



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-

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28 JUNE 2026

Parish Newsletter

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL (A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, from page 168 and 171.

First Reading: Vigil Mass: Acts 3:1-10. Mass of the Day: Acts 12: 1-11.

Responsorial Psalm: Vigil Mass: Psalm 18(18). Mass of the Day: Psalm 34(33).

Second Reading: Vigil Mass: Galatians 1:11-20. Mass of the Day: 2Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18.

Gospel: Vigil Mass: John 21: 15-19. Mass of the Day: Matthew 16: 13-19.

The **Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul** celebrates different men with different personalities, backgrounds and missions, but united by one faith, one Lord and one Gospel. Their lives remind us that God does not call perfect people but ordinary people transformed by His grace. Saint Peter was a fisherman; impulsive, generous and deeply devoted to Jesus, but was also capable of fear and weakness. He boldly declared that Jesus was the Messiah, yet later denied knowing Him three times during the Lord's Passion, but did not allow his failure to define him. He repented, accepted the Lord's forgiveness, and became the shepherd entrusted with leading the Church. His life is a powerful reminder that our mistakes do not have to be the end of our story. Saint Paul had a very different journey. Originally known as Saul, he fiercely persecuted Christians, believing he was defending God's law. He encountered the risen Christ on the road to Damascus and transformed from being a persecutor of the Church into one of its greatest missionaries. Paul travelled tirelessly across the Roman Empire, preaching the Gospel, establishing Christian communities and writing letters that continue to nourish the Church today. His conversion reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace. In the Gospel, Jesus asks His disciples a question that continues to challenge every generation: *"Who do you say that I am?"* Peter's response, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,"*. This question is not only for Peter but for each one of us. Our answer is given not simply with our words but with the way we live. Is Jesus truly the centre of our decisions, our families, our work and our relationships? Do others recognise Christ through our kindness, forgiveness and service? The feast of Saints Peter and Paul also reminds us of the unity of the Church. Peter symbolises the ministry of leadership and unity, while Paul represents the Church's missionary outreach to all nations. The Church needs both: faithful leadership that safeguards the truth and missionary disciples who joyfully proclaim the Gospel. Every baptised Christian shares in this mission. As members of our parish family, this feast invites us to renew our commitment to Christ and to His Church. Like Peter, may we remain faithful even when we stumble. Like Paul, may we remain courageous in sharing the Good News. Finally, both Peter and Paul sealed their witness with the ultimate sacrifice. Their example encourages us to persevere in our own daily challenges, trusting that God remains faithful to those who place their hope in Him. May Saints Peter and Paul pray for us, strengthen our faith, deepen our love for Christ and inspire us to become joyful and courageous disciples. May our parish continue to be a community firmly rooted in the faith of Peter and passionate in the missionary spirit of Paul, always proclaiming the Gospel with confidence, charity and hope. **Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us.**

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

Pope's July prayer intention: For respect for human life. Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

PARISH NOTICES

The Feast of St Peter and St Paul (Holyday of Obligation) Sunday 28th June: There will be a collection for Peter's Pence: by reason of the bond of unity and charity, the bishops of the Church, with their people, join together to produce those means which the Holy Father and the Apostolic See need to exercise works of mercy and charity and its service of the Universal Church. The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father are destined to church needs, humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See. The Pope, being pastor of the whole Church, is attentive to the material needs of poor dioceses, religious institutes and faithful in grave and natural disasters. Concrete aid is thus made available to bishops or dioceses in need, to Catholic education, assistance to refugees and immigrants, etc

Sea Sunday 12th July: Stella Maris (formerly The Apostleship of the Sea) is a Catholic charity supporting seafarers worldwide. It provides practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality or belief. Port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors' welcome seafarers, offer welfare service and advice, practical help, care and friendship. Stella Maris relies wholly on voluntary contributions, and can only continue its work through the generous donation of its supporters.

IMPORTANT - Deadline of interest for Flame (Take courage! I have overcome the world) on Saturday 6th March 2027 at the OVO Arena Wembley is 12/07/26. Our Parish is hoping to get a group together to attend, if you are interest please email the parish office. Tickets are £30pp, the cost of travel to be advised nearer the time.

