



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 Second Week of Lent

16 – 23 March 2025

### Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>9am Mass</b> Jusoda Austin RIP <b>11am Mass</b> Henry Holtz RIP <b>6pm Mass</b> All Parishioners	<b>* [Family Mass]</b>
		<i>* Please come 5 Minutes EARLY to get the children involved</i>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am Mass</b> John and Julia Galligan RIP	<b>St Patrick</b>
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> Joseph Hanley RIP	
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>	<b>St Joseph</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> Philip James RIP (Row)	
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> Brian Orange RIP (Row) <i>After Mass:</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>11am Confessions</b>	
<b>Saturday 22 March</b> <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>6pm French Mass</b>	
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>9am Mass</b> Marianne Kreftner RIP (Row) <b>11am Mass</b> All Parishioners <b>6pm Mass</b> Noelene and Sean McMahan RIP	

**Time, Talents and Treasure:** on the next three Sundays, we are inviting you to reflect about our Parish at our Sunday Masses, about what it means to you, and how in your generosity you can build up its life in this Holy Year of Hope.

This Sunday, we will start by reflecting on the wonderful fact that, by Christ's will, we are **the Body of Christ in this place**. You will be given a special Reflection Sheet each Sunday. We are inviting every parishioner to consider your degree of participation and support: to consider if you would feel able to give more of your time, talents and treasures to building up our Parish so that it may become what you hope it to be.

**Cafod Lent Appeal Family Fast Day.** Please return the special envelope you received at the end of Masses last Sunday. You can also donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. NB. If you use our Card Reader, you will not be able to Gift Aid what you give to Cafod.

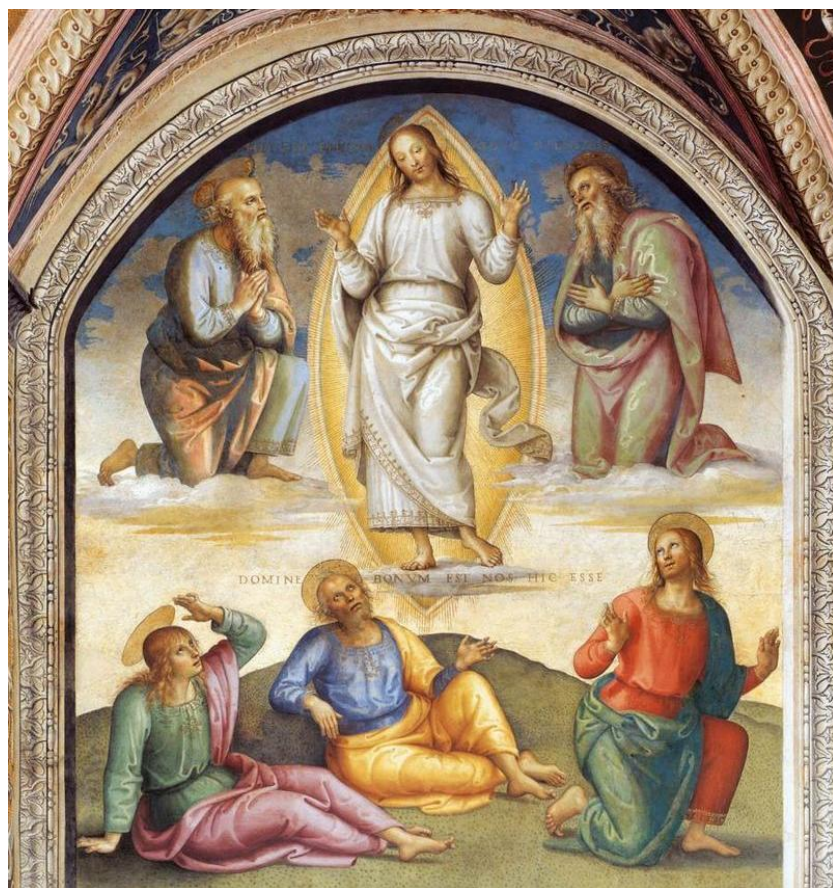
**Next Sunday 23 March:** There will be a diocesan **Second Collection to support the Poor Parishes** in our diocese. Please be generous.

'Lenten Alms' collection for the homeless: you can donate throughout Lent to De Paul UK, to help young people out of homelessness. Lenten Alms can be donated via our Card Readers.

*This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to Him!*

You can read this coming Sunday's readings [here](#)

'Forty days' of Lent prepare us for the 'fifty days' of Easter rejoicing. Our penances and prayer, and readiness to reach out to those in need, help free us up to appreciate joyfully the risen life of Jesus, shared with us through the sacraments. This is true in a special way for those who are Catechumens – these are adults who, having found faith in Jesus Christ, seek the Church's help in the Easter 'sacraments of initiation' (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist) to receive Christ's life through his body, the Church. Last Saturday many Catechumens and Candidates for Reception into Full Communion gathered in our packed Cathedral from parishes across the diocese, to be called and chosen by Archbishop Wilson to complete the final weeks of their journeys – to Holy Week and Easter; to the Paschal Mystery, the centre of every Christian life.



