



## ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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West Norwood

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London SE27 9JU

1st Sep 2024

### Parish Newsletter

## Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS:** Parish Mass Book, from page 126.

**First Reading** (Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8): Moses urges the people to be faithful to God's law, which is not a burden to be endured, but a source of life and wisdom.

**Second Reading** (James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27): It is not enough to listen to the word of God, we must put it into practice.

**Gospel** (Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23): Jesus tells the Pharisees that they have submitted their own laws for the law of God, and are more concerned about outer cleanness than cleanness of heart.

#### REFLECTIONS: GOD'S LAW FIRST.

*God gave its people a number of laws found predominantly in the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. With the passage of time, the people enacted and grew-up a corpus of man-made religious laws to guide their everyday religious life like the washing of hands and arms up to elbow before eating. This was not a merely hygienic requirement, but rather a religious ritual prescription. In the course of time, religious leaders began*



*to place higher value on the man-made laws than on God's commandments. And these man-made laws had more to do with external observances than internal dispositions. As such, a good Jew becomes the one who carried out the external observances like washing of hands and arms etc. it did not matter if that person engaged in other sinful acts like fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. Today in the church, we also have man-made laws (ecclesiastical/church laws). Even though these church laws are important, they cannot displace the laws of God, they should rather aid/facilitate our observance of God's law. Jesus reminds us in the gospel that it is not in observing external ritualistic practices and tradition that we manifest virtuous acts. Acts that are good or bad proceed from within the heart/ from the inside. It is important to pay attention to the inside acts, to purify our hearts so that we shall manifest virtuous acts that will bring glory to God and bring us salvation.*

**Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme**

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

# PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

## PRAY WITH THE POPE

### **Pope's Prayer Intentions for September: For the Cry of the Earth**

*Pope invites us to pray that each of us hears with the heart the cry of the earth and victims of natural disasters and climate change, personally committing to care for the world we inhabit.*

**Prayer For Month of September:** O Lord, you mark the journey of life with change. Once again we witness your creation moving from one season to the other. Change is your instrument of growth that brings us to a deeper relationship with you. May your Word be the lantern that guides the roads of change in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Confirmation Classes to resume on Saturday 4:30pm at the parish hall. RCIA, Registration is on-going NOW. Next International Day Preparatory Meeting, Friday 6 Sep by 7:30pm @ Parish Hall.**

**Will you help with organising the Legion of Mary Prayer Group or you want to join the Divine Mercy Prayer Group? Speak to Fr Celestine.**

## PARISH NOTICES

**MASS AT BRITISH HOME:** Every Thursday by 11am. It is open to everyone. The management and residents are happy to welcome everyone at the mass.

**This Sunday** we celebrated The World Day of Prayer for the [Care of Creation](#), the start of the *Season of Creation*, a time of sustained prayer and action which lasts a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

**RAFFLE DRAW AND TICKETS:** Raffle draw will be part of the highlights of our international day. Do you have any item that you no longer use in your home and the item is still in good condition? Please donate it to the parish as part of the items for raffle draw.

**Education Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September** - offers an opportunity for us to pray to Almighty God for all people involved in Catholic education, to celebrate the achievements of the past and to ask Our Lord to bless the work of the year ahead. **Next Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup> collection** is for the Catholic Education Service (CES) which acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education.

**HOSPITAL ADMISSION** If you or someone you know goes into hospital, ask the charge Nurse to inform the Catholic Chaplain, or contact the Chaplain yourself.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS :** Congratulations to all those born in the month of September. The parish community prays for you all. Tea and coffee at the parish hall after the 11am mass. Courtesy of Deacon Paul and his wife Monica.

**A service for "Healing & Hope"**, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral, led by Archbishop John Wilson. The service is for all those that have been harmed by abuse, their families & friends. It is also to recognise the work of those that support survivors of abuse. At the end of the service, everyone will be invited to tie a ribbon in support of those that have been harmed by abuse. There will be light refreshments afterwards and a place for anyone who wishes to talk to the safeguarding team.

