



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

## Newsletter

### Contact us:

**Parish Priest:** Monsignor Timothy Galligan: 020 7228 2121; Email: [batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk)  
**Parish Pastoral Assistant:** Brother Paulin Meba SDB: Email: [paulin.meba@Salesians.org.uk](mailto:paulin.meba@Salesians.org.uk)  
**Administrator:** Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; [batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk) Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.15am – 12.15pm.  
**Parish Safeguarding Representatives:** Ed Elliot & Deborah Sherwood: [batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

### Further information:

Our Parish Website: [www.saintvincentdepaul-church.org](http://www.saintvincentdepaul-church.org) or Scan the QR Code to the right  
The Archdiocese of Southwark Website: [www.rcaos.org.uk](http://www.rcaos.org.uk)  
Our Diocesan Directory: [www.rcaos.org.uk/directory](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/directory).  
The Catholic Church in England and Wales: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)



Year C

## The Fifth Week of Lent

6 – 13 April 2025

### Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

<b>Sunday 6 April</b> <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	John & Margaret Robinson RIP
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	All Parishioners
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Canon John O'Toole RIP
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Fr Eric Spencer RIP
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Lucy Norris RIP (F)
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>		Fr Philip Dyson RIP
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Fr Donald Clements RIP
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Holy Souls
	<i>After Mass: Stations of the Cross</i>		
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Confessions</b>	
<b>Sunday 13 April</b> <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion</i>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Ann Sherwood RIP
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Mass</b>	Canon George Grady RIP (F)
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>	All Parishioners

**Time, Talents and Treasure:** THANK YOU to everyone who took the time at last Sunday's Masses to complete the Volunteering and Giving forms. The response has been encouraging.  
If you were not here and missed this, please ask after Mass for the special leaflets we distributed on recent Sundays.

**Holy Week and Easter** are the climax of the Christian year. In the special Services, the Liturgy of the Word is particularly important and rich.

If you are one of our regular Readers, or might like to volunteer to assist, please sign up on the sheets at the back of Church. PLEASE sign your name next to EVERY Service you will be attending – you will be allocated where the need is greatest, and be notified.

The Easter Vigil Readings are a high point in the celebration of the Easter Vigil. In order to assist priests and people in managing these readings, Fr Adrian Graffy has prepared commentaries on each of them. Go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Click on Scripture Readings, and follow the links.

**Maundy Thursday Washing of Feet** We need volunteers who would like to participate in this significant symbolic action during the Holy Thursday Liturgy. Please speak to Fr Tim or email if you would like to be one such.

**'Lenten Alms' collection for the homeless:** you can donate throughout Lent to De Paul UK, to help young people out of homelessness. Lenten Alms can be donated via our Card Readers, and in the Voluntary Lenten Alms Retiring Collection as you leave Church this Sunday.

**'Easter Offering':** please take an envelope from the back of Church, especially if you will not be here at Easter; or use the additional option available on our Card Reader.

### Did you know?

- Our Church is normally open most days from early morning until dusk – for private prayer, Stations of the Cross etc. If I am away, or returning late, it may sometimes be closed.
- You can now use our Card Readers to pay for Candles, and for Booklets and Newspapers.

### Please note the times of our Holy Week and Easter Services

We celebrate Our Lord's Death and Resurrection by journeying with him through Holy Week to Easter:

- **Holy Thursday (17 April):**      **8pm**    **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** *with Watching until 10pm.*
- **Good Friday (18 April):**      **10am**    **Stations of the Cross, especially for Children**  
   **3pm**    **CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION**
- **The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (Saturday 19 April):**  
   **9pm**    **EASTER VIGIL Mass**
- **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection:**  
   **(20 April)      9am & 11am EASTER MORNING MASSES**  
   *NO Evening Mass on Easter Sunday*

**The Good Friday Ecumenical Walk of Witness** gathers before 1030 outside St Michael's Church, Cobham Close, SW11 6SP (by Wandsworth Common), walking along Northcote Road to end near the London & Southwestern Railway Pub at Clapham Junction. There are songs and readings at stations *en route*. **Please go along and join in** (even after it has started) – **in the past our Parish has often provided the largest group of participants.**

### Receiving Communion 'under both kinds' (continued)

Some principal elements of our faith about the Holy Eucharist were outlined in the last Newsletter. Now, we continue that reflection, and also look at the practical consequences for how we receive Holy Communion.

