

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
Pastoral Assistant: Brother Raphael Bhembe SDB, Email: raphael.bhembe@Salesians.org.uk
Administrator: Ms Alison Boys 020 7228 2121; batterseaag@rcaos.org.uk Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9.15am – 12.15pm.
Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Ed Elliot: 07950 379547 batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk & Deborah Sherwood
Diocesan Safeguarding Office and in a **Safeguarding Emergency:** 020 7261 1606 or **999**; Email: safeguardingoffice@rcaos.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 A*The First Week of Lent*22 February – 1 March 2026

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 22nd <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	9am	Holy Mass	All Parishioners
	11am	Holy Mass	Deceased Secular Clergy Fund Benefactors
	6pm	Holy Mass	Sick and Housebound Parishioners
Monday 23rd	10am	Holy Mass	Deceased Secular Clergy Fund Benefactors
Tuesday 24th	9.30am	Holy Mass	For an end to abortion
	10 – 11am		<i>Coffee Morning in Hall</i>
Wednesday 25 th		No Public Mass	Deceased Relations of Fr Tim
Thursday 26th	9.30am	Holy Mass	Annie Earle RIP (Row)
	7 – 8pm		<i>Parish Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Friday 27th		No Public Mass	CAFOD Family Fast Day
	7 – 8pm (approx.)		<i>Service of Reconciliation (Confessions) and 'Holy Hour': Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Saturday 28 th			NO Confessions [Confirmation Retreat]
Sunday 1 March <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	9am	Holy Mass	Raymond & Catherine Bristow RIP (F)
	11am	Holy Mass	Cooper Family
	6pm	Holy Mass	All Parishioners

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

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day Appeal - Friday 27th. Please take the special envelope which will be offered to you at the end of Masses today. Next Friday you are urged to fast and give the money saved to CAFOD: your fast will support communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. You can also donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Don't just give, pray. To Gift-Aid use the envelope or scan the QR Code. Donations through our Card Readers cannot be eligible.

COME TO ME - Start Lent with the Sacrament of Confession - in the Adoration and Reconciliation Service next Friday at 7pm.

The Lord is waiting, for you to turn back to him. He invites you, and your family and children to come to adore Him in the Blessed Sacrament in prayer, to receive mercy from Him through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to enjoy some peaceful time of prayer and music. It is a chance to pray for each other. **This Service is for all**, but especially our *First Holy Communion and Confirmation families*. It is an ideal moment to start our Lent journey. **Make time to come along on Friday.**

Our Lenten Alms collection for Homeless Young People encourages 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.

Wednesday Morning Sessions for Lent - Engaging the Struggles of Your Heart

Parishioner, Kristina Cooper is hosting at her flat on Wednesday mornings 9.30 - 11.30 am, starting this coming Wednesday 25 February until 1 April, a DVD course for Lent with popular American Catholic bible teacher Jeff Cavins. The course will involve listening to a presentation, with discussion afterwards and a short time of prayer. The aim is to help us to overcome the issues that block spiritual growth, such as anger, fear, loneliness, shame etc. If you would be interested in coming please contact kristinabcooper@icloud.com or ask for her details from Fr Tim.

Help Save Lives. '40 Days for Life' peaceful prayer vigil happening this year near the abortion centre in Brixton.

Pray and fast for an end to abortion. Join the daily Prayer Vigil on the corner of Brixton Hill and Brixton Water Lane. Contact Gabriella 07745 711064

'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



The Lenten Desert and its Temptations



We follow a journey through Lent orientated by the Sunday Scriptures: The Scriptures we hear, especially this year, are very special; all are carefully chosen to speak to us of what God wants to do in us on our Lenten journey. This is particularly true for those who are preparing to be baptised as adults – the readings we hear on Sundays this year have, from very ancient times, been used to guide the catechumens to focus on what the Easter Sacraments will bring them.

On this First Sunday, Matthew gives us his account of **Jesus' forty days in the wilderness.** He was led there by the Holy Spirit, and it was a time of testing, or temptation. In this time of prayer, the devil's repeated challenges are apparently sceptical words, calling into question who he truly is: *'If you are the Son of God...'* which put before him **false ways of being the Son of God.**

Jesus dismisses him by expressing faithfully the heart of God's

Word in the Scriptures. **Let us heed the guidance they offer to us as we follow Our Lord Jesus this Lent:**

- *'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*
- *'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'*
- *And 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'*

The Lord's three temptations reveal how our own lives as sons and daughters of God through Baptism may also be menaced, by the way the tempter distorts and twists our ordinary human desires and even the Holy Scriptures, in order to undermine our trust that God really is our Father and that he loves us as his own.

