



# ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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3rd Nov 2024

## Parish Newsletter

### Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS:** Parish Mass Book, from page 152

1st Reading (Deut 6:2-6). 2nd Reading (Heb 7:23-28) Gospel (Mark 12:28-34).

#### REFLECTIONS

Love: The Greatest Commandment"

Today's readings remind us that love is the foundation of our faith. In the Gospel, Jesus is asked which commandment is the greatest. His response is simple yet profound: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This commandment is not just a suggestion; it's a call to live our lives with purpose and direction. Loving God completely means prioritizing our relationship with Him above all else. But Jesus doesn't stop there. He adds a second commandment: "Love your neighbour as yourself." These two commandments are inseparable. We cannot truly love God if we don't love those around us. In the first reading from Deuteronomy, we're reminded to "love the Lord your God" and to pass this love on to future generations.

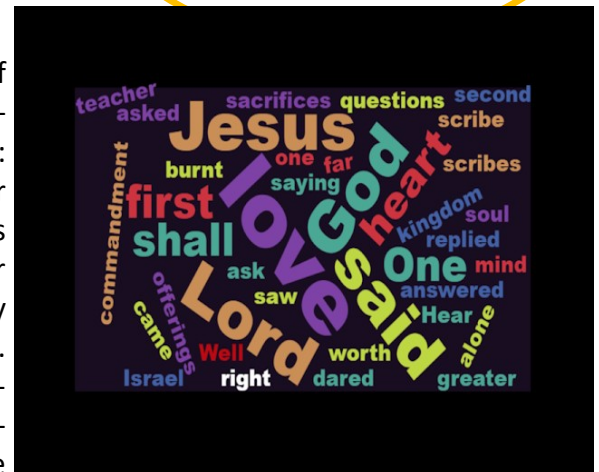
How do we live out these commandments? Do we make time for prayer and reflection? Do we treat others with kindness, compassion, and respect? Do we see the face of God in those around us?

As St. Paul writes in Hebrews, Jesus is our high priest, who loves us perfectly. May we strive to love God and others with the same perfection.

Let us take Jesus' words to heart today. Let us love God with all our being and love our neighbours as ourselves. May our lives be a reflection of God's love, and may we bring joy and hope to those around us.

Lord, help us to love you more deeply and to love our neighbours as ourselves. May our lives be guided by your commandments of love. Amen

Next Sunday's Reading: 1st Reading (1 King 17:10-16). 2nd Reading (Heb 9: 24-28) Gospel (Mk 12: 38-44)



**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 November Prayer Intention: For those who have lost a child.** Let us pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community, and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation .

## Prayer For Month of November:

Lord, as the leaves change and the year nears its end, let my lips continually offer praises to You. Each day of November, may my heart find reasons to celebrate Your goodness, and may I not take for granted the countless blessings, both big and small, that You bestow upon me. Amen.

## PARISH NOTICES

**10<sup>th</sup> November - The Archbishop's Appeal** is a Diocesan second 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.

**RCIA** - weekly classes begin on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November . First meeting will be on this date after the 11am mass at the church. Subsequent days will be a virtual class except when circumstances demand that we attend a physical session. This class is for those who have missed any of the sacraments (First Holy Communion or Confirmation) or those interested in learning about the Catholic faith or seeking to become part of the Catholic Church. We thank Deacon Paul for supporting with this programme.

**November Deceased envelopes;** are provided at the back of the church. If you wish to give names of friends or relatives to be prayed for in our masses this month, enclose the names in the envelopes and drop in the box in front of the altar. Offering donations are welcome.

On Saturday 23 November, there will be mass for the deceased at 9:30am and blessings of graves to follow at West Norwood Cemetery. Also, in all masses on the weekend of 23rd/24th masses to be prayers to be offered for friends and relatives who died within this year. If you have lost anyone within this year, give their name to Fr Celestine for mention during the bidding prayers.

**Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Person:** Following the November Plenary Assembly of Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, parishes, religious houses and institutions across the UK are instructed to join the Bishops for a Holy Hour to pray for the promotion of the dignity of the human person and the culture of life in England and Wales. This comes as a response to the assisted suicide legislation currently before the UK Parliament. The Holy Hour will commence at 5:30pm on Wednesday 13 November 2024. Details of how our parish will join this Holy Hour will be communicated as date draws near. See link of the Catholic position on assisted suicide here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

It is crucial for as many people as possible, particularly those with experience of illness, carers, or healthcare professionals, contact their MPs and voice their concerns regarding this Bill. Also, a reminder that updated resources from the Bishops' Conference, outlining the Catholic position on assisted suicide and guidance on how you can oppose its legalisation, are accessible here: [Bishops' Conference - Opposing Assisted Suicide](#).

**Eucharistic Ministers;** rota for ministry is now out and will take effect from the weekend of 2nd/3rd November. Thanks to Annabel Collaco for helping with the Rota. Both readers and communion ministers are to make a remark in a form in the sacristy as a way of notifying the priest of their availability to serve at the mass.

**PARISH MINISTRY**

**READERS:** 19th/20th                      26th/27th  
 6:30pm: Zena  
 9am: Eliza/Nathaniel  
 11am: Melba/Preston              Nana/Anne-Lise/Juliana

**EUCXHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

6:30pm      Russell                      Jenny  
 9am              Albertina                      Albertina  
 11am              Patience                      Kereine

**CLEANING:**

Albertine/Justine/Justina      Chika/Patience/Juliana

**All Saints' Day:** November 1

**All Souls' Day:** A Feast celebrated on November 2

**Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica:** Celebrated on November 9

**St. Leo the Great:** A Memorial celebrated on November 10

**St. Martin of Tours:** A Memorial celebrated on November 11

**St. Frances Xavier Cabrini:** November 13

**St. Albert the Great:** A Memorial celebrated on November 15

**Sts. Margaret of Scotland and Gertrude:** November 16

**Presentation of Mary:** A Memorial celebrated on November 21

**Saint Catherine's Day:** November 25

**First Sunday of Advent:** The beginning of Advent, which is a season of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK****Saturday 2 November**

6:30pm

**Sunday 3 November**

9am

11am

**Monday 4 November**

9:30am

**Tuesday 5 November**

6:30pm

7pm

**Wednesday 6 November**

9:30am

**Thursday 7 November**

11am @ BH

**Friday 8 November**

9:30am

**Saturday 9 November**

6:30pm

**Sunday 10 November**

9am

11am

Vigil Mass 31st Sunday

Noel Banks RIP

31st Sunday in Ord Time

Ann McGettigan, wellbeing

Pro Populo

St Charles Borromeo.

No Mass

Feria

Adoration

Holy Souls

Feria

Allan Rooke RIP

Dedication of St George's Cathedral

Ellis Holy Soul

Feria

Mary Walker; wellbeing.

Vigil of 32nd Sunday

Holy Souls

32nd Sunday in Ord Time

Joaquim & Cacilda Fernandes RIP

Pro Populo

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Archbishop's Appeal; November 10**
- **Catholic Youth Services Collection, November 24**
- **Parish mass for the November deceased list and visit to cemetery, November 23 (9:30am mass)**

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

*"You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do great things." - Mother Theresa.*

*And*

*"Great things happen when you don't care who gets the credit" - Mark Twain.*

## 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!**