**It is crucial that anybody who chooses to receive Holy Communion is aware that it is far more than a mere reminder of the Last Supper.**

**What we receive in Holy Communion is what Jesus promised in his words at the Last Supper**, which are solemnly repeated at every Mass: *'This is my Body, which will be given up for you', 'This is ... the Blood of the new and eternal Covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many'*. We receive them because he commanded us to *'Do this in memory of me'*. **The Holy Eucharist is Christ's true and abiding presence** with his people, his Church.

- **He offers himself in Sacrifice for us** on the Cross: *'My Body which will be given up for you', 'My Blood poured ... out for you ... for the forgiveness of sins'*, and in the Mass unites us to his Sacrifice.
- **Jesus feeds and nourishes us with his very self**, giving his life to anyone who worthily receives his Body and Blood in Holy Communion.
- When we respond 'Amen' when receiving Holy Communion, we say 'Amen' to what he makes of us, **'one Body, one Spirit in Christ'** (Eucharistic Prayer 3). Together, we become the Body of Christ through his presence within us.
- The Church teaches that whichever way we may receive Holy Communion (the 'Sacred Host', 'the Precious Blood' from the Chalice, or both), **we truly receive Christ entire, 'his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity'**. Even though Holy Communion 'under both kinds' has been in abeyance, and may not always be possible, you truly and entirely receive Jesus Christ sacramentally when you receive the Sacred Host.

**Reverence** As long as the Eucharistic species remain, Jesus is truly present in them. Hence, we show signs of reverence to express that this is truly our belief. Everything we do in the Church, and in the Eucharistic Liturgy, is intended to give expression to this faith. Hence:

- After the words of Consecration, **the priest always genuflects** after he has held up the Sacred Host and the Chalice before the people; and again, before he receives and then distributes Holy Communion.
- Before any person receives Holy Communion, they are expected to **show a sign expressing their reverence and faith**, such as genuflecting, or bowing. And clearly responding 'Amen'.
- **We treat the Sacred Hosts and Precious Blood with utmost reverence** for they are no longer the ordinary bread and wine brought forward at the 'Offertory'. Any Sacred Hosts remaining after Holy Communion are '**reserved**' in the **Tabernacle** – for Communion for the Sick and Housebound, to be given in future Masses, and for our prayer, devotion, and adoration.
- **A light burns constantly near the Tabernacle**, to remind us of Christ's true presence there.
- **We genuflect to the Real Presence of Jesus** in the Tabernacle whenever we enter and leave Church.

**The correct words to express our Eucharistic Faith** Our Catholic faith is that, after the priest has invoked the Holy Spirit and repeated Christ's words from the Last Supper, the bread and wine that were brought forward to the Altar are no longer ordinary bread and wine:

- While retaining all the outward signs of what they were naturally (taste, appearance, perishability) their 'substance' has become Jesus Christ himself, as he promised. **They are the Sacrament of his Real Presence.**
- Therefore, it is **inappropriate** to call what is given and received in Holy Communion the 'bread' and 'wine'. This can give the impression that we think they are 'unchanged', and merely reminders of what Jesus did at the Last Supper.
- Hence, we have **special terms to express our reverence and faith**: the 'Sacred Host', 'the Precious Blood', the 'Blessed Sacrament'. We should always refer to Holy Communion in this way.

**Why take Communion 'under both kinds' then?** Sacraments are signs that point to the origin or reality of what they contain. The Church teaches that, if we receive in this way, the 'sign of the Eucharistic meal appears more clearly', and thus **the sign of Communion with the Last Supper and the 'heavenly Banquet'**:



'For in this form the sign of the Eucharistic banquet is more clearly evident and clearer expression is given to the divine will by which the new and eternal Covenant is ratified in the Blood of the Lord, as also the connection between the

Eucharistic banquet and the eschatological banquet in the Kingdom of the Father.'

