

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 First Week of Lent

9 – 16 March 2025

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 9th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	9am Mass Thomas and Annie Connolly RIP 11am Mass All Parishioners 6pm Mass Domnick Rebello RIP (Anniversary)
Monday 10th	10am Mass Deceased Secular Clergy Fund Benefactors
Tuesday 11th	9.30am Mass For all persecuted Christians
Wednesday 12th	No Mass
Thursday 13th	9.30am Mass For missionaries
Friday 14th	9.30am Mass For those we support through our Fast Day <i>After Mass: Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday 15th	11am Confessions
Sunday 16th March <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	9am Mass Jusoda Austin RIP 11am Mass Henry Holtz RIP [Family Mass] 6pm Mass All Parishioners

Cafod Lent Appeal Family Fast Day - Friday 14th. Please take the special envelope which will be offered to you at the end of Masses today. Next Friday you are urged to fast next Friday and give the money saved to Cafod: your fast will support communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. You can also **donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.** Don't just give, pray.

Our Lenten Alms collection for the homeless also encourages us to share the fruits of our fasting. **Lenten Alms can be donated via our Card Readers to De Paul UK, for homeless young people.**

The Lenten Desert and its Temptations

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, what do you hope to receive from God's grace during Lent?

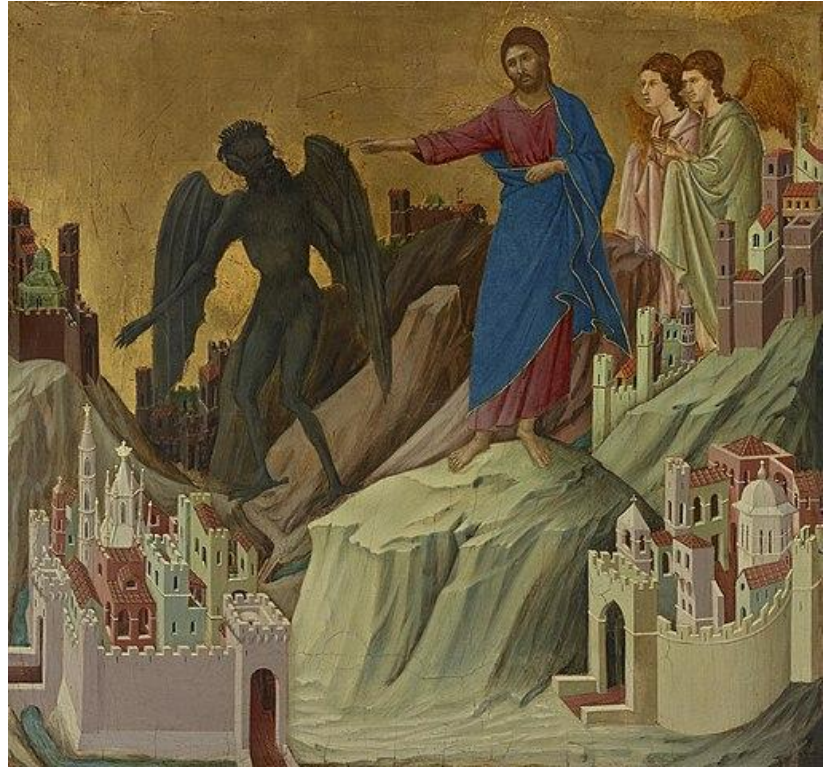
What sort of people does Jesus Christ want to help us become when he calls us to follow him?

Through the grace of having been baptised, the Holy Spirit is recreating us to become **more like Jesus Christ**, to be people of love and joy. God lovingly sees in us now the image of his Beloved Son. So, the fundamental answer to those questions above is: **you and I are called to set out on a journey to holiness.**

God's Word on the First Sunday of Lent always invites us to listen to one of the accounts of Jesus' temptations in the desert. We might think of our journey into Lent as an invitation to make a 'desert' journey for 40 days

with Our Lord – in some small way, letting our Lent imitate what Jesus did. As a time of fasting and prayer, we too may find ourselves tested and tempted.

Saint Luke tells us that, after his Baptism, **Jesus ‘was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil’** (4: 1 – 2). In some ultimately unfathomable way, Our Lord’s experiences, which we might consider entirely negative, undesirable, were the Holy Spirit’s work. The ‘wilderness’, where so many things are stripped away and where we come up against our naked selves, is not a God-forsaken place; God is powerfully with us, even in the hardship and privations it will bring. Jesus must have told his disciples all about his experience, for he went through it alone. It took place in solitude, before he began his public ministry, before he had called anyone to follow him.



[Duccio di Buoninsegna, *The Temptation of Christ on the Mountain* \(c.1308-11\) from the Maestà, now in The Frick Collection, New York.](#)

Listening to this Gospel story each year can help prepare us better for what we may encounter in our own spiritual lives, particularly as we try to accompany the Lord ‘in his temptation and his fast’. It tells us about **how we should truly live as ‘beloved sons and daughters of God the Father’**.

