

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 Pastoral Assistant: Brother Paulin Meba SDB
Parish Administrator: Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk Tuesday & Wednesday: 9.15am – 12.15pm.
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 C	<i>Second Week of Advent</i>	8 – 15 December 2024
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<i>Services and Mass Intentions this week</i>			
Sunday 8 December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	9am Mass	Steve Levesque RIP (Austen)	
	11am Mass		
	6pm Mass	All Parishioners	
Monday 9th	10am Mass	Deceased Parishioners	<i>The Immaculate Conception</i>
Tuesday 10th	9.30am Mass	Helen Gilhooly (Birthday)	<i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>
Wednesday 11th	NO Mass		<i>Saint Damasus</i>
Thursday 12th	9.30am Mass	Charles Hempstead RIP	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
Friday 13th	9.30am Mass	Holy Souls	<i>Saint Lucy</i>
Saturday 14th	<i>11am Confessions</i>		<i>Saint John of the Cross</i>
	4pm CAROL SERVICE by Candlelight		
Sunday 15 December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	9am Mass	Knight Family RIP (F)	
	11am Mass	All Parishioners	<i>[Family Mass]</i>
	6pm Mass		

This Sunday, 8 December, there is a **voluntary retiring Collection** to help purchase beautiful **flowers to decorate** our Church at Christmas.

Christmas Offering envelopes are available from the back of Church. If you will not be here for Christmas, please also feel free to return it before you go. You will be able to use the dedicated Christmas Offering option on our Card Reader soon.

Welcome to Fathers Tharanga and Tobias, who are celebrating Sunday's 9am and 11am Masses.

Both are members of the Jesuit Community at Windmill Drive on the Common, which I was able to involve with our Parish after I first came here. I shall be celebrating a priest colleague's Ruby Ordination Anniversary in East Sheen.

Carols Around the Crib by Candlelight next Saturday at 4pm

Especially for Children, our annual Carol Service will take place on the afternoon of December 14th: Candlelit Carols and Readings will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome to take part in singing, playing, reading, and behind-the-scenes organising and serving refreshments. We are blessed to have several talented musicians and singers, and **if you would like to join and perform with them,** please contact Catherine Warren: catherine.warren@btinternet.com, 07866 365882. **If you would like to help with setting up and refreshments,** please contact Kristina Cooper, kristinabcooper@gmail.com, 07972 119252. Otherwise, just **KEEP THE DATE** and join in the Carol-singing! Retiring Collection for the *Friends of the Holy Land* charity.



'FLAME 2025' the largest Catholic youth event in England and Wales. It will take place on Saturday 15 March 2025 at the OVO Wembley Arena. Filled with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer, adoration and young people from across England and Wales, it's an event like no other!

We are organising a group from the Parish and call out to all young people aged between 14 and 25 to join us. Please let Fr Tim or Brother Paulin know that you are interested and we will keep you informed about the arrangements. Do check out the website for more details: <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

Advent - a New Beginning.

An Advent Prayer for us from Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians

You can read this Sunday's Readings [here](#).

There is far, far more to Advent than what we encounter in the shops, which have successfully tapped into one aspect of the season – the journey towards celebrating Christmas. As we reflected last Sunday, during Advent the Christian does more than merely count down to one of the most important feast days of the year. The Scriptures which we hear and reflect on in early Advent do not focus particularly on that wonderful event. Later in Advent we shall certainly be rejoicing at all that led up to the birth of Christ. And at Christmas itself, and in the days immediately following, our attention is given over to marvelling at the accounts of Christ's birth, and trying to penetrate them even more deeply. But, if our Advent and Christmas were no more than that we would be people who only look backwards, to 'glorious days of the past'.

'**Hope in our future**' is key to our Christian Advent (and indeed it links directly with the theme for the Jubilee Year – see below). During the Mass, we use and hear phrases such as 'When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, *until you come again*'. Our gathering in prayer in the present, our Sunday worship, our receiving the Lord's Body and Blood in Holy Communion, are all grounded in the promise of Christ that he will come again to gather us to himself ('as we await his coming in glory, we offer you his Body and Blood', *Eucharistic Prayer 3*). Our faith never only looks back to what happened in the past. Each time we celebrate Christ's first coming it can deepen our longing for his second coming. Contemplating the life, death and resurrection of Jesus fills us with hope in the love of God that he has revealed, and that, at the end of time when he comes again, mankind shall indeed see his glory and find all his promises being fulfilled.

Each time we celebrate the love of Christ revealed in the past, the Holy Spirit **strengthens us to face the future with hope**. The Incarnation shows us that God has taken our world to himself with immense love despite our sins: that is not a myth, or pious fancy; it has really happened in human history, as St Luke is at pains to show with the detail he gives us in this Sunday's Gospel.

In what spirit ought we to live our Christian lives this Advent? When we recall in prayer the events linked to



the Incarnation of Christ, and are filled with hope for the future, that should enable us to live joyfully and confidently in the present, even with its worries and terrors. In our celebrations, we neither just recall moments of past history, nor sit back passively awaiting what may come in the future and at the end of time.

