



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-

www.stmatthews-westnorwood.org.uk

02086701765

norwoodwest@rcaos.org.uk

37 Norwood High Street

West Norwood

London SE27 9JU

31 May 2026

Parish Newsletter

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, from page 81

First Reading: A reading from the Book of Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9.

Responsorial Psalm: Book of Daniel 3:52

Second Reading: A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to Corinthians.

Gospel: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 20: 19-23

Today is Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. It is one of the deepest mysteries of our faith. We believe in one God in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Not three gods, but one God who exists eternally in a communion of love. The starting point of the Trinity is love. God the Father loves the world. The Son is given for the salvation of the world. The Holy Spirit is poured into our hearts so that we may live in that love. The Trinity therefore is not about isolation but relationship, self-giving and communion. Very often when people think about God, they imagine a distant ruler watching humanity from heaven. But the Trinity reveals something different. God is relationship. God is communion. God is eternal love constantly flowing between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This has practical consequences for our lives because we are created in the image of God. If God Himself is communion, then we too are made for communion. We are not created to live in hatred, division or selfishness. We are made for love, unity and mutual care. One of the greatest crises in our modern world is loneliness. Many people are surrounded by technology yet feel deeply isolated. Families sometimes live under the same roof but hardly speak to one another. Communities become divided by politics, race, pride and suspicion. Even within the Church there can be tension and misunderstanding. The feast of the Holy Trinity reminds us that authentic life is found in loving relationships. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit live in perfect unity without rivalry, jealousy or domination. Each Person gives Himself completely to the others. The Trinity becomes the perfect model for Christian family life, parish life and human relationships. In the first reading, Moses encounters God on the mountain, and God reveals Himself as: "a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness." God does not first reveal His power, but His mercy. Sometimes people carry an image of God as harsh, angry and waiting to punish. But the Trinity reveals a God whose deepest nature is love and mercy. This is important because many people today secretly struggle with fear, guilt and shame. Some feel unworthy of God's love because of past mistakes, sins or failures. Yet today's feast reminds us that the Father sends the Son not to condemn the world, but to save it. God's desire is always to draw humanity back into communion with Himself. Perhaps the greatest way to honour the Trinity is not simply by explaining the doctrine, but by living it. The world will understand the Trinity more through Christian love than through theological arguments. People should encounter something of the Trinity when they meet Christians: patience instead of anger, unity instead of division, forgiveness instead of bitterness, peace instead of hatred, love instead of selfishness. Today therefore we ask ourselves: Do our homes reflect the communion of the Trinity? Do our words build unity or create division? Do people experience God's love through us? And may our lives become living reflections of the Most Holy Trinity. Amen.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

Pope's June prayer intention: For the values of sports. Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

PARISH NOTICES

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION: next Sunday, 7th June, Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). We kindly urge all parishioners to keep our children and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist for the first time. There will be a compulsory retreat, confessions and rehearsal for all candidates on Saturday, 6th June at 11:00am in the church. Please note that failure to attend this preparation session will result in exclusion from the First Holy Communion celebration.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate: London is holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on Saturday 6th June 2026 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Recollection Day will include Holy Mass, Talk, Hour of Mercy with Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. For details call 07957594646

Raising young people in today's world can be both a joyful and challenging experience. CELEBRATE are running a webinar on 2nd June at 8pm to support and equip parents and carers of teenagers to help you gain confidence and provide you with some practical ideas to try out at home. To book visit: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting>

Pope Leo XIV's first Encyclical Letter, *Magnifica humanitas*, on preserving the human person in the age of artificial intelligence, was released on Monday 25 May 2026. You can [read *Magnifica humanitas* on vatican.va here](#).

Flame the largest Catholic gathering for young people in the UK will take place on Saturday 6th March 27 at the OVO Arena Wembley. The theme is: "Take courage! I have overcome the world." and is open to those in school Yr 9 through to university age. Our Parish is hoping to get a group together to attend, if interest please email Lindsay lindsay@pcmarley.co.uk Tickets are £30 per person and the cost of travel to be advised nearer the time.