Building a Better Marriage. A one-day course for married couples Dates (9am–4.30pm): 13 June (Hythe); 27 June (Tooting); 3 October (West Norwood) Book via mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Pilgrimage of Reparation - Walsingham, 1 August 2026: All are welcome to join the annual Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham on Saturday 1 August 2026. The day begins with the 12pm Angelus and Pilgrim Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany of Life, Benediction, the Sorrowful Mysteries, and a silent Act of Reparation, concluding with the Salve Regina. Those unable to attend are asked to join in prayer. For information and coach bookings, visit prolifepilgrimage.org.

Please; keep the people of Venezuela in your prayers after two powerful earthquakes have left communities shattered, with homes lost and churches damaged.

Summer Stillness Retreat – The Friars, Aylesford. 10–14 August 2026 with Fr Ged Walsh O.Carm and Angela Black. £582pp single/£542pp shared, all meals included. £30 deposit to book. Call 01622 717272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

The Life of Christ 16th – 20th June 26, The story of Jesus, is a play like no other, join over a hundred actors in the stunning grounds of Wintershall Estate as this magnificent story is movingly recreated with authentic detail in an epic open-air production. Watch the Wedding in Cana, the Feeding of the 5000 and the Last Supper unfold before your eyes. Book asap <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/life-of-christ/> to avoid disappointment.

120th Anniversary – Saints Simon & Jude (Streatham) - Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Canon Victor Darlington, Monday 20th July at 7pm (procession 6.50pm), followed by a garden party with the launch of the parish anniversary wine and commemorative history book. 5 Hillside Road, SW2 3HL. Visit saintssimonandjude.org.uk.

May	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 27	6:30pm	Vigil, SS Peter & Paul	Derek D'Souza; RIP
Sunday 28	9:00am	SS Peter and Paul	Martha Joanes; RIP
	11:00am	SS Peter and Paul	Jacqueline Hancock; RIP.
Monday 29	9:30am	Feria	No Mass
Tuesday 30	9:39am	Feria	No Mass
Wednesday 1	9:30am	Feria	Bridie Hunt; RIP
Thursday 2	11:00am@BH	Feria	Wellbeing of residents
Friday 3	9:30am	St Thomas, Apostle	Kouadio Konnan, RIP
Saturday 4	6:30pm	Vigil , 14th Sunday	Canon JP Devane;RIP
Sunday 5	9:00am	14th Sunday ord time	Pro Populo
	11:00am	14th Sunday ord time	Annie D'Souza RIP

PARISH MINISTRY: 27th/28th

4th/5th

READERS: 6:30pm: Liane

Ann

9:00am: Savio

Kene

11:00am: Ethelbert

Nathaniel/Ariel

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

6:30pm: Annabel

Ann

9:00am: Lawrence

Zena

11:00am: Kereine

Patience

ORDINARY TIME AFTER EASTER - CYCLE OF PRAYER - Intentions for Ordinary Time:

For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews.

For those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights - especially on 22nd June, the Feast of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More.

For Human life - especially on the third Sunday in June

For Seafarers - especially on the second Sunday in July, Sea Sunday

For Europe - especially on the Feasts of St Benedict, St Bridget and St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Patrons of Europe

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.

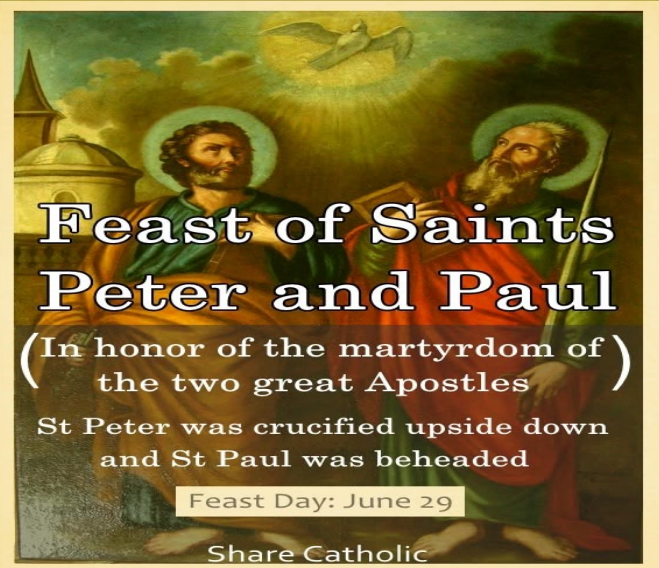
St George's Hospital: 02087253069 / 02086721255)

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!