

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: Email: paulin.meba@Salesians.org.uk
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

The 5th Week in Ordinary Time

9 – 16 February 2025

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 9 February	9am	Mass	Felix Bayley RIP (O’Sullivan)	
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11am	Mass	All Parishioners	[Family Mass]
	6pm	Mass	Deceased Parishioners	
Monday 10th	10am	Mass	Benedictine Sisters	Saint Scholastica
Tuesday 11th	9.30am	Mass	For all the Sick	Our Lady of Lourdes
Wednesday 12th	No Mass			
Thursday 13th	9.30am	Mass		
Friday 14th	9.30am	Mass	Holy Souls	Saints Cyril & Methodius
Saturday 15th	11am	Confessions		
Sunday 16 February	9am	Mass	All Parishioners	
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11am	Mass	Mgr Pat Keaveny RIP (F)	
	6pm	Mass		

‘Called to Bear Fruit’

Sue Dewhurst and Sarah Medicoff are organising Small Groups in the Hall over coming weeks to reflect on the **Called to Bear Fruit materials**. If anybody else is doing so, please let me know. 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. 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 an early **deadline for sharing your responses**.

Here I am, send me – Called to Bear Fruit, for a great catch awaits

You can read this Sunday’s Mass readings by [clicking this link](#). They all speak powerfully to us of Christian vocation, of our various callings, of how we may respond to Jesus’ invitation to become his disciples.

At the end of the last great Jubilee Year in 2000, as the third Christian millennium began, Pope John Paul II wrote a letter (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*) to all Catholics. His theme took up words we hear from Jesus in this Sunday’s Gospel, when Peter and the other tired disciples had fished all night in vain: like Christ, the then Pope urged us all to ‘*put out into the deep*’, trusting in the Lord’s word that a miraculous catch awaits. After

two thousand years of Christian history, and the renewal of faith in the year 2000, the Pope wanted us to 'remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm, and to look forward to the future with confidence'. This remains a watchword for us now as we embark on another Jubilee time of renewal, as 'pilgrims of hope' in today's world. On our Jubilee journey, we are trying to be more attentive to the Lord's voice, to draw closer to him each day, that through our words and witness we may draw others to him.

Sunday's Liturgy of the Word will offer us three accounts of people's vocations – which remind us that God is able to see beyond our weakness and unsuitability and that he does not repent of his choice of us. The three accounts might encourage us to reflect on the calling we have each received through our own baptism, and how we are called to share here and now in Christ's saving work:

James Tissot, *The Calling of Peter and the Disciples*, (1896), Brooklyn Museum, New York



- The future disciples had had an unsuccessful night fishing. Despite being 'professionals' who knew their trade, they trusted Jesus' guidance and so caught a huge number of fish. They were humbled and perhaps ashamed by their initial scepticism. After that immense catch, **Jesus then called Peter and his companions** – to leave behind their old way of life, to follow him and to share in his work of 'fishing for men'. Peter fell at the knees of Jesus saying, *'Depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord.'* Which was true! Yet Jesus called them all the same. We know Peter would fail Jesus many times, misunderstand him, even deny him; yet Jesus never revoked that call. He knew Peter was a sinner and yet that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, he would become a powerful preacher and apostle, indeed the 'rock' on which he would build the community of the Church. **The Lord calls us too, and does not repent of calling us.**
- Saint Paul, too, shows tremendous self-awareness in what he wrote to the young Christian community in Corinth (Second Reading). He was the one who had so powerfully and effectively brought them the Gospel of Christ in which they now believed; yet he continued to recall with shame how he had started as a persecutor of the first Christian community. So he writes, *'I am the least of the Apostles, unworthy to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. **But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me was not in vain.***' Paul was not exaggerating for rhetorical effect; **he was profoundly aware of his sin and how unworthy he was**; he felt scarred by how he had persecuted and tortured the first followers of the risen Jesus, when Jesus had said 'Why are you persecuting me?' Yet he also remained utterly certain that Jesus had truly revealed himself to him on the way to Damascus. Despite his sins, the Lord had called Paul and had given him a key share in his work, to redeploy all his zeal in the preaching of the Gospel. To Paul's faithful response to that call, we are all heirs even today.
- The First Reading recounts the calling of somebody from even further back in time, Isaiah the Prophet. Given **a vision of God's holiness while praying** in the Temple, he was deeply aware that he could never be worthy of the experience. He was a sinner, and yet **was told 'your guilt is taken away, and your sin is atoned for.'** As a result of this, when God said *'Whom shall I send?'*, Isaiah humbly but confidently replied *'Here I am, send me.'*