In the words Saint Paul wrote to the first Christian converts in Philippi (our second reading this Sunday) he also offer us his prayerful guidance for how to live as disciples of Jesus in the present. You can really sense Paul's deep joy at the degree to which faith in Jesus Christ had taken hold of those new Christians. With others, who may have included

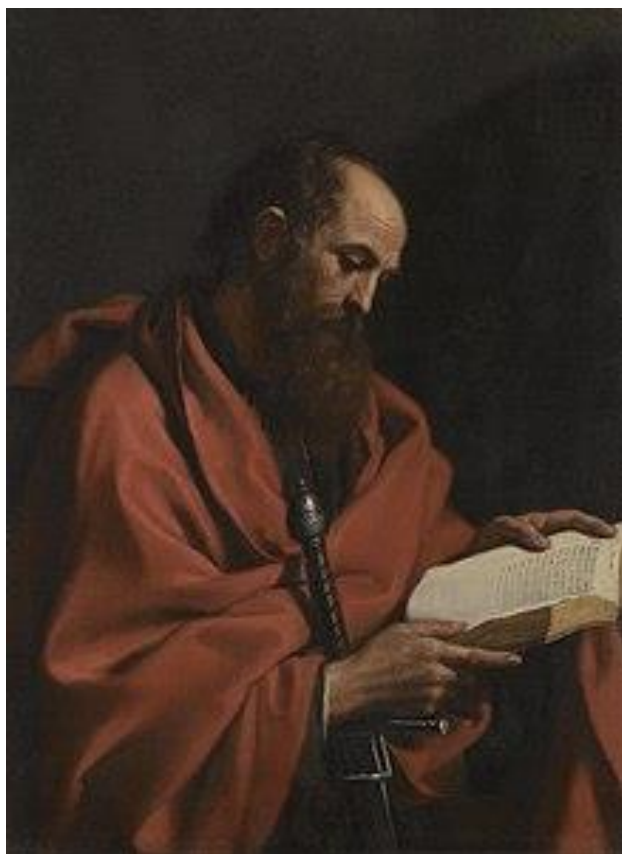
Saint Luke, he had first brought them the Gospel in around the year 50 AD (read The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 16).

In the words we hear from his Letter this Sunday, **Saint Paul writes**, *'I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

'For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.'

Take a while to reflect prayerfully on Saint Paul's words.

Maybe you will find they fill you with thanksgiving and optimism too, with hope for the change that can come about in us as we all look forward in hope to the Day of Christ Jesus.



Saint Paul, by Il Guercino (Giovanni Francesco Barbieri) 1591-1666, Private Collection

Paul is quite clear: **his yardstick is growth in love** (may *'it abound more and more'*); for this, taught Jesus, is the greatest commandment. And **this love will express itself in wanting to 'spread the Good News'** to others (that was what was giving Paul so much joy in the 'Philippians'. They were evangelising, doing for others what he had first done for them). It is with a similar desire that we should respond when we hear the urgency of John the Baptist's words in the Gospel, calling on all who would heed to 'prepare the way of the Lord'.

'Walk with Me' books with a reflection for each day from now until the end of Christmas. Available, price £1.

ADVENT - starting out afresh to become 'Pilgrims of Hope'



On 29 December the Jubilee Year begins: Pope Francis wants us to become 'Pilgrims of Hope'

What is a 'Jubilee Year'?

At regular intervals (usually every 25 years, and also on other special occasions) **the Church celebrates a year-long period of renewal**. The idea draws on the Old Testament idea of a special time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation – it involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields. For us, it can be thought of using that image of the *'year of the Lord's favour'*, of which Jesus spoke at the start of his public ministry according to Saint Luke (4, 19).

When does the Jubilee begin?

Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome; inaugurating the Jubilee Year on **29 December**. There will be events in our diocese – including a gathering on 7 June at Aylesford Priory.

What can it mean for us personally?

You do not need to make a Pilgrimage to Rome to make next year a **time of renewal – a time to re-examine and deepen your faith and to discover afresh the hope we have in Jesus Christ**. Pope Francis has given it

precisely that 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.

Pope Francis writes about the Jubilee of Hope:

'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 of his words [here](#)

Intentions for our Prayer

Pray for Peace. There is no end to the horrific onslaught on the people of Gaza and the West Bank, and the attacks on Lebanon continue. The wars in Ukraine and other places are deadlocked, but the innocent still go on suffering. Now there are fresh conflicts in Syria.

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 today are facing persecution in so many parts of the world.

Join with the **Pope's Prayer Intention** for December that we may be **Pilgrims of Hope**:

'Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.' 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 and Bridie 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 all

Thank you for your donations to our parish last Sunday

- **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 make sure to indicate your wish to do so, by using a special Gift Aid envelope 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 **each card** the first time. If you use the same card in the future, you usually need only register once.
- You can **DONATE DIRECTLY using the Parish [JustGiving page](#)** (also on our website); **please Gift Aid donations**.
- There is a **'DONATE BUTTON' [on our website](#)** allowing you to donate directly online. **This, too, lets you Gift-Aid**.
- When you **SHOP ONLINE** and start first 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