

# ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

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## WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2024

### SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

#### SUNDAY 28 JANUARY – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

##### Parish Mass Book p132

8.00am **Mass:** Sharon McCluskey - Birthday  
**Confessions during Mass and 9.15 am to 9.45am**  
10.00am **Mass:** For the People of the Parish  
6.00pm **Mass:** Bill Woolliscroft RIP - Birthday

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Feria**  
**Fr Peter Private Mass** – For Richie Doherty RIP

**Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Feria**  
**Fr Peter Private Mass** – For Day, Doyle, Gilli Manche and McFadden Families

**Wed 31<sup>st</sup> St John Bosco**  
**Fr Peter Private Mass** – For Veronica Wainwright

**Thur 1<sup>st</sup> Feb Feria**  
**Fr Peter Private Mass** – For Holy Souls

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> The Presentation of the Lord**  
**Fr Peter Private Mass** – Denis Ryan

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> St Laurence of Canterbury**  
**Fr Peter Private Mass** – For the Manche Family

#### Sunday 4 FEBRUARY – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

8.00am **Mass:** For the People of the Parish  
**Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am**  
10.00am **Mass:** Simonitto and Piccouni RIP  
6.00pm **Mass:** The deceased members of the Woolliscroft and Roberts Families

**SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS**–Tammy Finan and Steve Kearney  
E-mail: [chessingtonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:chessingtonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) Tel: 07818 108689

**This week Our Lady of Fatima Statue passes from the Godoy Family at the 10am Mass**

Readers 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 8am: Valentino Ferdis 10am: Pauline Holman  
Readers 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 8am: Alberto Ravano 10am: Tony Gernon  
Counters 29<sup>th</sup> Jan Vera and Valentino Cleaners w/c 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

6pm: Howard Brinkworth  
6pm: Paul Johnston  
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

**£693.04** (£282.65 is Gift Aided envelopes, £175.00 is Gift Aided standing orders and £235.39 cash)

**Today is Racial Justice Day. There will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.**

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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.

#### RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Today there is a second collection for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice which supports the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and more widely.

**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 Penycate, Kathy Richardson, Debbie Ruberg-Smith, Chloe Sheead, Mary Sheehan, Anne Srivastava, John Stratford, and residents of the Amy Woodgate Home.

#### FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Saturday 3 February

9 am Mass (but check our website before you come)  
9.30 am Exposition and Devotions

#### THE KNITTING AND SOCIAL CLUB IS TAKING A SHORT BREAK

### CONFIRMATION FOR TEENAGERS (13-17 yrs)

Course starts on Friday 23 February

Confirmation Ceremony in November 2024

I would like to pull together the applications of all those teenagers who would like to be confirmed in November 2024 or who want to know more about Christ before committing themselves. This course is also suitable for those teenagers who were unable to make their First Holy Communion earlier. It is also suitable for those teenagers who would like to be baptised and live the sacramental life. The course sessions will take place every Friday from 6.15 pm to 8 pm, except for holiday and half term periods. All being well we may also be able to organise a day trip or two on a Saturday to sacred locations.

**Application forms** can be found on the parish website under *Sacramental Life* in the menu at the very top of the home page.

**PLEASE APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

### BECOME A CATHOLIC!

**SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, CONFESSION,  
CONFIRMATION AND HOLY EUCHARIST  
FOR ADULT NON-CHRISTIANS (18+)**

**SACRAMENTS OF CONFESSION, HOLY  
EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION  
FOR ADULT CATHOLICS AND  
NON-CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS (18+ yrs)**

**The course starts mid February at a date which is mutually convenient for all involved. Please e-mail Fr Peter for details or to confirm your wish to attend the course even if you have already been in contact with him about it.**

[petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk)

This is a friendly course allowing each participant to go at their own pace. There is no pressure to take the final step and become a Catholic. There will be formal group teaching and one-to-one tuition.