### **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It's a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat, the next non-residential retreat is from 21-22 September 2024 at **Church of the Annunciation, Burnt Oak, London, HA8 0HQ**. Why not find out more at [wwme.org.uk](http://wwme.org.uk)

PARISH MINISTRY			MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK	
<b>READERS:</b>	30TH/31ST	6TH/7TH	<b>Saturday 31 September</b>	Vigil Mass 22nd Sunday
6:30pm:	Faith	Liane	6:30pm	Floro Maria Carrilo (RIP)
9am:	Brenda	Maria/Savio	<b>Sunday 1 September</b>	22nd Sunday in Ord Time
11am:	Maria/Daniel/Jennifer	Melba/Preston	9am	Pro Populo
<b>EUCXHARISTIC MINISTERS:</b>			11am	Shane Myers (RIP)
6:30pm	Jenny	Russell	<b>Monday 2 September</b>	Feria
9am	Albertina	Albertina	9:30am	No Mass
11am	Patience	Kereine	<b>Tuesday 3 September</b>	St Gregory the Great (Pope)
<b>CLEANING:</b>			6:30pm	Adoration
Albertine/Justine/Justina	Chika/Patience/Juliana		7pm	Holy Souls
<b>Highlights of the Month's Liturgical Celebrations</b>			<b>Wednesday 4 September</b>	Feria
St Gregory the Great (September 3)			9:30am	Henry Marshman (RIP)
Birth of Mary (September 8)			<b>Thursday 5 September</b>	Feria
Holy Name of Mary (September 12)			11am @ BH	Holy Souls
Exaltation of the Cross (September 14)			<b>Friday 6 September</b>	Feria
Our Lady of Sorrow (September 15)			12noon	UCM
Sts Cornelius and Cyprian (September 16)			<b>Saturday 7 September</b>	Vigil of 23rd Sunday
St Matthew (September 21)			6:30pm	John Abraham, Private Int.
St Pio (September 23)			<b>Sunday 8 September</b>	23rd Sunday in OrdTime
Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael (September 29)			9am	Doreen Fleming, wellbeing.
St Jerome (September 30)			11am	Pro Populo

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Second collection for Catholic Education Services, Sunday 8 September**
- **Second collection for Catholic Agency for the Support of Evangelization, Sunday 15 September**
- **Youth Club, Saturday 14 September by 4:30pm @ the Parish Hall**
- **Parish International Day and Feast Day, next preparatory meeting, Friday 6 September by 7:30pm @ Parish Hall**

#### SPIRITUALITY FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve:

To give and not to count the cost;

To fight and not to heed the wounds;

To toil and not to seek for rest;

**WEEKDAY MASS ON FIRST FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER BY 12 NOON . UCM MEETS AFTER MASS AT THE PARISH HALL.**

**AS SCHOOL TERM RETURNS, AND AS WE WELCOME EVERYONE BACK FROM HOLIDAYS, WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE AND STRENGTH TO EMBRACE THE FUTURE IN GOD'S LOVE , MERCY AND FAVOUR. AMEN.**

**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.**

Mrs Berna Ellen Tuga: Funeral Service on 3rd September by 12:30pm @ St Matthew's Parish.



**HOSPITAL CONTACTS**

If you or a member of your family are admitted to one of the local hospitals, do please let the hospital's Catholic chaplain know.

**St George's Hospital:** Fr Peter Littleton  
(02087253069 or 02086721255)

**Kings Hospital:** To be provided

**Croydon University Hospital:** To be provided

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Isiah 35: 4-7</b>
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Ps 145:7-10 response v 1</b>
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>James 2:1-5</b>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>1 Samuel 3:9, John 6:68</b>
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Mark 7: 31-37</b>

(See Mass book page 130)

**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; 6:30pm

**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!**