

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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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 *The 4th Week in Ordinary Time* 2 – 9 February 2025

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 2 February	9am	Mass	Holy Souls	
<i>The Presentation of The Lord</i>	11am	Mass	Katherine Hanley RIP	
<i>(Candlemas)</i>	6pm	Mass	All Parishioners	
Monday 3 rd		No Mass		<i>Saint Blaise</i>
Tuesday 4 th		No Mass		
Wednesday 5th	9.30am	Mass	Ann Chiesman RIP (Row)	<i>Saint Agatha</i>
Thursday 6th	9.30am	Mass	Wellbeing Emmeline Martin & Family	<i>Saint Paul Miki and Japanese Martyrs</i>
Friday 7th	9.30am	Mass	Deceased Parishioners	
Saturday 8th		Confirmation Retreat	<i>(Salesian House)</i>	<i>Saint Josephine Bakhita</i>
		<u>No Confessions today</u>		
Sunday 9 February	9am	Mass	Felix Bayley RIP (O’Sullivan)	
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11am	Mass	All Parishioners	
	6pm	Mass	Deceased Parishioners	

The Presentation of The Lord

This Sunday, the Christmas season concludes with the **Feast of the Presentation of The Lord in the Temple** (Candlemas), commemorating a customary Jewish event which happened 40 days after Jesus’ birth. Mary his mother, and Joseph are ready to *offer back* to God the Father the one whom they have received as God’s greatest gift, Jesus. Our Archbishop, John Wilson, wrote a while ago: ‘In bringing the Lord Jesus to the Temple, Mary and Joseph thankfully offer God’s gift back to God. This gesture is the pattern of salvation and the way of all Christian living. The very life that the Lord Jesus received, the very life for which His parents gave thanks, is the life He offered, He presented, back to the Father. But this time through a costly sacrifice, a personal sacrifice, in the temple that was His body, on a cross that pained His mother’s soul.’

In the Gospel on Sunday, the Presentation is described. How Mary and Joseph entering the Temple of God to make the offering (a poor person’s offering) that ‘redeems’ their first-born son, are met by the elderly Simeon, a man of hope. The words he utters when the Holy Spirit inspires him to go to the Temple are prophetic both for the Holy Family and for the world. For Mary, he predicts that ‘*a sword will pierce through your own soul too*’: she will share uniquely in Jesus’ future suffering and rejection thirty-three years later. For the world, for us, because his words recognise in this child Jesus the Salvation God has prepared not only for the Jews but



for all people, including you and me. *'My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of your people Israel'*. His words are known, after the Latin for their opening, as the *Nunc dimittus* ('Now Lord you are letting your servant depart'). They have often been set to music beautifully, and form the Canticle in the Church's Night Prayer (Compline), and one of the Canticles at Anglican Evensong. Because Simeon hails Jesus as *'a light'*, it has been traditionally an occasion to bless the Church's candles (hence 'Candlemas')

This Feast is also *The World Day for Consecrated Life*, an occasion to pray and give thanks for all the Religious Men and Women who serve in the schools, parishes and institutions across the world, many of whom have touched our own lives. We might include a prayer for our near-neighbours, the Salesian Priests, Aspirants, and Sisters in Battersea West Sacred Heart parish, especially Brother Paulin; and the Jesuits, whose community on the Common has also played a part in the life of our parish.

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, by Cavalier d'Arpino (1568 – 1640), in *Santa Maria in Valicella, Rome (the 'Chiesa Nuova')*

'Called to Bear Fruit' – Please take part in this Consultation and share your views

I am delighted so many of you took the ***Called to Bear Fruit*** booklets last Sunday. I hope you may feel you would like to **engage in this process of reflection about the mission of our Archdiocese and its future**. It's a unique opportunity.

The special booklets tell you more. The hope is that you meet up with a few others to discuss the topics. It is not an 'opinion poll' but an **encouragement to get together with others** in small groups, as families, language groups, in whatever way seems best to you, **to reflect on the issues and questions you will find in the booklets**, to listen to one another, and where possible to suggest how the challenges identified (such as a large drop in the number of clergy in the near future) might be faced with hope. These are not intended to be formal gatherings organised by the parish, but you are encouraged to do so in whatever way seems best to you. If anyone does wishes to hold small group meetings in the Hall, that should be possible.

