



ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD-

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15 FEBRUARY 2026

Parish Newsletter

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

TODAY'S MASS READING: Parish Mass Book, from page 133

1st Reading (Is 15: 15-20) **2nd Reading** (1Cor 2: 6-10) **gospel** (Mtt.5: 17-37)

Readings Next Sunday: 1st

Reading (Gen. 2:7-9; 3:1-7). 2nd

Reading (Rom5: 12-19). Gospel

Today's Gospel continues Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and it may sound demanding at first. Jesus says, *"I have come not to abolish the law but to fulfil it."* Then He raises the standard even higher: it is not enough simply to avoid murder; we must deal with anger. It is not enough merely to avoid adultery; we must guard the intentions of the heart. At first glance, this can feel overwhelming. But Jesus is not trying to burden us; He is inviting us into deeper freedom. The first reading from Sirach reminds us that God sets before us a choice: life or death, faithfulness or selfishness. God does not force us. He respects our freedom. Holiness begins with small daily decisions, the quiet "yes" we give to God in ordinary moments. Every time we choose forgiveness over resentment, truth over convenience, or love over indifference, we are choosing life. What Jesus challenges today is a faith that remains only external. It is easy to measure holiness by rules alone: what I do, what I avoid, what others can see. But Christ looks deeper. He calls us to conversion of the heart. Anger, harsh words, silent grudges, hidden dishonesty these are the places where discipleship is tested. True righteousness is not about appearing good; it is about becoming whole. Saint Paul tells us in the second reading that God reveals His wisdom not through worldly power, but through the Spirit. This means that living the Gospel is not simply a matter of willpower. We need grace. The Christian life is not a project of self-perfection; it is a relationship with Christ who transforms us from within. When we allow the Spirit to guide us, the commandments are no longer heavy burdens but pathways to love. So what does this mean for us today? It means we examine not only our actions but our attitudes. How do I speak to my family? How do I treat those who disagree with me? Do my words build peace, or do they create division? Jesus invites us to integrity a life where our "yes" means yes, and our "no" means no. In a world filled with noise and half truths, simple honesty becomes a powerful witness. Brothers and sisters, holiness is not achieved through dramatic gestures but through daily fidelity. When we bring our anger to prayer, when we reconcile with someone we have hurt, when we choose purity of heart and truthfulness in speech, we allow Christ to fulfil the law within us. As we come to the altar today, let us ask for the grace to move from outward religion to inward transformation. May our hearts become aligned with God's will, so that our lives may reflect not only obedience to His law, but the love that gives the law its true meaning. Amen.

Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

Pope's February prayer intention: For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

PARISH NOTICES

Clergy Support Fund 2nd Collection 14th & 15 February: The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for parishes. You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, to donate use a Clergy Support Fund envelope available in Church, scan QR code or visit: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayer



The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 18th February, a day of fasting and abstinence. During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross every Friday evening at 6:45pm (please sign-up to lead stations at rear of church).

CAFOD Family Fast Day, Friday 27th February - "Love your neighbour as yourself". By praying, eating simply and giving you'll be supporting local experts to provide simple effective solutions to the toughest problems facing people around the world

Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral. Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary **every Friday at 5pm** throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on **Ash Wednesday (18th February) at 5pm**, and again on **Friday 6th and Friday 27th March**. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary

We Dare to Ask a five-week Lenten: Course inviting parishioners to prepare their hearts and minds to renew their Baptismal promises during the Easter celebrations. Through Baptism, we are united with Christ and given our mission to image him in our homes and communities. This proposed resource aims to contextualise our vocation within God's plan of Salvation, Christ's self-gift and the Sacramental life of the Church. While the world tempts us in all manner of ways yet by God's grace, we can turn back to him with contrite hearts to ask his mercy and forgiveness. We stand to renew our Baptismal promises: to ask for his life, his grace and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to renew and restore our covenant relationship with Jesus, that we may live in an ever-deepening union with him as his baptised son or daughter. Visit: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/we-dare-to-ask/>

Cheque Payments to the Parish: Parishioners who wish to make donations or payments to the parish by cheque are kindly asked **not** to write *St Matthew's Catholic Church* as the payee name.

