

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish
36 Altenburg Gardens, Battersea, London SW11 1JJ
One of the South Battersea Churches

Newsletter

Contact us:

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Parish Administrator: Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9.15am – 12.15

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Ed Elliot & Deborah Sherwood: batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Further information:

Our Parish Website: www.saintvincentdepaul-church.org or Scan the QR Code on the right

The Archdiocese of Southwark Website: www.rcaos.org.uk

Our Diocesan Directory: www.rcaos.org.uk/directory.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales: www.cbcew.org.uk



Year B

Third Week of Easter

14 – 21 April 2024

Holy Masses and Intentions for the coming week

Third Sunday of Easter	9am	Ann Sherwood RIP	
Sunday 14 April	11am	All Parishioners	
	6pm	Deceased Members of Pope Family	
Monday 15 th	No Mass		
Tuesday 16th	9.30am		
Wednesday 17th	9.30am	John & Julia Galligan RIP	
Thursday 18th	9.30am	Holy Souls	
Friday 19th	9.30am		<i>St Alphege, Martyr</i>
Saturday 20 th	11am	Confessions	
Fourth Sunday of Easter	9am	Holy Souls	<i>(St Anselm)</i>
Sunday 21 April	11am	All Parishioners	<i>[Family Mass]</i>
	6pm	Deceased Members of Pope Family	

Coming up - Please Support two important aspects of the life of our local Church

- **Priest Training Fund *Second Collection*, on Sunday 21 April.** Our Archdiocese is blessed to have five men in formation for the Priesthood, with a further three expected to start in the autumn. By supporting this collection, you will directly help the formation of the men who have said "Yes!" to a calling to the Catholic Priesthood. The collection takes place on 'Good Shepherd Sunday' next weekend, so **please take the special envelope you will be offered as you leave Mass.**
- **On Sunday 28 April** (following St George's Day): there will be a **Second Collection** at each Mass to support the **upkeep of our Cathedral Church of St George. St George is the patron of our diocese and Cathedral.** By donating, you will not only help maintain our Mother Church, but also support its wonderful music tradition, youth and social outreach, as well as keeping it open daily for worship and prayer – there will be a special Donation envelope offered to you on Sunday 21st. Do pay the Cathedral a visit sometime, if you have not yet done so.

Eastertime Evening of Reconciliation and Mercy

We warmly invite you with your family and children to join us for another **Evening of Reconciliation and Mercy on Thursday 2 May at 7.30pm.** Come to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), and enjoy a moment of peace, prayer and music. **'Come back to me with all your heart'.** Provision will be made to care for your younger children while you receive the Sacrament of reconciliation. **If you came to our previous services, come again this time. If you enjoyed the experience, invite others to come with you. If you couldn't come before, come along this time.**

Funeral of Fr David Standley RIP. Fr David was my predecessor here as Parish Priest, before his retirement in 2011. He died just before Easter. His Funeral will be on **Thursday 25 April at 10am, at St George's Cathedral**, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HR. The Cathedral is a short walk from Lambeth North Underground Station (Bakerloo Line); London Waterloo and Elephant & Castle station are also nearby, within 10-15 minutes' walk. Numerous buses serve the area, including the 344 from Clapham Junction. (Unfortunately, Fr David's funeral coincides with that of a former close colleague, which I shall be attending that morning in Devon).

Are You Looking for More in Your Catholic Life?

The 'Life in the Spirit Seminars' have been an effective programme used in the Catholic Church for over 50 years to bring people to a deeper relationship with God and an understanding of the charisms of the Holy Spirit. This year two opportunities are offered which you might wish to consider Joining:

- the series of seminars will be run at Saint George's Cathedral (8pm to 9.30 pm on Tuesdays, starting 23rd April until May 28th – with a retreat day on Saturday 18th May);
- in addition, St Vincent's parishioner, Stuart Edwards, is also offering to run a small group in his home following the same talks. This group will meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings starting 24th April.

