



## **ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-**

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10 May 2026

### **Parish Newsletter**

### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**

**TODAY'S MASS READING:** Parish Mass Book, from page 268

**First Reading:** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Cry out with joy to God, all the earth. Ps65:1-7, 16, 20 response v 1

**Second Reading:** A reading from the First Letter of St Peter 3: 15-18.

**Gospel:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 14: 15-21.

Today, on this Sixth Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to reflect deeply on the meaning of love, obedience and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In the Gospel, Jesus says to His disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." These words remind us that love for God is not expressed only through words or feelings, but through the way we live our daily lives. True Christian love is shown in action. It is shown when we forgive those who hurt us, when we remain faithful in difficult times, when we care for the poor, the lonely and the suffering, and when we strive to live according to the teachings of Christ. Love always requires commitment and sacrifice. Jesus Himself demonstrated this through His life, death and resurrection. But the Lord also knows our weakness. He knows that living the Christian life is not always easy. That is why He promises the disciples another Advocate, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's continuing presence among His people. He strengthens us when we are weak, guides us when we are confused and comforts us when we are troubled. Jesus assures His disciples: "I will not leave you orphaned." What a beautiful promise for every Christian. Many people today experience loneliness, anxiety and uncertainty. Some struggle with family difficulties, financial worries, illness or disappointment. At times, we may even feel distant from God. Yet today's Gospel reminds us that we are never abandoned. The Holy Spirit continues to work quietly in our hearts, encouraging us to trust God even when life becomes difficult. The first reading also shows how the early Church grew through faith, prayer and openness to the Spirit. The apostles laid hands on the new believers, and they received the Holy Spirit. This reminds us that the Church is not sustained merely by human effort, but by the power and grace of God. Even today, the Holy Spirit continues to renew the Church and guide believers in truth and unity. Saint Peter, in the second reading, encourages Christians to remain faithful even in suffering. He tells them to give reason for their hope with gentleness and respect. This is an important message for us today. The world needs Christians who live with hope, kindness and integrity. Sometimes the greatest witness to faith is not long speeches, but quiet acts of compassion, patience and forgiveness. As we continue this Easter season, let us ask ourselves: Do I truly love Christ in the way I live? Do my actions reflect the Gospel? Am I open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Let us pray today for the grace to remain faithful disciples of Christ. May the Holy Spirit strengthen our hearts, deepen our faith and teach us to love as Jesus loves. And may our lives become a witness of hope, peace and charity to everyone we meet. Amen.

**Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme**

**Email: [celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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

**Thursday 14th May, THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD** is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Novena to the Holy Spirit traditionally begins on the Friday after the Feast of the Ascension and ends on the Saturday before Pentecost Sunday. It is prayed for nine days, following the example of the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary. **Mass at the church by 9:30am.**

**MarriageCare:** Interested in training and volunteering as a Relationship Counsellor? Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support and we are currently looking for those who are empathetic, understanding and have an enthusiasm for supporting adult relationships, to train on our Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) and volunteer with us. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference to couples and families. Please note that there are costs associated with training on our CRC, however these costs are far lower than with alternative training providers. In line with our ethos as a charity, no one is excluded on the basis of their ability to pay. To find out more please visit: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) or email: [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk). Closing date for applications is **June 30th**.

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate:** London is holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on Saturday 6th June 2026 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Recollection Day will include Holy Mass, Talk, Hour of Mercy with Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Pls call millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Slough, Ealing Broadway, North London, Barking and Victoria.

**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](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) with your names, address, parish and anniversary

**Save the Date - Flame** is the largest Catholic gathering for young people in the UK and will take place on Saturday 6th March 2027 at the OVO Arena Wembley. The theme is: "Take courage! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) and is open to those in school Year 9 through to university age. Our Parish is hoping to get a group together to attend, if you are interested please email Lindsay [lindsay@pcmarley.co.uk](mailto:lindsay@pcmarley.co.uk) or the parish office. Tickets are £30 per person and the cost of travel to be advised nearer the time

**Vocations Weekend for Women - 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](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://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.

**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.

May	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 9	8:30pm	Vigil, 6th Sunday Easter	Henry Marshman; RIP.
Sunday 10	9:00am	6th Sunday of Easter	Michael & Margaret Hunt RIP
	11:00am	6th Sunday of Easter	Pro Populo
Monday 11	9:30am	Feria	No Mass
Tuesday 12	9:39am	Feria	No Mass
Wednesday 13	9:30am	Feria	Mary Marshman RIP
Thursday 14	9:30am@ parish	Ascension of the Lord	Holy Souls
	11:00am@BH	Ascension of the Lord	Wellbeing of residents
Friday 15	9:30am	Feria	Private Intention
Saturday 16	6:30pm	Vigil, 7th Sunday Of Easter	Bridie O'Sullivan, Wellbeing.
Sunday 17	9:00am	6th Sunday of Easter	Holy Souls
	11:00am		Pro Populo

PARISH MINISTRY:	10th/11th	16th/17th
READERS:6:30pm:	Liane	Ann Doe
9:00am:	Elisa	Brenda
11:00am:	Nathaniel/Ariel	Nana/Jessica
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:		
6:30pm:	Ann Doe	Jenny
9:00am:	Patience	Lawrence
11:00am:	Yvonne	Kereine

**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



Anyone who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; John 14:21

## 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!**