

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: Email: [paulin.meba@Salesians.org.uk](mailto:paulin.meba@Salesians.org.uk)

**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

## *The Baptism of the Lord* *The First and Second Weeks of Ordinary Time*

12 – 26 January 2025

### *Services and Mass Intentions for the coming fortnight*

<b>Sunday 12 January</b> <i>The Baptism of The Lord</i>	<b>9am Mass</b>	Fr David Barnes RIP	
	<b>11am Mass</b>	Francis Jayamanne RIP (Lorna)	
	<b>6pm Mass</b>	All Parishioners	
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am Mass</b>	Holy Souls	<i>Saint Hilary</i>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b>		
<i>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>: No Services</i>			
<b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18 – 25 January</b>			
<b>Sunday 19 January</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>[Day of Prayer for Peace]</i>	<b>9am Mass</b>	Holy Souls	
	<b>11am Mass</b>	The Unity of all Christians	<b>[Family Mass]</b>
	<b>6pm Mass</b>		
<i>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>: No Services</i>			
<b>Sunday 26 January</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>[Sunday of the Word of God]</i>	<b>9am Mass</b>	All Parishioners	
	<b>11am Mass</b>	Bertie, Mary & Clare RIP (Peiris)	
	<b>6pm Mass</b>	Deceased Relations of Fr Tim	

### *Praying for Unity between Christians - especially 18 - 25 January*

When Jesus gathered with his disciples for their Last Supper, during the meal he instituted the Eucharist and bequeathed it to us, he commanded that his disciples should celebrate it in his memory, he made them his first priests, and washed their feet. And, for the last time, he instructed them about following him in love.

Saint John's Gospel passes on to us Our Lord's final words: in which he gave us 'the new commandment of love' and reflected at length about how **love was to be the characteristic of those who follow him**, binding them to him and to one another like branches of the one vine. He promised us the guiding of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the fulness of his truth.

**His final words (chapter 17), were a solemn prayer**, sometimes called his 'High Priestly Prayer'. In it, he prayed to God his Father above all that his followers might find and maintain a deep unity between them that would reflect the unity between Jesus himself and his Father and the Holy Spirit. He prayed *'that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.'* (John 17, 21). Unity between Christians is imperative, both in order that we experience God's life within us to the full *and* also that the

world may come more easily to believe in Jesus its Saviour. His Prayer ends by asking *'that the love with which you [the Father] have loved me may be in them, and I in them'* (John 17, 26).



**Sadly, Christian history has been very different**, as the experience of this country (and many others) shows; and love of Christians for one another has often been far from characteristic of their relationships. At last, above all in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, for a variety of reasons, Christians began to seek earnestly to overcome their disagreements and division. And **in the 1960s** the Second Vatican Council of the Catholic Church played an enormous part, for through it **the Catholic Church committed itself fully to this 'ecumenical movement'**. Many steps closer between the Christian churches have been made over the succeeding six decades, but much more still needs to take place.

The Vatican Office (in which I worked for eight years in the 1990s) was set up at the time of the Vatican Council. Now known as the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (DPCU), its work is to foster the search for unity in every aspect of our Church's life, especially through prayer, dialogue, fellowship and outreach with our Christian brothers and sisters. This is why, together with the World Council of Churches, **it encourages Christians across the world to pray fervently for unity**, especially by promoting the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' each year, which usually runs from 18 to 25 January. Progress in fostering unity can only be possible if Christians desire this and let it be at the heart of their prayer.

Each year, the suggestions for prayer and worship in the Week of Prayer Different are prepared by different groups of Christians – 2025's come from a religious community in northern Italy. They want us to reflect and **pray about John 11, 17 – 27** (especially Jesus' words *'Do you believe this?'*). You can read more about why this text was chosen, as well as find prayers and reflections for each day of the Octave of Prayer: [here](#)

Whether you use all their suggestions or not, why not at least **make a prayer each day** (perhaps thinking and praying especially for family members or friends who are not Catholics, or for our other local Churches) – in your own words, or you might use this prayer from the French *Chemin neuf* community:

***Lord Jesus, who prayed that all might be one,  
we pray to you for the unity of all Christians,  
according to your will, according to your means.  
May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division,  
to see our sin and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.***

### ***The Lord's Baptism and ours***

**In his Baptism by John** at the river Jordan, the **public revelation** of Jesus as the only Son of the Father began – the start of that journey which ended on the Cross. It is a journey during which he manifests to us the life he shares with his divine Father in the Holy Spirit – the life of the Blessed Trinity, which is the life we have all begun to share since we ourselves were baptised.