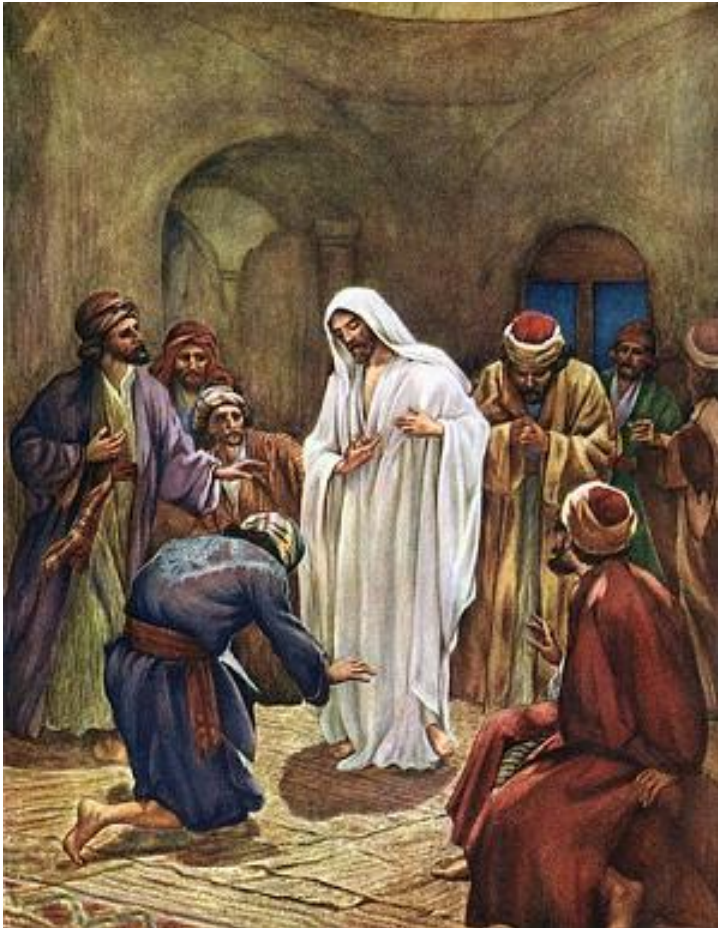
Those who wish to attend the Cathedral sessions, please register at bit.ly/LISS2024. Those interested in meeting at Stuart's home, please contact Stuart personally for details at ste7474@icloud.com

Diocesan Youth Events

Youth Day (10 - 14-year olds) at St George's Cathedral, Saturday 11 May from 11am. £5 per child (£8 per family), payable on the day (and including lunch and dinner). During the day there will be a range of opportunities, from learning more about the Catholic faith through catechesis and adoration. to fun with friends through crafts and sport. All are welcome. For more information and to book, visit: [this web page](#).

Young Adult Events: St George's Cathedral hosts a monthly Young Adult Mass at 6:00 pm on the first Sunday of every month, followed by a social gathering (for those aged 18+). There are also weekly events and socials on Thursday evenings. Details can be found on the [RCAOS website](#), Facebook, and Instagram @stgeorgesya.

Flame 2025 Flame is the largest Catholic youth event in the UK, featuring guest speakers, award-winning musicians, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, and much more! The event is open to those from school year 9 to university age. The Archdiocese has purchased a block booking – book at www.tinyurl.com/flame25



Lord, open our minds and hearts to understand you are the full meaning of the Holy Scriptures!

What are the Holy Scriptures? What place should they have in our lives? What is their true significance? This Sunday's Mass Readings particularly invite us to reflect that **God truly speaks to us in the Scriptures.**

Sunday's Gospel passage again takes us back to the end of the first Easter Day. The eleven apostles had hidden away in Jerusalem when two other disciples burst in to tell the others their news: as they had been making their way to Emmaus, downcast at Jesus' death, he himself had joined them like a stranger. Excitedly, they recounted how everything had changed – from being downcast their hearts had

William Brassey Hole 1846-1917, Jesus appears to the Disciples, published in his 1906 Book, The Life of Jesus: 80 Pictures.

begun to burn within them, as he had opened up the full meaning of the Scriptures to them while they walked along. They had finally begun to grasp that the Scriptures were really centred on all that had happened to him, as he had foretold while among them. They also told the others how Jesus had broken the bread with them, and they had then recognised him, really risen, their Lord.

