

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 [batterseaagsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:batterseaagsg3@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 Second Week of Lent*1 – 8 March 2026

*Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week*

<b>Sunday 1 March</b> <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	9am	Holy Mass	Raymond & Catherine Bristow RIP (F)	<i>Saint David</i>
	11am	Holy Mass	Cooper Family	
	6pm	Holy Mass	All Parishioners	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		No Public Mass	Fr John Buckley RIP	
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Fr Padraig Faughnan RIP	
	10 – 11am		<i>Coffee Morning in Hall</i>	
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>		No Public Mass		<i>Saint Casimir</i>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Fr Jim Hurley RIP	
	7 – 8pm		<i>Parish Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Fr Bernard Smith RIP	
	<i>After Mass:</i>		<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Confessions		<i>Saints Perpetua and Felicity</i>
<b>Sunday 8 March</b> <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	9am	Holy Mass	All Parishioners	
	11am	Holy Mass	Helen Sillitoe & Catherine Refoy RIP (F)	
	6pm	Holy Mass	Fr Shaun Budden RIP	

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

**CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day Appeal - Second Collection at Mass.** Please return your envelope in the Second Collection, or donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030.

**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.

**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 >>](#)

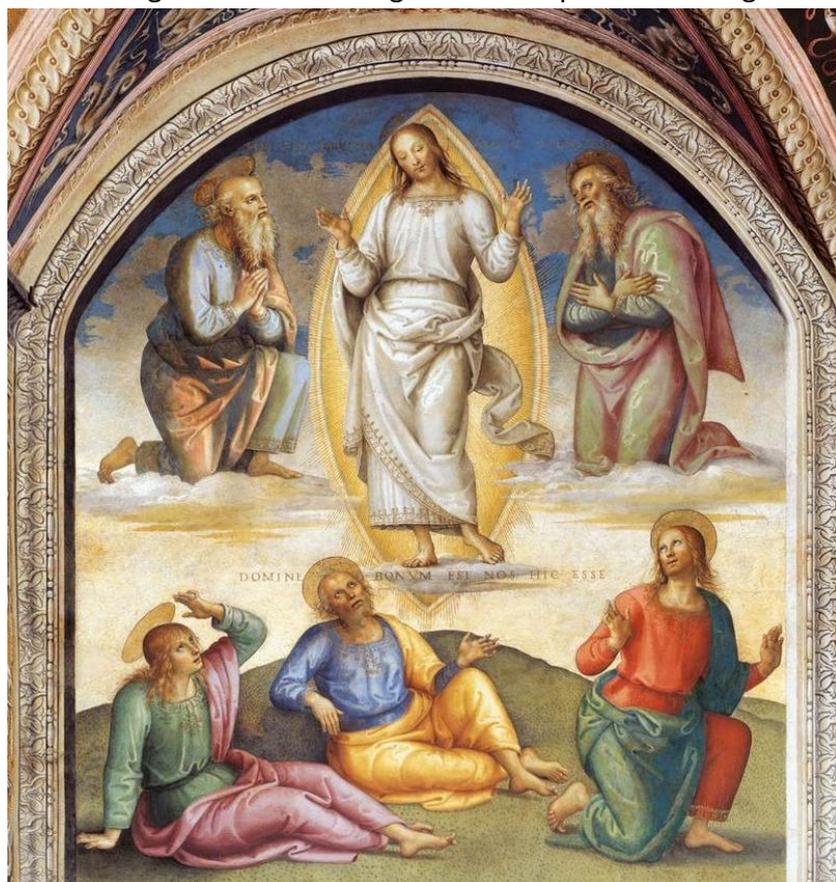
## Lent - Take up your Cross and 'Listen to Him!'

*On the Second Sunday of Lent*, we hear Matthew's account of Jesus' Transfiguration (Matthew 17, 1-9) and **with his closest disciples we too are given a glimpse of Jesus' true glory as the Beloved Son**, revealed on the holy mountain – which will fully be revealed only through his suffering and death that precede his Resurrection.

