

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish
36 Altenburg Gardens, Battersea, London SW11 1JJ
One of the South Battersea Churches

Newsletter

Contact us:

Parish Priest: Monsignor Timothy Galligan: 020 7228 2121; Email: batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk
 Parish Administrator: Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9.15am – 12.15
 Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Ed Elliot & Deborah Sherwood: batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Further information:

Our Parish Website: www.saintvincentdepaul-church.org or Scan the QR Code to the right
 The Archdiocese of Southwark Website: www.rcaos.org.uk
 Our Diocesan Directory: www.rcaos.org.uk/directory.
 The Catholic Church in England and Wales: www.cbcew.org.uk



Year B *The 30th Week in Ordinary Time* 27 October – 4 November 2024

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 27 October	9am	Mass	All Parishioners	
<i>The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	11am	Mass	Baby Osborne-O'Brien RIP (Twycross-Hills)	
	6pm	Mass		
Monday 28th	10am	Mass		<i>Saints Simon and Jude</i>
Tuesday 29th	9.30am	Mass		
Wednesday 30th	9.30am	Mass	Rachel Awere RIP (Birthday)	
Thursday 31st	9.30am	Mass		
Friday 1 November	9.30am	Mass	All Parishioners	<i>[Holyday of Obligation]</i>
<i>All Saints' Day</i>	7pm	Mass	Deceased Relations of Fr Tim	
Saturday 2nd	<u>9.30am</u>	Mass	Holy Souls	
<i>All Souls' Day</i>	<u>10am</u>		<i>Confessions</i>	
Sunday 3 November	9am	Mass		
<i>The Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	11am	Mass		<i>Spiritans' Mission Appeal</i>
	6pm	Mass		

A new Encyclical Letter from Pope Francis



On Thursday, Pope Francis published his fourth Encyclical Letter, “Dilexit nos” (Latin for “He loved us”). It focuses on the theme of human and divine love as embodied in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Released amidst a world troubled by war, socio-economic inequalities, unchecked consumerism, and technologies that threaten to undermine human nature, the Encyclical calls for a renewed focus on Christ's heart as a symbol of compassion and spiritual healing.

“He loved us’, Saint Paul says of Christ (cf. Rom 8:37), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever “separate us” from that love (Rom 8:39)”. The Encyclical is dedicated to the human and divine love of the Heart of

Jesus Christ: “His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us His

love and friendship,” the Pope writes in the introductory paragraph. “For ‘He loved us first’ (cf. 1 Jn 4:10). Because of Jesus, ‘we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us’ (1 Jn 4:16).” The release of *Dilexit nos* coincides with the 350th anniversary of the Apparition of the Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque between 1673-1675. Our Lord revealed to the French nun his heart, surrounded by flames and encircled by thorns, symbolizing his love for humanity despite the wounds inflicted by sin. The apparitions took place at the convent of Paray-le-Monial in Burgundy, France.

[Do read the full text of Pope Francis’ Encyclical here.](#) **Vatican News** has provided a Presentation, which you can [read using this link.](#)

The Pope concludes his Encyclical with this prayer:

“I ask our Lord Jesus Christ to grant that His Sacred Heart may continue to pour forth the streams of living water that can heal the hurt we have caused, strengthen our ability to love and serve others, and inspire us to journey together towards a just, solidary and fraternal world. Until that day when we will rejoice in celebrating together the banquet of the heavenly kingdom in the presence of the risen Lord, who harmonizes all our differences in the light that radiates perpetually from his open heart. May he be blessed forever”

3 November: Mission Appeal by the Spiritan ('Holy Ghost') Fathers

Each year, our Archbishop gives permission to one of the Catholic Missionary Congregations to appeal in parishes of the diocese. **On Sunday 3 November, Fr Fabian Adindu will be with us and will appeal at all the Masses for your financial and prayer support for their work. *Please be prepared to support them generously.***

Make your Christian voice heard, and pray - there is likely to be a vote in Parliament on assisted suicide before Christmas.

MP Kim Leadbeater has tabled an Assisted Suicide Bill in the House of Commons, and it is now very likely that there will be a **vote on assisted suicide in Parliament before Christmas.** Further information is available [here.](#)

Watch actor and disability rights advocate Liz Carr’s BBC documentary on assisted suicide, *Better Off Dead?* where she examines the impact of one of the world’s most extreme assisted suicide laws in Canada. **Watch for free online** (you do not need a TV licence): righttolife.org.uk/betteroffdead

Our Bishops will gather together in prayer at **5.30pm on Wednesday 13 November** during their Autumn Meeting. They ask all to unite themselves in prayer with them, that our country does not take this step.

Date for your Diary - Plant and Cake Sale for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society 17 November

The SVP will hold a Plant and Cake Sale after Masses on Sunday 17 November, to raise funds for the SVP.

Mary’s Meals Appeals.