Please make all cheques payable to:

Account Name: RCAS Norwood West

Account Number: [44115369] Sort Code: [60-23-19]

This will help ensure that all cheques are processed correctly and without delay.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the parish.

Parish Secretary Role: The parish will be recruiting a Part-Time Parish Secretary to assist with general administration, correspondence, record-keeping, and support for parish activities. Further details will be shared in due course. Parishioners who may be interested are encouraged to contact the parish office. Please keep this in your prayers

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**PARISH MINISTRY**

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday 14 | Vigil, 6th Sunday in Ord Time |
| 6:30pm | Holy Souls |
| Sunday 15 | 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 9am | Zena M;cGee; birthday t/g |
| 11am | Onyeka Mezie; T/g |
| Monday 16 | Feria |
| 9:30am | No Mass |
| Tuesday 17 | Feria |
| 9am | No Adoration |
| 9:30am | No Mass |
| Wednesday 18 | Ash Wednesday |
| 9:30am | Thomas Houlihan; RIP |
| 6:45pm | Chukwuma Nwokedi; birthday t/g |
| Thursday 19 | Feria |
| 11am | Holy Souls |
| Friday 20 | Feria |
| 9:30am | Holy Souls |
| Saturday 21 | Vigil, 1st Sunday of Lent |
| 6:30pm | Felicia Okoh; RIP |
| Sunday 22 | 1st Sunday of Lent |
| 9am | Agnes Fonseca; RIP |
| 11am | Maria FitGerald RIP |

READERS:

| | 14th/15th | 21st/22nd |
|------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| 6:30pm | Preetha | Ann Doe |
| 9am | Brenda | Savio |
| 11am | Melba/Nana | Munachi/Chiebuka |
| Eucharistic Ministers | | |
| 6:30pm | Ann Doe | Jenny |
| 9am | Albertina | Lawrence |
| 11am | Yvonne | Kereine |

Church Cleaning:

ORDINARY TIME BEFORE LENT: In Ordinary Time no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honoured in its fulness, especially on Sundays.

CYCLE OF PRAYER - Intentions for Ordinary Time before Lent:

Peace on Earth - especially on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Openness to the Word of God - especially on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

For Justice and Peace in the World - especially on Racial Justice Day

Christian Unity - especially during the Church Unity Octave

The Victims of Trafficking & Those who Work to Combat it - especially on 8th February

The Sick & Those who Care for them - especially on World Day of the Sick 11th February

The Unemployed - especially on the First Sunday of Lent the Day for the Unemployed

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.

Anthony Walsh RIP

Sean Mulholland RIP

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.

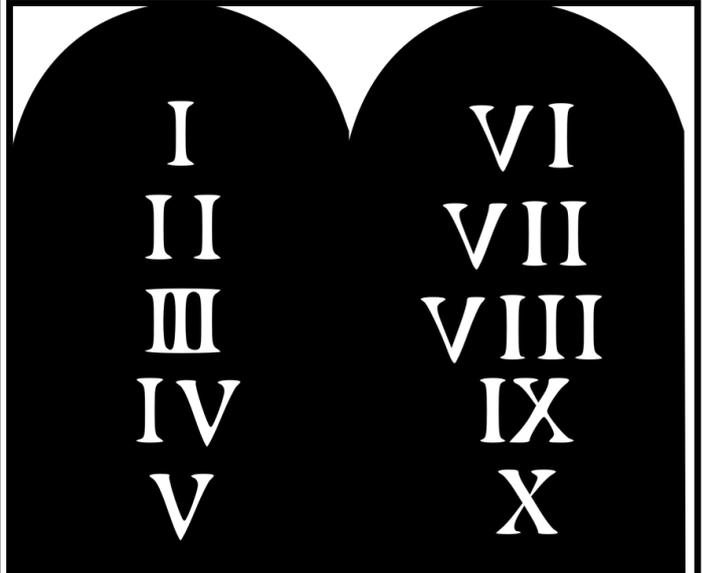
St George's Hospital: 02087253069 / 02086721255)

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!