

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

Parish and Private Contact Number 07921 667679 Private Email: petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk
Office: Tel Number 0208 397 4499 Office Email: chessington@rcaos.org.uk Website: stcatherineofsiena.org.uk
100 Leatherhead Road, Chessington, KT9 2HY

WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 20 AUGUST 2023

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 20 AUGUST – TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) (Year A–Weekly Cycle 1) Parish Mass Book p 117

8.00am	Mass: For the People of the Parish
	Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am
10.00am	Mass: Paul Wateridge RIP – 20 th Anniversary
6.00 pm	Mass: Angela Woolliscroft RIP
Mon 21st	No Rosary or Mass today
Tues 22nd	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
11.30am	Holy Hour – Exposition and Rosary
12Noon	Mass: The Manche Family
Wed 23rd	Feria
9.00am	Rosary
9.30am	Mass: Joyce and Maurice Grant
Thur 24th	St Bartholomew
9.00am	Rosary
9.30am	Mass: Larry Jones (RIP) and Margaret Day-Jones and Family
Friday 25th	St Louis
9.00am	Rosary
9.30am	Mass: Gwen Marshall RIP
10.00am	Holy Hour – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, Confessions
Sat 26th	No Mass, Holy Hour or Rosary today

Note new times for this week

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Last Week's Offertory
£665.31 (of which £224 is Gift Aided envelopes, £175.00 is Gift Aided bank standing orders and £266.31 cash)
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*Tea and coffee are served every Sunday in the hall after 10am Mass. All welcome.*  
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The Parish Office is normally open on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri from **10am until 12noon**. All Parish Hall bookings should be made during these times.
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**If you would like Mass to be offered please write clearly and complete a brown Mass Intention Envelope. For Anniversary Masses, with a particular date, please give at least eight weeks' notice to avoid disappointment.**  
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Kingston Hospital If you are admitted to Kingston Hospital, it is your responsibility to inform the ward staff if you would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. If you are calling on behalf of a patient in the Hospital please call the Hospital Main Switchboard on 020 8546 7711 who will contact the Chaplain.

Sunday 27 AUGUST – TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8.00am	Mass: Duncan Hodgson RIP
	Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am
10.00am	Mass: For the People of the Parish
6.00pm	Mass: Cynthia Rapazzini RIP

<u>Readers 20th Aug</u>	8am: Valentino Ferdis	10am: Pauline Holman	6pm: Paul Johnston
<u>Readers 27th Aug</u>	8am: Alberto Ravano	10am: Marcel Gilli Bruno	6pm: Paul Johnston
<u>Counters 21st Aug</u>	Pauline and Una	<u>Cleaners w/c 21st Aug</u>	Audry and Siobhan

SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS – Tammy Finan and Steve Kearney E-mail: chessingtonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk Tel: 07818 108689

TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION WE MUST LIVE THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE - BE A PRACTISING CATHOLIC
Sacrament of Baptism – please speak to Fr Peter before fixing a baptismal date and reception venue.
Sacrament of the Eucharist – see above, Mass times
Sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance
Confessions: Sundays 9.15am-9.45am, Saturdays 9.45 am -10.15 am during Holy Hour, and after every weekday Mass or by appointment
Sacrament of Confirmation – annual course for baptised young Catholics – please apply to Fr Peter
Sacrament of Marriage – please speak to Fr Peter at least six months before the proposed wedding date.
Sacrament of Healing – It is our duty to call a priest to anoint family members in failing health. Please try to give notice if at all possible and don't leave it to the last minute. It brings consolation to the dying as well as healing to the sick. It can be administered at church, in hospital, care home, at home, indeed anywhere. Make sure you are anointed before an operation with general anaesthetic.
Sacrament of Ordination and consecration to the sacred Priesthood and Religious life – please speak to Fr Peter who will connect you with our vocations director.

JESUS ASKS US ALL: WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?
CHRIST CAME TO SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD NOT JUST THE CHOSEN PEOPLE. BUT JEW AND GENTILE ALIKE, CATHOLIC AND NON-CATHOLIC ALIKE, WE ARE ALL CALLED TO RECOGNISE JESUS AS TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN AND SAVIOUR. THOSE WHO RECOGNISE HIM YEARN FOR HIM, TRUST HIM, THANK HIM AND PRAISE HIM

PLEASE PRAY for the sick
especially Cindy Albright, Patrick Beglane, Joyce Crooks, Tyler Curniffe, Louise Dovey, Delia Gallagher, Marie Gilbert & Family, Martin Jackson, Paul Jarvis, David Jordan, Solomon Justin, Georgia Kelly, Paul Kwan, Teresa McDonald, Sally McKenna, Jimmy Murphy, Pauline Murphy, Ryan O'Loughlin, Mark Peace, Jean Penycate, Kathy Richardson, Debbie Ruberg-Smith, Chloe Sheead, Mary Sheehan, Anne Srivastava, DS Aiden Taylor and residents of the Amy Woodgate Residential Home.

