

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)  
**Pastoral Assistant:** Brother Raphael Bhembe SDB, Email: [raphael.bhembe@Salesians.org.uk](mailto:raphael.bhembe@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: 07950 379547 [batterseaags3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaags3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) & Deborah Sherwood  
**Diocesan Safeguarding Office** and in a **Safeguarding Emergency:** 020 7261 1606 or 999; Email: [safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingoffice@rcaos.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 A**                      *The Sixth Week of Ordinary Time*                      15 – 22 February 2026  
*Ash Wednesday and Lent*

*Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week*

<b>Sunday 15 February</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Mgr Patrick Keaveny RIP (F)
<i>The Sixth Sunday</i>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	All Parishioners
<i>In Ordinary Time</i>	<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Helen Earl RIP (Row)
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	In Thanksgiving (Gladys' Intention)
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Philip James RIP (Row)
	<b>10 – 11am</b>		<b>Coffee Morning in Hall</b>
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	All Parishioners
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Deceased Secular Clergy Fund Benefactors
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>No Public Mass</b>	
	<b>7 – 8pm</b>		<b>Parish Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	
	<i>After Mass:</i>		<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>11am</b>	<i>Confessions</i>	
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	All Parishioners
<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Deceased Secular Clergy Fund Benefactors
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	

***Please support your Sick and Retired Clergy this weekend in the Clergy Support Fund Second Collection***

The elderly clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for parishes.

You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF) or scan this QR code. You can also donate by telephone in office hours (Mon-Fri **020 7960 2504**), or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes offered to you this weekend and at the back of Church.

Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.



***Coffee Morning each Tuesday 10 - 11am after Mass:*** Come and join us after the 9.30 Mass next Tuesday.

On Ash Wednesday we start our **Lenten journey of repentance and renewal at Mass**: we celebrate two parish Masses, at 9.30am and 7pm, each with the sprinkling of ashes on young and old.

**Why not make an extra effort this year and bring your children** along in the evening this once, even if it's near bedtime, to receive the ashes, making Ash Wednesday a special day for them too?

**Ash Wednesday is a special day. Catholics mark the start of Lent with a Day of Fasting** (which

means eating only one main meal) and **Abstinence** (that is not eating meat, or some similar act of penance if you are not a meat-eater). These acts of penance are for every adult Catholic (except the elderly or ill). They offer us a simple, tangible way of starting Lent in a spirit of repentance, and of our desire to make it a special time. Fasting and other acts of penance can be powerful, as followers of other religions (and even followers of the latest health advice) seem to understand better than many Catholics do!



**Lent is a time for personal renewal. Our Lenten 'journey with Christ' and the traditional Lenten Practices provide an opportunity to rediscover our call to become Holy.** How easy it is to focus on Lent's length, 40 days, and overlook how God is offering us a time filled with possibilities.

- Traditionally, Lent is celebrated with **Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving** – three practices based directly on the teaching of Our Lord in chapter 6 of the Gospel of Saint Matthew (which we always hear on Ash Wednesday). They can help us focus on our threefold relationships – with God, with ourselves, and with others.  
In these 40 days of Lent we can **imitate the time Our Lord spent fasting and praying in the desert** – like him (but with him as our companion, not alone) we might also encounter temptations, maybe even about how much we really wish to commit ourselves to him. But, lived generously, this will be a positive time through which, in the Lord's company, we will emerge strengthened and more joyful in our faith. In Lent, **we should seek above all the grace of conversion – that is, of turning to Christ and becoming more like him**, praying that our devotions and penances will open our hearts afresh to the love of Jesus Christ and to our call.
- We have a **Parish Service of Adoration and Reconciliation on FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY, starting at 7pm**. As usual, there will be some visiting priests also available for Confessions. **The whole Parish is invited to use this opportunity for repentance and reconciliation.** *It is in the Calendar for families preparing their children for their First Holy Communion, and for Confirmation.*
- **After any Friday morning Mass in Lent, we will celebrate Stations of the Cross.** There will also be a **Parish Service of Stations of the Cross and Adoration** on a Saturday afternoon before Easter (*date tbc*).
- **Lent has always been the special season for those desiring to become Christians to take the final steps on their journey to Baptism into Christ at Easter.** The readings at Lenten Masses, notably this year, are intended to inspire them to persevere and continue. In parishes across our diocese, people are beginning their final days of preparation – here, Craig Sinclair is preparing to be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. *Are there others who would like to do so in the future? Please let Fr Tim know.*
- **In these 40 days we can discover afresh what it is to be a disciple of Jesus,** what he asks from us through his teachings, especially if we listen attentively with open hearts each time we come to Mass.  
**Why not purchase a Walk with Me booklet to accompany your journey? – just £1.50.**