Jesus’ experiences over those weeks in the desert concerned *how* he would live as God’s ‘Beloved Son’. In his response to the three temptations, we can see that the Lord is absolutely certain that his relationship with his Father is paramount: his retorts to the devil are firm, calm and clear; there is no fear, or uncertainty about what would be right. **The first temptation** was connected to his natural human hunger after so long without proper nourishment. Humans need food to live, does it matter by what means it is obtained? To the devil’s suggestion that he turn stones into bread, Jesus pointed to a higher good: in Scripture, *‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone.”’* Jesus shows us a life that is, rather, one of unconditional trust in God our Father. He later teaches his disciples and us (Luke 12), *‘do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing ... your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.’* Human needs, no matter how pressing, can never be the ultimate consideration.

The second temptation concerns human power and domination, and how they conflict with God’s sovereignty. We see this exemplified in the current wars; but also when our own desire is to do things ‘my way’. Jesus is Lord of the universe not as the devil suggests, by exercising arbitrary power, but because he humbly obeyed his Father even to embracing death at the hands of the ‘authorities’. Recognising God the Father as the only ‘Lord’ is the ground for every true relationship with him; all human lust to acquire power by domination threatens that. Jesus will teach his followers to find true authority in service: *‘I am among you as the one who serves.’* (22: 27), *‘whoever would be great among you must be your servant’* (Mark 10: 43).

In the third temptation, the devil suggests Jesus impose his will by putting God’s loving care to the test: *‘If you are the Son of God,’* he said to him *‘throw yourself down from here’*; and the devil seductively abuses words from Scripture. Once again, the Lord responds with the true interpretation of God’s Word (*‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’*), revealing that confident trust in God’s love is fundamental.

Saint Luke’s Gospel shows us that a characteristic of the earthly life of God’s Beloved Son was opposition from demons and evil powers, and ultimately *the tempter*, the devil. Jesus started his public ministry healing a man *‘with the spirit of an unclean demon’*, and demons came out of people, shouting *‘You are the Son of God’* because they realised he was the Christ (Luke 4: 31 – 40). Later *‘he called the twelve together and*

gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases' (9: 1). Those who opposed what Jesus did uttered the ultimate blasphemy, saying that he, the Son of God, "casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons" (11: 15). Sunday's Gospel passage ends by telling us that 'when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time', suggesting the combat continues right to Jesus' Crucifixion.

A roof boss in Norwich Cathedral cloister, showing the faithful Christian fighting with the sword of God's strength against a devouring devil.

The Lord's three temptations reveal how our own lives as sons and daughters of God through Baptism may also be menaced by the way the tempter distorts and twists our ordinary human desires, and even the Scriptures, in order to undermine our trust that God really is our Father and that he loves us as his own. Saint Paul (even though he could list a whole array of human 'misfortunes' in his Letter to the Romans, chapter 8: 31 - 38) powerfully declared his conviction that **nothing whatever can separate us from the love of God**. In Lent we can



rediscover God's care for us, and find ourselves newly prepared to trust that this will always be so. That confidence is what fundamentally underpins the professions of faith in the other two readings of this Sunday's Mass

The great **Saint Francis de Sales** wrote a beautiful prayer (which echoes Luke 12). It seeks to calm our weary hearts, beckoning us to 'be at peace' and to trust in God's lasting care for each of us whom he has chosen and calls his 'sons and daughters':

Do not look forward in fear to the changes and chances of this life; rather, look to them with full confidence that, as they arise, God, to whom you belong will in His love enable you to profit by them. He has guided you thus far in life, and He will lead you safely through all trials; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering, or will give you unflinching strength to bear it.

Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations. Amen.

Easter and our Pilgrimage to Pentecost

Easter to Pentecost will be a time of Prayer and Renewal across the whole Diocese

- It leads 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** (keep the date – details will 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.

LAST OPPORTUNITY: Please sign the '[Care not Killing](https://carenotkilling.org.uk/petition/)' Petition at the back of Church or use this link: <https://carenotkilling.org.uk/petition/> The petition calls on MPs to vote against legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales. **Already, so-called 'safeguards' proposed in November's Bill are being watered-down**, even before it might become law! Almost all amendments proposed in the Committee Stage are being rejected, since the Committee was chosen with a majority supporting the Bill. 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.

Intentions for our Prayer

Pray for Peace. For an end to the Ukraine war, which began its third year on Monday! Negotiation of the second phase of 'ceasefire' in Gaza has yet to start, and Israel is trying to avoid it. Israel has extended its campaign of destruction from Gaza to the Palestinian people of the occupied West Bank. Rwandan sponsored 'rebel' troops are killing thousands in the DRC in a bid 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 utterly 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 – such as **Fr Donald Martin Ye Naing Win**, who was murdered on 14 February in Myanmar by a group of intoxicated militiamen. Read more of this distressing occurrence [here](#).

Pray for the recovery to health of Pope Francis, still critically ill in hospital. And join with his **Prayer Intention for March – for families in crisis**: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

A group of 21 youngsters and helpers from our parish is going to 'Flame', the national Catholic young persons' gathering at Wembley, next Saturday. Pray for them during this week, that the experience of being Catholics together will strengthen their faith.

For our youngsters preparing for Confirmation at the end of April, and **the children preparing for First Holy Communion** in May, and that in the future their families will continue to support their faith.

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, 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/> **Thank you to those who have recently used this.**

- **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