



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-

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19 April 2026

Parish Newsletter

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER(A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, from page 259

First Reading: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14,22-33.

Responsorial Psalm: Oh Lord you will show me the path of life:Psalm16 (15):1-2a,5.7-8.9-10.R 11a

Second Reading: A reading from the First Letter of St Peter 1:17-21.

Gospel: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35

Today's Gospel presents one of the most beautiful resurrection stories, the journey to Emmaus. Two disciples are walking away from Jerusalem, *walking away* from hope, away from community, away from the place where God had been at work, because their expectations had been shattered. "We had hoped..." they say. That sentence carries deep disappointment. They had hoped Jesus would redeem Israel, but now He is dead. For them, the story is over. And yet, it is precisely at that moment, when hope is fading that Jesus draws near and they did not recognise Him. Does this not happen in our lives? Sometimes, in our own lives, we too walk with heavy hearts. We carry disappointments: prayers that seem unanswered, plans that did not work, relationships that hurt, struggles in our vocation or work. And like the disciples, we may say quietly, "I had hoped..." but the Gospel reminds us that even though "we had hoped", even though we do not recognise him sometimes, Christ is always walking with us. First, Jesus listens. He allows them to pour out their confusion and sadness. Then He begins to interpret the Scriptures, helping them see that suffering was not the end, but part of God's plan. Their hearts begin to burn within them. Truly, Christ meets us through His Word. When we listen to Scripture, especially in difficult moments, something changes within us. Light begins to enter our confusion. Then comes the turning point, the breaking of bread. At table, Jesus takes, blesses, breaks, and gives. In that familiar action, their eyes are opened. They recognise Him, not on the road, not in the explanation, but in the breaking of the bread. And again, truly, Christ reveals Himself fully in the Eucharist. Every Mass is our Emmaus. We come with our burdens, our questions, our tiredness. We listen to the Word. And then, in the Eucharist, our eyes are opened, Christ is truly present. And what happens next? Immediately, the disciples get up and return to Jerusalem. The same road they walked in sadness, they now travel with joy. The same people who said, "We had hoped..." now proclaim, "The Lord has risen indeed!" And truly, when we encounter Christ, he transforms us into witnesses. Dear friends, this Gospel invites us to reflect if there are there areas in our life where we are "walking away" in discouragement? If we allow Christ to walk with us through His Word? If we truly recognise Him in the Eucharist? As a parish community, especially as we continue to give thanks for God's faithfulness in our journey this message is timely. The risen Christ is not distant. He is present: in our struggles, in His Word, in the Eucharist, and in one another. Today, let us ask for the grace of the disciples of Emmaus: hearts that burn when we hear His Word, eyes that recognise Him in the breaking of bread, and courage to return and proclaim that He is truly risen. Amen.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

Pope's April prayer intention: For priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer

PARISH NOTICES

Proposed Reduced Summer Mass Schedules: Due to shortage of supply priests during Summer time, the diocese is advising all parishes re-schedule Mass times, in order to enable one priest to cover more than one parish. Details of how it will affect us will be published next month. The schedule will start each year on the 3rd weekend in July, (this year 18/19) and continue to include the first weekend in September (this year 5/6) for uniformity throughout the Archdiocese.

A Day with Mary Pilgrimages: Pilgrimage to Fatima (8 July to 15 July 2026) Closing date 28 April 2026. Pilgrimage to Italy (1 September to 10 September 2026) Closing date 23 June 2026. Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 11th, St George's Cathedral: Celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk with your names, address, parish and anniversary you are celebrating

Thinking about getting married: The Engaged Encounter marriage preparation courses are held over a weekend or over a series of online sessions. Couples receive a certificate of attendance normally required by the priest officiating at their wedding. For more information please <https://engaged-encounter.org.uk/> Our next preparation is online on 9th and 10th May, join us for a journey of discovery and celebration

Train and Volunteer as a Relationship Counsellor with Marriage Care (CRC): The Next Certified training course will begin in March 2027 with a deadline of 30th June 26 for applications. Please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk for further information and costs.

CAFOD: Stand with Sudan. Give monthly. On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help: "So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger, and disease. That is why today, I'm asking you to consider setting up a monthly gift to support families who are fleeing the violence – with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: we will not abandon you, we will stand with you until peace is restored." Donate at cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) - Discerning God's Call in your life 15th - 17th May, Liverpool: The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to live alongside the religious community and to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org. To register: <https://bit.ly/Vocation2026>

Rosary for Life 2026: Archbishop John is inviting all parishes to join him in praying the Rosary for Life throughout May. Each week will focus on a different theme: abortion, war & peace, disabled people, and the elderly. We will send parishes the reflections - in video and audio format - plus prayer intentions suitable for use as Bidding Prayers in advance.

APRIL	TIME	MASS	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 18	8:30pm	Vigil, 3rd Sunday Easter	Mary Wood, wellbeing.
Sunday 19	9:00am	3rd Sunday of Easter	Francisco DeSouza RIP
	11:00am	3rd Sunday of Easter	Maria Rosa D'Souza RIP
Monday 20	9:30am	Feria	No Mass
Tuesday 21	9:39am	St. Anselm	No Mass
Wednesday 22	9:30am	Feria	Fr Celestine; wellbeing.
Thursday 23	11:00am	St George	Holy Souls
Friday 24	9:30am	Feria	Brian Marshman; RIP.
Saturday 25	6:30pm	Vigil, 4th Sunday Of Easter	Leo Murrhy; RIP.
Sunday 26	9:00am	4th Sunday of Easter	Peter Vaz, RIP
	11:00am		Pro Populo

PARISH MINISTRY:	18th/19th	25th/26th
READERS:6:30pm:	Preetha	Liane
9:00am:	Elisa	Kene
11:00am:	Anne-Lise/Isabelle Ramos	Marie-France/Mitchell
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:		
6:30pm:	Jenny	Russell
9:00am:	Albertina	Lawrence
11:00am:	Yvonne	Kereine

THE SEASON OF EASTER "The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one 'great Sunday'.

CYCLE OF PRAYER - Intentions for Eastertide:

Vocations - especially on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations 4th Sunday of Easter

Survivors of Sexual Abuse - especially on Tuesday in the 5th week of Easter

Right Use of the Media - especially on World Communications Day 7th Sunday of Easter

The Church - especially at Pentecost

Human Work - especially on 1st May, St Joseph the Worker

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!