**So, Lent offers us the fresh spiritual air we all need.** These days will **renew and deepen our celebration of the Lord's Passion in Holy Week and the Easter Resurrection.** The Resurrection of Christ is the very centre of Christian faith and gives meaning to everything else we do. Celebrating Jesus' Resurrection is at the heart of every Mass.

In Lent, we will not find Jesus standing afar off, watching to see how we get on. As these days are a **gift to you from him**, he offers us a fresh share in **his Holy Spirit**, who gives us courage and who even **prays in us**. As Saint Paul taught, the Spirit will *help us to pray when we do not know what we should pray for* - take a look at Romans 8, 26.

Maybe Lent will be a time of testing as well, as was Jesus' own time in the wilderness. We may feel held back by our familiar habits and preoccupations. But we can discover that he is saying to you, as he so often did to those who needed him, **'Of course I want to help you! Be cured.'** *His Cross is the great sign of hope, and we shall embrace it together in six weeks' time, on Good Friday afternoon.*

**Finally, Lent is never just about ourselves.** As God's Spirit leads us to live the life of Christ more deeply, we will want to reach out to all whom Christ loves, especially those in need, and those who may be seeking witnesses to show them that there really is a God who can love them.

Paul urged the Corinthians to do everything for the *'glory of God'*, *'for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.'* **'Almsgiving'**, i.e. all the many ways we might express practical concern for others, is always part of Lenten renewal. Let God's Holy Spirit open your eyes even wider to those around you, especially to those in need.

**Our Lenten Alms collection for the homeless** enables us to share the fruits of our fasting. **Lenten Alms can be donated via our Card Readers to De Paul UK, for homeless young people.**

**Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral.** Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary **every Friday at 5pm** throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on **Ash Wednesday at 5pm**, and again on **Friday 6th** and **Friday 27th March**. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: [rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary](http://rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary)

**'Imagine' - Monthly Online Guided Prayer Sessions:** The Jesuits in Britain offer you a free monthly guided prayer session every **first Wednesday at 8pm** via Zoom, *available later on Vimeo*. [Click to get the Zoom link >>](#)

### **Unity and Hope - where can Pope Leo lead the Church? Thursday 5 March**

Join Christopher Lamb, CNN's Vatican Correspondent and the Reverend Erin Clark, writer, poet and parish priest of St Mary's C of E Church, Battersea, to discuss Pope Leo XIV's leadership in the context of world events and the importance of faith in turbulent times.

**Where:** Sacred Heart Church, Trott Street, Battersea, London SW11 3DS

**Time:** 7.00 – 8.30 pm Thursday 5 March (doors open at 6.30 pm). Refreshments available afterwards.

This is a free event, but please register at [Eventbrite](#) or scan this QR code



