

## ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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West Norwood

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

London SE27 9JU

13 April 2025

### Parish Newsletter

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (C)

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS:** Parish Mass Book, from page 190

1st Reading (Is.50: 4-7). 2nd Reading (Phil.2: 6-11). Gospel( Lk.22: 14-23:56).

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Today we stand at the doorway of Holy Week. It begins with joy and praise as we hold our palms high and remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. But quickly, the tone shifts. The same crowd that shouts "Hosanna!" will soon cry, "Crucify him!" Palm Sunday confronts us with a powerful truth: how quickly human hearts can change. In Luke's Gospel, we see Jesus enter Jerusalem not on a warhorse, but on a donkey—a sign of peace and humility. He doesn't come to conquer with violence, but to save through love. The people cheer, thinking he's the kind of Messiah who will overthrow Rome. But Jesus has come to overthrow something far deeper: sin, death, and the powers that enslave the human heart. Then we journey through the Passion narrative. We see Jesus betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, abandoned by his disciples. He is mocked, beaten, and finally crucified. And yet—through it all—Jesus never stops loving. Luke alone tells us that Jesus prays on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Even as he is being crucified, he is offering mercy. And then there's the criminal next to him—the one we call the Good Thief—who says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus replies, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." In the darkest moment of human history, God's love shines brightest. So what does this mean for us today? First, it reminds us that faith isn't about cheering for Jesus only when things are good. It's about following him to the cross, even when it's hard, uncomfortable, or costly. Second, it calls us to recognize the ways we sometimes reject Jesus—not with our words, maybe, but with our actions. Every time we choose pride over humility, revenge over mercy, comfort over justice—we turn from him. But finally, and most importantly, it tells us this: no matter how far we fall, God's mercy is deeper still. Even at our worst, Jesus is still reaching out, still offering forgiveness, still saying, "You will be with me." So as we enter Holy Week, let's not rush to Easter. Let's walk with Jesus—step by step—through the suffering, the silence, and the cross. Because only then can we truly rejoice in the resurrection. Amen.



**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 April Prayer Intention : For the use of the new technologies:** Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

### Prayer For Month of April

**Lord, we ask for Your guidance and wisdom as we navigate through this month.** Help us to see Your hand in every moment, to trust in Your plan, and to find peace in Your presence. May we be reminded of Your love and grace in the gentle rains and the warming sun.

### PARISH NOTICES

**This Week is Holy Week:** Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final Sunday of Lent. It's a day we commemorate the triumphant arrival of Christ into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. Maundy Thursday begins the Easter Triduum, the period which commemorates the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus; this period includes Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and ends on the evening of Easter. Holy Week Programme is in the newsletter. Also, pick up the parish Easter Card for a more detailed information.

**Easter Celebration Rehearsals:** This to inform the altar servers and readers for the Holy Saturday Vigil Mass to come for rehearsals on Saturday 19 April by 11am. Please be punctual.

**Pilgrimage to Pentecost.** Pilgrimage to Pentecost is an inspiring course designed to guide participants on a spiritual pilgrimage towards Pentecost. You can join a group in person at one of the "Hub" locations around the Archdiocese or on Zoom; or follow the course on your own at home. Find out more here:

[aec.rcaos.org.uk/p2p](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk/p2p)

**Oppose assisted suicide - new video message.** Archbishop John, alongside an updated pastoral letter urging us all to oppose the Bill to legalise assisted suicide, has published a video message which highlights the Bill's flawed parliamentary process. You can watch his message via our youtube channel: [youtube.com/RCSouthwark1](https://youtube.com/RCSouthwark1)

**Caritas Southwark event - Refugees and migrants 15 June.** Interfaith celebration of the contribution of **Refugees and Migrants** and the groups which have supported them. Contact [michaelheaney@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:michaelheaney@rcaos.org.uk) for more info.

