

# ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sebastian

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## WEEKLY PARISH NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 12 MAY 2024

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

#### SUNDAY 12 MAY – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) Parish Mass Book p277

8.00am	Mass: Wellbeing of Audry Abraham <b>Confessions</b> – 9.15 am to 9.45 am
10.00am	Mass: Wellbeing of Anyi, Ateh and Liam
6.00pm	Mass: For the People of the Parish
<b>Mon 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass today</b>
<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Matthias, Apostle</b>
11.30 am	Rosary
12.00 pm	Mass: Margaret Day-Jones (90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)
<b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St John Stone</b>
9.00 am	Rosary
9.30 am	Mass: Geoff Davis
<b>Thur 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Simon Stock</b>
9.00 am	Rosary
9.30 am	Mass: Maria Keaveney-Jessiman
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Feria</b>
9.00 am	Rosary
9.30 am	Mass: Rita Aguiar RIP – Month's Mind
<b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St John 1, Pope and Martyr</b>
11.00 am	Rosary
11.30am	Mass: Paul Wateridge RIP

#### SUNDAY 19 MAY – PENTECOST SUNDAY (B)

8.00am	Mass: Hyacinth and Mark Blessings <b>Confessions</b> – 9.15 am to 9.45 am
10.00am	Mass: Imelda Qualter RIP – 6 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
6.00pm	Mass: For the People of the Parish

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

Readers 12<sup>th</sup> May 8am: Mark Murphy  
Readers 19<sup>th</sup> May 8am: Valentino Ferdis  
Counters 12<sup>th</sup> May Howard and Marlene

10am: Kate Moir  
10am: Shehara Gamage  
Cleaners w/c 13<sup>th</sup> May

6pm: Ruth MacKinlay  
6pm: Paul Johnston  
Aurea's Group

#### Last Week's Offertory

**£802.95** (£283.00 Gift Aided envelopes, £175.00 Gift Aided standing orders, £33.00 Gift Aided Card, £23.00 Non Gift Aid Card and £288.95 cash)

**Today is World Communications Sunday, there will be a retiring collection for the Catholic Communications Network.**

*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.

#### FR DOMINIC ALLAIN WILL OFFER OUR THREE MASSES TODAY

I am pleased to say that Fr Dominic returns today, Sunday, to offer the three Masses in our parish church. Fr Dominic is the International Director of *Grief to Grace*, the charity which brings together Christ and psychotherapy to bring healing to victims of abuse of any kind, especially during childhood.

**Grief to Grace – website:** [www.griegtogracesuk.org/](http://www.griegtogracesuk.org/)  
14, Edge Hill

Wimbledon, SW19 4LP

Phone: 020 8154 2719

Monday to Friday 10:00 - 17:00 hrs.

**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, and residents of Amy Woodgate Home.

**REFLECTION**  
**THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS**  
**Did Jesus decide to work from home!?**

We celebrated the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ to Heaven last Thursday. Did he really abandon his Apostles to work from home!? Far from it! He ascended not to distance himself from us but to send us the Holy Spirit to guide us to him. Christ, in his risen and glorified body, ascended into heaven forty days after the Resurrection. The image of sitting **at the right hand of the Father**, which we say also in the Creed, echoes Psalm 110:1, and is mentioned in Acts (2:33) and Mark (16:19). It signifies the universal and eternal rule of the Messiah prophesied in the Book of Daniel (7:14). The Apostles witnessed the moment of the Ascension with their own eyes (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51, Acts 1:1-11). **It is a historical fact, just as they had seen and touched the risen Christ. But what does the Ascension signify? It signifies that God the Son, Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, the Word made flesh, has taken our humanity into what we call the Godhead, into the relationship of love and truth that is the Holy Trinity.** That shows us just how precious we are to God, that our very human nature, created by God in his own image and redeemed by Christ, is now fully absorbed into God for all time. The Ascension is our own exaltation, because we have been deemed worthy as Christ's disciples and "friends" (John 15:15) to be united with God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit into eternity. **As St Paul says in Ephesians (4:13): "In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself."** That does not mean every human being is automatically saved from death and sin and will be united with God. Our co-operation, our faith, our selfless love of God and of one another is still required. An act of will is still required both to acknowledge and to live the truth and love of Christ in humility. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8). **The Ascension is a necessary prelude to the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost which we celebrate next Sunday**, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and who through our Baptism guides us through this world to the incarnate, crucified, risen and ascended Christ in God's heavenly kingdom. See also: *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 659-664.