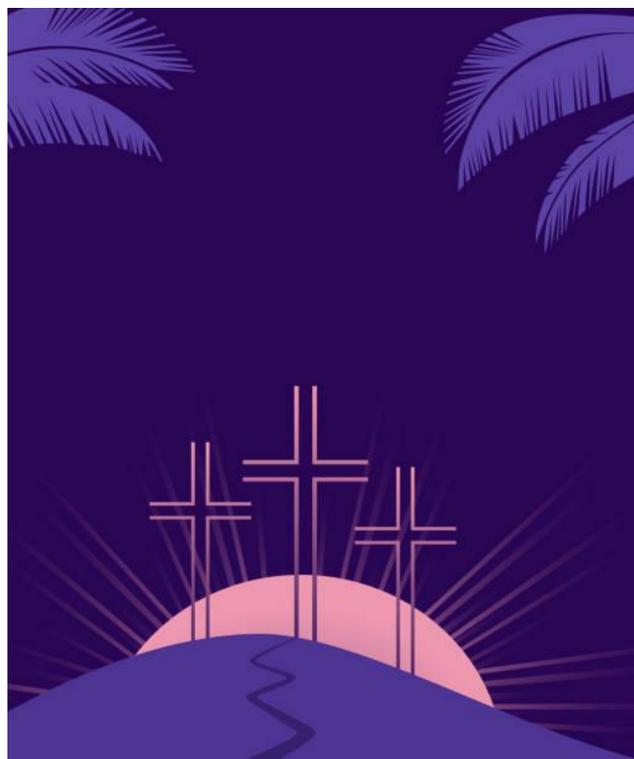
### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It's a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a **Marriage Encounter weekend retreat**, the next 2 retreats are **27<sup>th</sup> February-1<sup>st</sup> March in Swindon** and **15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May in Maidstone**, why not find out more at [wwme.org.uk](http://wwme.org.uk)

### **Pray for Peace in Troubled Times**

**Pray for Peace** along with Pope Leo and all people of good will:

- For a humane end to the violent civil war in Sudan.



- For a just and peaceful end to the Ukraine war and to all Russian aggression; and to America's new-found love of aggression.
- For lasting peace in the Middle East: a real end to Israel's war on the people in Gaza, and of its campaign of intimidation and destruction aimed at annexing the occupied Palestinian West Bank; and to all provocations of Israel by Hamas and similar armed terror groups.
- 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 and Tigray, Haiti, Hong Kong, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, Sudan, Thailand, Yemen.... and all the places where the innocent are caught up in the violent power struggles of others.

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.

And for numerous Christians in so many places who still face persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, especially Christians in the Holy Land, the occupied West Bank, Gaza, and Nigeria.

### *Other Intentions for our Prayer*

**Join Pope Leo in his Prayer Intention for February, the month of Our Lady of Lourdes and Prayer for the Sick - For children with incurable diseases:** *Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.* Pray along with Pope Leo by clicking on: <https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>

**Please pray for our young parishioners preparing for their first Holy Communion, for those preparing to be Confirmed at Easter and in May, and for Craig Sinclair who will be received into the Catholic Church at Easter.** The Confirmation Candidates have requested your prayers and posted their intentions on the Prayer Notice Board at the back of Church.

**For God's Blessing on the new Archbishop of Westminster, Richard Moth.**

**For integrity in public life.**

**For all who are sick or housebound, particularly:** Rosa Antonini, Brian and Bridie Connolly, Rose Egan, Ethna Ezechie, George Giannoukakis, Betty Kilkelly, Becky Kumoji, Gina de Lorenzi, Giuseppe and Giuseppina Morreale, Lorna Phaure, Robina Rafferty, Gus Twycross-Hills, Angela Wells, Monica Wisdom, and all other sick or housebound parishioners; and for our parishioners' elderly parents and sick relatives.

### *Your Parish needs generous financial support*

*Thank you for last Sunday's Donations to our Parish.*

**Recently, a network problem during the 11am Mass affected the use of our Card Readers to make donations – this was outside our control. Please note: there is a QR Code on a poster behind the large Card Reader that also allows parish donations. You can also donate through a 'button' on the Home Page of our Parish Website.**

- **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
- **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](#). **ANY DONATION to the Parish can be GIFT AIDED, including Offerings for Masses.** Indicate your wish to do so by using the special Gift Aid envelopes (in the boxes on the right-hand Church wall), and include your contact details.
- **Use the CONTACTLESS CARD READERS** as you enter or leave Mass, but remember you should **Gift Aid each Card you use** the first time used. If you use the same card in the future, you need usually 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**, start first from our [Easyfundraising Page](#), and you will find you can raise donations for the parish from some 8000 online retailers. There is **no additional cost to you.**