

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

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WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 7 JANUARY – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD *Parish Mass Book p118 / Readings p115*

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

10.00am **Mass:** Dick Grey RIP
6.00pm **Mass:** For the People of the Parish

Mon 8th The Baptism of the Lord
Fr Peter Private Mass – For Vera Parfitt and Family

Tues 9th Feria
Fr Peter Private Mass – For Kaj Carstensen,
late of Gt Longstone, Derbyshire

Wed 10th Feria
Fr Peter Private Mass – Wellbeing of Anthony Cleere

Thur 11th Feria
Fr Peter Private Mass – For Maria Keaveney Jessiman RIP

Fri 12th Feria
Fr Peter Private Mass – For Rose McIntyre and Family

Sat 13th St Hilary
Fr Peter Private Mass – For Eugene Connelly

Sunday 14 JANUARY – SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) *Parish Mass Book p127*

8.00am **Mass:** Frank McCluskey - Birthday
Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am

10.00am **Mass:** Frank Maughan 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

Readers 7th Jan 8am: Valentino Ferdis 10am: Kate Moir

Readers 14th Jan 8am: Alberto Ravano 10am: Shehara Gamage

Counters 7th Jan Karen and Peter Cleaners w/c 8th Jan

6pm: Aurea Coloma

6pm: Ruth MacKinlay

Audry and Siobhan

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

£823.68 (£434.10 is Gift Aided envelopes, £175.00 is Gift Aided standing orders and £214.58 cash)

Next Sunday we will have a second "Fundraising" collection for church repairs. There are envelopes available for Gift Aiding your donation or if you are a member of our scheme please use your Gift Aid number.

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

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

This week Our Lady of Fatima Statue passes from Rosemary Okogwu at 10am Mass to Marianne Walsh and Family at 6pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK especially Cindy Albright, Patrick Beglane, Joyce Crooks, Tyler Curniffe, Louise Dovey, Delia Gallagher, Eileen Gathercole, 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 Pencycate, 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

HAPPY AND JOYOUS FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Don't forget to draw some joy from this Sunday, the great Solemnity of the Epiphany. The gifts of the Wise Men demonstrate that something remarkable happened two thousand years ago, that Christ came for all humanity, that he is the saviour of all human beings, if only we care to listen to his Good News.

And I thank you all for your generous Christmas gifts and offerings.

I also thank Fathers David and Connor for their loving contribution to our parish during my absence. They truly care about your wellbeing, and I am grateful to them for the large number of Confessions they heard and for offering the opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as well as daily and Sunday Masses.

From tomorrow there will be no daily Mass at St Catherine's until I am well enough to return to active duty. I shall, however, be offering a daily private Mass and will therefore be able to continue to bring to God your Mass intentions.

Sunday Masses will be covered as before by Fr Dominic Allain and by other visiting priests.

With love and prayers as ever,

Fr Peter

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>

**PLEASE DO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS COURSE.
THE STRONGER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
HUSBAND AND WIFE, THE STRONGER THE
FAMILY. THE STRONGER THE FAMILY, THE
STRONGER OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST**

EPIPHANY CHRIST REVEALED TO ALL NATIONS

Opening Prayer at Mass for Epiphany

O God, who on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy
that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the beauty of your
sublime glory,
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

REFLECTION

We continue with the key theme of Christmas: who are you Jesus and what is this Good News?

The short answer is that Jesus is the Son of God – he is true God and true man, and his mission is to save us from sin and death - all of us, all of humanity, not just the Jewish nation, the chosen people. Christ is the light of all the nations but sometimes even when the truth is staring us in the face, when all the signs are clear about the right course of action to take, we allow ourselves to become spiritually blind – the glamour of sin takes us over. Our selfishness and our pride takes over. We behave as if the light of Christ has died in us. The Hebrews, the nation of Abraham had been prepared over 2000 years to have faith in the one true God. They were shown how to worship the one true God. But at the last hurdle the Children of Israel turned away from the truth and love of Christ their Saviour, our Saviour. Today, we too are suffering from deep spiritual self-inflicted blindness, whether Catholic or non-Catholic. We choose to be blinded by the praise of men and women, we are tempted to occupy a comfortable place in the mainstream of society or the Church. We are blinded by the glamour of evil. Every kind of depravity now has been redefined as good and normal. In the meantime, vocations to the priesthood and the religious life have plummeted. Where Christ was crystal clear, we tend to muddy the waters to suit our chosen lifestyle. **There is a resistance in us. We do not want to bear witness to the Christ, not really, and in any case we have forgotten what we are meant to bear witness to.** Too often Catholics are like the Apostles before the Resurrection and Pentecost. When the crucifixion came, they were nowhere to be seen. They did not want to associate themselves with this man who claimed he was the Son of God. **BUT WE HAVE NO EXCUSE. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST** – the Commandments, the Sacraments, the Church which has brought us the authentic Christ over two thousand years.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Let us use this great feast to bring us HOPE, to re-energise ourselves, and to make THE ONLY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION WORTH HAVING:
TO DECLARE TO THE WORLD THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF US ALL, THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.**