

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](mailto:batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Pastoral Assistant:** Brother Paulin Meba SDB

**Parish Administrator:** Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; [batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk) Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9.15am – 12.15pm.

**Parish Safeguarding Representatives:** Ed Elliot & Deborah Sherwood: [batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

**Further information:**

Our Parish Website: [www.saintvincentdepaul-church.org](http://www.saintvincentdepaul-church.org) or Scan the QR Code to the right

The Archdiocese of Southwark Website: [www.rcaos.org.uk](http://www.rcaos.org.uk)

Our Diocesan Directory: [www.rcaos.org.uk/directory](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/directory).

The Catholic Church in England and Wales: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)



Year C

*Third Week of Advent*

15 – 22 December 2024

*Services and Mass Intentions this week*

<b>Sunday 15 December</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	9am	Mass	Knight Family RIP (F)	
	11am	Mass	All Parishioners	[Family Mass]
	6pm	Mass	Sally (RIP) & Michael Hanley	
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Mass	Holy Souls	
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Mass	John and Julia Galligan RIP	
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Mass</b>		
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Funeral Mass for Monica Leslie RIP</b>		
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Mass		
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	11am	<u>Confessions</u>		
<b>Sunday 22 December</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	9am	Mass	Douglas Sherwood RIP	
	11am	Mass	All Parishioners	
	6pm	Mass		

***Christmas is coming! Times of our principal Services over Christmas:***

Christmas Family Mass	Tuesday 24 December	6pm
Christmas Mass 'during the Holy Night'	Tuesday 24 December	10pm
Christmas Morning Mass	Wednesday 25 December	10am
Feast of the Holy Family	Sunday 29 December	9am
	Sunday 29 December	11am
		<i>NO Evening Mass</i>

***Please take a Christmas Offering envelope*** from the back of Church. Feel free to return it before you go away. You may use the dedicated Christmas Offering option on our Card Reader too, and on the Website.

**Rejoice in the Lord always... Announce the Good News to the people**

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



Raphael, *St John the Baptist Preaching*, (1505) National Gallery, London, originally in Church of San Fiorenzo, Perugia.

[The National Gallery has a video reflection about the *Preaching of John the Baptist in Art*, centred on the painting above, click <https://youtu.be/VASDDrqNd78>]

**Saint John the Baptist** is again the focus of the Advent Gospel we listen to this Sunday. We hear about his ministry: his forceful preaching, and the clear answers he gave when different groups of people, moved by what he proclaims, asked *'What then shall we do?'* John was without doubt a figure who attracted people to him – even while out in the wilderness, people flocked to him in great numbers nevertheless, eager to hear what he had to say and to receive his baptism of repentance. And, even though his answers were uncompromising and very challenging, they listened. Indeed, as we hear in Sunday's Gospel, they even began to wonder if he was the Christ, the Saviour they were hoping God would send.

Saint Luke shows us that, far from revelling in all the attention, or trading on it, John explained honestly that he was merely a forerunner: *'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'* He is not the Saviour. For all his 'success', he knew he was nothing beside the one who was coming very soon. With a deep joy he pointed to the one who was coming, to Jesus the Saviour, and was preparing a way for him. John's words are very familiar, so we may overlook their astonishing humble self-awareness and honesty.

At the end of the Gospel passage we will hear a little remark, easy to miss after all the dramatic preaching; it sums up what John was about: *'So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people'*. It not only reminds us that Luke has only given us a small taste of what John preached, but it also confirms that his whole purpose, **his entire ministry, was 'to preach the Good News' (the Gospel) to others.**

**Our Advent season is a time of conversion.** For us who follow Jesus, conversion should never be about fear and gloom; it is about authenticity, becoming more fully the ones God has created us to be. Advent's purpose is to encourage us to see that in every moment of our lives we can meet the Lord Jesus, in the coming feasts and at the end of time, and we are called to be converted to Christ. That was John the Baptist's desire for the crowds of his day in the wilderness. It is so for us now, this Advent.

The Word of God this Sunday in fact insistently tells us that being converted to Jesus Christ will make us joyful, ready to cry out with **joy, a joy we wish to share**. The **Gospel of Jesus Christ is Good News**, for us and for all other people. *'Rejoice and exult with all your heart'* insists the Prophet Zephaniah. *'Shout aloud and sing praise'*, we cry in response to the Psalm. Why? Because *'I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord is my strength and my praise, and he has been my salvation.'* And Saint Paul, addressing his beloved Philippians



again, urged that joy be the very heart of their lives: ***'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.'*** And, he continued: *'do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.'*

**This week ask yourself: do I share my joy with others?** Do I know people, maybe neighbours who live near me, whom I no longer see at Church? Or perhaps Catholics who have not come to our Church for many years? Clergy come and go; you are often the ones who really know who are your neighbouring Catholics. Reach out to them this Advent and Christmas, share the joy of your faith.

You will notice how this Sunday's Scriptures speak several times about 'shouting'; we are urged to 'shout out for joy'. Actually, shouting might not be your thing! But it reminds us that we Catholics have 'something to shout about': our faith in Jesus Christ the Saviour of all, our confidence that **the love of God is not just for us but is for all people**. And, whatever way we reach out and share the joy of our faith, God too will rejoice: *'he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.'* (First Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah).



Alvise Vivarini, St John the Baptist, (1475), Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid.



**'FLAME 2025'** the largest Catholic youth event in England and Wales 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 it. 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/>

### The Jubilee Year begins at Christmas: Pope Francis wants us all to become 'Pilgrims of Hope'

We have a simple small book to give you this Sunday, to start you off in your reflections and, even more important, your prayer. **Please take it and read it.**

#### 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 idea in the Old Testament of a special time to re-establish a right 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, we might think of the image of the 'year of the Lord's favour' which Jesus spoke of as he started his public ministry, according to Saint Luke (4, 19).



### **When does the Jubilee begin?**

Pope Francis will open the first of several 'Holy Doors,' at St Peter's Basilica in Rome, inaugurating the Jubilee Year on **24 December**. There will be events in our diocese – including a gathering on 7 June at Aylesford Priory. Keep the date.

### **What could this 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 which will transform our individual lives, and make the Church a better sign of hope for humanity.

### **Pope Francis writes about this 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 become **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 the repose of the Soul of Monica Leslie** who died last Monday morning; and for her husband John and their family. May she rest in peace. **And 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 Jayamane, Joy Joseph, Betty Kilkelly, Becky Kumoji, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaure, 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*

- **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](#).**  
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- **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*