



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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12 October 2025

Parish Newsletter

TWENTY-EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, from page 149

1st Reading (2Kings 2:14-17). **2nd Reading** (2Tim.2:8-13). **Gospel** (Lk 17: 11-19)

Readings Next Sunday: 1st Reading (Ex.17:8-13). 2nd Reading (2Tim. 2:3:14-4:2). Gospel (Lk.18: 1-8)

Readings today draw our attention to three intertwined themes: faith, healing, and gratitude. They remind us that God's mercy extends to all, even those considered outsiders, and that true healing is found not only in the restoration of the body but in the renewal of the heart. Above all, they challenge us to cultivate a spirit of thanksgiving as a response to God's saving grace. In the first reading from the Second Book of Kings, we meet Naaman, a foreign military commander suffering from leprosy. Through the prophet Elisha, God invites Naaman to wash seven times in the River Jordan. At first, Naaman resists this simple instruction, finding it too ordinary to be effective. Yet when he humbly obeys, he is completely healed, and his heart is transformed. Naaman returns to Elisha to offer thanks and declares his faith in the one true God. This passage reminds us that divine healing often requires humility, trust, and obedience. God's power is not limited by nationality, status, or expectation; His grace is available to anyone who is open to faith. The second reading, taken from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, reinforces the call to perseverance in faith. Paul, writing from prison, urges Timothy to remember Jesus Christ, who has triumphed over death. He teaches that if we die with Christ, we shall live with Him, and if we endure, we shall also reign with Him. Gratitude, therefore, is not just an emotional response to blessings received but a steady commitment to remain faithful, even in suffering. The Gospel from Luke presents the familiar story of the ten lepers who call out to Jesus for mercy. All ten are healed, yet only one, a Samaritan return to give thanks. Jesus notices the absence of the others and asks, "Were not ten made clean? But where are the other nine?" The Samaritan, considered an outsider, becomes the model of genuine faith. His healing goes beyond physical recovery; his gratitude leads him into a deeper relationship with Christ. Jesus affirms him, saying, "Your faith has saved you." This Gospel challenges each of us to examine our own response to God's goodness. How often do we take God's blessings for granted? How frequently do we stop to say, "Thank you, Lord," not only when life is easy but also amid difficulties? Gratitude is the language of faith, it acknowledges that everything we have and are comes from God. Like the Samaritan, we are invited to return to Jesus, to recognise His hand in our lives, and to give glory to God for His mercy and love. Moreover, these readings remind us that God's grace reaches beyond boundaries. Both Naaman and the Samaritan were foreigners, yet they experienced divine healing and responded with faith. This reveals the inclusivity of God's mercy. He welcomes all who come with open hearts, regardless of background or status. In a world often divided by prejudice and self-interest, today's message calls us to imitate God's boundless compassion and to extend gratitude, generosity, and acceptance toward others.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

Pope's October prayer intention: For collaboration between different religious traditions. Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity

Prayer for October: Lord of the seasons, in this month of harvest and change, help us to see Your hand at work in all things.

As the year begins to fade, deepen our trust in Your promises.

Mary, our Mother, walk with us toward the light of Christ. Amen.

PARISH NOTICES

Prisons Week 12h - 18h October - Prisoners' Sunday marks the first day of the ecumenical Prisons Week, a week of prayer which raises awareness of issues faced by those affected by the criminal justice system. Prisons Week celebrates its 50th year by remembering once again that, no matter what your circumstances, or the place in which you stand, God's word is not chained. "for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!" 2 Timothy 2:9

"God and Heavenly Father, please show us how we can give freely and willingly of what we possess, including our time, to serve and support those you love and care about connected with the prison system – prisoners, their families, victims of crime, and those who serve in prisons as officers, chaplains and in many other ways. Always remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, that "it is more blessed to give than to receive". Amen

Second collection for this cause will take place when we receive their envelopes which will arrive in days to come.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection: Unfortunately we did not take up the CAFOD collection last weekend so are carrying it over to this weekend. Your donations help their mission to fight against poverty, conflict and climate change. Envelopes at rear of church

Marriage and Family Life - Marriage Preparation course booking forms for 2026 now available at rear of church and we would urge couples to attend about 6 months before their wedding date. If you have any questions, please contact mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

'Missionaries Of Hope Among All Peoples' Sunday 19th October is World Mission Sunday, when every Catholic parish around the world celebrates Mass together and has a special collection for Mission, the Pope's charity for world Mission.

October should be considered in all countries as the month of the World Mission. The penultimate Sunday, the day proclaimed 'World Mission Sunday', is the high point. That day will be celebrated in all the local churches as a feast of catholicity and universal solidarity. On that day, Christians the world over will recognize their common responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world.

