

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	Seventh Week of Easter	12 – 19 May 2024
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World Communications Sunday: this Sunday, following the Feast of the Ascension, is a day to pray that the Gospel Message, which has changed our own lives, may be helped to reach all people today using the modern media, and you are asked to assist this crucial work by generously supporting the **second collection** which will be taken at Mass.

<i>Holy Masses and Intentions for the coming week</i>			
Seventh Sunday of Easter	9am	Deceased Parishioners	
Sunday 12 May	11am	All Parishioners	First Holy Communion Mass
	6pm	Fr David Whitehead RIP	
Monday 13 th	No Mass		
Tuesday 14th	9.30am	Mary Morrison RIP (F)	
Wednesday 15 th	No Mass		
Thursday 16th	9.30am	Deceased Parishioners	
Friday 17 th	No Mass		
Saturday 18 th	<u><i>NO Confessions</i></u>		
Sunday 19 May	9am	William Kennedy RIP (Austen)	
Pentecost Sunday	11am		
	6pm	All Parishioners	

Pray for what Jesus prayed for.

The days between Ascension and Pentecost are a time of special Prayer: they are the very first novena of prayer, when the Apostles and the Blessed Mother waited in prayer in the Upper Room. They were not waiting passively, but in anticipation that the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, would descend as Jesus promised, and give them power and gifts for mission and direct them how to continue to follow the Risen Christ. Let us, too, fill these days with expectant and prayerful hope for the gifts of this same Spirit confident, that just as the Lord worked through the disciples, he calls us his friends and invites us into a life of transformation and power. **So, pray for the Holy Spirit to touch your life afresh in the coming days.** Use them to pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us and the whole Church. You could join with others by praying, for example, the Pentecost Novena prepared in the Diocese of Baltimore this year ([details and prayers here](#)).

In the Gospel reading on Sunday we hear another part of Jesus’ long final prayer for his disciples (Chapter 17 of St John’s Gospel) – his ‘last will and testament’, or his Farewell Discourse – during the Last Supper before he offered himself for them on the Cross. Though he was speaking to the disciples, he also addresses us, and all the members of his Church. On recent Sundays, we have heard his desire to remain in us, and that we

should remain in him. And, he has given his great commandment: to 'love one another' as he has loved us, by laying down his life for the friends who do what he has commanded.

Now, the final excerpt from his prayer which we hear this weekend (and, also, the teaching from Saint John's First Letter) challenges us to pray about our relationship with the Risen Lord today and all that it could be: what does he desire for us? What does Jesus pray for?

Jesus speaks of his 'joy', which he shares with his disciples as **he reveals what we shall become when we 'remain in him'.** **What is Jesus' desire as he prays for us?** That we be **'consecrated in the truth',** that we become holy through putting into practice everything he has shared with us in his teaching. His great desire is that we may be equipped to undertake the mission he wants us to carry out, and for this he empowers us by sending his Holy Spirit.



Duccio di Buonisegna, Jesus giving the Farewell Discourse to his disciples after the Last Supper (from the Maestà, 1308-1311) Siena

The heart of what Jesus taught the disciples was his teaching about prayer. He wishes those who become his disciples should **pray to God as 'our Father'**, just as he does – so we obediently follow his teaching and pray 'Our Father' daily, above all at Mass. In his Farewell Discourse, **he also prays** that we may be true to the Father's name so **that we become one, as he and his Father are one.** Of course, the relationship of Jesus with God his Father is utterly unique, he alone is the eternal Son of God. Yet his manifest desire is that we too (all his followers, all his disciples) become one with the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit, as they come and make their dwelling within us. You and I have been created for this unimaginable closeness between God and ourselves.

He is praying for the Church, his Body, of which we are parts. Unity with the three persons of the Blessed Trinity means we are united with all who belong to God. Through being united with the Blessed Trinity, we will be empowered to become Jesus' witnesses in the 'world'. Hence disunity among Christians is such a grave matter – it flies in the face of Jesus' Great Commandment, of that unity in love he desires for his followers. It contradicts the witness we hope to give. So, in this week we Christians should again pray for Christian Unity.

Jesus sends his disciples (us) 'into the world'. **His prayer is that we will accept this mission he gives us,** to share the truth Jesus has shared with us. As he did on Ascension Day, before he ascended to his Father, Jesus commands us to do what his Father had sent him to do: to help everyone know the 'truth', the truth about God and his forgiving, fatherly love for all. If we have inwardly 'seen' this truth, we will be able to testify 'that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world' (1 John 4, 14).

After the Ascension, Jesus does 'not leave us orphans.' At every Eucharist, we gather to celebrate the truth of his promise, that he really is 'with us always', feeding us with his Body and Blood, present in and among us, praying for us. **His prayer is that when we discover this is so, we become convincing witnesses.** This mission is integral to why the Father sent him among us, why Jesus gathered followers to himself, why he forms us by his Holy Spirit into the community that is his Body in the world today, the Church.

Diocesan Youth Events

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 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 this Sunday.

And for our sick and housebound: Rosemary Awere, Ambrose Caldecott, 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, and all other sick or housebound parishioners; and for all our parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives.

Please Support your Parish Financially

- **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*