### GOD'S GIFT OF PRIESTLY CELIBACY

**In the face of calls to abolish, the Church must remember clerical celibacy is a gift from God**

There are many angles from which to analyse clerical celibacy today and the suggestions by some that it's high time to end the practice. I would like to focus on two: its history and a personal reflection. The Catholic Church sometimes remembers aspects of its tradition which have fallen into disuse – such as her teachings on the universal call to holiness and religious liberty, recovered and refined at the Second Vatican Council – and so we can ask, did the Church have married priests in the past, and if so, can we therefore restore them today?

**There is evidence from the Gospels onwards of married clergy (such as St Peter, who had a mother-in-law). But, perhaps surprisingly, there is no evidence of married clergy making use of their marriage: there is a constant tradition of Latin clergy being celibate from their ordination onwards even if they were married.** To explore this and subsequent points, I follow Cardinal Stickler's recently re-published classic *The Case for Clerical Celibacy*. The first reference to Catholic priests having marital relations after ordination came at the Second Council of Trullo in 692 AD, a local council in Constantinople, never recognised by Rome. This was a highly controversial step: the thirteenth canon of this council deliberately misquoted an earlier council in Carthage to reverse the previous tradition. From this point onwards, Catholic priests in the East were permitted to live as husbands of their wives; the Latin Church maintained celibacy, which had been the universal custom. In short, the practice of Catholic clergy making use of their marriage was not a tradition dating back to the apostles which was lost at some point in history – it was invented over six centuries after Christ.

**What then, can history teach us about clerical celibacy, apart from the fact that it was discarded in the East in 692 AD?** Early texts, such as the third century *De singularitate clericorum* ("On priests' living alone") – attributed falsely to St Cyprian, but a faithful indicator of the Church in that time – describe clerical celibacy not simply as a discipline imposed from without, but as a gift of God received within. This has been my experience of priestly celibacy: a gift put into my heart by God, not simply a canonical obligation applied externally. When I first thought of being a priest, celibacy was not very attractive; it seemed a necessary sacrifice in order to get ordained. But the more I read, especially St John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, the more I saw it as a positive grace rather than simply a negation. Key for me was the concept that marriage does not exist in heaven, as Jesus himself said (Matthew 22:30). So to be celibate on earth is to start living now what we will all, please God, experience in heaven: the greatest love imaginable. This links beautifully with priesthood: just as Jesus was celibate in order to love each one of us profoundly as his spiritual children, so the priest shares in this fatherly love of Christ for each person entrusted to him. All of the fatherly instincts of a priest are not denied by his celibacy, but are transformed into a different kind of fatherhood; it is fitting that we called priests "father".

**There is no greater joy as a priest than to see people grow in grace, and to help them do so by offering them the Word of God and the Sacraments.** I recently received an uplifting video of my god-daughter taking her first steps and it reminded me that, spiritually-speaking, a priest often sees his "children" take their first steps, especially in the confessional. He also sees their moments of crisis, their times of joy and everything in-between. **This gift of priestly celibacy cannot be manufactured by the priest himself, it can only be received.** To welcome this gift of becoming a spiritual father, the priest must first be a spiritual son and brother: a son of God through his prayer, a son of his bishop by his obedience; a brother of his fellow priests through his friendships with them. Without prayer; without loyalty to his bishop and without priestly friendships, celibacy becomes a burden rather than a heart-expanding joy. There have been priests in the past who have accepted celibacy externally but without the inner transformation Christ wanted for them, and this has led to problems of various kinds. But the answer to these problems is to renew our gratitude for the gift of priestly celibacy by receiving it authentically for what it really is, the privilege of sharing in Jesus' fatherly love for his children. One particular saint who can help us do so is the one who, humanly-speaking, formed Jesus' fatherly virtues: St Joseph. Let's ask him to form all priests more deeply in the spiritual paternity of Christ.

*This article was first published in the Catholic Herald on 17 January 2024 by Fr David Howell who covered our Masses over Christmas and into the New Year. He is a priest of Southwark currently studying Canon Law in Rome. His previous studies include Classics at Oxford and a licence in Patristics at the Augustinianum Institute in Rome.*