

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	<i>The Fifth Week of Lent</i>	22 – 29 March 2026
	<i>Passiontide</i>	

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 22 March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	9am	Holy Mass	Martin & Mary Lyons RIP (Connolly)
	11am	Holy Mass	All Parishioners
	6pm	Holy Mass	Fr Martin O'Connor RIP
Monday 23 rd	No Public Mass		Deceased Clergy
Tuesday 24th	9.30am	Holy Mass	Mary & Ed Whelan RIP
	10 – 11am Coffee Morning in Hall		
Wednesday 25 th	No Public Mass		Deceased Relations of Fr Tim <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>
Thursday 26th	9.30am	Holy Mass	Verity Shaw RIP (Row)
	7 – 8pm Parish Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament		
Friday 27th	9.30am	Holy Mass	Faithful Departed (Ahmed)
	<i>After Mass: Stations of the Cross</i>		
Saturday 28 th	<i>11am Confessions</i>		
	4 - 5 pm: Stations of the Cross & Adoration		
Sunday 29 March <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion</i>	9am	Holy Mass	Thomas & Annie Connolly RIP
	11am	Holy Mass	All Parishioners
	6pm	Holy Mass	

'Finance Sunday'

Parish Finance Committee members will update you at Mass, about our parish finances over the last year. We are so grateful to the parishioners who are generous in their giving. Please consider whether your position would allow you to give even more support to the parish – we do not have income sources apart from what you give.

IF YOU currently GIVE LOOSE CASH to the Collection, SIGN UP FOR GIFT AID – it costs you nothing, but can make your offering grow by 25%! Take this opportunity to register – use envelopes, or the card readers, or open a standing order (any payment that can be linked to you). Bank Standing Order and Pledge Forms will be available to fill out or to update your giving. Envelopes will be available for those who use them.

'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.

This Sunday, the **Second Collection at each Mass** is to help the Archbishop assist Poor Parishes in our diocese. Please donate generously in the Second Collection or via the Card Reader.

All Teenagers (13-18 years) are warmly invited to the next gathering **this Sunday, 22nd March, 7pm-8.15pm** in the Church Hall for games, food and fun together.

Come and pray quietly each Thursday evening from 7pm until 8pm.

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

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 (2 April):** **8pm** **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** with Watching until 10pm.
- **Good Friday (3 April):** **10am** **Stations of the Cross, especially for Children**
 3pm **LITURGY OF THE PASSION**
- **The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (Saturday 4 April):**
 8.30pm **EASTER VIGIL Mass**
- **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection:**
 (5 April) 9am & 11am EASTER MORNING MASSES
 NO Evening Mass on Easter Sunday

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.

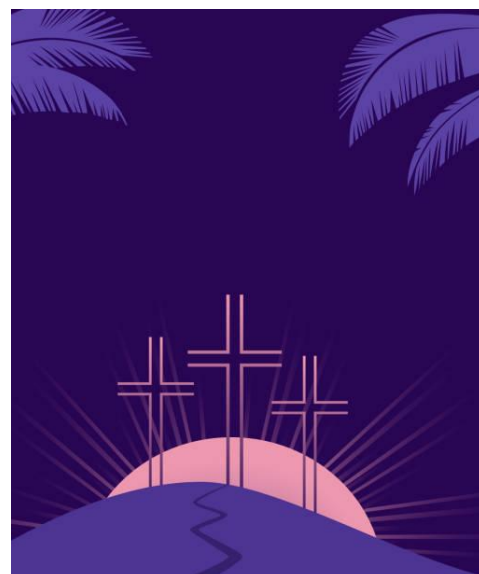
The Good Friday Ecumenical Walk of Witness gathers by **1030 outside St Michael's Church**, Cobham Close, SW11 6SP (by Wandsworth Common), walking along Northcote Road to end near the London & Southwestern Railway Pub at Clapham Junction, with songs and readings at stations *en route*. **Please go and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

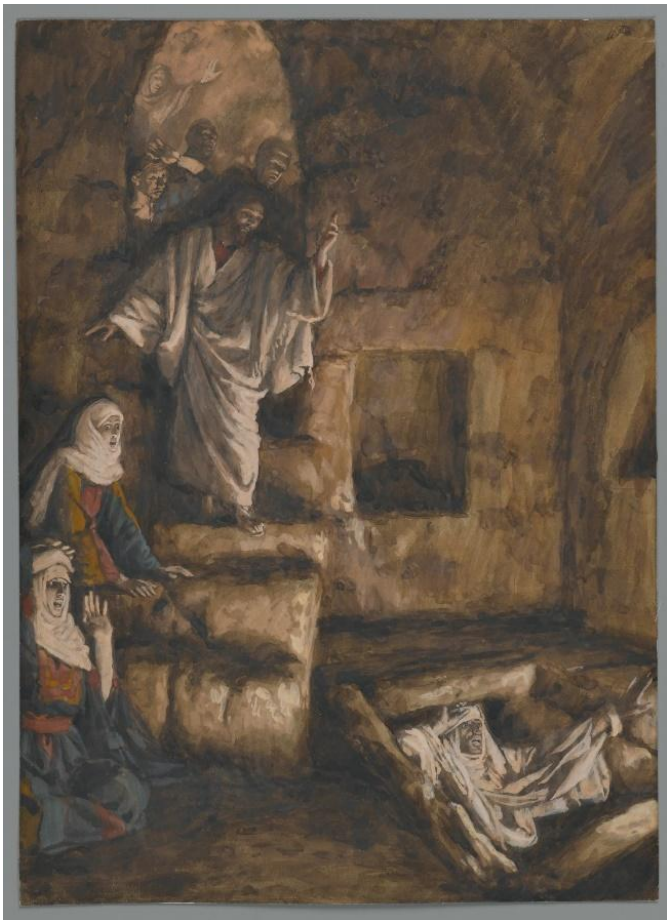
Wintershall Passion of Jesus: Good Friday in Trafalgar Square **Free** performances at **12pm and 3.15pm**. A dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus which should not be missed. Get there early to get the best views in Trafalgar Square. Come prepared to sit on the ground in whatever the weather may be. You won't regret witnessing this extraordinary event. It is also livestreamed: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/the-passion-of-jesus-2026/>