On this Sunday's Feast of Christ's Baptism and during the days ahead might we **reflect and pray about our own baptism?**

- When did it happen? Do we know the date? If not, why not try to look it up?
- Do we thank God that our parents wanted us to become Christians by having us baptised? Do you thank God for their faith?
- At our baptism, the minister declared that we were 'now children of God'; have you prayed about that marvellous fact, or thought of it especially when you pray 'Our Father' as Jesus taught us?
- Why not pray in thanksgiving for your baptism, as a family?

The Feasts of the Epiphany (last Sunday) and the Baptism (this Sunday) are not just recalling the past. The mystery and glory of Christ Jesus our Saviour 'manifests' itself to you and me today. How? Not in a stable, nor



at the river Jordan, not usually in miracles. But he does do so in the life of the Church, in the Church's sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. And he speaks his word to us through the Scriptures we hear at Mass or read for ourselves. He does this so that we may grow in that new life as children of God which we began to share at our baptism.

The Lord desires us to grow. He does not want our faith to remain passive as it was if we were baptised as an infant; or childish as when we received Holy Communion for the first time; or even as it was when we were confirmed. In this New Year, he says to us again now 'Follow me!'

Many of us know people, sometimes in our own families or among our friends, whose faith has grown weak and who no longer join in the life of the Church into which they were baptised. At Mass this Sunday, we shall offer you a Prayer Card, which you could use to keep them in prayer, in the hope that they will rediscover the love of Christ.

Piero della Francesca (c.1415-1492), *The Baptism of Christ*, in the National Gallery, London.

### Praying for Peace

**The World Day of Prayer for Peace** is celebrated here on Sunday, 19 January. 2024 has shown us how to pray and work for peace is more urgent than ever. Pope Francis has written a Message for this year's World Day of Prayer entitled '**Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace**', by [using this link](#)

**Pax Christi** is the International Catholic Movement for Peace. Its work is based on the Gospel and inspired by faith. Its vision is a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence of any kind; and it works with all who wish to work to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. **Pax Christi** appeals for your support – take an envelope from the back of Church if you wish. To find out more or get involved, visit <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

**Pray for Peace.** There is still no end in sight to the horrific onslaught on the people of Gaza and the West Bank. The wars in Ukraine and other places are deadlocked, and the innocent still go on suffering. 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, 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 in so many parts of the world continue to face persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

### Other Announcements

If you hope to arrange to Baptise your Child, here or elsewhere, in the next few months, please email Fr Tim at the Parish Office, who will arrange a home visit or, if there are a number of families, a joint session next month.

**You Can Help Your Marriage** – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long'i') helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. There is no group therapy or group work.

This programme has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the next programme commencing via Zoom on **27 February to 2 March 2025**, call or text 0788 7296983 Email [info@retrouvaille.org.uk](mailto:info@retrouvaille.org.uk) [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

### Building A Better Marriage

A **one-day marriage-enrichment course aimed at couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to try and make them better**. There is no charge and no group sharing. Couples have the opportunity individually to explore their relationship and levels of communication, which is the key to relationship. These BABM days start at 9.30am and finish by 4.30pm. Dates and venues for 2025 are: March 15, East Sheen; April 12, West Croydon; June 28, Kingston-upon-Thames; and September 13, Amigo Hall, Southwark. More details – T: 07983 524 727 or E: [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

### Other Intentions for our Prayer

Join with the **Pope's Prayer Intention for January 'For the right to an education'**:

'Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.' Pray along with Pope Francis himself by clicking [on the Pope Video](#).

**For all who are sick and housebound, particularly:** Rosa Antonini, 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 Phaure, Bernard and Iris Ramsey, Vincenzo Robilotta, Gus Twycross-Hills, Angela Wells and all other sick or housebound parishioners; and for our parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives.

**For our Christian brothers and sisters, worshipping in our neighbouring Churches, and for the unity between us that Christ prays for.**

For Fr Tim, who is on retreat (and who will celebrate his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday on 25 January)

### Your Parish needs your generous support more than ever

*Thank you for your recent donations to our parish.*

We're using Easyfundraising to help raise money for Saint Vincent de Paul Church, Battersea in 2025. To get involved, sign up and shop via the Easyfundraising website or App with over 8,000 retailers. You'll raise free donations for us as you shop online at no extra cost! All the big names including eBay, Tesco, John Lewis & Partners, TUI, and many more will donate. We'll be so grateful for your donations, as we are to those who are already doing this!

Plus, once you've raised your first £5, Easyfundraising will double it: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/saint-vincent-de-paul-church/x3ti3n/c2s/zhbCJtHD/CE946/facebook/>

- **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**:

<b>Sort Code:</b>	<b>50-21-01 Nat West, Clapham Junction Branch</b>
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>82117209</b>
<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>RCAS Battersea Altenburg Gardens</b>
- **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 8000 online retailers. There is *no additional cost to you*.

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