



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
Parish Pastoral Assistant: Brother Paulin Meba SDB: Email: paulin.meba@Salesians.org.uk
Administrator: Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk **Parish Office closed this week.**
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 to 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 C

Second Week of Easter

27 April – 4 May 2025

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 27 April	9am	Antonio (RIP) and Rosa Antonini	
Second Sunday of Easter	11am	Our Confirmation candidates	[Confirmation Mass]
	6pm	All Parishioners	
Monday 28 th	No Public Mass		St George (transferred)
Tuesday 29th	9.30am	Gillian Roxburgh RIP (Row)	St Catherine of Siena
Wednesday 30 th	No Public Mass		St Pius V
Thursday 1 May	9.30am	Christopher Baker RIP (Row)	St Joseph the Worker
	7 – 8pm	Service of Reconciliation and 'Holy Hour': Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament	
Friday 2nd	9.30am	Denis O'Halloran RIP (Waterson)	St Athanasius
Saturday 3 rd	11am	Confessions	Saints Philip and James
Sunday 4 May	9am	All Parishioners	
Third Sunday of Easter	11am	Francis Jayamanne RIP (Lorna)	
	6pm	Living & Deceased Members of Pope Family	

Second Collection this Sunday - to support the costs of our **Cathedral of Saint George in Southwark**

'Easter Offering': if you were away for Easter, please take an envelope from the back of Church; or use the option available on our Card Reader.

Pope Francis RIP 1936 - 2025

It is less than a week since, after weeks of illness, Pope Francis appeared in St Peter's Square for Easter. As we look back now, we can see how poorly he really was. But he was determined to be an Apostle to the end, to share the message of Christ's resurrection, and to appeal to the world for enduring peace and reconciliation. Below is his final *Urbi et Orbi* message to us, which was read on his behalf on Easter Day. Do read and reflect on it:

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

Today at last, the singing of the "alleluia" is heard once more in the Church, passing from mouth to mouth, from heart to heart, and this makes the people of God throughout the world shed tears of joy.

From the empty tomb in Jerusalem, we hear unexpected good news: Jesus, who was crucified, "is not here, he has risen" (Lk 24:5). Jesus is not in the tomb, he is alive!

Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness and truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over revenge. Evil has not disappeared from history; it will remain until the end, but it no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has power over those who accept the grace of this day.



Sisters and brothers, especially those of you experiencing pain and sorrow, your silent cry has been heard and your tears have been counted; not one of them has been lost! In the passion and death of Jesus, God has taken upon himself all the evil in this world and in his infinite mercy has defeated it. He has uprooted the diabolical pride that poisons the human heart and wreaks violence and corruption on every side. The Lamb of God is victorious! That is why, today, we can joyfully cry out: “Christ, my hope, has risen!” (*Easter Sequence*).

The resurrection of Jesus is indeed the basis of our hope. For in the light of this event, hope is no longer an illusion. Thanks to Christ — crucified and risen from the dead — hope does not disappoint! *Spes non confundit!* (cf. *Rom 5:5*). That hope is not an evasion, but a challenge; it does not delude, but empowers us.

All those who put their hope in God place their feeble hands in his strong and mighty hand; they let themselves be raised up and set out on a journey. Together with the risen Jesus, they become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and of the disarmed power of Life.

Christ is risen! These words capture the whole meaning of our existence, for we were not made for death but for life. Easter is the celebration of life! God created us for life and wants the human family to rise again! In his eyes, every life is precious! The life of a child in the mother’s womb, as well as the lives of the elderly and the sick, who in more and more countries are looked upon as people to be discarded.

What a great thirst for death, for killing, we witness each day in the many conflicts raging in different parts of our world! How much violence we see, often even within families, directed at women and children! How much contempt is stirred up at times towards the vulnerable, the marginalized, and migrants!

On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!

I would like us to renew our hope that peace is possible! From the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Resurrection, where this year Easter is being celebrated by Catholics and Orthodox on the same day, may the light of peace radiate

throughout the Holy Land and the entire world. I express my closeness to the sufferings of Christians in Palestine and Israel, and to all the Israeli people and the Palestinian people. The growing climate of anti-Semitism throughout the world is worrisome. Yet at the same time, I think of the people of Gaza, and its Christian community in particular, where the terrible conflict continues to cause death and destruction and to create a dramatic and deplorable humanitarian situation. I appeal to the warring parties: call a ceasefire, release the hostages and come to the aid of a starving people that aspires to a future of peace!

Let us pray for the Christian communities in Lebanon and in Syria, presently experiencing a delicate transition in its history. They aspire to stability and to participation in the life of their respective nations. I urge the whole Church to keep the Christians of the beloved Middle East in its thoughts and prayers.

I also think in particular of the people of Yemen, who are experiencing one of the world's most serious and prolonged humanitarian crises because of war, and I invite all to find solutions through a constructive dialogue. May the risen Christ grant Ukraine, devastated by war, his Easter gift of peace, and encourage all parties involved to pursue efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace.