**Building a Better Marriage (BABM).** This is a one-day marriage-enrichment course aimed at couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to try and make them better. Couples who have attended have been universally enthusiastic. There is no charge and no group sharing. Couples have the opportunity individually to explore their relationship and levels of communication. These BABM days start at **9.30am** and finish by **4.30pm**. Dates and venues for 2025 are: 12 April - West Croydon, 28 June - Kingston-upon-Thames; and, 13 September - Amigo Hall, Southwark.. **Contact:** 07983 524 727 or [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

**Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 12th, at St George's Cathedral:** If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + 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 [mflise@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflise@rcaos.org.uk) As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Beckenham.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Saturday 12 April</b>	Vigil of Palm Sunday
6:30pm	Connor RIP
<b>Sunday 13 April</b>	Palm Sunday
9am	Joyce Coelho RIP
11am	Ronald Gomez RIP.
<b>Monday 14 April</b>	Feria
9:30am	No Mass
<b>Tuesday 15 April</b>	Feria
6:00pm	<b>Adoration</b>
7:00pm	Holy Soul.
<b>Wednesday 16 April</b>	Feria
9:30am	No Mass
<b>Thursday 17 April</b>	Maundy Thursday
7:30pm	For Priests
<b>Friday 18 April</b>	Good Friday
See Parish Easter Card for information	
<b>Saturday 19 April</b>	Holy Saturday
8:30pm	Pro Populo
<b>Sunday 20 April</b>	Easter Sunday
9am	Alvaro Collaco RIP
11am	Reynaldo Ramos RIP

**PARISH MINISTRY****READERS:**

5th/6th

6:30pm Ann

9am Eliza

11am Melba/Preston/Nana

**Eucharistic Ministers**

6:30pm Annabel

9am Zena

11am Patience

**Church Cleaning**

Chika/Patience/Juliana

***We remain grateful to all our volunteers who help in different parish ministries.***

***Your services to the parish is immensely appreciated. May God whom you serve bless you and provide for you exceedingly, more than you can ever imagine. Amen.***

**Holy Week and Easter Programme 2025**

Sunday 13 April; Palm Sunday, Masses will be as usual.

Wednesday 16 April, Chrism Mass at the cathedral by 11:30am. No mass in the parish.

Maundy Thursday 17 April, mass will be by 7:30pm, followed by watch until midnight.

Good Friday 18 April, Liturgy of the Passion of our Lord, by 3pm.

Holy Saturday 19 April, Vigil of the Resurrection of our Lord, by 8:30pm

Easter Sunday 20 April, masses to be as usual.

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.

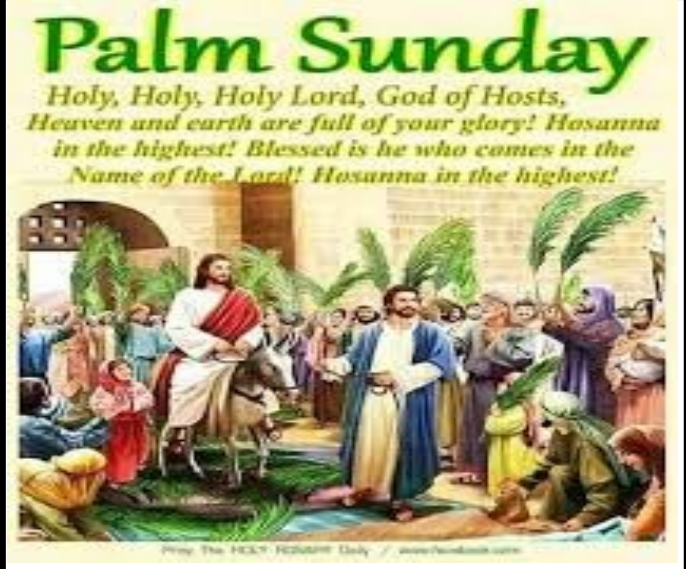
**St George's Hospital:** 02087253069 / 02086721255)

**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!**