

# 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 6<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

16 – 23 February 2025

### Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

<b>Sunday 16 February</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	All Parishioners	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Mgr Pat Keaveny RIP (F)	
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>		
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	John and Julia Galligan RIP	<i>The Seven Holy Founders</i>
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>		
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>			
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>		
	<b>7 for 7.30 in Hall: Parish Talk about the Holiness of Saint Alphonsus Liguori</b>			
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<i>Saint Robert Southwell</i>	
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Confessions</b>		<i>The Chair of Saint Peter</i>
<b>Sunday 23 February</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Mass</b>		
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Mass</b>		
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	All Parishioners	

### Clergy Support Fund Second Collection - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>:

*Please take away the Special Envelope this Sunday and give generously*

The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for the people of our parishes.

You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at



[www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF) or scan this QR code.

You can also donate via telephone in Mon-Fri office hours 020 7960 2504, or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available today at the back of Church.

*Please continue to keep our Retired and Sick Priests, and our active Priests, in your prayers.*

**Parish Talk on Thursday (20 February) with refreshments from 7pm:** Fr Royston Price, from our neighbouring 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.

Our **Teenagers** are warmly invited to the next **Get-Together** on **Sunday 2 March, 7pm-8.15pm** in the **Hall**. Chill out together and enjoy each other's company, food and games.

### 'Called to Bear Fruit'

Sue Dewhurst and Sarah Medicoff are organising Small Groups in the Hall during coming weeks to reflect on the **Called to Bear Fruit** issues. **Please sign up at the back of Church to join them if you can – and let them know.** If anybody else is doing something similar too, please let us know.

### Really Blessed?

You can read this Sunday's readings by [using this link](https://universalis.com/europe.England.southwark/20250216/mass.htm)  
<https://universalis.com/europe.England.southwark/20250216/mass.htm>



For the three Sundays until Lent begins next month, we hear some key teachings from Saint Luke's Gospel, sometimes called **'The Sermon on the Plain'**. As Luke says, Jesus taught from *'a level place'*, where *'a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon'* had gathered hoping to hear him.

James Tissot 1836–1902. *Jesus Teaches the People by the Sea (Jésus enseigne le peuple près de la mer)*, 1886–1896, in Brooklyn Museum, New York.

This account parallels the great **'Sermon on the Mount'**, in Saint Matthew's Gospel chapters 5 – 7. Most obviously, in that Jesus began both with a series of pithy teachings, starting *'Blessed are you'*. In Saint Matthew they have come to be known as **'The Beatitudes'** precisely because of those opening words. There are eight such sayings in Matthew. Luke has only four followed, for emphasis, by four **'woes'**, beginning *'Woe to you...'*, which reinforce his point.

His teaching followed immediately after he had done two very significant things: first, **Jesus had prayed all night**; and then he had **chosen twelve disciples** to be **'apostles'** (Luke 6, 12 -16). After that, in this **'Sermon on the Plain'**, he began sharing the heart of his teaching, the Good News about the Kingdom of God. This relates directly to the occasion we heard three weeks ago, when he proclaimed words from the Prophet Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth, and taught that he was the anointed one sent to proclaim Good News to the poor. Now we hear him teaching, *'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.'*

These words had certainly been long **'pondered over'** by him, and his teaching to the crowds was very radical. Is he actually calling us to reject what the world about us regards as so desirable: riches, having enough, being happy? **Will that really bring us the blessedness we seek?** Perhaps the answer is given in the last of the four teachings, *'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of Man!'* Being ready to accept such treatment surely only makes any sense if it results from putting Our Lord in first place and following him. What Jesus taught **'on the plain'**, as in his **'Sermon on the Mount'**, can lead people to be prepared to embrace a **'reversal of values'**, precisely as a result of *becoming disciples of his*. *'Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord'*, we will recite in the Responsorial Psalm. Fining true **'beatitude'** or **'blessedness'**, of the kind Jesus teaches, may only be possible when disciples are able to put their trust in their master. It is a perspective that can only come if our desire is

for God's Kingdom to come (the 'Kingdom of heaven', the rule of God over us) – which is what, taught by Jesus, we do pray for every day in the 'Lord's Prayer'.

For some people, being a Christian amounts to just having a sort of moral code. It doesn't involve the Sacraments and their real relationship with Jesus. They may say 'I don't really go to Mass, but I try to live by "Christian values"'. They mean worthy things like trying to be kind or generous, trying 'to live a good life'. Such Christian values do exist, but their true meaning, especially self-sacrifice, comes from opening our hearts and lives to **the presence in us of the crucified and risen Jesus, whom we really do encounter, above**



**all in the Eucharistic celebration.** This is why we hear Saint Paul (in Sunday's Second Reading) so emphatically preaching about the reality of the Resurrection to the Corinthians, who were finding it hard to accept.

Anyone led by the Holy Spirit to become a disciple of the risen Jesus will find they want to listen attentively to the whole of his teaching and to try to act on it all, and especially what is demanded by his commandment of love. They may not understand his words entirely, may even find some of his teachings distasteful; they will become even more aware how weak and sinful they are; but the desire will nevertheless grow in them to become like Jesus their Lord and to follow in his footsteps. Then they may discover that any poverty, hunger, hatred, abuse or denunciation they encounter were actually first embraced by Jesus their Saviour himself. *'Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven'* (Luke 6, 23).

### ***Lent, Easter, and 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 happens, we also work together here in hope for renewal in our own lives and as the Parish community. The Jubilee Year of Hope calls us to this.

**In Lent**, we shall **reflect on three Sundays during March**, about our Parish life together, 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 at Mass on Ash Wednesday** (5 March)

- **On Friday 7 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 the Confirmation youngsters.*
- **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 5 April at 4pm** there will be **Stations of the Cross and Adoration**.
- **During Lent**, we hope to offer a Talk about **Padre Pio, The Curé of Ars, and Confession** (date tbc).

**From Easter to Pentecost a time of Prayer and Renewal across the whole Diocese**

- and 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 local **Jubilee Walking Pilgrimage** 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

### **An Online Prayer Group meets weekly on Wednesday evenings - would you like to join them?**

Parishioners join together for about half an hour on Zoom. Please contact Marina for the Zoom link on 07568 133368.

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](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)

## 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!**