

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish
36 Altenburg Gardens, Battersea, London SW11 1JJ
One of the South Battersea Churches

Newsletter

Contact us:

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Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Ed Elliot: 07950 379547 batterseaags3@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

Second Week of Easter

12 – 19 April 2026

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 12 April <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	9am Holy Mass 11am Holy Mass 6pm Holy Mass	For All Parishioners Cooper Family's Intentions Holy Souls
Monday 13 th	No Public Mass	Canon George Grady RIP (F)
Tuesday 14th	9.30am Holy Mass 10 – 11am	Ann Sherwood RIP Coffee Morning in Hall
Wednesday 15 th	No Public Mass	
Thursday 16th	9.30am Holy Mass 7 – 8pm	Holy Souls Parish Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
Friday 17th Saturday 18th	9.30am Holy Mass 9am Holy Mass 11am Confessions	John & Julia Galligan RIP Holy Souls
Sunday 19 April <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	9am Holy Mass 11am Holy Mass 4.45 – 5.45pm 6pm Holy Mass	Cecilia & Adekemi Aderibigbe RIP Holy Souls Prayer for the Dignity of Life (Holy Hour) For All Parishioners

'Easter Offering': if you were away, there are envelopes at the back of Church, or use the Card Readers.
Thank you to all who already contributed generously.

Holy Hour for the Dignity of Life - Sunday 19 April 4.45 - 5.45pm.

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales will hold a Holy Hour to pray for the promotion of a culture of life in our lands. They have asked all parishes to do the same.
The purpose is to present a unified, prayerful front and offer this petition to Our Lord for our countries to respect the dignity of life from conception to natural end, and to pray that assisted suicide will not become law. If it were to go ahead, the lives of the elderly and vulnerable will become more precarious, and many doctors will face a fundamental shift in their role away from being preservers of human life.
You will be aware that Peers in the House of Lords have been debating this proposal, and have raised serious moral and practical objections. There is a real possibility that it may fail to go forward. **Come and pray for this intention.**

Marriage Matters

The Annual Marriage Mass will take place at **St George's Cathedral on July 11 at 3pm**. Couples celebrating special anniversaries this year - their first, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or any later anniversary - are invited to apply for places.

They will then receive a personal invitation to the Mass from Archbishop John Wilson, and have an opportunity to renew their marriage vows. Apply to: mflsw@rcaos.org.uk

'*Build A Better Marriage*' is a **one-day marriage-enrichment course** aimed at couples whether married five years or 55 years. There is no charge and no group sharing. Couples have the opportunity individually to explore their relationship and levels of communication, which is the key to relationship. It **starts at 9am and finishes by 4.30pm**. Dates and venues in South London are: **May 23** (Wallington) and **October 3** (West Norwood). But there are also other dates elsewhere in Southwark diocese. More details – T: 07983 524 727 or E: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Widowed, Separated, or Divorced? If so, Beginning Experience is there for you. They are organising a weekend on May 8-10 at Worth Abbey, West Sussex, to help you deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. Email beginningexperience.soe@gmail.com for details.

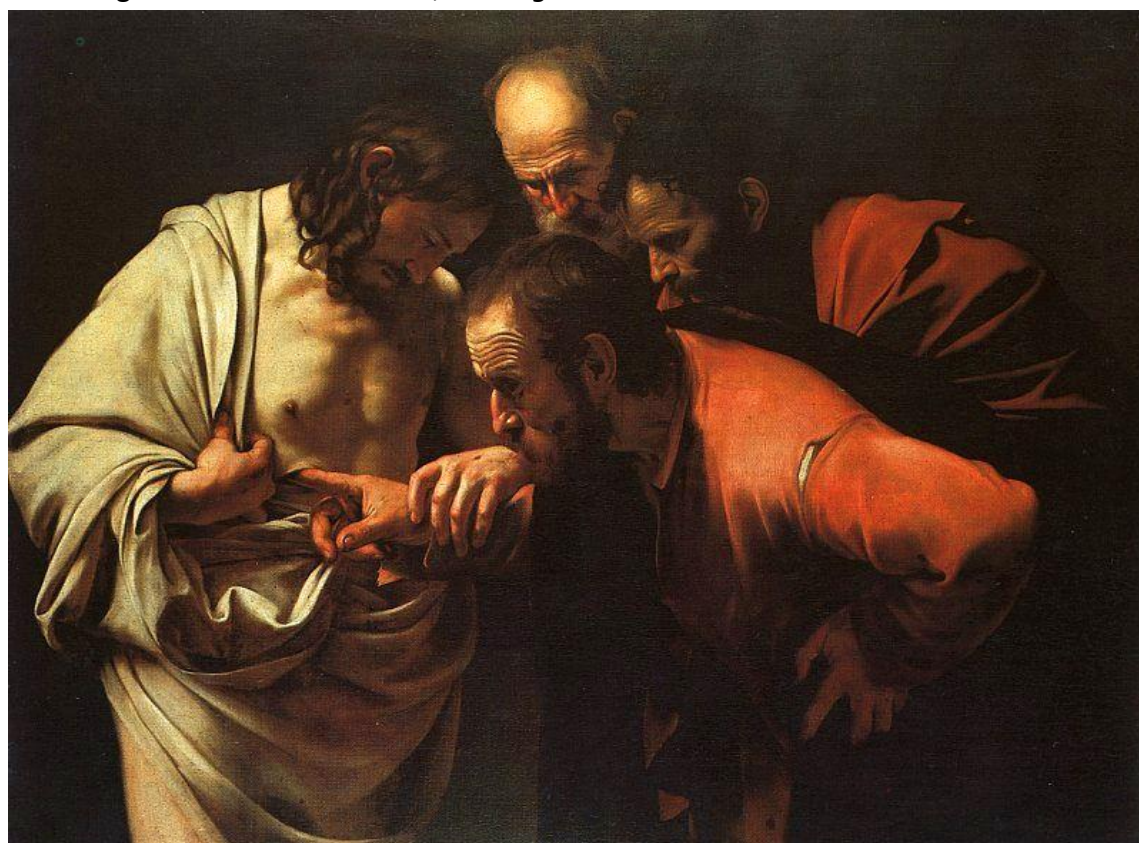
Marriage Support: For relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment, or for more serious issues - If you are open to try again, Retrouvaille could be the solution. It has helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track and to rediscover hope and trust in their marriage: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