**How to Receive Holy Communion** We should never come to Holy Communion casually or without praying:

- You should **never be eating** or chewing gum in Church. You are asked to **fast for at least an hour** before Holy Communion. And, when conscious of grave sin, to have made your Confession.
- Before it is your turn to receive Communion, each is asked to make a **physical action of reverence**, expressing your faith in the Holy Eucharist – a Genuflection for those who can do so or at least a bowing of your head.
- If you receive the Sacred Host in your hands, they should be **clean and ungloved**.
- You **extend one hand over the other**, in the form of a cross or a 'throne' – so that the priest can place the Sacred Host into the palm of one hand and you can put it reverently into your mouth with the other. It is not taken (or 'grabbed') from the priest's hands.



- If you are receiving the Precious Blood from the Chalice, **accept the Chalice firmly with both hands**, take a sip of the Precious Blood not a large quantity, pass back the Chalice carefully to the minister ensuring that they can take it securely from you. If you feel you 'shaky' and unsure, or are holding a stick, it is better not to receive from the Chalice to avoid any spills. Communion from the Chalice is only received standing.
- Our Communion with the Lord continues when you return to your seat: 'communing' with him, **make a deep, personal prayer of thanksgiving in your heart**. Remember that Jesus has just given himself to you with the deepest love for you. In such a way, you prepare to leave Mass to be an 'ambassador' for Christ in our world, bringing his love and compassion with you.

**A gradual reintroduction** We will offer Holy Communion under both kinds on Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper and at the Easter Vigil. **We will need to recruit and train more Eucharistic Ministers** before we can be sure of being able to give Holy Communion reverently under both kinds at all Masses, particularly those with larger congregations. There is currently no rota.

**Those who are already Eucharistic Ministers should arrive at Mass no less than 15 minutes before the start and speak to the Celebrant. This is a 'ministry' for the parish; we need to prepare if we are to give Communion under both kinds. If not, it cannot and will not be organised at the door with a couple of minutes to go.**

### **'On Pilgrimage' from Easter to Pentecost in our Parish and Diocese**

As part of the Jubilee Year in our Southwark Diocese, there will be a big outdoor Celebration for the whole diocese, a **Jubilee Day at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 7 June** from **10.30 am - 4.30 pm** in the grounds of the Priory.

**Sign Up now at the back of Church:** A coach has been reserved by our Parish in the hope that sufficient people wish to go, so you must book early - cost £30 for adults and £10 for children/under 18s. Payment will be required after Easter. For further details please contact [kristinabcooper@gmail.com](mailto:kristinabcooper@gmail.com) or 07972119252.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> of June will be a day of fun and faith for all the family.** It will include talks, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, Confessions, Prayer for Healing, exhibitions and fun activities for children, as well as the joy of just being outside relaxing in this beautiful historic place.

There will be performances from local singers and musicians and other special surprises! People are encouraged to bring your own picnics, but food, including a barbecue, a tea room and ice creams will be available on site (though probably with long queues). The day will culminate in a **concelebrated Mass led by Archbishop John**, who will pray a special blessing on all those present and on the whole diocese.

**In the weeks of preparation between Easter and Pentecost**, our Diocese is offering **Pilgrimage to Pentecost**, a six-session course to deepen our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The sessions will comprise pre-recorded talks, a faith testimony, and music accessible via YouTube, and an opportunity to share with others online or in person. We hope the course booklet will be available soon. If you would like to set up a group, please let us know.

The booklet will have meditations for every day between Divine Mercy Sunday until the week after Pentecost. You can follow this course on your own at home, join a group in the Parish, or join an Online Group. Currently, two groups at St Vincent's have been proposed, but if you would like to host another please see Father Tim. One group will be meeting on Wednesday evenings (contact Stuart Edwards [ste7474@icloud.com](mailto:ste7474@icloud.com)) and another on Wednesday mornings 9.30 am - 11 am (contact Kristina Cooper, as above). For further details of the speakers and to order booklets see <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/p2p>

**And ALSO during this Eastertide:**

- At 11am Mass on **Sunday 27 April** Canon Gerard Bradley will be coming to **Confirm our 11 candidates**.
- We are organising a local **Jubilee Walking Pilgrimage** with people from neighbouring parishes on **Saturday 10 May**, starting here or at Holy Ghost Parish Church. A sign-up sheet should be available very soon. *En route* there will be Mass at Holy Ghost at 10am, Adoration at Sacred Heart, Lunch at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Evening Prayer and Refreshments here in the early afternoon.
- **First Holy Communions** will be celebrated at 11am Mass on **Sunday 11 May**.

