

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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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 *Sixth Week of Easter* 5 – 12 May 2024

The Ascension of The Lord

*40 days after the Lord's Resurrection, we celebrate his Ascension to the Father this week.
This great Feast is a **Holyday of Obligation** for Catholics – we have **two parish Masses:**
a Vigil Mass on **Wednesday evening at 7pm**, and a Morning Mass on **Thursday at 9.30am**.
I hope you will be able to join in one of those, or in a Mass near where you work.*

World Communications Sunday: Sunday 12 May, following the Feast of the Ascension is a day to pray that the Gospel Message, which has changed our own lives, may reach all people today, and **to assist this crucial work by generously supporting the second collection** which will be taken on that day.

Holy Masses and Intentions for the coming week

Sixth Sunday of Easter	9am	All Parishioners
Sunday 5 May	11am	Lis and David Martin's Intentions
	6pm	
Monday 6 th	No Mass	
Tuesday 7 th	9.30am	
Wednesday 8 th	9.30am	Canon Peter Wilkie RIP
Wednesday 8 th	7pm	Ascension Vigil Mass
<i>The Ascension of The Lord</i>		<i>[Holyday of Obligation]</i>
Thursday 9 th	9.30am	Ascension Mass All Parishioners
Friday 10 th	9.30am	Fr Michael Coles RIP
Saturday 11 th	11am	Confessions
Seventh Sunday of Easter	9am	Deceased Parishioners
Sunday 12 May	11am	All Parishioners First Holy Communion Mass
	6pm	Fr David Whitehead RIP

I call you friends. Remain in my love. I chose you to go and bear fruit.

This Sunday's Readings may be found [using this link](#). During these last three Sundays of Eastertide, we are listening to parts of what we could call the *Last Will and Testament* of Jesus – his parting words, shared with his closest followers during their Last Supper. They take us deep into what he desires for his disciples, deep into the heart of everything he shared with them. Like words we might have the privilege to hear from somebody we love as they are preparing for their death, these rich words are to be treasured. Last weekend,

what Jesus wanted to say in the form of a parable, of the Vine and the Branches. This weekend we hear what he said immediately afterwards, as he explained further. He was speaking during the Last Supper, so his words also take us into the heart of what the Eucharist can be for us.

Two things to focus on, and pray about: **Jesus calls us his friends** and **tells us to remain in his love**. 'Love' is an often-misused word; but not when Jesus speaks! All he says over these final Easter Sundays concerns **true love**: the love **between the Father and him**, the **love Jesus has for us**, and **our love for him and for one another**. All are connected. How deep is this mystery of divine love, into which we have all been introduced through our baptism! God the Father himself has taken the initiative to love us – sending Jesus his Son, to make known to us *'everything [he has] learnt from the Father'*. Jesus desires to share with us something he, as the only Son of God, knows uniquely, that is **how immense the love of the Father is**. In Sunday's Second Reading, we will listen to Saint John reflecting on this mystery too, teaching that *'love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God... God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him'* (1 John 4, 7 and 9).



All over the world, the heart is a symbol for love; perhaps because it is something deep within us, and keeps us alive. In the Gospel passage last Sunday, Jesus revealed the deepest desire of his Sacred Heart – that we (his disciples) 'remain *in* him', like branches of the one vine, and so may 'bear fruit'. This Sunday he tells us explicitly that our remaining in him will be the result of his love. If we keep his commandments we will remain in his *love*, just as he keeps his Father's commandments and remains in his Father's love (John 15, 9-10). Love is also to be the 'fruit' we will bear when we remain in him. Then, Jesus tells us, **he will rejoice in us**, and **we will find complete joy** – the joy God created us and destined us for. Joy is a deep kind of happiness, not at all superficial. Imagine, **Jesus says he delights and rejoices in us** despite everything that might make us doubt it could be so!

Hearing the word 'Commandment', it might sound like Jesus is *demanding* something from us. In fact, **he calls us 'friends', not servants**, because he is sharing with us *everything* he has learned from his Father. So, he does not look for the blind obedience that might be demanded of a servant. **He 'commands' us to remain in his love** because he knows this alone will make us like him, God-like; it will be literally 'life-changing'; it will be true life.

Jesus knows, as we do deep down, that *true love* could never be demanded; love is either freely-given or it is not love at all. When he spoke about these things, it was just before he would show the supreme example of true love, by **'laying down his life for his friends'**. He calls us friends and loves us, even though we could never ever earn, let alone demand, such a love.

Jesus calls it a *new* commandment. In the Old Testament, the summit of God's commandments was 'love your neighbour as yourself'. But Jesus goes further: telling us to **'love one another as I have loved you'**. He continually puts his love before us in the Holy Eucharist, offering it again and again to us at Mass. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave us the Eucharist precisely in order that you and I might receive the life-changing love he offers from the Cross (as he laid down his life for his friends), and so be able to 'live in him'. If we discover how to live 'in his love', we will inevitably sense that those words 'as I have loved you' are limitless – so, we will begin to grasp that our love should really reach out to everyone Jesus himself loves.

In Sunday's First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we can see the early Church in the process of having to discover that God's love truly extends to all. When the Holy Spirit came down on the centurion Cornelius and his household, who were 'pagans', Peter understood that God was choosing those people so Peter could never deny them baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. From then on, the Catholic Church has understood that the Lord's final command as he ascended to heaven truly is all-embracing.

At this Thursday's great Feast of the Ascension (which for us is a Holyday of Obligation), we will hear his final command again: 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation' (Mark 16, 15) – go to that world that lies open in expectation (as in the background to the main scene in Garofalo's painting, below). Every disciple of Jesus is called to try to share the Good News lovingly with all those God loves. We may begin by trying to witness our joy among those we know, in the parish and in our area, but there really are no limits.



Benvenuto Tisi (Il Garofalo) 1481- 1559, The Ascension, (1510-20), Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica, Rome

As a reminder of this, the Church holds the important '**World Communications Day**' second collection next Sunday, immediately following the Ascension, and appeals at the very least for your monetary support for this vital outreach, especially through today's new media.

True love could never be merely about dutifully doing things *for* somebody. Whatever love does flows from the relationship at its deepest source. If we knew a couple who did not bother to pass time with one another we would be worried about how deep their relationship was. If we are to remain in the Lord, and bear fruit, we must spend time with him.

This week, reflect on Jesus' commandment to his friends, to love one another as he has loved you: what does that mean to you?

- Where do you find the strength to begin this journey of love?
- How deeply do you feel Jesus loves you? God, out of love for us, 'sent his Son to be the sacrifice that take our sins away'.
- What part ought prayer to play in expressing your love for Jesus, and enabling

you to love like Jesus? Jesus says 'the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name'.

- Pray for a heart to love like his Sacred Heart loves you.
- Pray to desire deeply the Lord's gift of himself in the Mass, when he comes to remain in us. And his gift of the Holy Spirit, who binds all who worship together into 'one body, one spirit in Christ'.

Diocesan Youth Events

Youth Day (10 - 14-year olds) at St George's Cathedral, next 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

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 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 May, For the formation of religious and seminarians

‘We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.’ Pray along with Pope Francis himself: just click on [the Pope Video](#).

Pray for our student parishioners who are preparing for important exams in the coming weeks.

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

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

Please Support your Parish Financially

Thank you for your donations last Sunday and in the Collection for St George’s Cathedral.

- **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*