

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

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WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER 2023

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 31 DECEMBER – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (B) *Parish Mass Book p105*

8.00am **Mass:** All the Family and Friends of Manche Family
Confessions during Mass and 9.15 am to 9.45am
10.00am **Mass:** For the intentions of Fr David Howell
6.00pm **Mass:** Lucie Josephides RIP

Mon 1st Jan **Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass: Xiuzheng Wang RIP and Fushen Li RIP

Tues 2nd SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

12Noon Mass: Mary Angela Aitken and Family

Wed 3rd The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass: Eamon McCluskey and Gordon

Thurs 4th The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass: Mick and Eileen Kearns

Friday 5th Feria of Christmas Time

9.00am Rosary
9.30am Mass: Wellbeing of Rosemary Okogwu and Family

Sat 6th Feria of Christmas Time

9.00am Mass: Veronica Wainwright
9.30am **Holy Hour** – Exposition of the Eucharist, Rosary, Benediction, Confessions 9.40am-10am

Sunday 7 JANUARY – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8.00am **Mass:** Patrick Donnelly RIP
Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am

10.00am **Mass:** Dick Grey RIP

6.00pm **Mass:** For the People of the Parish

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

<u>Readers 31st Dec</u>	8am: Kristin Walsh	10am: Bianca Gilly Bruno (Readings)	6pm: Frances Harryman
<u>Readers 7th Jan</u>	8am: Valentino Ferdis	10am: Kate Moir	6pm: Aurea Coloma
<u>Counters 2nd Jan</u>	Vera and Valentino	<u>Cleaners w/c 1st Jan</u> - Concie, Rovena and Inoka	

TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION WE MUST LIVE THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE - BE A PRACTISING CATHOLIC THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

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, Thursdays 10.15 am – 10.45 am, and after 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.

Last Week's Offertory from two Masses only £528.95 (£132.80 is Gift Aided envelopes, £175.00 is Gift Aided standing orders and £221.15 cash)

Fr Peter thanks you all for your generous Christmas Offering and Gifts

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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

CRIB OFFERING – YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION FOR FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Fr Peter – no appointments till further notice. In case of emergency, please speak to Vera our Parish Secretary or e-mail Fr Peter himself at petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK especially Cindy Albright, Patrick Beglane, Joyce Crooks, Tyler Curniffe, Louise Dovey, Delia Gallagher, Marie Gilbert & Family, 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, John Stratford, and residents of the Amy Woodgate Home.

KNITTING CRAFT CLUB

Every Tuesday 2 pm - 4 pm Parish Hall Foyer
The Club will resume on Tuesday 9th January

**Archbishop John Wilson's Pastoral Letter for the
Solemnity of the Holy Family 2023
To be read at all Sunday Masses on Sat 30/Sun 31 December 2023**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

A Saviour has been born for us who is Christ the Lord! (Lk 2:11) I am so pleased to be able to greet you with Christmas good wishes - for you and your family and friends - in this holy season of hope. Each year we rejoice in celebrating the changeless truth that God sent his Son into our world because he loves us. More specifically, in the Lord Jesus God loves you, in the reality of your life here and now, in your tears and in your smiles. This is why, individually and together, we can look to the future with confidence.

Dear friends, I pray that something of God's love touches your heart this Christmastime, even if you face challenge or suffering. In Christ, no one is ever alone. God really is with you. Whatever happens, God will never abandon you. As the family of the Church, within all our relationships, it's so important that we try to make the love of God we have received something tangible for others. We do this by imitating the example of the Holy Family: through sensitivity, kindness, and generosity, and, especially, through our faith. A famous song once declared '*love is all around us.*' This is true; but love can only be all around us if, first, it comes from within us. It is God's love in Christ, born into our hearts again this Christmas, which compels us to put love in action. Faith and love are inseparable. We seek to love others in faithfulness to Christ who was born, died, and rose again.

Loving relationship is at the heart of our faith: the loving relationship of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who live eternally as one God in three persons; the loving relationship of the Father who sent his Son to take flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary; the loving relationship of Our Blessed Lady and St Joseph to the Lord Jesus; the loving relationship, through the Holy Spirit, by which we share the gift of faith as disciples. According to God's plan for humanity, we are created in God's image and likeness for loving relationship. This is shown so beautifully in family life.

It was faith in God, and fidelity to God's word, that enabled Abraham and Sarah to believe God's promise. It was faith in God, and fidelity to God's word, that made Our Lady and St Joseph capable of cooperating so uniquely and beautifully with God's purpose for their lives and our salvation. It is our Catholic faith that gives identity and meaning to the Sacrament of Marriage and to family life as the domestic church. The family, in the closer and wider senses, remains the most important building block of the Church and of society. When the family flourishes, the Church flourishes. When the family flourishes, society flourishes. Catholic faith is intrinsic to our understanding of marriage and family life, supported by our parishes and schools.

I have been privileged over the past year to witness so many inspiring examples of husbands and wives, with their children and extended families, living and celebrating their Catholic faith, passing it on, and making it central to their day-to-day life. We know that every family has its difficulties. Sometimes, sadly, we also know there is breakdown, both in marriage and in family life. To anyone who is wounded by damaged or broken relationships, please know that the Church is your home, a compassionate 'hospital' of healing and mercy. I want to say a very sincere 'thank you' to every family which forms part of our Archdiocese. Thank you for your commitment to your faith and for making your homes holy places where the values and virtues of the Holy Family of Nazareth are put into practice. Our relationships with each other matter. They matter in the family, in our Church, and in our society and world. It's so necessary that we take time to listen to each other and to walk beside one another as we journey on the way together with Christ in faith. As a child, in his family home with Mary and Joseph, the Lord Jesus grew in maturity. He was filled with wisdom and God's favour was with him. This is our desire for every disciple, for every family, and for our Church in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

As we look to all that 2024 will bring in God's providence, we commit ourselves to fulfilling our mission to share the Gospel of salvation in Christ through words and actions that build relationships in service of a civilisation of faith, love, and peace.

With every blessing for this Christmas Season and the New Year, and the assurance of my prayers and gratitude

**Yours devotedly in Christ
+ John Wilson**

Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark

Building a Better Marriage – new course for married couples

As part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a *Building a Better Marriage Course* throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024. The one day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriage better and to improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting. For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark: website: <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>