



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)



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## The Fourth Week of Lent

30 March – 6 April 2025

### Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

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| <b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>  | <b>9am Mass</b> All Parishioners<br><b>11am Mass</b> Elvina, Agatha & Lawrence Jones RIP [Mothers' Day]<br><b>6pm Mass</b> Michael O'Shea RIP   |
| <b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup></b><br><b>Tuesday 1 April</b><br>Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup><br><b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b><br><b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10am Mass</b> Fr David Whitehead RIP<br><b>9.30am Mass</b> Fr William Bradley RIP<br><b>No Mass</b> Canon Leo Mooney RIP<br><b>9.30am Mass</b> Fr Michael Cronin RIP<br><b>9.30am Mass</b> Rachael Awere RIP<br><i>After Mass:</i> Stations of the Cross |
| <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>11am Confessions</b><br><b>4pm – 5pm: Stations of the Cross &amp; Adoration</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 6 April</b><br><i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>   | <b>9am Mass</b> John & Margaret Robinson RIP<br><b>11am Mass</b> All Parishioners<br><b>6pm Mass</b> Fr Eric Spencer RIP  |

**Time, Talents and Treasure (3):** after our two recent Presentations, this Sunday you have the opportunity to **volunteer** to assist our Parish in various ways, to **offer** to initiate new activities, and to **increase** your financial support if you can.

These weeks are an invitation to each and every parishioner to consider the degree of your participation and support: are you 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?

This Sunday (30 March) there will be a voluntary **retiring collection for Easter Flowers**

'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: £366 raised so far. Voluntary Retiring Collection next week.

## Did you know?

- You can now use our Card Readers to pay for Candles, and for Booklets and Newspapers.
- Our Church is normally open each day from early morning until dusk – for private prayer, Stations of the Cross etc. Should I be away, or returning late, it may exceptionally be sometimes closed.

A number of measures were taken in our Churches when the country went into lockdown five years ago. The temporary closure of our Church was one of the most drastic. When the Mass resumed, we put a number of precautions in place to reduce the risk of passing the virus to one another. One was giving Holy Communion only in the form of the Sacred Host and (you may remember) initially only in the hand and not on the tongue.

Prior to the Covid pandemic our custom here was to offer Holy Communion 'under both kinds' to all – that is, allowing reception in Communion of both the 'Sacred Host' and also the 'Precious Blood' from the Chalice. Not all received in that way; and, in some of the countries from which parishioners come, this was never so widespread a practice as here.

**I hope we can resume offering Holy Communion 'under both kinds' soon. Holy Thursday' Mass of the Lord's Supper, when we especially commemorate Our Lord's Institution of the Eucharist, seems a particularly suitable occasion to start again.** Before then, to prepare us, I am including some reflections about our Eucharistic faith.

### What do we believe about the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist?

On the night before he died, which we especially commemorate on Holy Thursday, **Our Lord gathered his Apostles in the upper room to celebrate the Last Supper and to give to us all the inestimable gift of his Body and Blood.** *'He did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the centuries until He should come again, and so to entrust to His beloved spouse, the Church, a memorial of His death and resurrection'* (Vatican II: *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*). Thus, in the Eucharistic Liturgy we are joined with Christ on the altar of the cross and at the table of the upper room in *'the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated and [in] the sacred banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood.'* (Catechism of the Catholic Church).



**We are obeying Our Lord's command.** In the Eucharistic Liturgy we use the everyday signs of nourishment, the bread and wine. After they are transformed by Invocation of the Holy Spirit, they become the Body and Blood of Christ and are given to us in Holy Communion. When we take and share in the Eucharistic bread and chalice we obey the Lord's command; we grow in the likeness of the Lord, for it is his Body and Blood they both signify and contain. Jesus, the *'living bread that came down from heaven'* (John 6, 51) assures us, ***'Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.'*** (John 6, 54-55).

The bread and wine brought used in the Eucharist derive from the work of human hands. In the action of the Eucharist they are transformed so as to become our spiritual food and drink. This is **Christ, the true vine, giving his life to the branches** (cf. John 15, 1-6). As bread from heaven (cf. John 6, 41), the 'bread of angels', the chalice of salvation, and the medicine of immortality, the **Eucharist promises eternal life to all who eat and drink it** (cf. John 6, 50-51).

**The Eucharist is a Sacred Meal**, a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, in which Christ calls us as his friends to share in the **banquet of the kingdom of heaven** (cf. John 15, 15). Given to his disciples at the Last Supper, this spiritual food has been the **daily bread** and sustenance for disciples throughout the ages. The Bread and Wine of the Lord's Supper constitute the **irreplaceable food for the Church's pilgrim journey** on earth. The Eucharistic celebration **perpetuates the sacrifice of Jesus**, offered once and for all for us and for our salvation, and makes present **the victory and triumph of Christ's Death and Resurrection**. It offers **strength for all who journey in hope** through this life and who desire to dwell with God in the life to come. Our last sharing in the Eucharist is known as *viaticum*, that is, it gives us food for the final journey of the believer to heaven itself. Through these various images, the Church helps us to see that the Eucharist unites us with Christ, from whom she came, through whom she lives, and towards whom her life is directed.

