

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

Confidential phone number 07921 667679 Confidential business e-mail: petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk

Office: Tel Number 0208 397 4499 Office Email: chessington@rcaos.org.uk

Address: 98/100 Leatherhead Road, Chessington, KT9 2HY. Website: www.stcatherineofsiena.org.uk

WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2024

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 10 MARCH – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) Parish Mass Book p166 LAETARE (JOYFUL) SUNDAY

8.00am **Mass:** P.J. Treacy RIP
Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am

10.00am **Mass:** Mary Redmond RIP
5.00 pm Stations of the Cross

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

Mon 11th NO MASS TODAY

Tues 12th Feria

11.30 am Rosary

12.00 pm **Mass:** Rose McIntyre - Birthday

Wed 13th Feria

9.00am Rosary

9.30am **Mass:** Sheila Clark RIP

Thur 14th Feria

9.00 am Rosary

9.30 am **Mass:** Wellbeing of Franco Cleere

Friday 15th Feria

9.00am Rosary

9.30am **Mass:** Mary Austin RIP

Sat 16th Feria

9.00am **Mass:** Wellbeing of
Holy Hour – Exposition of the Eucharist, Rosary, Benediction, Confessions 9.45 am-10.15 am

Sunday 17 MARCH – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

8.00am **Mass:** Mary Walsh RIP
Confessions – 9.15 am to 9.45 am

10.00am **Mass:** For the People of the Parish

5.00 pm Stations of the Cross

6.00pm Mass: Mark De Negri RIP

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

Readers 10th Mar 8am: Valentino Ferdis
Readers 17th Mar 8am: Kristin Walsh
Counters 10th Mar Howard and Marlene

10am: Kate Moir
10am: Shehara Gamage
Cleaners w/c 11th Mar

6pm: Aurea Coloma
6pm: Howard Brinkworth
Jozwicki Group

Last Week's Offertory

£870.88 (£303.60 Gift Aided envelopes, £175 Gift Aided standing orders, £18 Gift Aided Card, £35 non Gift Aided Card and £339.28 cash)

Clergy Support Fund currently stands at

£325.70 (£125.60 Gift Aided envelopes, £90 DONA Card Machine and £110.10 cash)

NEXT SUNDAY there will be a retiring collection for Poor Parishes formerly the Needs of the Diocese.

Tea and coffee are served every Sunday in the hall after 10am Mass. All welcome.

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.

Mass Intentions: 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.**

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.

TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION WE MUST LIVE THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE - BE A PRACTISING CATHOLIC CHERISH 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.

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.

YOU CAN MAKE DONATIONS BY CARD

We have a new machine called **DONA** in the entrance hall to enable donations to be made by debit or credit card. Just tap on the screen to reveal the donation categories (e.g. Offertory, Second Collection, Clergy Support Fund etc). The first time you use DONA you will be asked for some basic identification details. After that a donation can be made in seconds. You can use it to **Gift Aid** your weekly and all other donations if you are a tax payer. It means St Catherine's can claim back from the Tax Office a further 25% of your donation. It makes sense. We will still have a cash collection but some of you will prefer to use **DONA**.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES - SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

- Holy Mass at usual Sunday times

Maundy Thursday

- Mass of the Last Supper at 8 pm
- Compline 10.30 pm

Good Friday

- 9.15 am - to 11 am Walk of Witness (see below)
- 3.00 pm - Good Friday – Passion and Crucifixion
- 7.30 pm - Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

- 8 pm - Vigil Mass of the Resurrection

Easter Sunday

- Mass of the Resurrection at 8 am and 10 am (no Mass at 6 pm)

I would be most grateful if you could volunteer for various roles for each of these Masses by writing your name on the appropriate sheet of paper to be found by the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the front entrance. We need:

WELCOMERS READERS COLLECTORS

OFFERTORY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

TWELVE MEN TO SERVE AS

THE APOSTLES WHOSE FEET JESUS WASHED

SINGERS ALTAR SERVERS SACRISTANS

PLEASE DO COME FORWARD TO HELP

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA TO HOST A DIOCESAN DAY OF REFLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS SATURDAY 27 APRIL 10.30 am to 3.00 pm

I am delighted to say that the Episcopal Vicar Gerard Bradley has offered to lead a day of reflection here in our parish for all readers and eucharistic ministers in the western end of the Archdiocese. I ask for **volunteers** to help with the organisation of the day, especially to help lay out lunch and clean up afterwards. With my thanks.