As this was going on, Jesus himself also appeared among this excited group. Recognising their agitation and confusion, he first showed them his hands and feet. Then, for them all, he *'opened their minds to understand the Scriptures'* (Luke 24, 45).

The First Reading (Acts of the Apostles) shows Saint Peter preaching, after the coming of the promised Holy Spirit at Pentecost; and he was now explaining the Scriptures to his hearers. He told them of Jesus' betrayal, death and rising, going on to teach them that *'this was the way God had foretold, when he said through all the prophets that his Christ would suffer'* (Acts 3, 18). 'Unpacking' the full meaning of the Scriptures was what the Apostles did every time they preached after receiving the Holy Spirit; they had learned this lesson the hard way from Jesus himself, and eventually took it fully to heart. Jesus' death was brutal and horrific, but had been predicted through the words of the Prophets (we think especially of Jeremiah and Isaiah). While his resurrection had at first bewildered and astonished them, it too was part of one divine plan: *'it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus'* (Acts 3, 13).

In a slightly different way, Saint John was doing the same in his Epistle (Second Reading). When he says he wrote *'to stop you sinning'*, he wants us to understand that a deep desire to keep God's commandments of love *must necessarily follow* when we truly hear and accept all that God has done for us in Jesus: *'we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's.'* (1 John 2, 1-2)

Each time we come to Mass, a significant part of our time together is spent listening to the Scriptures proclaimed. They are always *proclaimed out loud*. Whether you follow the readings using the app, or with a Missal or the leaflet, we don't gather in silence and read the passages to ourselves. These readings are God's Word *spoken* to us, so we hear them proclaimed aloud. As we listen, our prayer should be that God *will open our minds to understand these Scriptures*, especially if we do not at first perceive what they have to say to us.

At each Sunday Mass we listen to three readings. The first usually comes from the Old Testament (but in Eastertime, it is from the Acts of the Apostles); the second from the New Testament (usually one of the Epistles); and both are followed by a passage from one of the four Gospels. Between the first two readings we recite part of a Psalm to lead us into a prayerful response, for the Psalms are mostly prayers – so, this is not 'yet another' reading. **The Sacred Scriptures** (and, hence, what we listen to at Mass) **are very varied**, and were written down at different times and in different styles. The Old Testament recounts the history of God's people, or the revelation of God's Law, or the words of a Prophet, or wise sayings. The New Testament writings entirely centre on the revelation of Jesus – God's incarnate Son, his acts, teachings, Passion and glorification (in the testimony of the Gospels); his Church's beginnings under the Spirit's guidance (in The Acts of the Apostles); and how that faith in Christ reaches out to others and to us (through the Apostles' teaching, and the various Letters of Paul and others).

Only after the advent of printing were all these different writings easily gathered behind a single cover as one book. It is our belief, however, that (despite their very different ages, styles, and genres) they **form a unity**. Christian faith has always held that *together they bear one united witness* to God's one loving plan, to reveal himself to human beings and ultimately unite us in his Son. So, our Sunday readings *together* reveal this to us.

Here is some of what *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us about what we believe about the Sacred Scriptures (CCC 101-104): *Through all the words of Sacred Scripture, **God speaks only one single Word**, his one Utterance in whom he expresses himself completely... For this reason, **the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body. In Sacred Scripture, the Church***

constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, "but as what it really is, the word of God" (1 Thess. 2, 13). "In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them" (Vatican II, Constitution on Divine Revelation).



The Mosaic of Christ Pantocrator (c.1147), in the Apse of the Norman Cathedral of Cefalù, on the north coast of Sicily. 'Pantocrator' means 'almighty' or 'ruler of all' in Greek. Christ's right hand blesses the congregation from the apse of the church, while his left holds an open book whose pages read 'I am the light of the world: the one who follows me, does not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' (John 8, 12). It is surely significant that this message, about the light of life leading us, is shown in the form of a book. The Cefalù mosaic is one of the most beautiful of such representations of Christ the Pantocrator anywhere in the world.