Michelangelo Merisi (Caravaggio) (1606), The Supper at Emmaus, Brera, Milan.

## Holy Communion

The heart of every celebration of the Eucharist is the Eucharistic Prayer, but the consummation of the Mass is found in the Holy Communion.

The people purchased for the Father by his beloved Son eat and drink the Lord's Body and Blood. In this way, we are joined together as members of Christ's mystical Body, sharing the one life of the Spirit. In the great Sacrament of the Altar, we are joined to Christ Jesus and to one another. As the soul's spiritual food, Holy Communion sustains and build us up with the life of Jesus; as he said, 'whoever feeds on me ... will live because of me' (John 6, 57). This sacrament is also a remedy that frees us from our daily defects and keeps us from mortal sin. By Christ's will, moreover, it offers us a pledge of our future glory and our everlasting happiness. So, it is the symbol of the one body we form with him as its head (cf. Luke 22, 19 and 1 Corinthians 11, 3).



As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion worthily. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. *(to be continued)*.

## Lent and Lenten Devotions

Holy Week and Easter are the climax of the Christian year. In the special Services, the Liturgy of the Word is particularly important and rich. If you are one of our regular Readers, or might like to volunteer to assist, please sign up on the sheets at the back of Church. You are asked to sign your name next to EVERY Service you will be attending – you will be allocated where the need is greatest, and be notified.

NEXT Saturday 5 April at 4pm Stations of the Cross will be celebrated for all in the Parish:

followed by a short period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, finishing at around 5pm with refreshments. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meditate on the Passion of our Lord as we approach the end of Lent. As in previous years we different people will be reading the Stations as we process around the Church.

## 'On Pilgrimage' from Easter to Pentecost with our Parish and Diocese

As part of the Jubilee Year in our Southwark Diocese, there will be a big outdoor Celebration for the whole diocese, a Jubilee Day at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 7 June from 10.30 am - 4.30 pm in the grounds of the historic Priory. Sign Up now at the back of Church: A coach has been booked by our Parish if sufficient people wish to go, so you must book early - cost £30 for adults and £10 for children/under 18s. For details please contact [kristinabcooper@gmail.com](mailto:kristinabcooper@gmail.com) or 07972119252.

The 7<sup>th</sup> June will be a day of fun and faith for all the family. It will include talks, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, Confessions, Prayer for Healing, exhibitions and fun activities for children, as well as the joy of just being outside relaxing in this beautiful historic place. There will be performances from local singers and musicians and other special surprises! People are encouraged to bring your own picnics, but food, including a barbecue, a tea room and ice creams will be available on site (though probably with queues). The day will culminate in a concelebrated Mass led by Archbishop John, who will pray a special blessing on all those present and on the whole diocese.



Some will also be joining a walking pilgrimage, for those want to walk the 50 miles from St George's Cathedral to Aylesford, from 2 – 5 June. Pilgrims will be staying in parish church halls along the way and arriving at Aylesford on Friday 6 June.

In preparation for Pentecost, our Parish will be running **Pilgrimage to Pentecost, a six-session course to deepen our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives**. The sessions comprise pre-recorded talks, a faith testimony, and music accessible via YouTube, and an opportunity to share with others online or in person.

An accompanying booklet will soon be available, with meditations for every day between Divine Mercy Sunday until the week after Pentecost. You can follow this course on your own at home, join a group in the Parish, or join an Online Group. Currently, two groups at St Vincent's have been proposed, but if you would like to host another please see Father Tim. One group will be meeting on Wednesday evenings (contact Stuart Edwards [ste7474@icloud.com](mailto:ste7474@icloud.com)) and another on Wednesday mornings 9.30 am - 11 am (contact Kristina Cooper, as above). For further details of the speakers and to order booklets see the Southwark Agency for Catechesis and Evangelisation web site: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/p2p>

### **ALSO during Eastertide:**

- At 11am Mass on **Sunday 27 April** Canon Gerard Bradley will be coming to **Confirm our 11 candidates**.
- We are organising a local **Jubilee Walking Pilgrimage** with people from neighbouring parishes on **Saturday 10 May**, starting here or at Holy Ghost Parish Church. A sign-up sheet should be available soon. *En route* there will be Mass at Holy Ghost at 10am, Adoration at Sacred Heart, Lunch at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Evening Prayer and Refreshments here.
- **First Holy Communions** will be celebrated at 11am Mass on **Sunday 11 May**.

### *Intentions for our Prayer*

**Pray for Peace.** For an honest search for a just end to the Ukraine war. For peace in the Middle East: Israel has begun the war in Gaza again, and has extended its campaign of destruction 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 the 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.** Join with his **Prayer Intention for April – for the use of new technologies:** 'Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.'

**For all mothers, living and dead,** in thanksgiving.

**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, 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 Phaire, 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.

**A Parish 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**:
  - 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 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.**

*God Bless you and all your loved ones, Fr Tim*