You supported the *Mary’s Meals* charity’s appeal for unwanted foreign currency very generously. If you have more, this appeal is ongoing. *Mary’s Meals* is **now appealing for any unwanted or outdated Mobile Phones, Tablets, I-pads etc.** These or currency can be left in a special charity box which will be at the back of Church.

Annual Day of Healing at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road SE1 6HR organised by the Catholic Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion on Saturday 2 November, from 10.45 am – 5pm. Speaker FR COLUMBA JORDAN CFR. The day includes praise and worship, talks, confessions, prayer for healing and Holy Mass.

Major Marriage Problems?

Do you feel alone? Are you constantly frustrated or angry with your spouse? Have you stopped talking to each other? *Retrouvaille* may be for you. Its programme has helped hundreds of couples through difficult times in their marriages. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about *Retrouvaille*, or to register for the next programme which starts with a residential weekend from November 8-10, call 07887 296983 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com A short video about *Retrouvaille*’s work can be watched [using this link.](#)

The Festival Chorus is performing Bach's Christmas Oratorio on Saturday 14 November at 7.30pm at St Luke's, Ramsden Road/Thurleigh Road, SW12. The Chorus will be accompanied by the Sinclair Sinfonia and two professional soloists. Please check website www.slms.org.uk for further details. Tickets are £20, concessions £15 (under 16's and over 60's)

The Eternal Life for which we hope: 'We are already children of God... [In the future] we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is'

During November especially, Catholics particularly pray about the future we hope to enjoy after death – the fulness of that divine life we have already started to share with God here and now. So, **we honour the Saints and pray for the Holy Souls.**

The words in the title above come from Saint John's First Letter, and we shall hear them on Friday at the Mass for All Saints' Day: *'My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.'*

At the end of September, we paid special honour to our parish patron, Saint Vincent de Paul. On Friday this week, we begin the new month of November by giving God thanks for the holiness of so many disciples of Christ whom the Church has recognised as 'Saints'. As in other months, during the days of November that follow, there are also particular celebrations of others whose memory will inspire us, especially if we read their lives or reflect on their words: among them are Saints Martin de Porres, Martin of Tours, Margaret of Scotland, Elizabeth of Hungary, the Vietnamese Martyrs and, at the end of the month, one of Jesus' first followers, Saint Andrew. Moreover, in November we especially remember and pray for all we have known and loved who have gone before us – the 'Holy Souls' – entrusting them to God's great mercy.

So, **Friday is the Solemnity of All Saints – a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics:** a major Feast when, as on Sunday, we are obliged to ensure that celebrating Mass will be at the centre of our day.

Holiness is the purpose of this earthly life for anyone who follows Jesus Christ. The call to holiness (to become like Christ) is what draws us together regularly for prayer and worship in our parish, and to all the sacraments we celebrate, especially the Holy Mass. Holiness will come as we respond to Jesus' invitation to all: 'Come, follow me'. Holiness is what Friday's great Feast Day celebrates. It is of such fundamental importance that the Church wants to ensure we celebrate this, hence it is a Holyday of Obligation. **We have Masses, in the morning and evening, to make it easier for you to do so.**

Holiness comes in many forms. On many days, saints are honoured – usually on the date of their death, which was when they were 'born into heavenly life'. On Friday, we honour them all collectively: the familiar along with others we may not yet have heard of; people from every age and background; those chosen directly by Jesus, like Peter, Andrew, and Paul; others from more recent times, like John Henry Newman, Thérèse of Lisieux, Charles de Foucauld, Titus Brandsma, Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Carlo Acutis; men, women, and children; young and old, wives and husbands, single people; people from lowly as well as more distinguished backgrounds; clergy too. In **this 'feast of sanctity'**, we honour the remarkable ways in which, by God's grace, the holiness of Christ has been manifested down through the centuries in human lives like ours.

Try to discover saints whose lives may inspire you, and the part they can play in your Christian life. They might inspire you to take Christ's words as seriously as they did – in their lives, you may find echoes of your own, and so see what opportunities we have to follow Jesus. Their joys and struggles may give us courage in accepting ours. The ways they lived their lives may enlighten us. Prayers some wrote show us how we might pray. In some cases, their writings can touch us deeply.

And we also believe they are our intercessors, that is that they pray that we make progress on our own journeys of faith. If you are unsure about invoking their intercession, just recall the end of the 'Hail Mary', prayed for centuries, in which we ask Our Lady: 'Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death'. We believe that those who grew close to the Lord in this world desire that we should do so too. Thérèse of Lisieux, foreseeing her future life with God, for example, promised: 'Upon my death I will let fall a shower of roses; I wish to spend my heaven in doing good upon the earth.'

