



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

03 May 2026

Parish Newsletter

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, from page 265

First Reading: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord. Ps33(32)

Second Reading: A reading from the First Letter of St Peter 2:2:4-9

Gospel: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 14: 1-12.

Do not let your hearts be troubled; Jesus says in the Gospel of today. These words spoken to the disciples over two thousand years ago resonates with us this day and time. We live in a world full of uncertainty: personal struggles, health concerns, financial pressures, and even spiritual doubts. Like the disciples, we sometimes feel confused and anxious about the future. But Jesus speaks directly into that fear saying; Trust in God; trust also in me. He also declares; "I am the way, the truth, and the life. "Not a way, not one of many truths, but the way. This is a reminder that our journey in life is not meant to be navigated alone or based on guesswork. Christ Himself is the path. To follow Him is to walk in the right direction, even when we don't fully understand the destination. When Thomas the Apostle asks, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?", he is voicing a question many of us carry in our hearts. And Jesus responds not with instructions, but with Himself. The Christian life is not just about rules or ideas, it is about relationship. To say Jesus is *the truth* means that in a world of confusion, shifting values, and competing voices, He is the ultimate standard. Truth is not something we invent, it is someone we encounter. To say Jesus is *the life* means that real, lasting life that comes only through Him. Not through success, wealth, or status, but through union with Christ. In the first reading, we see the early Church facing challenges, complaints, tension, and practical needs. Yet instead of falling apart, they respond with wisdom and unity. They appoint others to serve, ensuring that no one is neglected. This reminds us that faith is not only spiritual, it must be lived out in practical love and service. And in the second reading, we are reminded that we are "*living stones*" being built into a spiritual house. Each of us has a role. Each of us matters. The Church is not just a building, it is us. So what does this mean for us today? When you feel uncertain, remember: Jesus is your way. Stay close to Him in prayer and daily living. When you feel confused or overwhelmed, remember: Jesus is your truth. Anchor yourself in His word. When you feel empty or discouraged, remember: Jesus is your life. He restores, renews, and strengthens. Finally, Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." This is not a denial of problems, it is an invitation to trust. Trust that God is preparing a place for you. Trust that your life has meaning. Trust that even in difficulty, Christ is leading you forward. May we walk confidently in Him, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

Pope's May prayer intention: That everyone might have food. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food

PARISH NOTICES

Safeguarding Sunday 2026. Sunday 3 May is Safeguarding Sunday. In line with today's Gospel, we are called to protect, called to care, called to act. Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday at rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday or via the QR code.



The National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse, Tuesday, 5th May: The Theme: Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) looks at the scourge of domestic abuse which causes pain and fear that prevent its victims from living the life Jesus came to bring. Immediately before the much-loved part of this verse from the Gospel of John, we hear Jesus's words: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." This is how abuse feels to those who experience it – their dignity and value as a unique child of God is stripped away and destroyed.

Proposed Reduced Summer Mass Schedules: Due to shortage of supply priests during Summer time, the diocese is advising all parishes re-schedule Mass times, in order to enable one priest to cover more than one parish. Details of how it will affect us will be published next month. The schedule will start each year on the 3rd weekend in July, (this year 18/19) and continue to include the first weekend in September (this year 5/6) for uniformity throughout the Archdiocese.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 11th, St George's Cathedral: Celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk with your names, address, parish and anniversary you are celebrating

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) - Discerning God's Call in your life 15th - 17th May, Liverpool: The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to live alongside the religious community and to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org. To register: <https://bit.ly/Vocation2026>

Rosary for Life 2026: Archbishop John is inviting all parishes to join him in praying the Rosary for Life throughout May. Each week will focus on a different theme: abortion, war & peace, disabled people, and the elderly. We will send parishes the reflections - in video and audio format - plus prayer intentions suitable for use as Bidding Prayers in advance.

Summer Celebration of Saint Jude: Saturday 30th May Carmelite Shrine, Faversham. You are invited to join the celebrations with an open air Mass, procession and devotion with atoning, refreshments will be provided throughout the day. Please see poster at rear of Church.

A Day with Mary Pilgrimages: Pilgrimage to Fatima (8 July to 15 July 2026) Closing date 28 April 2026. Pilgrimage to Italy (1 September to 10 September 2026) Closing date 23 June 2026. Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

May	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 2	8:30pm	Vigil, 5th Sunday Easter	Maureen Marshman; RIP. ; RIP.
Sunday 3	9:00am	5th Sunday of Easter	Peter Vaz ;RIP/ UCM
	11:00am	5th Sunday of Easter	Holy Souls
Monday 4	9:30am	English Martyrs	No Mass
Tuesday 5	9:39am	Feria	No Mass
Wednesday 6	9:30am	Feria	Mary Marshman RIP
Thursday 7	11:00am	Feria	Holy Souls
Friday 8	9:30am	Feria	Fred & Rosa Riley; RIP
Saturday 9	6:30pm	Vigil, 6th Sunday Of Easter	Henry Marshman; RIP
Sunday 10	9:00am	6th Sunday of Easter	Holy Souls
	11:00am		Pro Populo

PARISH MINISTRY: 2nd/3rd 10th/11th

READERS:6:30pm: Daniel Liane
9:00am: Savio Elisa
11:00am: Munachi/Chiebuka/Juliana Nathaniel/Ariel

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
6:30pm: Annabel Ann Doe
9:00am: Zena Patience

THE SEASON OF EASTER “The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one ‘great Sunday’.

CYCLE OF PRAYER - Intentions for Eastertide:

Vocations - especially on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations 4th Sunday of Easter

Survivors of Sexual Abuse - especially on Tuesday in the 5th week of Easter

Right Use of the Media - especially on World Communications Day 7th Sunday of Easter

The Church - especially at Pentecost

Human Work - especially on 1st May, St Joseph the Worker

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!