We probably feel we have little in common with the disciples, Saint Paul or Isaiah. But each and every one of us is called by God to follow Christ. In our baptism God the Father called us to become ‘beloved sons and daughters’, taking away our sin. He has a plan for each of us, whether or not we see it clearly yet. It involves becoming disciples, desiring to follow Jesus our Lord and learning to love him. He asks us to pray to discover what might be our unique part in his saving work in 2025.



Certainly, we are sinners, and none is worthy of Christ's love. Yet Sunday's scriptures will remind us that Christ calls us all the same. Peter and James and John fishing on the lake, or Paul on the way to Damascus, could not know where responding to Jesus' call was going to lead them. We who accept our call, to faithful Christian married love and family life, or to priestly or consecrated life, will never know in advance where it may take us. Even as we sin and fail and repent, even when we feel our unworthiness of Christ's love, his calling still stands, and he will repeat his call again and again, as he did for Peter, Paul, and all the apostles.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts. The words Isaiah heard in the Temple have been prayerfully repeated down the centuries, as we do at every Mass. Whenever we sing or say them, they remind us that we are not worthy to be in the presence of the Holy God; and yet that he takes away our sin through the sacrifice of Jesus his Son, and calls us afresh even if we have fallen away. One of the greatest obstacles to doing God's work is the suspicion that he cannot *really* want much from *sinners like us*, or that if we fall into sin it must mean we were mistaken about his call. Isaiah, Peter, Paul all show us otherwise – as long as, like them, we trust that God never revokes his choice, and are willing to set out afresh with Jesus on the road, filled with hope in God.

Events in our Parish: Lent, Easter, our Pilgrimage to Pentecost

As part of the Body of Christ in South Battersea, part of the Church of Southwark diocese, and as the diocesan *Called to Bear Fruit* process takes place, we also work together in hope here for renewal in our own lives and as the Parish community. The Jubilee Year of Hope is calling us to this.

In Lent, during March, we shall be reflecting on three Sundays about our Parish life here, and 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. This is an ideal opportunity while our diocese engages in the *Called to Bear Fruit* process, and the whole Church seeks the graces of the Jubilee Year.

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

- Just before Lent, on **Thursday 20 February from 7pm**, Fr Royston Price, 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, who had such deep devotion to the Holy Eucharist. This is part of our ongoing **Series about Holiness** which we began last year. **During Lent** itself, we hope to offer a Talk about **Padre Pio, The Curé of Ars, and Confession** (date tbc).
- **On Friday 6 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.*
- **On Saturday 15 March** some of our young people will be attending the **Flame Gathering for Young Catholics from across the country** at Wembley. **Pray that it will touch the hearts of those who go.**
- **On Saturday 4 April at 4pm** there will be **Stations of the Cross and Adoration.**

From Easter to Pentecost:

- **This time of Prayer and Renewal across the Diocese** (and here in our Parish) will lead to the **Jubilee Day at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 7 June**. Note the date now – we have organised a parish Coach.
- At 11am Mass on **Sunday 27 April** Canon Gerard Bradley will be here to **Confirm our 11 candidates**.
- We are organising a **Jubilee Walking Pilgrimage** in our local area, with people from neighbouring parishes, **on Saturday 10 May**.
- **First Holy Communions** will be celebrated at 11am Mass on **Sunday 11 May**.
- **Brother Paulin** will likely be ordained a Deacon at Sacred Heart Parish on 15 June.

Other Announcements

If you hope to arrange to Baptise your Child, here or elsewhere, in the coming 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.

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. The 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 07887 296983 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

Special Intentions for our Prayer

Pray for Peace. President Trump risks destabilising the whole Middle East; the second phase of 'ceasefire' in Gaza has yet to be agreed; Israel has taken the opportunity to launch a campaign of destruction on the Palestinian people of the occupied West Bank. The wars in Ukraine and other places are deadlocked. The innocent 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.

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