



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-

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Parish Newsletter

Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of The Lord

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, from page 182

“Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and he believed” (John 20:8). This simple yet profound moment from today’s Gospel captures the very heart of Easter: the journey from seeing to believing, from darkness to light, from confusion to faith. On that first Easter morning, the tomb was empty, not as a sign of absence, but as a powerful revelation of God’s decisive victory over sin and death. The Resurrection is not merely the conclusion of Christ’s earthly life; it is the beginning of a new creation. In rising from the dead, Christ has opened for us a new way of being, no longer bound by fear or despair, but invited into hope, freedom, and eternal life. The Gospel tells us that the disciples did not fully understand at first. They saw the empty tomb, the linen cloths lying there, and slowly, faith began to dawn in their hearts. This speaks to our own experience. At times, we too stand before situations we do not fully understand, moments of suffering, uncertainty, or silence. Yet Easter teaches us that God is at work even when we cannot immediately see the full picture. The empty tomb becomes a silent but powerful proclamation: God has already acted. The Resurrection of Christ assures us that no darkness is final. Sin does not have the last word. Death is not the end. In Christ, every Good Friday leads to Easter Sunday. This is the foundation of our Christian hope. It means that in our personal struggles, in our broken relationships, in our anxieties and fears, God is able to bring about new life. But Easter is not only something to be believed; it is something to be lived. Like the beloved disciple, we are invited not only to see but to believe, and believing, to become witnesses. Our lives are meant to reflect the joy of the Resurrection. Through acts of love, forgiveness, patience, and charity, we become signs that Christ is alive in our midst. As a parish community, Easter calls us to renew our faith together. It invites us to deepen our relationship with the risen Lord, to support one another, and to be bearers of hope to all we encounter. In a world often marked by uncertainty and despair, the witness of a joyful, faith-filled community becomes a powerful testimony to the truth of the Resurrection. May the risen Christ fill our hearts with His peace. May He strengthen our faith, renew our hope, and deepen our love. And may we, like the first disciples, come to see and believe, and in believing, proclaim with our lives: Christ is risen, alleluia! Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Easter.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

Pope's April prayer intention: For priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer

PARISH NOTICES

Today is Easter Sunday, the great feast of the Resurrection of the Lord. I warmly wish all our parishioners a joyful and blessed Easter. May the risen Christ fill your hearts with peace, hope, and new life. **Please, also note that next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday.** We shall have Adoration and the Divine Mercy devotion, which will start by 1:30pm with adoration and conclude at 3:00pm with a benediction. May God bless you all and your families.

Bishop Paul Hendricks warmly invites you to join him on this year's SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21st to 28th August 26. A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. I have also found it a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled. For further information please see our website: www.rcrainham.co.uk

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 11th, at St George's Cathedral: If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk

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.

EASTER OFFERINGS: The collection taken during all Easter Masses is traditionally your personal gift to the parish clergy. A priest's income is normally whatever he receives from the parish (mainly Mass offerings). The collection at Easter forms an important part of his income for the year and enables him to meet personal expenses. Thank you always for your kind generosity always. May God reward you all abundantly. Amen.

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>

Divine Mercy Sunday Feast 2026: Celebrations at St Andrews Church, Washington Drive, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5RE on 12 April 2026 at 2:30 pm. The service will be led by Mgr Sean Healy and will include Enthronement of the Image of Merciful Jesus, Mass, Talk, Chaplet, Adoration and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome to celebrate this glorious feast with us. Please call millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information

WEEKDAY MASSES: there will be no weekday masses in the parish this week. Masses to resume on Saturday with the vigil mass of the Divine Mercy Sunday.

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!