

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

Newsletter

Contact us:

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Parish Pastoral Assistant: Brother Paulin Meba SDB
Parish Administrator: Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk **Wednesday & Thursday: 9.15am – 1215**
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 33rd Week in Ordinary Time

17 – 24 November 2024

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 17 November	9am Mass	Brian & Bridie Connolly (Hamilton)	
<i>The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	11am Mass	All Parishioners	<i>[Family Mass]</i>
	6pm Mass	John & Julia Galligan RIP	
Monday 18 th	NO Mass	Fr George Winham RIP (F)	
Tuesday 19th	9.30am Mass	Holy Souls	
Wednesday 20 th	NO Mass		
Thursday 21st	9.30am Mass	Holy Souls	<i>The Presentation of Our Lady</i>
Friday 22nd	9.30am Mass		<i>Saint Cecilia</i>
Saturday 23 rd	11am Confessions		
Saturday 23 November	6pm Mass	<i>(in French)</i>	
Sunday 24 November	9am Mass	All Parishioners	
<i>Our Lord Jesus Christ</i>	11am Mass	All Holy Souls in our November Lists	
<i>King of the Universe</i>	6pm Mass	Dom Edward Corbould OSB RIP	

On Sunday - Plant and Cake Sale for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society after morning Masses this Sunday

The next Parish Teens' Group will be in the Hall after Evening Mass this Sunday. All young people from 13 to 18 are warmly invited to join and welcome to bring a friend. Food, drinks and games provided. For any queries you can contact Marina.

On the Feast of Christ the King, next Sunday, you are asked to pray for our Catholic Youth. They are the future of the Church. A special **Second Collection to support youth work, especially through the diocesan Catholic Youth Service** will be taken. Please give it your generous support.

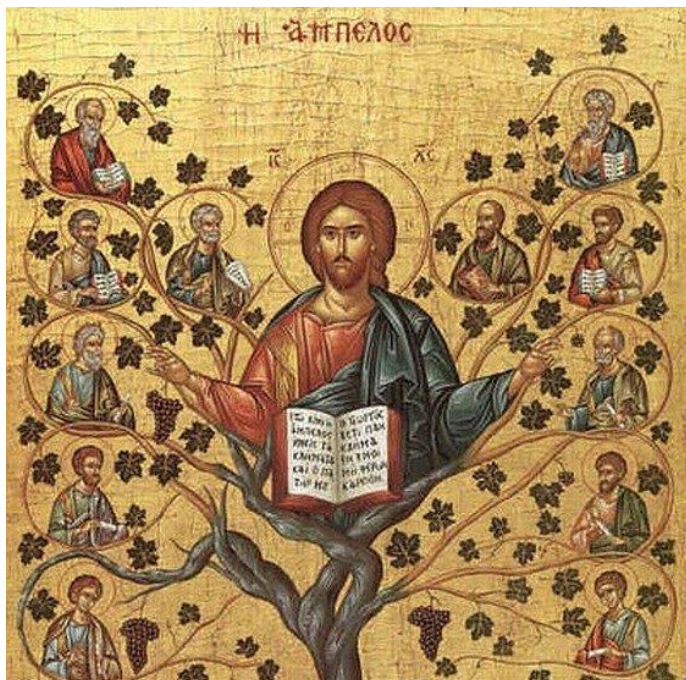
Parish Families Journeying with 'Mary, Joseph, and the donkey' in Advent: Our parish has a tradition whereby families (particularly those with smaller children) offer 'hospitality' in your homes to representations of Mary and Joseph and their donkey, journeying to Bethlehem for the birth of Christ – a nice way to mark your families' Advent journey and prepare for Christmas, and a simple focus for praying as a family. A family signs up for one (or more) nights and takes responsibility for passing the figures on to the next family on the list. Simple prayers are provided which might be useful while the images are in your home. Maggy Miclot is coordinating. **Sign-up sheets are at the back of Church.**

Adoration and Reconciliation – A Way towards Holiness

'Journeying to Holiness' has underlain most of our special events in the last year, for Holiness is our vocation.

On [Friday 6 December at 7pm](#), we have another **Service of Adoration Prayer and Reconciliation**. We invite you and your family and children to join us for an **Advent evening of Reconciliation and Mercy**: come and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in prayer, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and enjoy some time of peace, prayer and music. These Services are for all, and *particularly for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation families*. As we start out on our Advent journey towards Christmas, and just ahead of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, this is an **ideal moment to prepare**. [Note the date and time and come along](#).

'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away'



Sunday's Liturgy of the Word can be found [using this link](#).

Sunday's Scriptures seem particularly timely as yet another COP meeting tries to agree a conclusion for countries to work together.

The Scriptures challenge our thinking about how our world might end, and how we are to live as followers of Christ before it does. Christians, some say, live with an ambivalent attitude to the world. We live in it, we are part of it; and it is here where we are to learn how to become holy followers of Jesus. The ways we live our lives matter – for the world and those in it; and because here in this world we try to follow the Lord.

At the same time, we are like pilgrims passing through, our eyes ultimately set on the everlasting life in the world to come. November often brings this home – as

we pray for our loved ones, the Holy Souls, who have gone before us 'marked with the sign of faith'; and as acts of remembrance are held for those who have died in so much warfare. Certainly, our hope is not for this life only. Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *'If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most miserable'* (1 Cor. 15, 19). Precisely because we believe there is more, and that we shall join Christ in his resurrection, our hope cannot be merely about this world – for *'He has taken his place forever, at the right hand of God.'*

[Giotto di Bondone, St Francis preaches to the Birds, \(1297-99\), Assisi: Upper Basilica](#)

This tension has sometimes led people to view the world as just there to be used by us in whatever way we wish, the world as there for our exploitation because we are destined for 'another world'. Such a misguided view is challenged by so much of the teaching of Pope Francis. And the Word of God is reminding us that all things are God's creation, including ourselves. All is made for God's glory, not just mankind's exploitation.



