cancun. Departing 9th Jan 2026 for 8 day tour to places of interest Guadalupe/ Mexico and followed by interconnecting flight to Cancun for an all inclusive holiday to Cancun. When you make a place a deposit or full payment by 25th October you will be entered into a raffle draw for Christmas hamper additionally a donation will be made to the Daughters of Divine Love Streatham who work with unwanted babies, orphans, their medical care. If you want your charity supported contact me 07894711139. Great ideas for Christmas gift stay in 4/5 hotel at protected cost 2293. Deposit £300. Sole room supplement extra if unwilling to share with other. Contact / text sue 07894711139"

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 25	Vigil, 30th Sunday
6:30pm	Damian D'Souza RIP
Sunday 26	30th Sunday Ord Time
9am	Holy Souls
11am	Anita Blaquiere; wellbeing.
Monday 27	Feria
9:30am	No Mass
Tuesday 28	SS Simon & Jude, Apostles.
6:00pm	Adoration
7:00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 29	Feria
9:30am	Annie D'Souza RIP
Thursday 30	Feria
11am @ BH	Swing Wang; fam& friends
Friday 31	Feria
9:30am noon	Nathan Dakouri; wellbeing
Saturday 1	Vigil, All Saints
6:30pm	Noel Banks, RIP
Sunday 2	All Saints
9am	Moniz family, T/g
11am	Roddy Watkins, b/day t/g.

PARISH MINISTRY

READERS:

	25th/26th	1st/2nd
6:30pm	Ann Doe	Preetha
9am	Savio/Eliza	Savio
11am	Daniel/Nathaniel	Ann-Lise/Daniel

Eucharistic Ministers

6:30pm	Ann Doe	Anabel
9am	Albertina	Lawrence
11am	Yvonne	Kereine

Church Cleaning

Justine/Justina Chika/Patience/Juliana

Celebrating the 120th Anniversary of our Parish, on Sunday 30th November, 11am.

Please save the date.

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)

For Prisoners & their Families, especially on Day of Prayer for Prisoners & Prison Week

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!