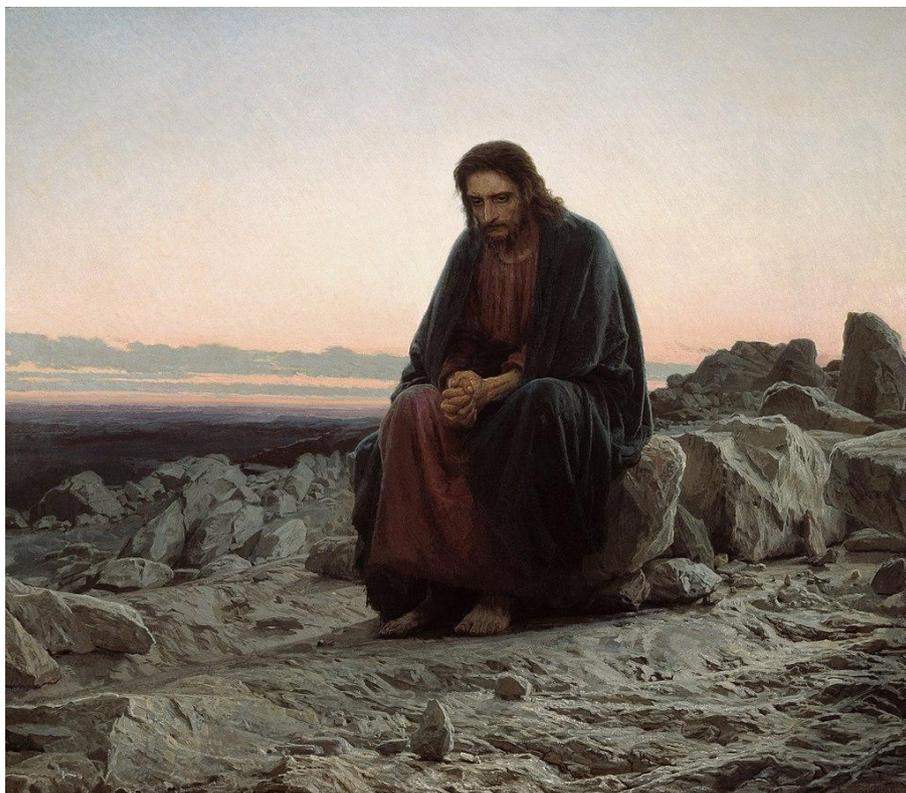
This Sunday's other readings also address **how we fit into this story of temptation and redemption: how sin affects us all**, from the choice of Adam and Eve down to us today. But, in Lent, Saint Paul's powerful words should encourage us to persevere in our own struggle with sin: he speaks about how **the effects of Christ's life of obedience** are at work saving us from sin: *'if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through*

Jesus in the Wilderness, Ivan Kramskoy, 1872, in the State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow.

that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
(Romans 5: 18-19).

On the Second Sunday of Lent, together with his closest disciples, we will be invited to glimpse Jesus' true glory as the Beloved Son, as we hear the account of Jesus' transfiguration. And we will hear, too, how God the Father is always reaching out to sinful mankind, first through his promises to the Patriarch Abraham, but above all today through Christ Jesus.

Then, on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays we will listen to three of the greatest passages in Saint John's Gospel: the story of the Samaritan woman at the well (with Jesus' gift of 'living water' to those who accept him); the account of the healing of the man born blind (to whom Jesus gives true enlightenment); and of the raising of Jesus' friend Lazarus (everlasting life is Jesus' ultimate saving gift). These promises are offered to those preparing to receive them in baptism, and to all of us who are praying in Lent for the renewal of the graces of our own baptism.



We often feel burdened with many stresses and worries – family problems, health problems, relationships, financial problems, ecological problems, social problems...

There is no better way of praying for yourself and those you love than by coming to Jesus to Adore his Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, a centuries old traditional Catholic Devotion.

Make time for a visit during Lent and experience the graces Jesus has stored up for you!

- **Each Thursday evening, 7pm to 8pm, Parish Adoration Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament**
- **NEXT Friday 27 February, 7pm to 8pm, with the Sacrament of Confession**
- **Saturday 28 March, 4pm - 5pm: Parish Service of Stations of the Cross and Adoration**

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 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 to be Confirmed, who will have a short Retreat next Saturday. The Confirmation Candidates have requested your prayers and posted their intentions on the Prayer Notice Board at the back of Church.

For the restoration of shame and integrity in public life.

For Catherine Warren's father, Denis Larkin, who has died, and the comfort of all who mourn his death.

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. **Please also pray for Ed Elliot's father, who has been in hospital after a fall.**

Your Parish needs your generous financial support

*Thank you for last Sunday's Donations to our Parish
And for your generosity in the Second Collection for the Clergy Support Fund.*

To donate Online just scan this Code. Please Gift-Aid:



- **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.**

*God Bless our Journey through Lent to Easter Joy
Fr Tim*