So, the Scripture Readings this Sunday are an encouragement to pray about what can happen for you when you listen to them at Mass with an open heart; and particularly on that powerful teaching that **'the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body'**. Does it surprise you to hear it put like that? Never regard the Readings at Mass as a 'wordy prelude' to the part that 'really matters', the Eucharistic Prayer and the Holy Communion. **We receive the Bread of Life 'from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body'**, the Church teaches. Why? Because Jesus Christ *is* the Word of God – if you hear him speak and desire to take his words to heart, this will prepare you to recognise him and receive him with love when he offers us his very Body and Blood. And, receiving him into our hearts, through his teaching in the Gospels and the Apostles, enables us **to become more faithful disciples of Jesus**, who can bear the one whom we truly receive in Communion into the world through our lives. 'You are the witnesses to this' (Luke 24, 48).

Pray regularly that he will give us his Holy Spirit to 'open the Scriptures' for us, so that we may hear Jesus Christ the Word speaking to us and be changed by him.

Intentions for our Easter Prayer

Pray for Peace. Please pray fervently for a real and lasting ceasefire in the Holy Land, and a lasting peace with justice for all who live there – for an end to the the starvation, killing, wounding, and trauma of innocents, and the terrible and unnecessary destruction of people's homes and livelihoods in Gaza.

Pray also for peace with justice for Ukraine, and an end to Russia's violent and unjust war: for all who have died, been injured, or are bereaved; for Ukrainian refugees here and across Europe.

Pray for Peace in the many other troubled places across our world including: Afghanistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Cameroun, Chad, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Yemen.... and so many other places where the innocent are caught up in the violent power struggles of others.

And for Christians who are facing persecution in so many parts of the world today, notably in India, Pakistan and Nigeria, and some countries in the Far East.

Pray for the Pope's Intention in April, for women: Let us pray for the role of women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. Pray along with Pope Francis himself: just click on [the Pope Video](#).

Pray for the young children who will receive Holy Communion for the first time next month.

And for the sick and housebound: for Rosemary Awere, Mario and Mariana Cassar, Rose Egan, George Giannoukakis, Henry Holtz, Lorna Jayamanne, Joy Joseph, Betty Kilkelly, Becky Kumoji, Pamela Meade, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaure, Bernard and Iris Ramsey, Gus Twycross-Hills, Lynn Williams, and all other sick or housebound parishioners; and for parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives.

Please Support your Parish Financially

Thank you for your donations in the Easter Offering, and donations last Sunday.

- **A GIFT-AIDED BANK STANDING ORDER is the most effective way to donate regularly.** Please ask us for details.
- **Always GIFT AID YOUR OFFERING please.** Gift Aiding by UK taxpayers makes an indispensable contribution for it adds 25% to your donations from tax you already pay.
- You can **GIFT AID ANY DONATION**, including Offerings for Masses, as long as you indicate your wish to do so: by using a special Gift Aid envelope and include your contact details (find them in the containers on the Church wall); and you can register your card donations for Gift Aid when using the Card Readers.
- To **GIVE DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT** (please use your surname as the reference, particularly to ensure Gift Aid), the **BACS details** you require are:
 - Sort Code:** 50-21-01 Nat West, Clapham Junction Branch
 - Account Number:** 82117209
 - Account Name:** RCAS Battersea Altenburg Gardens
- **Use the CONTACTLESS CARD READERS** as you enter or leave Mass, but **PLEASE** also **Gift Aid**. Register your card the first time; if using the same card in the future, you usually only need to have done so once.
- You can **DONATE DIRECTLY using the Parish [JustGiving page](#)** (also on our website); **please Gift Aid any donation.**
- We have a **'DONATE BUTTON' on our website** allowing you to donate directly. **This, too, can be Gift-Aided.**
- If you **SHOP ONLINE** and start out from our **[Easyfundraising Page](#)** you can raise donations for the parish from some 4700 online retailers *at no additional cost to you.*

*May God bless you and all your loved ones during Eastertime,
Fr Tim*