

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)  
**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 7<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

23.2 – 2.3. 2025

### Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

<b>Sunday 23 February</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Welfare of Pope Francis	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Deceased Relatives of Cottini family	
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	All Parishioners	
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Kate Gilchrist RIP (Row)	
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Deceased Relations of Fr Tim	<i>Saint Ethelbert</i>
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>			
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Annie Earle RIP (Row)	<i>Saint Gregory of Narek</i>
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Judy Galligan (Birthday)	
<b>Saturday 1 March</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Confessions</b>		<i>Saint David</i>
<b>Sunday 2 March</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Ferruccio Schiavi RIP (Row)	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	All Parishioners	
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Holy Souls	

Our **Teenagers** are warmly invited to a **Pancake Night** on Sunday 2 March, 7pm-8.15pm in the Hall. The Chill out and enjoy each other's company, pancake galore and games!

**Important Petition:** Please sign [the Care not Killing Petition at the back of Church](https://carenotkilling.org.uk/petition/)

It calls on MPs to vote against legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales. **The initial so-called 'safeguards' proposed in November's Bill are already being watered-down**, even before it might become law! Or use this link: <https://carenotkilling.org.uk/petition/>

**Did you know?** *Parliament gave 700 hours to the Banning of Fox Hunting*; it only allocated a few hours (I believe 7 so far) to debating such the huge proposal to change our care for the sick and dying! The current Bill would make many vulnerable people – including the elderly and the disabled – feel a burden on their family, or carers, or the wider society, resulting in pressure to end their lives.

**Clergy Support Fund Second Collection - this Sunday:**

*Please return the Special Envelope from last Sunday and give generously (spares at back of Church)*  
**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 (indeed it would be one of the acts of mercy commended in the Jubilee year).

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 still available at the back of Church.

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

**Works around our Church.** Over the last fortnight and continuing next week, *thanks to your generosity*, a number of essential works are being carried out – e.g. replacing a rotten outside Sacristy windowsill, cleaning and repairing the paths around the Church, resetting the patio area in front of the Church (ongoing), some minor fire safety works recommended in the Priest's House etc.

The Wi-Fi connection to our Card Readers has also recently been boosted.

**Coming next:** some essential electrical works. **Later in the year** we hope to **repaint and refurbish the Hall.**

**Your generosity each week enables us to afford to get such work done – thank you.**

*Following the Master: 'Love your enemies. Be merciful'*

You can read this Sunday's readings by [clicking on this link](#)

This Sunday we hear more from the 'Sermon on the Plain'. Our Lord's words have at their heart his command **'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you'** (6, 27). He repeats this teaching often – indeed, it runs through Sunday's Gospel passage. Yet how much resistance it encounters. We would probably all say it is central to being one of his disciples, but also admit that our instincts often run in the opposite direction. And we see the apparently 'powerful' like Trump and Putin constantly responding with spite, retaliation and threats. We too may feel that temptation to take revenge when we're slighted, or worse; or, at the very least,



we would like to make it clear to that person how hurt we feel. Forgiveness and reconciliation can hardly seem a realistic option – what if they treat us the same way again! All we often manage is to try not to take our feelings of hurt too much to heart. Peter, you recall, asked if he should forgive as many as seven times! And how did Jesus answer?

The evil others may do us must not triumph over us. **'Bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you'**, Jesus says. This should be the hallmark of the Christian because it is the supreme example given us by the death of Christ: **'While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son'**, teaches Saint Paul (Romans 5,10). God did not merely tolerate us sinners, let alone exact vengeance on us, **he went so far as to love us by sending his only Son, Jesus the one who showed us the merciful love of God.**

If we could be in any doubt, Jesus teaches us to pray **'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'**. The Lord's desire is that, wherever there is hatred or rancour, we spread love: **'forgive, and you will be forgiven'**, he says. And, in Saint Luke's Gospel, that was his dying lesson: **'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'** (23, 34).

