



## ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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16 November 2025

### Parish Newsletter

## THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

**TODAY'S MASS READING:** Parish Mass Book, from page 164

**1st Reading** (Mal. 4:1-2a) **2nd Reading** (2Thes. 3:7-12). **Gospel** (Lk. 21:5-19)

Readings Next Sunday: 1st

Reading (2Sam 5:1-3). 2nd

Reading (Col. 1:12-20). Gospel

(Lk. 23:35-43)

As we come to the final Sundays of the liturgical year, the readings turn our attention to what Jesus calls the “last things.” In today’s Gospel from Luke, the disciples admire the beauty of the Temple, its stones, its decorations, its splendour. But Jesus gently reminds them that even something so magnificent and so central to their identity will one day fall. Nothing earthly lasts forever. This message is not meant to frighten us, but to re-order our priorities. Jesus wants His disciples, and us, to place our trust not in structures, possessions, or human achievements, but in **God alone**, who remains when everything else fades. Jesus then speaks of troubling events: wars, conflicts, earthquakes, famines, and persecution. These are realities the early Church truly faced, and realities that still echo in our world today. But note Jesus’ encouragement: **“Do not be terrified.”** He doesn’t promise a life without trials; He promises His **presence** in the midst of them. He tells His disciples that when they face opposition, He Himself will give them “words and wisdom.” This is a powerful assurance: that in our most difficult moments, when we feel misunderstood, judged, or even abandoned, Christ stands beside us. Our struggles become the very places where His grace becomes visible. And then Jesus offers a line that captures the whole heart of today’s Gospel: **“By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”** Perseverance is not simply enduring suffering; it is the daily choice to remain faithful, to keep praying, keep loving, keep serving, keep trusting, even when it feels hard. In a world where many people give up easily, Jesus calls us to a faith that is steady, patient, and courageous.

So what is the invitation for us today?

To recognise that everything earthly is temporary.

To root our lives in the God who does not change.

To trust Jesus in trials, knowing He is with us.

And to persevere—holding on to faith, hope, and love even in uncertainty.

As this liturgical year draws to a close, the Gospel invites us not to fear the future, but to live each day with deeper trust. Our security is not in buildings, achievements, or human power, but in the faithful love of God who walks with us to the very end. May the Lord strengthen our perseverance and keep our hearts firm in Him. Amen.

**Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme**

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

## PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

**Pope's November prayer intention:** For the prevention of suicide Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

**Prayer for November:** Lord of mercy and compassion, in this month of November we remember all our loved ones who have gone before us. Welcome them into the light of Your presence and grant them eternal rest and peace. Comfort those who mourn, strengthen our hope in the Resurrection, and keep us united in Your love until we meet again in Your Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

### PARISH NOTICES



**Parish Mass of Remembrance:** Parish Mass of Remembrance - this weekend at all Masses we will remember all our relatives and friends who have gone before us over the last year. Memorial candles will be lit in their memory.

**In November** - Month of the Holy Souls, we offer prayers for relatives and friends who have died. There are sheets at the back of the church attached to envelopes in which you can place on the Altar of those for whom you wish to be remembered at all Masses in November together with any donations.

**120th Anniversary Parish Celebration – Call for Contributions:** As we joyfully prepare for the parish's 120th Anniversary, we kindly invite all parishioners to support our celebration through donations. We are collecting items such as food, drinks, plastic cups, spoons, and any other materials that will help make the occasion a success. Sheets have been placed at the back of the church for anyone wishing to indicate what they would like to contribute. Kindly write down your name and chosen item. **Please note that the deadline for submitting your contributions is next Sunday.** Thank you sincerely for your generosity and support as we prepare for this joyful celebration. May God continue to bless our parish family.

**Weekday Masses Next week:** There will be no weekday masses both in the parish and the British Home next week.

**Fr Celestine away on retreat** the whole of next week. Send email to the parish office if there is an emergency that needs urgent attention.

**A Day for Holy Souls:** Are you curious about purgatory and the souls of the dead? Would you like to know what praying for the dead is all about? Come for this day of catechesis and prayers for holy souls today **16th November 2025**, starting with **11am mass to 4:30pm**. See flyers at the narthex.

**A LEGION OF MARY SOCIETY:** We are delighted to announce that we intend to start a *Legion of Mary Society* in our parish. This will be a beautiful opportunity for both **children** and **adults** to grow in faith through prayer, especially the **Rosary**. **Children** will gather to pray together, and adults will also have their own prayer meetings as part of this apostolic and devotional work. If you feel called to be part of this spiritual family, please write your name and contact details on the **sign-up sheet placed at the back of the church**. Let us entrust this initiative to the loving care of Our Blessed Mother, and may she guide us as we journey together in faith.

**Please pray and fast** for the end of abortion and euthanasia on Monday 17th November. See poster at rear of Church. These days seem quite dark, what with Parliament voting to partly decriminalise abortion and voting to legalise euthanasia. Please invite others to join us in praying and fasting for life, via this link, <https://www.facebook.com/events/828656872884422>

**SAINT CARLO ACUTIS RELICS TOUR AND EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBITION, St Andrew's RC Church, 45 Brook Road, Thornton Heath:** A free Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition until 25th November and veneration of the Saint's relics on 22nd and 23rd November.

**Youth Day - Southwark Catholic Youth Service (Ages 10-14)** Saturday 22nd November, 11:00am to 5:30pm at St. John Fisher School, Chatham, Kent. A day of faith, fun, and friendship. The day will include ice-breakers, a talk, question-box, pizza lunch, football and crafts, Adoration, and Mass. Register [www.tinyurl.com/yday22nov](http://www.tinyurl.com/yday22nov). For other dates and details of other events go to [www.tinyurl.com/scys1](http://www.tinyurl.com/scys1)

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### PARISH MINISTRY

<b>Saturday 15</b>	Vigil, 33rd Sunday
6:30pm	Deceased Glass Family
<b>Sunday 16</b>	33rd Sunday Ordinary Time
9am	Maria Moniz, Private Int
11am	Private Intention
<b>Monday 17</b>	Feria
9:30am	No Mass
<b>Tuesday 18</b>	Feria
6:00pm	Adoration
7:00pm	Holy Souls
<b>Wednesday 19</b>	Feria
9:30am	Beatrice Onyebuchi RIP
<b>Thursday 20</b>	Feria
11am @ BH	Holy Souls
<b>Friday 21</b>	Feria
9:30am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 22</b>	Vigil, Christ The King
6:30pm	Arisdide & Rosalie Damade RIP
<b>Sunday 23</b>	Christ the King Sunday
9am	Vera DeSouza RIP
11am	Gomez Blanquiere RIP

### READERS:

	15th/16th	23rd/24th
<b>6:30pm</b>	Ann Doe	Preetha
<b>9am</b>	Brenda	Savio
<b>11am</b>	Azariah/Marie-France	Munachi/Chiebuka

### Eucharistic Ministers

<b>6:30pm</b>	Russell	Ann Doe
<b>9am</b>	Albertina	Lawrence
<b>11am</b>	Yvonne	Kereine

### Church Cleaning

Justine/Justina	Catherine/Hugo/Noelie
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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!**