The ground of our hope: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

This Sunday, the Fifth of Lent, we hear the third of the great Johannine Gospels: the **raising of Lazarus**, the brother of Jesus' friends Martha and Mary, who had become gravely ill and then died. **Faith in Jesus gift of life is the heart of this story: 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?'**

- How very deeply Jesus was affected by his friend's death. He wept and sighed as he went to his tomb. 'See how he loved him!', said some of the onlookers.
- It seems Lazarus died at about the time the sisters' message reached him, for Jesus stated plainly 'Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe.'
- But he still went, telling them 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'





- In his loving journey to his friends at Bethany, Jesus risked his life: he was already a hunted man, whom the Jews sought to stone. After Jesus had decided to go, *‘Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him”.’*
- We see the deep (if still partial) faith of the sisters Martha and Mary in Jesus, their *‘Teacher’*, and *‘Lord’*, who loved them. Both declared *‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’*
- Martha, who went out to him first, professed how deeply she believed in Jesus’ power even when all seemed hopeless: *‘even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.’*

James Tissot (1836-1902), La résurrection de Lazare, 1886-1894 in The Brooklyn Museum, New York

At the heart of this marvellous Gospel, there is a crucial question, put to Martha but addressed to all disciples past and present including ourselves (and those who will be baptised soon). Jesus says: *‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’*

We can only answer that question if we put our faith in him. Are we able (do we desire) to answer with Martha? ***‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’***

Pope Benedict once said, *‘It is a question that Jesus addresses to each one of us: a question that certainly rises above us, rises above our capacity to understand, and it asks us to entrust ourselves to him as he entrusted himself to the Father.’* (Sunday Angelus Address, 9 March 2008).

Giovanni di Paolo (1403-1482) The Resurrection of Lazarus (1426) originally in San Domenico Church, Siena, now in The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, USA.



The two Readings that accompany this Gospel on Sunday emphasise that our hope for eternal life was foreshadowed when Jesus called Lazarus back to life. Lazarus did eventually die again, like the son of the widow of Nain, or the daughter of the centurion. However, what Jesus solemnly declares in Sunday’s Gospel looks toward his own Easter resurrection (which was not coming back to life in this world as before, but leads to, and offers, eternal life): ***‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.’***

So, through the Prophet Ezekiel, God promised *'you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live'*, (Ezekiel 37, 13).

And Saint Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome, wants us to recognise that we already have begun to share in the promise of 'eternal life'. What the raising of Lazarus foreshadowed, and Jesus' own Resurrection finally revealed, is now possible for every baptised person who remains in Jesus. Our *'body is dead because of sin'* but *'Christ is in you'*, and the *'Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you'*. So ***'he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.'***

To each of us, only too aware of the weight of our own sin and mortality, Jesus says as he did to Lazarus *'Come out!'* During Lent, we are preparing to celebrate our hope of eternal life with renewed joy and faith at Easter.

Pray fervently for Peace in these Troubled Times

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

- For the cessation of the wars in the Middle East and the murder of innocent civilians, the displacement of hundreds of thousands from their homes, and for a lasting peace and justice. For the end of Israel's war on Lebanon, the people in Gaza, and to the intimidation and destruction aimed at fully annexation of the occupied Palestinian West Bank; and to all provocations of Israel by Hamas, Hezbollah and similar armed terror groups.
- For a humane end to the violent civil war in Sudan.
- For the suffering people of Ukraine, now in the fifth year of Russian aggression, for a just and peaceful end to all wars.
- For peace in all the 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 face persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, especially 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: <https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>

Other Intentions for our Prayer

Please pray for Anne Strickland and Craig Sinclair, preparing to be Confirmed at Easter; our young people to be confirmed in May; and the first Holy Communion children.

Pray for the Lavender Hill Assessment Hub, which is now open. Let us pray for the homeless people who are currently in residence there, that they will be found suitable accommodation and the help they need. Let's also pray for the staff who work there, and that they will find the volunteers needed to improve the lives of those they help.

For restored integrity among those 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

To donate to our Parish Online just scan the Code below. 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 to Easter Joy
Fr Tim*