THE WAY AHEAD FOR OUR PARISH THE NEXT STEPS

Dear Brothers and Sisters – the time has come for us to do some serious planning and fundraising in order to safeguard our parish buildings and beautify our parish to show the world that we are proud of Christ. We would be proclaiming our faith in Jesus Christ from the roof tops! It is a form of evangelisation. It is also about responsible stewardship of God's gifts. At our last parish meeting I spoke further about the formation of various parish teams so that we might work together to do God's work. I will be writing to you further about that very soon, but we need to think right away about building two teams in particular as soon as possible:

1. **BUILDINGS TEAM** - a team to advise me and help me manage the replacement of rotting windows with double glazed stained glass windows, together with the installation of PVC, soffits, fascias and gutters. We need a mix of people with both practical and artistic qualities.
2. **SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING TEAM** - a team to run activities to help us pay for the new works and also to consider options for obtaining grants, borrowing interest-free loans from other parishes etc. This team I hope will be ready to organise a **Christmas Market or Bazaar** in our Hall at the beginning of December to raise money.

I would like to ask for volunteers to approach me as soon as possible. Please do help if you can in this important work. You can make a difference.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024 THE NEXT COURSE

Applications are invited for the next First Holy Communion course which will start on the first Sunday of November (the 5th) 2023, with a briefing for parents and children in mid October. Children starting Year 3 and above at school in September 2023 are eligible to apply for the course. The course will run every Sunday after the 10 am Mass (11.15 am to 12.15 am) except during holidays and half term. Attendance at Mass is essential and obligatory and is a key part of understanding the Mass and the centrality of the Eucharist in our faith. An experienced team of catechists led by Mrs Louisa Nkohkwo will take the children through the course.

Parents will need to remain at church with the children for safeguarding purposes and in parallel a separate course will be provided for them so that they may be able to help their children in their faith.

The First Holy Communion ceremony will be on the Corpus Christi weekend: Saturday 1 June 2024 for the ceremony; Sunday 2 June for a thanksgiving Mass followed by a First Holy Communion party for the children. For application forms see our website (go to the menu link *Sacramental Life*). Please hand the completed form directly to Fr Peter after the Mass you attend. If you have any queries, please contact Fr Peter or Mrs Louisa.

CONFIRMATION 2024

The next Confirmation course for teenagers will begin in January 2024. More information will be provided in due course together with application forms. If you would like to discuss the course, please approach Fr Peter in the first instance. (The current group of Confirmation students will be confirmed on Saturday 25 November 2023.)

BECOME A CATHOLIC IN 2024 THE NEXT COURSE

Those who are considering becoming Catholics, or who would simply like to know a little more about Christ and his Church before committing themselves, are most welcome to join the next course. We will be following a combination of two well-established courses: the *Evangelium* course and the *Sycamore* course. Fr Peter will lead the course. We will cover among other things the nature of God, the Father, the Holy Spirit and the person and the teachings of Christ, the handing down of faith through the Church, the Bible and the Mass, and Prayer. If you are interested – or if you know of a non-Catholic who might be interested or simply wants to know more – please speak to Fr Peter. The course will begin in late September. Those who wish to become Catholics will be able to do so at Easter 2024. This is an opportunity to ask questions about our faith in a friendly atmosphere.

REFLECTION TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS AT MASS DO WE RECOGNISE JESUS?

The Gospel passage today (Matthew 15:21-28) may seem a little disconcerting at first glance. We marvel at the persistence of this pagan Canaanite woman who is begging Jesus to save her daughter, but are perplexed by the way Christ is treating her, ignoring her and even appearing to be rude. He says that his mission is to his own people, the "lost sheep of Israel," not the pagans. Yet, we know from the prophets, the Gospel writers and the writings and actions of Paul and Peter that Christ came to bring salvation to all humanity. Paul himself is the "Apostle to the Gentiles." What is going on here?

Jesus is making a point which is of crucial importance to us today. Matthew, the Christian Jew, is at pains to tell his Jewish audience that Jesus' mission is in harmony with 2,000 years of Jewish/Abrahamic history. Jesus wants to demonstrate that first he has come to save the "lost sheep" of Israel, who had broken God's covenant, because it was the nation of Israel which had been chosen to be formed over 2,000 years eventually to take Christ to the world. The Old Covenant had not been repudiated but fulfilled in him. Jesus expects them, and us, therefore, to recognise him as our Lord and Saviour. In this Gospel passage, Jesus is impressed that a non-Jew – this pagan woman – has recognised that Jesus is Lord and "Son of David" (the Messiah). Through her persistence and prayer, she indicates that she has indeed recognised him. The passage indicates that all people, no matter their background, have the divine spark in them from the Creator which enables them to see that they are indeed made in God's image and that they can therefore recognize Christ when they encounter him. It is for us, the Christians, to ensure that they do encounter Jesus. Alas, too many of us, and the majority of baptised Catholics in the West, not only fail to bring Jesus to others, but we too have broken the covenant. **Even worse, we have broken the "new and eternal covenant," the one purchased by the Christ's very own blood.** The situation now is so bad that only a small percentage of baptised Catholics in the West bother to come to Mass. They have God here at Mass in front of them, can receive him personally in the Eucharist, yet they do not come to receive him. As they stay away from Mass and the Eucharist, **they make up their own God**, often shaped in the image and likeness of a secular culture with its questionable moral and ethical values, its encouragement of selfish excess and its aggressive rejection of reasoned debate.