You can also find all you need to know (including the booklets) by following this link (which also enables you to make a response online, if you wish): <https://rcaos.org.uk/diocese/called-to-bear-fruit/> Please note there is a **deadline of 6 April for sharing your responses**.

Significant Events in our Parish in the first part of the Jubilee Year

We form part of the Body of Christ in South Battersea, part of the Church of Southwark diocese. As the diocesan *Called to Bear Fruit* process takes place, we also work in hope for renewal in our own lives and as the Parish community here. The Jubilee Year of Hope is calling us to this. Pick up a FREE Orange Jubilee Guide, if you did not yet do so.

In Lent, during March, we shall be reflecting on three Sundays about our Parish life here and on how each of you can build up the Body of Christ among us, by offering your time and talents, and your financial support too, to help deepen our Parish life.

We begin our Lenten journey of repentance and renewal on Ash Wednesday (5 March)

- **On Friday 6th March at 7pm**: we will hold another **Service of Adoration and Reconciliation**. As in Advent, there will be other visiting priests available for Confessions. **This event is for the whole Parish**.

It is especially in the Calendar of sessions for the families preparing their children and young people for their First Holy Communion, and for Confirmation.

- Just before Lent, on **Thursday 20 February from 7pm**, a priest from our neighbours, the Redemptorist Community at St Mary's, Clapham Common, will speak to us about their founder **Saint Alphonsus** and what we can learn from this wonderful saint. This is part of our ongoing **Series about Holiness** which we began last year.
- That will be followed, **during Lent**, by a Talk about **Padre Pio, The Curé of Ars, and Confession** (date tbc).
- **On Saturday 15 March** some of our young people will be attending the **Flame Gathering for Young Catholics from across the country**. This major event is held at Wembley. **Pray that it will touch the hearts of those who go.**

Pray for the success of our **Confirmation Retreat**

Next Saturday 8 February we are holding a **Day Retreat for our Confirmation Candidates**. As they reflect on the Sacrament and their calling, **pray for them**, that they will respond to the graces of the Holy Spirit with a deeper commitment to Christ.

After Easter:

- Canon Gerard Bradley will be here to **Celebrate Confirmation** at 11am Mass on **Sunday 27 April**.
- We are organising a **Jubilee Walking Pilgrimage** in our local area, with people from neighbouring parishes, hopefully on Saturday 10 May.
- **First Holy Communions** will be celebrated on **Sunday 11 May**.
- **On Saturday 7 June**, our diocese is gathering for a **Jubilee Day at The Friars, Aylesford**. Note the date now – we have organised a parish Coach.
- **Brother Paulin** will likely be ordained a Deacon at Sacred Heart parish on 15 June.

Other Announcements. 'National Marriage Week': 7 - 14 February

Inter Faith Dialogue

This year marks sixty years since *Nostra Aetate*, the ground-breaking document on the Catholic Church's relations with other Faiths of the Second Vatican Council. **Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald** worked for decades in this area, particularly in the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Cardinal Michael **will be speaking on 'Inter Faith Dialogue'** at 11 am on Saturday 22nd February at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. You are invited to attend free of charge. Refreshments will be available from 10.30. Please bring a packed lunch. The event is **also available live streamed** free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org. A recording of the talk, and the Q&A session, will be available subsequently on the same website.

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.

Is Jesus calling you to a life of Prayer? An invitation to a Monastic Experience weekend at Minster Abbey on 28 February – 2 March. For single Catholic women, aged 18 – 40. Pick up a leaflet at the back of Church, or visit www.minsterabbeynuns.org

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 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

Other Intentions for our Prayer

Pray for Peace. The 'ceasefire' in Gaza is fragile, and Israel has now launched a new campaign of destruction on the Palestinian people of the occupied 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, Democratic Republic of Congo, 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.

For our youngsters preparing for Confirmation at the end of April, and the children preparing for First Holy Communion in May, and for their families.

Join with the **Pope's Prayer Intention** for February '**For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**': 'Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.' 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 parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives. Please also pray with me for a friend who is having serious cancer surgery on Monday, Canon Kevin Firth.

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/> **Thank you to several parish families who have recently signed up!**

- **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 8000 online retailers. There is *no additional cost to you*.

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