



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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4 MAY 2025

Parish Newsletter

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

TODAY'S MASS READINGS: Parish Mass Book, from page 260

1st Reading(Acts 5:27b-32,40b-41). 2nd Reading (Rev.5:11-14). Gospel (Jn 21:1-19).

Readings Next Sunday: 1st Reading (Acts 13:14, 43b-52) 2nd Reading(Rev.7:9,13a,14b-17) Gospel(Jn.10:27-30)

Do you love me?" That's the question Jesus asks Peter — not once, but three times. And each time, Peter responds: "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." It mirrors the three times Peter denied Jesus. It's not a coincidence. It's a healing moment — a moment of restoration. After the resurrection, Jesus could have scolded Peter. He could have reminded him of his failure. But instead, He offers forgiveness, and then trust. **"Feed my sheep,"** Jesus says. In other words: "I still have work for you. I still believe in you." That's the heart of the Gospel today. Even when we've failed — even when we feel unworthy — Jesus still seeks us out. He still calls us by name. He meets us, like the disciples, in ordinary places — like a beach, or over a simple breakfast — and reminds us of who we are and what we are called to do. Notice also: when Peter recognizes Jesus, he doesn't hesitate. He jumps into the water and runs to Him. That's what Easter is about — not just that Christ is risen, but that **He comes to us**. Again and again. In our doubts, our failures, and our fears. And He asks us the same question: **"Do you love me?"** Not just with words, but with our lives.



Not just with emotions, but through action — in feeding His sheep, caring for the broken, loving the forgotten. So today, let's hear those words personally. Jesus isn't looking for perfection. He's looking for hearts willing to follow, again and again. Like Peter, let us answer boldly: **"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."**

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

PRAY WITH THE POPE

Pope's May prayer intention: For Working Conditions. Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and society might be humanized.

Prayer For Month of April

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of life and this new month of April. We acknowledge your presence and your power in our lives. May this month be filled with your blessings, peace, and guidance. We ask for your protection and favour, and we trust in your loving plan for us. Amen.

PARISH NOTICES

Jubilee to Aylesford: If you have not handed your token of £10 for the coach to the archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 7 June you are running late. We have only about 4 spaces left. The event promises to be a great one! For more information, visit aec.rcaos.org.uk/jubilee_celebration. That is also where you go to register for 90-minute ministry sessions for children (KS1+2) and young people (KS3+4). **Pre-booking for these sessions begins at 11 am this Monday 5 May.** Places are limited - first come, first served. Please book only for your own children or grandchildren. For those who miss out, there are other children's activities, notably a novel 'Saints Treasure Trail' which has been developed especially for this celebration.

GCSE Exams: We have a number of our young people who are sitting for this national examination which will start soon. Please remember them in prayers that God will bless all their hard works. Amen.

Friday Office: Fr Celestine will not be available for open office on Friday. Apologies for the inconvenience.

Migrant Mass 2025: In this special Jubilee Year, you are warmly invited to join the three 'London' Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster for the annual Mass for Migrants on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May 2025 at Westminster Cathedral, starting at 2.00pm with a procession of banners. This year the Mass is hosted by the Diocese of Westminster at Westminster Cathedral. The Mass for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker is prepared by the Justice & Peace Commissions, Caritas and Ethnic Chaplaincies of the three Dioceses and celebrates the contributions made to faith, life and work in the UK by all those who come from other countries to make a home here.

Second Collection 11th May: The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese. After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 9 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thank you! • Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF • Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (see poster at narthex) • Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504 • Cash / Cheque – please use the Priest Training Fund

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 3 May	Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Easter
6:30pm	Wellbeing of Paul Byrne
Sunday 4 May	3rd Sunday of Easter
9am	Monica Mendoca, 90th b/day
11am	Fr Celestine; wellbeing..
Monday 5 May	Feria
9:30am	No Mass
Tuesday 6 May	Feria
6:00pm	Adoration
7:00pm	Enoch & Nathan Dakouri, w/b
Wednesday 7 May	Feria
9:30am	Private Intention
Thursday 8 May	Feria
11am @ BH	Holy Souls
Friday 9 May	Feria
9:30am	Wellbeing of Andy Sanders
Saturday 10 May	Vigil of 4th Sunday of Easter
6:30pm	William Marshman RIP
Sunday 11 May	4th Sunday of Easter
9am	Private Intention
11am	Wellbeing of Chika Nwokedi

PARISH MINISTRY

READERS:

	3rd/4th	10th/11th
6:30pm	Ann	Preetha
9am	Savio	Zena
11am	Ann-Lise/Daniel	Chiebuka/Munachiso

Eucharistic Ministers

6:30pm	Annabel	Jenny
9am	Albertina	Lawrence
11am	Yvonne	Kereine

Church Cleaning

Chika/Patience/Juliana Justine/Justina

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.

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

New Members of the Church 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!