The Fourth (and final) National Mass Count takes place at all Masses this weekend

Pray the Rosary with Archbishop John and The Mark 10 Mission this October. The Rosary challenge invites you to pray a decade of the Rosary each weekday in October. The Mark 10 Mission has created beautiful online videos for each mystery of the Holy Rosary, led by Archbishop John. To watch and learn more, please visit themark10mission.co.uk or The Mark 10 Mission YouTube channel [@themark10mission](https://www.youtube.com/@themark10mission)

Day of Retreat for Lectors & Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist South Area: A reminder that this retreat will take place on 25th October 2025 at Bishop Thomas Grant School, Beltrees Grove, Streatham, London, SW16 2HY. See detail of the programme on the notice board.

Mass Offerings Available: There are many available slots for Mass intentions. If you would like to offer a Mass for a friend or loved one—whether for a birthday, special occasion, or in memory of someone who has passed away—please speak to **Fr. Celestine**.

Feast of Saint Jude: Invitation to attend this feast taking place from 25th to 28th October at Whitefrairs, Tanners Street, Faversham, Kent. Details in the poster at the notice board.

Pilgrimage: we still have spaces for the pilgrimage/ holiday to Guadalupe and Cancun. Departing 9th Jan 2026 for 8 day tour to places of interest Guadalupe/ Mexico and followed by interconnecting flight to Cancun for an all inclusive holiday to Cancun. When you make a place a deposit or full payment by 25th October you will be entered into a raffle draw for Christmas hamper additionally a donation will be made to the Daughters of Divine Love Streatham who work with unwanted babies, orphans, their medical care. If you want your charity supported contact me 07894711139. Great Ideas for Christmas gift stay in 4/5 hotel at protected cost 2293. Deposit £300. Sole room supplement extra if unwilling to share with other. Contact / text sue 07894711139"

Mass starvation spreads across Gaza as the crisis deepens your support is providing urgent aid, visit cafod.org.uk to find out more. Please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 11	Vigil, 28th Sunday
6:30pm	Robert Rodgers, RIP
Sunday 12	28th Sunday Ord Time
9am	John McMillan, RIP
11am	Private Intention
Monday 13	St Edward the Confessor
9:30am	No Mass
Tuesday 14	Feria
6:00pm	Adoration
7:00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 15	St Theresa of Avila
9:30am	Nathan Dakouri, wellbeing.
Thursday 16	Feria
11am @ BH	Holy Souls
Friday 17	St Ignatius of Antioch
9:30am noon	Nneka Okoye, thanksgiving
Saturday 18	Vigil, 29th Sunday
6:30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 19	29th Sunday Ord. Time
9am	Marcelline Noronha & Anne Moniz RIP
11am	Nathan Dakouri, w/b.

PARISH MINISTRY

READERS:

	11th/12th	18th/19th
6:30pm	Preetha	Liane
9am	Elisa	Ariel
11am	Michelle/Melba	Michelle/Isabel/Munachi

Eucharistic Ministers

6:30pm	Jenny	Russell
9am	Lawrence	Zena
11am	Kereine	Patience

Church Cleaning

Justine/Justina	Catherine/Noelie/Hugo
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Celebrating the 120th Anniversary of our Parish, on Sunday 30th November, 11am.

Please save the date.

CYCLE OF PRAYER - Intentions for Ordinary Time – Autumn

For Students and Teachers, especially on Education Day

For the Spread of the Gospel, especially on Home Mission Sunday & World Mission Day

For the Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work and for the Reverent Use of creation, especially on World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

For Justice & Peace in the World, especially on Harvest Fast Day

For All Victims of War, especially on Remembrance Sunday

For Young People, Especially on Youth Day (Christ the King)

For Prisoners & their Families, especially on Day of Prayer for Prisoners & Prison Week

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY , AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME, MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

HOSPITAL CONTACTS: If you or a member of your family are admitted to our local hospitals, do please let the hospital's Catholic chaplain know.

St George's Hospital: 02087253069 / 02086721255)

Kings Hospital: If outside hospital—02032993522. inside the hospital call extension 33522

Croydon University Hospital: 02084013105

St Thomas' Hospital: 02071881187/02071881186

Guy's Hospital: 02071881185/02071889576



PARISH SCHEDULES

Sunday Mass Times :

6:30pm (Sat), 9am and 11am

Week Day Mass Times:

Tuesday ; 7pm

Wednesday & Friday; 9:30am

Thursday; 11am @ British Home

First Fridays; 12noon.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Tuesdays; 6:00pm

Baptisms, Marriage, Funerals: Contact the Parish Office.

Youth Club:

4:30pm Every 3rd Saturday

RCIA: Contact Parish Office

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 5:30pm to 6:15pm and on call.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Open Office: Fridays 10am to 12:30pm and 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

Other days with appointment, please.

UCM:

12noon Every First Friday

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Wednesdays; 7:30pm @ the Church.

DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Sundays; after 11am mass @ the Divine Mercy Altar

We are grateful for all you do to support the parish.

Setting up a Standing Order is the most efficient way to make a donation to the parish without incurring fees. You can use the following details for one-off donation or to set up a Standing Order or Direct Debit. NatWest Bank: Account Name: RCAS Norwood West, Sort Code: 60-23-19; Account Number: 44115369. Thank You!