

## ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

02086701765

37 Norwood High Street

[norwoodwest@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:norwoodwest@rcaos.org.uk)

West Norwood

[www.stmatthews-westnorwood.org.uk](http://www.stmatthews-westnorwood.org.uk)

London SE27 9JU

9 November 2025

### Parish Newsletter

## THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (C)

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

**1st Reading** (Ez.47:1-2,8-9,12) **2nd Reading** (1Cor.3:9c-11,16-17). **Gospel** (Jn.2:13-22)

Readings Next Sunday: 1st Reading (Mal.4:1-2a). 2nd Reading (2Thes. 3:7-12). Gospel (Lk.21:5-19)

Today, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. Though many might assume St Peter's Basilica is the Pope's cathedral, it is actually the *Basilica of St John Lateran*. It is the oldest basilica in the Western world, built in the 4th century by Emperor Constantine after his conversion. The land on which it stands originally belonged to the Laterani family, hence the name "Lateran." The basilica was dedicated first to Christ the Saviour, and later to St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist. It is known as the "**mother and head of all churches**", symbolising the unity of the universal Church under the Bishop of Rome. But this feast is more than a historical memory; it is a spiritual reminder. In the First Reading (Ezekiel 47:1-12), water flows from the temple, bringing life, healing, and fruitfulness. This flowing water symbolises God's grace entering the world through the Church. Where the water flows, life grows. Where God is present, transformation happens. St Paul deepens this point in the Second Reading (1 Corinthians 3:9-17): "*You are God's building... you are God's temple.*" While the Lateran Basilica stands as a visible sign of the Church's unity, its true beauty is reflected in the living stones — **you and me**. The holiness of a church building only has meaning when the people within it reflect the presence of Christ. In the Gospel (John 2:13-22), Jesus cleanses the temple, showing that God desires a pure place for His presence. He is not merely protecting a building; He is protecting the dignity of worship and calling us to cleanse our own hearts from whatever keeps us far from Him. So, as we celebrate this feast, we are invited to three reflections:

**Unity** – We are part of a Church that spans centuries and cultures.

**Identity** – We are temples of the Holy Spirit; God dwells in us.

**Conversion** – Just as Jesus cleansed the temple, He desires to purify our hearts.

The Lateran Basilica stands as a symbol of permanence, stability, and unity. Yet the true Church is built wherever Christ is welcomed, worshipped, and reflected.

*"Lord, cleanse the temple of my heart. Make me a living sign of Your presence in the world."*

**Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme**

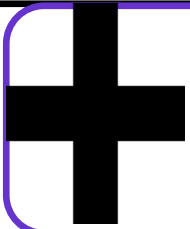
**Email: [celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk)**

## PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

**Pope's November prayer intention:** For the prevention of suicide Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

**Prayer for November:** Lord of mercy and compassion, in this month of November we remember all our loved ones who have gone before us. Welcome them into the light of Your presence and grant them eternal rest and peace. Comfort those who mourn, strengthen our hope in the Resurrection, and keep us united in Your love until we meet again in Your Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

### 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.

**In November** - Month of the Holy Souls, we offer prayers for relatives and friends who have died. There are sheets at the back of the church attached to envelopes in which you can place on the Altar of those for whom you wish to be remembered at all Masses in November together with any donations.



**Sunday 9th November:** Remembrance Sunday falls on the Sunday nearest Armistice Day, 11th November, which marks the end of the First World War. On this day we remember all those who gave their lives for their country, all who suffered and died through acts of war and those who were left behind to grieve and mourn.

**9th November - The Archbishop's Appeal** is a Diocesan 2nd collection that funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation. Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve. Please support the Archbishop's Appeal, every gift is welcome.

**A Day for Holy Souls:** Are you curious about purgatory and the souls of the dead? Would you like to know what praying for the dead is all about? Come for this day of catechesis and prayers for holy souls on **16th November 2025**, starting with **11am mass to 4:30pm**. See flyers at the narthex.

**A LEGION OF MARY SOCIETY:** We are delighted to announce that we intend to start a *Legion of Mary Society* in our parish. This will be a beautiful opportunity for both **children** and **adults** to grow in faith through prayer, especially the **Rosary**. **Children** will gather to pray together, and adults will also have their own prayer meetings as part of this apostolic and devotional work. If you feel called to be part of this spiritual family, please write your name and contact details on the **sign-up sheet placed at the back of the church**. Let us entrust this initiative to the loving care of Our Blessed Mother, and may she guide us as we journey together in faith.

**Please pray and fast** for the end of abortion and euthanasia on Monday 17th November. See poster at rear of Church. These days seem quite dark, what with Parliament voting to partly decriminalise abortion and voting to legalise euthanasia. Please invite others to join us in praying and fasting for life, via this link, <https://www.facebook.com/events/828656872884422>

**Youth Day - Southwark Catholic Youth Service (Ages 10-14)** Saturday 22nd November, 11:00am to 5:30pm at St. John Fisher School, Chatham, Kent. A day of faith, fun, and friendship. The day will include ice-breakers, a talk, question-box, pizza lunch, football and crafts, Adoration, and Mass. Register [www.tinyurl.com/yday22nov](http://www.tinyurl.com/yday22nov). For other dates and details of other events go to [www.tinyurl.com/scys1](http://www.tinyurl.com/scys1)

**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

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### PARISH MINISTRY

<b>Saturday 8</b>	Vigil, Lateran Basilica
6:30pm	Pat & Bridget Hunt RIP
<b>Sunday 9</b>	<b>Dedication, Lateran Basilica</b>
9am	Stephen Weafer; RIP
11am	Maria Rosa D'Souza; RIP
<b>Monday 10</b>	St Leo, Pope
9:30am	Holy Souls
7:00pm	Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday 11</b>	St Martin Of Tours
6:00pm	Adoration
7:00pm	Holy Souls
<b>Wednesday 12</b>	St Josaphat
9:30am	Nestor Onyebuchi RIP
<b>Thursday 13</b>	Feria
11am @ BH	Holy Souls
<b>Friday 14</b>	Feria
9:30am	Lisette Alberto RIP
<b>Saturday 15</b>	Vigil, 33rd Sunday
6:30pm	Deceased Glass Family
<b>Sunday 16</b>	33rd Sunday Ordinary Time
9am	Maria Moniz, Private Int
11am	Private Intention

### READERS:

	8th/9th	15th/16th
<b>6:30pm</b>	Liane	Ann Doe
<b>9am</b>	Kene	Brenda
<b>11am</b>	Michelle /Juliana	Azariah/Marie-France

### Eucharistic Ministers

<b>6:30pm</b>	Jenny	Russell
<b>9am</b>	Zena	Albertina
<b>11am</b>	Patience	Yvonne

### Church Cleaning

Noelie/Catherine?Hugo	Justine/Justina
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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!**