### **Intentions for our Prayer**



**Pray for Peace.** For an honest search for a just end to the Ukraine war. For peace in the Middle East: Israel has begun the war in Gaza again, and is working a campaign of destruction to intimidate and annex the Palestinian people of the occupied West Bank. Rwandan sponsored 'rebel' troops are killing thousands in the DRC in a bid to acquire precious minerals. The innocent go on suffering.

Pray fervently for lasting peace with justice for all, for an end to the starvation, killing, wounding, and trauma of innocents, and the utterly unnecessary destruction of people's homes and livelihoods.

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

And for the many Christians who in so many parts of the world continue to face persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

**Pray for the recovery to health of Pope Francis.** Join him in his **Prayer Intention for April – for the use of 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.'

**For the many victims of the earthquake in Myanmar** and for an end to the Burmese government's violence against its own people.

**For our youngsters preparing for Confirmation** at the end of this month, and **the children preparing for First Holy Communion** in May; and that in the future their families will continue to support their growth in faith and attendance at Mass.

**For all who are sick and housebound, particularly:** Rosa Antonini, Mario and Mariana Cassar, Brian and Bridie Connolly, Rose Egan, George Giannoukakis, Lorna Jayamanne, Joy Joseph, Betty Kilkelly, Becky Kumoji, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaure, Iris Ramsey, Vincenzo Robilotta, Gus Twycross-Hills, Angela Wells, Monica Wisdom, and all other sick or housebound parishioners; and for parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives.

Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Bernard Ramsey, who a week ago.

**A Parish Online Prayer Group meets weekly on Wednesday evenings – would you like to join them?**

Parishioners join together for about half an hour on Zoom. Please contact Marina for the Zoom link on 07568 133368.

**Your Parish needs your generous support more than ever**

*Thank you for your recent donations to our parish.*

- **The most efficient way to donate regularly is with A GIFT-AIDED BANK STANDING ORDER.** Please ask us for details, or use the **Parish Pledge Form on our website** [using this link](#). To **GIVE DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT** (please use your surname as the reference, particularly to ensure Gift Aid), you require these **BACS details:**

**Sort Code:** 50-21-01 Nat West, Clapham Junction Branch

**Account Number:** 82117209

**Account Name:** RCAS Battersea Altenburg Gardens

- **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 - [use this link to register](#). You can **GIFT AID ANY DONATION**, including Offerings for Masses. Just make sure to indicate your wish to do so, by using a special Gift Aid envelope and including your contact details (find the envelopes in the containers on the right-hand Church wall). You should register all card donations for Gift Aid when using the Card Readers.
- **Use the CONTACTLESS CARD READERS** as you enter or leave Mass, but remember to **Gift Aid each Card you use**. Register **each card** the first time. If you use the same card in the future, you usually need only register once.
- You can **DONATE DIRECTLY using the Parish JustGiving page** (also on our website); **please Gift Aid donations.**
- There is a **'DONATE BUTTON' on our website** allowing you to donate directly online. **This, too, lets you Gift-Aid.**
- When you **SHOP ONLINE**, and start first from our [Easyfundraising Page](#), you can raise donations for the parish from some 8000 online retailers. There is *no additional cost to you*.

Whenever you're doing a food shop online, use #easyfundraising! You can raise regular donations for Saint Vincent de Paul Church, Battersea with popular supermarkets including Tesco, Morrisons, ASDA, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Iceland and Ocado - at no extra cost to yourself! If you're not supporting us on easyfundraising yet, please sign up

here: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/saint-vincent-de-paul-church/x3ti3n/c2s/618TPvFU/CE024/facebook/>

**Thank you to those who have recently used this.**

*God Bless you and all your loved ones, Fr Tim*