Lent's 'forty days' prepare us to celebrate the Passion of Our Lord, and his Resurrection at Easter. We continue to do so in the 'fifty days' that follow, and indeed on every other Sunday too. Our penances and prayer, and readiness to reach out to those in need, are opening us up, so as to follow Jesus better and help make us more ready to live rejoicing continually in the risen life of Jesus, shared with us through the sacraments. This is especially so for those who in Lent are 'Candidates' for entering into the Full

Communion of the Catholic Church; and for the 'Catechumens', who have discovered faith in Jesus Christ, and are preparing to receive the 'sacraments of initiation' (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist) and to find life in his Body, the Church. A week ago, a record 590 Catechumens and Candidates from parishes across this diocese (including Vraig from ours) packed our Cathedral; they were called and chosen by Archbishop Wilson to complete the final weeks of their journey – to Holy Week and Easter, to the Paschal Mystery, the centre of every Christian life.

The readings at Masses during Lent have special meaning for all preparing to become Catholics this Easter.



Last Sunday (Jesus in the wilderness) they should have felt more encouraged to resist temptation by following his example and putting their trust in the power and guidance of God's Word in the Scriptures; by drawing consolation and strength from his Holy Spirit guiding them; and, above all, growing more sure that God our Father truly does desire that they become his beloved sons or daughters by being baptised into Christ at Easter.

Pietro Perugino (1448-1523), *The Transfiguration of Christ* (1497-1500), in the Sala delle Udienze of the Collegio del Cambio, Perugia, Italy. Jesus is depicted in a 'mandorla', the almond shape indicating the glory of his divinity.

In this Sunday's Scripture readings, Catechumens and Candidates, along with all of us, are **invited by Jesus to come aside and accompany him up the holy mountain**; to be drawn into the mystery that his three chosen disciples experienced while with him, to have a **glimpse of Christ's true glory**, of who he really is – the Beloved Son of God.

The Transfiguration occurred in the later part of Our Lord's ministry. Immediately before it, Saint Matthew, in the 16<sup>th</sup> Chapter of his Gospel, tells of the profession of faith Peter made after Jesus had asked 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' (16, 13). Peter's response, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God', was praised by Jesus for its truth. Jesus then commissioned him: 'you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'

From that time on, Saint Matthew tells us, 'Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord!" But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'" (16, 21-24). In other words, Peter and the others still did not have a clue what this really meant.

It helps to bear this background in mind when we hear the account of the Transfiguration this Sunday. On the mountain, this glimpse of Jesus' glory was revealed to them – and they heard the Father's voice declare "***This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.***" Jesus' true glory is being the Beloved Son of the Father; but, as Jesus had told the disciples, it would not come about as any 'earthly glory' but, rather, through his passion and death, and would only be manifest after he rose from the dead.

**Like the disciples, we too have to stick close to Jesus in faith.** We must listen to him if we are to grasp even a little that his way of faithfully doing his Father's will, of *being the Son of God, and becoming our Saviour*, was to be **through the Cross**. He insisted, indeed: "*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*"

The disciples were given a glimpse, which they could treasure, but even then, they still did not fully understand. How could they have? Hence, Jesus tells them not to speak of the vision until after he has risen. Peter had wanted to build some sort of a memorial! God the Father told them that the right response is to **listen to the Beloved Son**, to hear and reflect on his words.

In Lent, together with the Candidates and Catechumens, we are learning that we have to put our trust in Jesus and accompany him to his passion and death, that we **must deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow him**. We will not understand fully either, but this Lent we may be led deeper into God's ways. The key will lie in obeying the Father's words and **listening to Jesus**.

*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**
- **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 the suffering people of Ukraine, now entering a fifth year of Russian aggression, for a just and peaceful end to the war, and to all wars; and to America's new-found love of aggression.
- For lasting peace in the Middle East: a real end of Israel's war on the people in Gaza, and to its campaign of intimidation and destruction aimed at fully 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.

**Join Pope Leo in his Prayer Intention for March - For disarmament and peace:** *Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.*

Pray along with Pope Leo by clicking on: <https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>

### *Other Intentions for our Prayer*

**Please pray for our young parishioners preparing to be Confirmed, who made a short Retreat yesterday.** 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 integrity and shame 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 your generous financial support*

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

**Pax Christi has written to thank you for your generosity in the Peace Sunday Collection.**

**Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their recent generosity in response to their Foreign Currency initiative. It raised £262.48 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 13 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all.**

**To donate to our Parish Online just scan this Code. Please Gift-Aid as well:**



- **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*