Pronouncements by Donald Trump and others rightly alarm many, especially the young. So we ought to pray that all politicians may help us to work together in respect and care for our world, so as to reduce the impact of current climate change on so many of our brothers and sisters. We pray for decisions that are courageous and prophetic, and honest – so that we may all make the changes necessary.

Let us also pray to understand better what it means to live as disciples of Christ. In whatever way our world finally comes to its end, Jesus reminds us in Sunday's Gospel of the paramount, abiding significance for us of what he teaches: 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.' So, we Christians must learn from Our Lord the respect and love for creation illustrated in many of his parables, and which, for example, Saint Francis, that most Christlike of disciples, summed up in his Canticles (listen to his prayers [here](#)).

2025: A 'Jubilee Year' of Hope

Every 25 years (and sometimes on other occasions) **the Church celebrates a 'Holy Year'** – a year-long period of renewal. Next year will be such a Jubilee Year, and Pope Francis has given it a theme: **'Pilgrims of Hope'**. He is concerned that, in the difficult times in which we live, we rekindle this great Christian virtue in our individual lives, and in the Church as a sign of hope for humanity. He writes: *'The Jubilee of 2025, a holy year that I wanted to dedicate to the theme "Pilgrims of Hope", is a propitious occasion to reflect on this fundamental and decisive Christian virtue – especially in times like the ones we are living, in which the third world war being fought "piecemeal" that is unfolding before our eyes can lead us to assume attitudes of gloomy discouragement and ill-concealed cynicism.*

'Hope, on the other hand, is a gift and a task for every Christian. It is a gift because it is God who offers it to us. Hoping, in fact, is not a mere act of optimism, like when we sometimes hope to pass an exam at university ("Let's hope we make it") or when we hope for good weather for the trip out of town on a Sunday in the spring ("Let's hope for good weather"). No, hoping is waiting for something that has already been given to us: salvation in God's eternal and infinite love. That love, that salvation that gives flavour to our lives and that constitutes the hinge on which the world remains standing, despite all the wickedness and nefariousness caused by our sins as men and women. To hope, then, is to welcome this gift that God offers us every day. To hope is to savour the wonder of being loved, sought, desired by a God who has not shut Himself away in His impenetrable heavens but has made Himself flesh and blood, history and days, to share our lot.

'Hope is also a task that Christians have a duty to cultivate and put to good use for the sake of all their brothers and sisters.' Read the full text [here](#)

We will let you know about events in our diocese, and take this special year into account in parish planning too.

'Assisted Suicide'

Please take the card you will be offered as you leave Mass and use it to CONTACT YOUR MP and make your view about Assisted Dying known. The Bill was only just published, giving MPs almost no time to scrutinise such a major Measure before they first vote **on Friday week, 29 November.**

Further information is available [here](#). The Anscombe Bioethics Centre, has additional resources :

<https://www.bioethics.org.uk/educational-resources/resources-on-eas/>

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

Offering the Sacrifice of the Mass for the Faithful Departed

During November, we are praying particularly for our loved ones who have died (the 'Holy Souls'). We pray that they will come to share the future we hope to enjoy after death – the fulness of the divine life we have already begun to share with God by his grace, here and now. **Thank you to those who have made Offerings for Masses.** The **11am Mass on Sunday 24th will be especially for all whose names have been written on our November lists.**

If you still wish to make offerings for Holy Souls Masses, the special envelopes are at the back of Church, or you can use the Card Reader option. 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*.

CAFOD (the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) invites you to take part in their Nativity Fun Run on Saturday 7 December at 11am. This event is a festive walk, run or stroll around Clapham Common where you

can dress up, have fun, and take part in an exciting family activity as Christmas approaches, while also helping to raise vital funds for overseas communities. To learn more, sign up, and participate, please visit our website:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Sponsored-challenge-events/Run-for-CAFOD/Nativity-Fun-Run>

Intentions for our Prayer

Pray for Peace. The horrific onslaught on the people of Gaza and the West Bank and Lebanon continues. The wars in Ukraine and other places are deadlocked, but the innocent still suffer. Pray fervently for 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 today in so many parts of the world.

For the Faithful Departed, particularly those loved ones named in our November List of Remembrance.

For our Teenagers who have begun to prepare to be Confirmed next April – that they may persevere in deepening their following of Our Lord; and for the younger children who have already begun their preparations for their First Holy Communion next May.

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](#).

For all who are sick and housebound, particularly: Rosa Antonini, Rosemary Awere, Ambrose Caldecott, Mario and Mariana Cassar, Brian Connolly, Rose Egan, George Giannoukakis, Lorna Jayamanne, Joy Joseph, Betty Kilkelly, Becky Kumoji, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaire, Bernard and Iris Ramsey, Vincenzo Robilotta, Gus Twycross-Hills, and all sick or housebound parishioners; and for our parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives.

Your Parish needs even more generous support from you

Thank you for your donations to our parish last Sunday. *Note: these have fallen by about £250 a month recently after some generous people have moved away.* Please always Gift-Aid all your Offerings.

Thank you to Parishioners who have made generous donations towards the cost of our new Lectionaries. A big thank you from us all.

- **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 - [use this link to register](#). 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