On this festive day, let us remember the South Caucasus and pray that a final peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan will soon be signed and implemented, and lead to long-awaited reconciliation in the region. May the light of Easter inspire efforts to promote harmony in the western Balkans and sustain political leaders in their efforts to allay tensions and crises, and, together with their partner countries in the region, to reject dangerous and destabilizing actions.

May the risen Christ, our hope, grant peace and consolation to the African peoples who are victims of violence and conflict, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Sudan and South Sudan. May he sustain those suffering from the tensions in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, as well as those Christians who in many places are not able freely to profess their faith.

There can be no peace without freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of expression and respect for the views of others.

Nor is peace possible without true disarmament! The requirement that every people provide for its own defence must not turn into a race to rearmament. The light of Easter impels us to break down the barriers that create division and are fraught with grave political and economic consequences. It impels us to care for one another, to increase our mutual solidarity, and to work for the integral development of each human person.

During this time, let us not fail to assist the people of Myanmar, plagued by long years of armed conflict, who, with courage and patience, are dealing with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Sagaing, which caused the death of thousands and great suffering for the many survivors, including orphans and the elderly. We pray for the victims and their loved ones, and we heartily thank all the generous volunteers carrying out the relief operations. The announcement of a ceasefire by various actors in the country is a sign of hope for the whole of Myanmar.

I appeal to all those in positions of political responsibility in our world not to yield to the logic of fear which only leads to isolation from others, but rather to use the resources available to help the needy, to fight hunger and to encourage initiatives that promote development. These are the "weapons" of peace: weapons that build the future, instead of sowing seeds of death!

May the principle of humanity never fail to be the hallmark of our daily actions. In the face of the cruelty of conflicts that involve defenceless civilians and attack schools, hospitals and humanitarian workers, we cannot allow ourselves to forget that it is not targets that are struck, but persons, each possessed of a soul and human dignity.

In this Jubilee year, may Easter also be a fitting occasion for the liberation of prisoners of war and political prisoners!

Dear brothers and sisters, In the Lord's Paschal Mystery, death and life contended in a stupendous struggle, but the Lord now lives forever (cf. *Easter Sequence*). He fills us with the certainty that we too are called to share in the life that knows no end, when the clash of arms and the rumble of death will be heard no more. Let us entrust ourselves to him, for he alone can make all things new (cf. *Rev. 21:5*)!

Happy Easter to everyone!

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

This Sunday, 27 April, Canon Gerard Bradley will be joining us at the 11am Mass, to celebrate **Confirmation**. **Please Pray for our 11 candidates, that, guided by the Holy Spirit, they will continue to advance in faith and**

commitment to Jesus Christ and his Church: Alessandro, Alexandra, Benjamin, Gaspard, Ian, Jack, Jade, Josiah, Matteo, Thomas, and Trinity; and also Max de Lisle, who will be confirmed with others from his school next Sunday.

This coming Thursday, May 1st, at 7pm: we are holding a Reconciliation Service (Confessions) – it is available for all, but particularly the children who will receive their first Holy Communion in a fortnight's time. There will be Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as some readings and music. PLEASE COME along.

On Saturday 10 May, there is a local **Jubilee Walking Pilgrimage** with people from neighbouring parishes, starting here or at Holy Ghost Parish Church. *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. **A sign-up sheet is available at the back of Church.**

First Holy Communions will be celebrated at 11am Mass on **Sunday 11 May**.

Our Diocese is offering a **six-session course 'Pilgrimage to Pentecost' course**, to help deepen our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Sessions comprise pre-recorded talks, a faith testimony, and music, and are accessible via YouTube, plus an opportunity to share with others online or in person. The course booklet is now available. The booklet has meditations for every day 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. One group will be meeting on Wednesday evenings (contact Stuart Edwards 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>

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. For further details please contact kristinabcooper@gmail.com or 07972119252.

Please PAY NOW by bank transfer to the parish account (see below**). As the 'reference' put YOUR SURNAME followed by followed by the number of places, followed by Aylesford: e.g. GALLIGAN1AYLESFORD. Get as much of the word Aylesford in as possible but don't worry if it is not complete as space for your reference may be limited.

**** Sort Code: 50-21-01 Nat West, Clapham Junction Branch**
Account Number: 82117209
Account Name: RCAS Battersea Altenburg Gardens

If you need to pay by cash please give it to Kristina Cooper or Fr Tim.

June 7th will be a day of fun and faith for all the family: 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. 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.

Time, Talents, and Treasure: we have begun to share the names and contacts of new volunteers with those who organise activities in which you could start immediately. We will then be contacting those (such as Readers) who will need to arrange practices; and others who may need to get a Diocesan DBS clearance. Thank you again for taking part.

Gabriele Sedda is urgently looking for a room to rent by the end of April. If you can help, call 07909 596401

For our Prayer

Pray for Peace. For a just end to the Ukraine war. For peace in the Middle East, and an end to Israel's war in Gaza, and campaign of destruction to intimidate and annex the Palestinian people of the occupied West Bank. For peace in Sudan. And in the DRC, where Rwandan sponsored 'rebel' troops are killing thousands in a bid to acquire precious minerals. So many innocents 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.