Sunday's First Reading, with the Gospel in view, sets us off on this path of reflection with the example of David. He was being hunted down in the wilderness by vindictive King Saul, who saw him as a rival and wanted to do away with him. A reversal of fortune, however, put Saul in David's power. How should he act?



Abishai, David's soldier companion, is quite clear. He tells him what most would have done, seeing an opportunity to kill Saul while he slept: *'God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.'* Despite this, David continued to respect God's choice of Saul. He spared him, confident in his ultimate 'reward': *'The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.'*

Jesus' teaching goes far beyond that response, however: his disciples are not merely to renounce responding to violence with violence, or replying to harsh words with more harsh words. He asks us to love, which alone has the power to change situations. *'If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.'* ***'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.'***

The reward Jesus talks about for those who love like that is the only reward that could really matter: *'your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.'* Our Lord is very certain that some of his followers, empowered by his Holy Spirit, will take this road. It is the only way to a real 'victory' over those who do us wrong, the victory of love – and through the ages, countless examples, especially among those facing persecution and martyrdom, show that this is so.

### **Through Lent to Easter and our Pilgrimage to Pentecost**

**We are part of the Body of Christ in South Battersea**, part of the Church of Southwark diocese. As the diocesan *Called to Bear Fruit* process happens, we also work together here in hope for renewal in our own lives and as a 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. We ask you to consider 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 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.*
- **After Friday morning Masses, Stations of the Cross.**
- **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 Thursday 3 April**, Stuart Edwards will give a talk about **Padre Pio, The Curé of Ars, and Confession.**
- **On Saturday 5 April at 4pm** there will be **Stations of the Cross and Adoration.**

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

- will lead to the **Jubilee Day at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 7 June.** Note this 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** (keep the date – details to follow).
- **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.

**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:** 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)

## **Colla Voce Singers 20th Anniversary Gala Concert Saturday 1 March 2025 - 7pm: St Gabriel's**

**Pimlico** The acclaimed Colla Voce Singers, resident at St George's Cathedral, presents its 20th Anniversary Gala Concert featuring a programme including Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, as well as Parry's I Was Glad, Elgar's Give unto the Lord, Finzi's 7 Poems of Robert Bridges and Bach's Singet Dem Herrn; and a performance of Tallis's 40-part Spem in Alium. St Gabriel's Church, Warwick Square, Pimlico is within walking distance of London Victoria and Pimlico stations. It is highly recommended to book tickets in advance: Adults £25, Concessions £20, Children under 18 FREE: [galaconcert.eventbrite.co.uk](http://galaconcert.eventbrite.co.uk) (20% discount using code PIMLICO20)

### *Special Intentions for our Prayer*

#### **Pray for Peace. For an end to the Ukraine war, beginning its third year on Monday.**

President Trump risks further destabilising the whole Middle East; the second phase of 'ceasefire' in Gaza has yet to be agreed; Israel has extended its campaign of destruction from Gaza to the Palestinian people of the occupied West Bank. The wars in Ukraine and other places are deadlocked. Rwandan sponsored 'rebel' troops are killing thousands in the DRC to acquire precious minerals. 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.

#### **Pray for the full recovery to health of Pope Francis, who is in hospital with double pneumonia.**

And join with his **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 our youngsters preparing for Confirmation at the end of April, and the children preparing for First Holy Communion in May, and for their families.**

For parishioners with Welsh connections, who celebrate Saint David next Saturday

**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 Jayamane, Joy Joseph, Betty Kilkelly, Becky Kumoji, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaure, Bernard and Iris Ramsey, Vincenzo Robilotta, Gus Twycross-Hills, Angela Wells, Monica Wisdom, 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.*

Whenever you're doing a food shop online, please use #easyfundraising! You can raise regular donations for Saint Vincent De Paul Church, Battersea with popular supermarkets including Tesco, Morrisons, ASDA, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Iceland and Ocado - at no extra cost to yourself! If you're not supporting us on easyfundraising yet, please sign up here: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/saint-vincent-de-paul-church/x3ti3n/c2s/618TPvFU/CE024/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*