The annual Solemn Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour : from Thursday 18th – Friday 26th June, at St Mary's Clapham (SW4 7AP, nearest station: Clapham Common). Novena prayers at all Masses, and Novena Service at 7pm each night. International guest preachers. See poster for more details."

CONFIRMATION 2026: We are pleased to announce that the Sacrament of Confirmation has been confirmed for Saturday, 8th November 2026 at the 11:00am Mass. Confirmation classes will begin on the first Sunday of September. All parents and candidates are kindly requested to complete the registration form and submit it immediately so that we can ascertain the number of candidates preparing for the sacrament. Please note that timely submission of forms will greatly assist in the planning and organisation of the programme. Thank you and God bless.

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.

Trust Relationship Officer, Education Service. We are seeking a Trust Relationship Officer to build and sustain relationships with Catholic trusts and schools. Full details at rcaoseducation.org.uk/trust-relationship-officer-education-service.

Catholic Schools Inspections Co-ordinator, Education Service. We are seeking a Co-ordinator to oversee Catholic Schools Inspections across the Archdiocese. Experience of inspections in Catholic schools or academies is essential. Full details at rcaoseducation.org.uk/csi-co-ordinator-education-service.

May	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 30	8:30pm	Vigil, Holy Trinity	Ambrose Glass; RIP.
Sunday 31	9:00am	Most Holy Trinity	Jack McGee; T/giving
	11:00am	Most Holy Trinity	Phyllis Gomez; RIP
Monday 01	9:30am	St Justin, memorial	No Mass
Tuesday 02	9:39am	Feria	No Mass
Wednesday 03	9:30am	St Charles Lwanga	Russell & Jenny, w/b
Thursday 04	11:00am@BH	Feria	Wellbeing of residents
Friday 05	9:30am	St Boniface	Javier Castanon; RIP
Saturday 06	6:30pm	Vigil , Body & Blood	Bridie Hanley; RIP
Sunday 07	9:00am	Most Holy Body and	Mr & Mrs Moniz; RIP
	11:00am	Blood of Christ	First Holy Communion
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PARISH MINISTRY: 30th/31st 6th/7th

READERS:6:30pm: Liane Ann Doe

9:00am: Savio Dorothy

11:00am: Chiebuka/ Munachi FHC

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

6:30pm: Annabel Ann Doe

9:00am: Albertina Lawrence

11:00am: Yvonne Kereine

THE SEASON OF EASTER "The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one 'great Sunday'.

CYCLE OF PRAYER - Intentions for Eastertide:

Vocations - especially on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations 4th Sunday of Easter

Survivors of Sexual Abuse - especially on Tuesday in the 5th week of Easter

Right Use of the Media - especially on World Communications Day 7th Sunday of Easter

The Church - especially at Pentecost

Human Work - especially on 1st May, St Joseph the Worker

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.

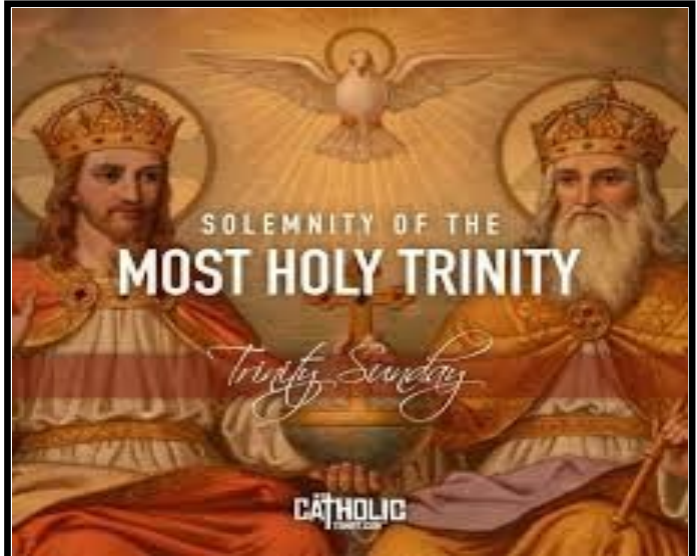
St George's Hospital: 02087253069 / 02086721255)

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!