



## **ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-**

[www.stmatthews-westnorwood.org.uk](http://www.stmatthews-westnorwood.org.uk)

02086701765

[norwoodwest@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:norwoodwest@rcaos.org.uk)

37 Norwood High Street

West Norwood

London SE27 9JU

**18 OCTOBER 2026**

### **Parish Newsletter**

### **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

#### **TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, Page 143**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 45:1, 4-6.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 96(95)

**Second Reading:** 1 Thess 1:1-5b.

**Gospel:** Matthew 22: 15-21

In today's gospel, Jesus is asking us to consider what place God has in our lives. We give time to work, family responsibilities, friendships and daily concerns. These things matter. But do we give God our attention? Do we make room for prayer? Do we allow his word to shape our decisions? Sometimes we give God whatever is left over: a few hurried words when we are tired, an occasional visit when it is convenient, or a promise to return when life becomes less busy. Yet God has given us life itself. He deserves a place at the centre of it. Giving ourselves to God does not mean neglecting our responsibilities in the world. A Christian should be an honest worker, a responsible citizen and a trustworthy neighbour. We honour God when we pay what we owe, keep our promises, care for public property and contribute to the good of society. Our faith should make a difference to how we live from Monday to Saturday, as well as how we worship on Sunday. But our duty to earthly authority also has limits. No government, political party or human leader can take the place of God. When something is lawful, we must still ask whether it is just. When something is popular, we must still ask whether it is right. Our conscience needs to be formed by the Gospel, so that we can act with both courage and charity. In the first reading, God calls Cyrus, a foreign king, to serve his purpose. Cyrus does not know the Lord, yet God works through him to bring freedom to his people. This reminds us that God's power reaches beyond the boundaries we sometimes set. We should be ready to recognise goodness wherever it appears and to work with others for justice, peace and human dignity. And if every person bears God's image, then every person deserves our respect. The person who disagrees with us bears that image. So does the stranger, the poor person, the elderly neighbour and the person whose needs test our patience. We cannot honour the image of God in church while ignoring it in another human being. In the second reading, Saint Paul gives thanks for the Thessalonians' faith in action, their labour of love and their perseverance in hope. Here is what giving ourselves to God looks like: faith that shapes our choices, love that is willing to make an effort, and hope that keeps us faithful when life becomes difficult. Today, let each of us ask: What part of my life do I still find difficult to give to God? Perhaps it is a resentment I will not release, a habit I will not confront, or a responsibility I keep postponing. The Lord invites us to entrust that part of our lives to him too. As we approach the altar, we meet Christ, who gives himself completely for us. May his gift move us to respond with generous hearts: "Lord, all that I am and all that I have come from you. Help me to use them for your glory and the good of others." **Amen.**

**Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme**

**Email: [celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk)**

## PARISH NOTICES

**Pope's October prayer intention:** For mental health ministry. Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses

**Pope Leo XIV:** Please keep our Holy Father in your prayers after undergoing thoracic surgery at Gemelli Hospital on Tuesday afternoon. Pray he has a full recovery trusting in Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Mother, Our Lady of Unfailing Help, for the Holy Father's speedy recovery from his surgery.

**Confirmation Mass;** for our young person who are currently undergoing confirmation class will be on Sunday 8th November, 11am mass.

**ONE IN CHRIST UNITED IN MISSION** :Today Sunday 18th October is World Mission Sunday (WMS) when the Holy father invites all Catholics to support Missio - his charity for world mission - through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the Missio envelopes or visit: [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) to give a gift

**National Conference on Migration, Integration and Human Dignity:** Saturday 21st November 9:30am-4pm, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Social Club, DA15 8LW, at a particularly important and timely moment for our Church and society. Inspired by the vision and teaching of Pope Leo XIV, this conference invites us to reflect on how migration touches real people, families, communities and our shared human dignity. Tickets are £12.00, (which includes refreshments and a light lunch) purchased via registering on the conference website [local.magnicharity.org](http://local.magnicharity.org)

**Nativity Journey, Wintershall, Surrey,** performed from the 15th to 20th of December. Discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable immersive event for all the family. They stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. Tickets can be booked here: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/the-nativity-journey/> see poster for full details.

**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.

**Upcoming events** at Aylesford Priory The Friars Aylesford Christmas Fayre, 28th and Sunday 29th November, 10 am – 4pm. Join us for a fun filled festive weekend! The Friars Christmas Lunches, 3rd to 18th December (weekdays only) Pilgrims' Hall. Booking is essential please call 01622 717272 see poster for full details

**Hearts in Search of God:** Walking Pilgrimage. A walking pilgrimage for England & Wales has been organised, to take place from 5th to 9th October this year. The pilgrimage will go from Maidstone in Kent to Southwark. This is in preparation for the Adoremus Eucharistic Celebration on 10th October. Please see poster at rear of Church for further information

**Paddy Walsh:** The Funeral Mass for the late Paddy Walsh will take place at St Matthew's Catholic Church, West Norwood, on **Thursday 29 October at 1.00 pm**. Please keep Paddy and his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace .Amen.

**Collection:** With grateful thanks for the generosity of our parishioners and visitors. Total collection last Sunday **£175.05**(cash), **£326.71**(online), (Prison ) **£112.16**.

**A Day With Mary Westminster Cathedral:** Saturday 7th November 9.45am. Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

**RCIA: Becoming Catholic and Preparing for the Sacraments:** Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, or are you a baptised Catholic who has not yet received First Holy Communion or Confirmation? You are warmly invited to join our RCIA classes to explore the Catholic faith and prepare for the sacraments. Please contact the parish office or speak to Fr Celestine for more information.

| May          | TIME       | MASS                 | MASS INTENTION         |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Saturday 17  | 6:30pm     | Vigil, 29th Sunday   | Maureen Marshman; RIP  |
| Sunday 18    | 9:00am     | 29th Sun Ord Time    | Holy Souls             |
|              | 11:00am    | 29th Sun Ord Time    | Holy Souls             |
| Monday 19    | 9:30am     | Feria                | No Mass                |
| Tuesday 20   | 7:00pm     | Feria                | Holy Souls             |
| Wednesday 21 | 9:30am     | Feria                | Those born in October  |
| Thursday 22  | 11:00am@BH | Feria                | Wellbeing of Residents |
| Friday 23    | 9:30am     | Feria                | Holy Souls             |
| Saturday 24  | 6:30pm     | Vigil, 30th Sunday   | William Marshman RIP   |
| Sunday 25    | 9:00am     | 30th Sunday ord time | Holy Soul              |
|              | 11:00am    | 30th Sunday ord time | Damian D'Souza RIP     |

PARISH MINISTRY: 17th/18th

24th/25th

READERS: 6:30pm: Ann

Liane

9:00am: Savio

Brenda

11:00am: Nana/Onyekachi

Nathaniel/Ariel

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

6:30pm: Annabel

Ann

9:00am: Zena

Albertina

11:00am: Patience

Yvonne

#### 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)

Please remember in your prayers **Paddy Walsh** who recently passed. Funeral mass at St Matthews, on Thursday 29th October 2026 by 1:00pm. May she rest in peace, Amen. Pray for her family as well..

**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!**