All Souls' Day: Saturday 2 November

On Saturday, All Souls' Day, there will be a Mass at 9.30am. Come and pray for your deceased loved ones and all the Faithful Departed. We are united with them all in the 'Communion of Saints', as we profess in the Creed at Mass. Far from being the ridiculous spooky 'ghosts and ghouls' touted in secular 'Halloween', **we are remembering our dear departed brothers and sisters whom we love.** We still pray for them after they have died, confidently entrusting them to the loving mercy of God, and asking that they will enjoy the fulness

of life with God for which they hoped and prepared since their baptism, and that, in God's presence, they will also pray for us.

'Holy Souls envelopes' will be available at the back of Church from this weekend. You can use them to:

- Enclose money offerings or cheques as **Mass Stipends for 'Holy Souls' Masses**: these will be celebrated in this month of November and throughout the coming year (offerings should be *gift-aided*, by signing the back of the envelope). **Every £10 donated** ensures one Holy Souls' Mass will be offered for *all the Faithful Departed* (including your particular loved ones). **You can also make such offerings using the special option on our Card Reader.**
- If you wish, you may also enclose the names of deceased relatives, parents or friends – *collectively*, they will be included whenever a 'Holy Souls' Mass' is offered here.
- Many parishioners also write their names in our 'Book of Remembrance' which, **from All Saints' Day throughout November**, will be on the table in front of the Altar. Pray for all whose names are written there and, if you wish, add names of deceased relatives or friends on the sheets which will then be put into its pages. All will be prayed for at Mass during this month.

Intentions for our Prayer

Pray for Peace. The horrific onslaught on the people of Gaza and the West Bank has now been extended to Lebanon (and might well be extended elsewhere). The wars in Ukraine and other places are deadlocked, but the innocent still suffer. Pray fervently for a lasting peace with justice for all, for an end to the starvation, killing, wounding, and trauma of innocents, and the unnecessary destruction of people's homes and livelihoods.

Pray for Peace in so many other troubled places across our world including: Afghanistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Cameroun, Chad, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Yemen.... and all the other places where the innocent are caught up in the violent power struggles of others. **And for the many Christians who face persecution this day in so many parts of the world.**

The SYNOD in Rome celebrates its Mass of closure with Pope Francis in Saint Peter's Basilica this Sunday. During this month, the delegates from across the world have met to listen and discuss how our Church can better live and travel together. In the last days they have been finalising their recommendations to Pope Francis. Pray that, through the guidance of God the Holy Spirit, the discussions, listening and debate of the last three years may bear fruit for the worldwide Church of the twenty-first century.

Join with the Pope's Prayer Intention for November 'for those who have lost a child': We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit. Pray along with Pope Francis himself by clicking [on the Pope Video](#).

Pray for all who are sick and housebound, especially: Rosa Antonini, Rosemary Awere, Ambrose Caldecott, Mario and Mariana Cassar, Rose Egan, George Giannoukakis, Henry Holtz, Lorna Jayamane, Joy Joseph, Betty Kilkelly, Becky Kumoji, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaure, Bernard and Iris Ramsey, Vincenzo Robilotta, Gus Twycross-Hills, and all other sick or housebound parishioners; and for our parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives.

Your Parish needs your more generous support

Thank you for your donations to our parish last Sunday. Please seriously consider Gift-Aiding all your Offerings.

Did you know?

Those who do their Online Shopping via the [Easyfundraising Page](#) (see below) have now raised £1200 for the Parish, at no additional cost to themselves. It's so easy to do – you can even download a browser add-on, to give you a prompt.

- **The most efficient way to donate regularly is with A GIFT-AIDED BANK STANDING ORDER.** Please ask us for details, or use the **Parish Pledge Form on our website [using this link](#).** To **GIVE DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT** (please use your surname as the reference, particularly to ensure Gift Aid), you require these **BACS details**:

Sort Code: 50-21-01 Nat West, Clapham Junction Branch
Account Number: 82117209

Account Name: RCAS Battersea Altenburg Gardens

- **Always GIFT AID YOUR OFFERING please.** Gift Aiding by UK taxpayers makes an indispensable contribution for it adds 25% to your donations from tax you already pay - [using this link](#). You can **GIFT AID ANY DONATION**, including Offerings for Masses. Just indicate your wish to do so, by using a special Gift Aid envelope for particular gifts and including your contact details (find the envelopes in the containers on the right-hand Church wall). You should register all card donations for Gift Aid when using the Card Readers.
- **Use the CONTACTLESS CARD READERS** as you enter or leave Mass, but PLEASE also **Gift Aid each Card you use**. Register your card the first time. Use the same card in the future, and you usually need only register once.
- You can **DONATE DIRECTLY using the Parish [JustGiving page](#)** (also on our website); **please Gift Aid the donation**.
- There is a **'DONATE BUTTON' [on our website](#)** allowing you to donate online. **This, too, lets you Gift-Aid**.
- If you **SHOP ONLINE** and start out from our [Easyfundraising Page](#) you can raise donations for the parish from some 4700 online retailers. There is *no additional cost to you*.

May God bless you and all your loved ones, Fr Tim