The readings at Masses during Lent are intended to be a special guide for those becoming Christians and Catholics at Easter. Last Sunday (Jesus in the wilderness) they would have felt encouraged to resist temptation through following Our Lord's example: by putting their trust in the power of Scripture; drawing consolation and strength from the guiding of his Holy Spirit in them; and, above all, growing in confidence that God the Father truly does desire they become his beloved sons or daughters when baptised into Christ, or Received, at Easter.

And this Sunday? They, and we, should see ourselves invited to accompany Jesus and his chosen disciples up the mountain, and called to share in their experience while with him – and to reflect on the words: **'This is my Son, my chosen one; listen to him'**.

Pietro Perugino (1448-1523), *The Transfiguration of Christ* (1497-1500), in the Sala delle Udienze of the Collegio del Cambio, Perugia, Italy. Jesus is depicted in a 'mandorla', an almond shape indicating the glory of his divinity.

The mysterious event recounted in this Sunday's Gospel is known as 'Jesus' Transfiguration'. Saint Luke (uniquely among the Gospel writers) tells us that when Jesus took them up the mountain his purpose was to go and pray (9:28). Again, only in Luke (9:29), are we told that Jesus was Transfigured *while praying to his Father*: 'as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.' (9:29). We are not told at what time of day this took place. In a reflection, the late Fr Jack Mahoney SJ [mused](#) that maybe it was during the night: was it one of those occasions when Jesus spent the whole night in prayer? He noted that Saint Luke in the next passage writes: 'On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain' (9:37). It might also explain why the disciples were so sleepy, and why the change they saw in the appearance of Jesus' face and clothing was so striking, indeed terrifying.

**Jesus' prayer that night was about the suffering, death and resurrection he would undergo in Jerusalem.** Through that prayer, he was strengthened for what was to come. The presence of Moses, the lawgiver and prophet, and Elijah, showed that what they had prophesied would be fulfilled in Jesus, the disciples' companion and master, in his Passion and Crucifixion. We too need to pray in Lent about the suffering and death of Jesus.

Peter, James and John were granted that night an extraordinary sense of Jesus' great glory – a **glimpse of his divinity** (a foretaste of what they would only properly appreciate after he rose from the dead). No wonder Peter wanted to 'hold on' to the experience, saying *'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.'* But from the heavenly cloud they were told by God's voice, *'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!'* Jesus is the Son of God. They need to stay close to Jesus alone, listening to him: *'when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone'* (9:36). After Moses and Elijah had withdrawn, Jesus alone remained with them, the 'chosen one' whom God has sent.

**Saint Luke's account of Jesus' Transfiguration concludes: 'they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen'** (9:36). The

disciples must have found it difficult to comprehend what they had experienced with Jesus on the mountain, and to know how to express it. But after his dying and rising and appearing to them, they would understand more fully. Hence, we find the story of the Transfiguration is passed on to the early Church in each of Matthew's, Mark's, and Luke's Gospels. And, in one of the last New Testament Letters, we find the voice of Peter speaking about the Gospel message he had been sharing with his readers: *'For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honour and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased", we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.'* (2 Peter 1:16-19).



Giacinto Calandrucci (1646-1707), *The Transfiguration*, in *The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge*.

Writing to his beloved Philippians (this Sunday's second reading), **Saint Paul too drew on the image of transfiguration** to encourage them never to be distracted by earthly things but to persevere in faith. They (and we too) are destined to share in the glory of the risen Christ himself, Paul tells us: *'our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body,'* (Philippians 3:20-21).

This story of the wonder of **Jesus' transfiguration is shared with us on Sunday to strengthen our faith as we go onwards through Lent to Easter:**

- We and the Catechumens are encouraged to persevere, and not become distracted by what Paul called 'earthly things'. We can be 'transfigured' into Christ's likeness by prayer, as his life takes hold.
- We should reflect on all we have learned in faith about who Jesus truly is, and to ponder it in prayer.
- We must continue to listen to the voice of Jesus, the chosen one, the Beloved Son of God, especially by prayerfully reading the Sacred Scriptures; and to trust in his power to transform and save us.
- In the face of the incomprehensible and inhumane warfare we witness in Ukraine, the Middle East, and elsewhere, can we try nevertheless to accept that in Christ human beings have been re-created to become the image of the God of love?

## Our Pilgrimage from Easter to Pentecost

### Easter to Pentecost in this Holy Year 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**.

## Intentions for our Prayer

**Pray for Peace. For an end to the Ukraine war, which is in its fourth year.** Negotiation of the second phase of 'ceasefire' in Gaza has yet to start, and Israel is trying to avoid it. It 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.

**Pray for the recovery to health of Pope Francis**, still in hospital. 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.'

**For our group of 21 youngsters and helpers who went to 'Flame' yesterday** 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.

**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.

## Your Parish needs your generous support more than ever

*Thank you for your recent donations to our parish.*

- **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 remember to **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*.

Whenever you're doing a food shop online, 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.**

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