GOOD FRIDAY – WALK OF WITNESS HOSTED BY ST CATHERINE'S

We are organising a procession or *Walk of Witness* with our brothers and sisters in the Methodist and Anglican Churches in Chessington and Hook. Details to follow but the rough timings are: start at 9.15 am at the Methodist church and end at around 11 am at St Catherine of Siena when we will have a short service of remembrance followed by tea/coffee and hot cross buns in our parish hall. Please do your best to attend this procession and service and refreshments, both to demonstrate our solidarity with our fellow Christians and to be a witness to the truth and love of Christ to the local community.

I will need help with hosting our guests in our hall and I ask for volunteers.

Please e-mail me: petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk

ACT NOW TO STOP DIY ABORTION UPTO BIRTH

Diana Johnson MP has tabled an amendment (New Clause 1) to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill. This amendment seeks to change criminal law so that "no offence is committed by a woman acting in relation to her own pregnancy" at any gestation. This means that a woman who induced her abortion at home using pills (or any other method) at any stage of pregnancy, including just before natural birth, would commit no offence. This is dangerous for women and lethal for unborn babies.

Please contact your MP urgently, asking them to oppose this extreme and barbaric proposal. You can do this using SPUC's easy to use webtool, at:

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortionamendments>

COLLECT YOUR GIFT AID BOXES NEXT SUNDAY PLEASE JOIN THE GIFT AID SCHEME

Please note that next Sunday after Mass you will be able to collect your Gift Aid boxes of envelopes for the next financial year 2024/25. For those who are not yet signed up to our Gift Aid Scheme, please consider doing so. I urge you to do so. Simply complete one of our Gift Aid forms which you can find in the church entrance (please ask) and return it to the Parish Office or to our Gift Aid Coordinator, Carolyn Cooper-Burrows. We are able to claim back from the government tax office 25% of whatever you donate to St Catherine's. If you do wish to join our Gift Aid Scheme, please consider donating by **Standing Order**, which you can set up with your bank. **An assured regular donation benefits our parish**

LENTEN REFLECTION

WHAT IS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD LIKE? DO WE LOVE OURSELVES MORE THAN GOD?

Many people seem to be angry with God these days, largely because their lives may not be going the way they want them to; the world is not going where they want it to go. Worse than this, many Catholics are simply lukewarm. They blow hot and cold in their relationship with God. Still worse, they are indifferent. They come first and God is an afterthought. Have they not been listening to God through all the Scriptures and the Church? Have they not been listening to his beloved Son who explained the Old Testament Scriptures to his disciples and gave us a new commandment – that we should love one another as God loves us? From the very beginning when we turned our back on God, Sacred Scripture tells us that he has been trying to bring us back to him. This is called **Salvation History** – and through Lent so far we have been treated to the Scripture texts at Mass which show the intimate relationship of love and truth which God wants with humanity. God made great **covenants** – the closest possible of bonds - with Noah after the Flood; with Abraham c2000 years before Christ; with Moses c1350 years before Christ, with David a thousand years before Christ, and finally the covenant established by Christ himself – **the new and eternal and final covenant** bought with the very flesh and blood of our Lord Jesus at the Last Supper and on the Cross at Calvary. As we hear in John's Gospel today, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."* God did not have to save us. God did not have to sacrifice himself for us, but uniquely he has. **He has made it possible for us to move out of the darkness of sin and into the light of truth and love (John 3.20)** *"for every one who does evil hates the light... but he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen..."* Nicodemus the well-meaning Pharisee came to see Jesus in the darkness of the night. His mind was closed and he was unable to understand the words of Jesus and drag himself into the light. **Our relationship with God is all too often just like that. It is quite common for us to catch a glimpse of the light, only for us to creep back into the darkness of sin.** We recognise that Jesus is speaking the truth, and that that truth is spoken with love. **But we love ourselves more than we love God.** In his letter to the Ephesians, St Paul tells us that God lavishes his **GRACE** upon us to bring us into the light. **Grace is a free gift, poured lovingly on us, helping us as "Children of God" to dwell in the light of truth and love.**