

ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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20 April 2025

Parish Newsletter

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESSURECTION OF THE LORD (C)

TODAY'S MASS READINGS: Parish Mass Book, from page 252

1st Reading(Acts 10: 34a, 37-43). 2nd Reading (Col. 3:1-4). Gospel(Jn. 20:1-9).

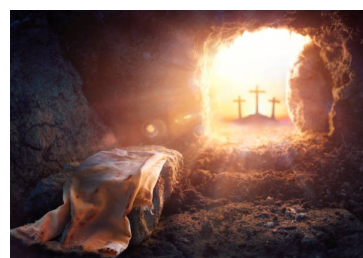
He is Risen – and So Are We!" Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. That line alone says so much.

It was still dark—not just outside, but in her heart. The One she loved, followed, and believed in was gone. Her world had collapsed. Maybe you've felt that way before: when loss hits you, when plans fall apart, when hope feels buried. But something happened that morning that changed everything—not just for Mary, not just for the disciples, but for the whole world. The stone was rolled away. The tomb was empty. And gradually, the truth began to shine through the darkness: **Jesus is alive**. The resurrection of Jesus is not just a historical fact. It's a living truth that changes how we live today. **First, Easter means hope.**

In a world that knows too much of suffering, war, injustice, and fear, Easter reminds us that death is not the end. Evil does not have the final word. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is still at work today—in every act of love, in every moment of healing, in every heart that turns from sin to grace. **Second, Easter means new life.**

When the disciples looked into the tomb and saw the burial cloths lying there, they realized something had changed. The old life—marked by fear and failure—was gone. A new life had begun. That's the invitation to all of us: to leave behind our own tombs—of sin, despair, guilt—and step into the light of God's mercy and joy. **Third, Easter calls us to witness.**

Mary ran to tell the others. The beloved disciple saw and believed. Peter, though he had denied Jesus, was given another chance. Easter turns cowards into courageous witnesses. And we're called to do the same—not just by words, but by the way we live: with faith, with joy, with love that refuses to give up. So today, we don't just celebrate an event that happened 2,000 years ago. We celebrate a Person who is alive today—Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. And because He is risen, **we can rise too**—from fear, from sin, from anything that holds us back. Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme

Email: celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

PRAY WITH THE POPE

Pope's April Prayer Intention : For the use of the new technologies: Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Prayer For Month of April

Lord, we ask for Your guidance and wisdom as we navigate through this month. Help us to see Your hand in every moment, to trust in Your plan, and to find peace in Your presence. May we be reminded of Your love and grace in the gentle rains and the warming sun.

PARISH NOTICES

Easter Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Happy Easter to each and every one of you!

Today, we gather in the radiant joy of the Resurrection. After the long journey of Lent—through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity—we arrive at this most sacred day, filled with hope and celebration. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The Resurrection is not just an event we recall—it is a living reality that transforms our lives. The empty tomb reminds us that God is always working, even in the darkest moments. When the disciples thought everything was lost, God was preparing the greatest victory. That same power is alive in our lives today.

So many of us carry burdens—worries about family, health, finances, or simply the pressures of daily life. Easter tells us that no darkness is too great for God's light. No tomb is too deep. No sin too strong. Christ's love breaks through every wall, every fear, and brings us new life.

This Easter, I invite you to let the joy of the Resurrection take root in your heart. Let it renew your faith. Let it inspire you to love more deeply, to forgive more freely, to serve more generously. Let us be people of the Resurrection—not only in church today, but in our homes, in our conversations, in our everyday choices.

As your parish priest, I want to thank you for being a part of this beautiful faith community. Your presence, your prayers, your service—all of it matters. Together, we are the Body of Christ. And together, we witness to the world that love is stronger than death.

Special thanks to those who contributed in a special way to our Lenten and Easter celebrations, our altar servers, readers, cleaners, florist, and other volunteers. Thank you to catechists who prepared our RCIA candidates. Many blessings to you all.

May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord fill your hearts today and always.

A blessed and joyful Easter to you and your families.

In Christ, our Risen Lord,

Fr. Celestine.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 19 April	Vigil of Easter Sunday
6:30pm	Pro Populo
Sunday 20 April	Easter Sunday
9am	Alvaro Collaco RIP
11am	Reynaldo Ramos RIP.
Monday 21 April	Octave of Easter
9:30am	No Mass
Tuesday 22 April	Octave of Easter
6:00pm	No Adoration
7:00pm	No mass
Wednesday 23 April	Octave of Easter
9:30am	No Mass
Thursday 24 April	Octave of Easter
11am @ BH	No Mass
Friday 25 April	Octave of Easter
9:30am	No Mass
Saturday 26 April	Vigil Divine Mercy Sunday
6:30pm	Frank Mongan RIP
Sunday 27 April	Divine Mercy Sunday
9am	Peter VazRIP
11am	Noelie Kouadio; w/being

PARISH MINISTRY

READERS:

5th/6th

6:30pm Ann

9am Eliza

11am Melba/Preston/Nana

Eucharistic Ministers

6:30pm Annabel

9am Zena

11am Patience

Church Cleaning

Chika/Patience/Juliana

We remain grateful to all our volunteers who help in different parish ministries.

Your services to the parish is immensely appreciated. May God whom you serve bless you and provide for you exceedingly, more than you can ever imagine. Amen.

Divine Mercy Service, Sunday: 27th April at 2pm. A special feast day in the Catholic Church focused on Jesus's mercy and love. A prayer service where individuals can receive complete forgiveness of sins and punishment by going to confession, receiving Holy Communion, venerating the Divine Mercy image, and committing to a life of mercy.

Claude Achille RIP: Memorial mass for Claude Achille will hold on Friday 25 April by 2pm at St Matthews Church.

Week Day Masses: There will be no weekday masses this week.

Easter Offerings: Collection on Easter Sunday is gift you give to your priest. The envelopes are available at the narthex. Thank you so much for your love and generosity.

Second Collection: Next Sunday there will be second collection for maintenance of St George's Cathedral.

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!