**ABORTION LAW – WRITE TO YOUR MP**

MPs will have the opportunity to change the UK's abortion law on May 15. Amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill include two to tighten up the law and two to decriminalise abortion.

**Under the 1967 Abortion Act**, the procedure is permitted in certain circumstances up to 24 weeks of gestation (about six months of pregnancy). The law further allows abortion up to birth if the mother's life is at risk or if the baby has any disability, including Down's syndrome, cleft lip, and clubbed foot. Campaigners say the upper limit places the UK's limit far outside the average cut-off in most countries across Europe, including France, where the upper limit is 14 weeks, and Germany, where it is 12 weeks.

The **first amendment** is proposed by Conservative MP **Caroline Ansell** which would lower the upper limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Her proposal reflects medical advancements within the last 50 years which allow babies to survive with support if born alive at 22 weeks, but this would save only hundreds of more than 200,000 fetuses aborted in the England and Wales each year.

A **second amendment**, proposed by Conservative MP **Liam Fox**, would amend the law to protect children with Down's syndrome from discrimination because of their condition.

A **third amendment**, tabled by Labour MP **Diana Johnson** would in-effect decriminalise abortion up to birth, by removing laws which prevent women from self-performing abortions after 24 weeks gestation.

The **fourth amendment** – the most dangerous – has been tabled by Labour MP **Stella Creasy** which has the effect of decriminalising abortion completely and allowing abortion to take place right up to birth. We already have one of the most liberal and ruthless abortion regimes in the world.

**ACTION:** Our **Archbishop John Wilson** of Southwark has asked us to write to MPs to ask them to vote against the Labour pro-abortion amendments. *With thanks to the Catholic Herald for some of the above information.*

**PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS & FUNDRAISING TEAM MEETING**  
**Sunday 19 May after 10 am Mass (i.e. 11.10 am)**

We are inviting the members of this team to come together to kick off a new round of socializing and fundraising. This meeting is open to all parishioners and will be led by Aurea Coloma who has kindly offered to co-ordinate the initiatives.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT ARRANGING FUNERALS AND END-OF-LIFE SPIRITUAL CARE**

If your loved one is close to death, do call a priest to administer the Sacrament of Anointing – the Last Rites and to pray. It is the surest way to get to heaven – in the arms of Christ who established this Sacrament. Then, when you are arranging the funeral, **PLEASE CONTACT THE PRIEST FIRST BEFORE THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR, TO CONSIDER DATES.**

**THE PRAYER OF ST CATHERINE OF SIENA**

*Holy Spirit, come into my heart; draw it to Thee by Thy power, O my God, and grant me charity with filial fear. Preserve me, O beautiful love, from every evil thought; warm me, inflame me with Thy dear love, and every pain will seem light to me. My Father, my sweet Lord, help me in all my actions. Jesus, love. Jesus, love. Amen*

**We celebrated Mass on Monday 29 April on the Feast of our patron saint, St Catherine of Siena.  
Let us learn her prayer and recite it daily. That we may love one another as Jesus loves us.**

**TODAY IS WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY – SECOND COLLECTION**

As mentioned last week, there will be a second collection today in support of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN), the media office of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales, which promotes evangelization. The CCN is part of a wider Catholic communications network supported by Pope Francis. The CCN seeks to be of service both to the Church and the world in offering professional channels of communication. It promotes the Gospel, the Good News, through the media on current issues and it provides news releases, features and podcasts and trains spokespersons.