The Tyburn Martyrs Walk will take place on Sunday May 17th. We will meet at 1.30pm in the churchyard of St Giles-in-the-Fields (nearest tube: Tottenham Court Road) and will walk to the site of Tyburn gallows, honouring the courageous Catholic martyrs who met their deaths there in the 16th and 17th centuries. We will finish with Benediction and Tea at Tyburn Convent. To help with arrangements, please let the organisers know that you are coming: info@tyburnmartyrswalk.co.uk

'Musical Pilgrimage' on the Augustine Camino: 8 - 14 June. From Rochester Cathedral, walking about 10 miles a day through the beautiful Kent countryside to Canterbury, then on to the shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate. Each evening, Eddie Gilmore will perform a little concert in a pub *en route*. Contact Eddie for more details: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

Our Faith is 'more precious than gold'

On the Second Sunday of Easter every year, we listen at Mass to the passage from the Gospel of Saint John, chapter 20, 19-31. The first part recounts **Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the evening of the first Easter Day**. They were gathered with the doors locked 'for fear of the Jews' but Thomas was not there. Jesus came among them showing them the wounds in his hands and his side. His first words were '*Peace be with you*', and then he gave them **their mission, sending them out as the Father had sent him**.



The scene in the second part of the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter, powerfully portrayed by **Caravaggio** in this strikingly realistic painting from 1603, now in Potsdam, near Berlin. We see how real is the flesh and blood of the risen Jesus. Thomas's eyes show he has realised Jesus is indeed his Lord and his God.

It then goes on to tell how a week later (this Second Sunday of Easter) Jesus appeared to them all again and Thomas was with them. The story is very familiar: Thomas's initial incredulity after the others told him that Jesus risen had come

among them; the Lord's invitation to Thomas to examine his wounds; and how Thomas ended by making the deepest act of faith of all: addressing Jesus as *'My Lord and my God'*. He had been granted the peace the Risen Jesus bestows. Rather unjustly, he has been nicknamed 'doubting Thomas'; but, in his initial questioning and uncertainty, he is similar to many of us.

The Scriptures of the Second Sunday of Easter speak to us about the treasure that is faith. Although, Thomas eventually had the privilege of seeing and touching Jesus' wounds, that still called for faith – he had to *believe* that he *was really* encountering Jesus, and that he had truly risen (some of the other Easter stories show how some had wondered if they were seeing some sort of ghost).

After hearing Thomas's great act of faith, **Jesus spoke wonderful words directed towards us** who are his followers today: *'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'*. It is natural enough for us to imagine that, if we could only see him, it would be easy to be fully convinced – yet, the true interpretation of who Jesus is only comes about in our acts of faith and love. Remember, not all who actually met Jesus, even before his death, were prepared to put their faith in him. Believing involves an act of humble, loving trust in God; it is rarely just the result of arguments and 'proofs.'

Faith ought to bring us deep peace and joy. Thomas was deeply moved when he realised he was indeed meeting his risen Lord, and he expressed this in the most profound act of faith: calling Jesus his *'Lord'* (master, Saviour) and his *'God'* (hence, saying that Jesus was the equal of the God they worshipped, whom he had taught them to call their 'Father'). As Paul taught the Romans: *'If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved'* (Rom 10, 9). **Thomas truly believed from the heart.**

We should not overlook what **the other Readings this Sunday** tell us about faith. This year, we listen during Eastertide to passages from **The Acts of the Apostles** and from **The First Letter of Saint Peter**. Saint Peter begins, praising *'the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ'* for the new life he has bestowed on us through faith and baptism: *'According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you'* (1 Peter 1, 3-4). He praises the gift of genuine faith, calling it *'**more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire**'*. It will *'result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.'* Echoing Jesus' words to Thomas, Peter writes *'**Though you have not seen him you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory'***. **Our faith, then, is something we should treasure, 'it is more precious than gold'.**

We also hear a perhaps idealised picture of the common life of the first Christians in Jerusalem in the passage from the Acts of the Apostles. **Notice how their faith in the risen Jesus overflowed into every aspect of their lives, in love and care for each other, sharing and caring for their brothers and sisters.**

Eastertide questions for prayerful reflection:

- **'Though you have not seen him you love him'** – do these words of Saint Peter sum up what Christian life is for you too?
- Do you sometimes **'rejoice with joy because you believe'**?
- The early Christian community **'devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers'** (Acts 2, 42). Do you?
- **'As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you'**, Jesus said to his first followers. Do you feel those words are being spoken to us by the risen Jesus now, at Easter 2026?

'Blessed', says Our Lord, 'are those who have not seen and yet have believed'.

Pray fervently for Peace in these Dangerous 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 annexing the occupied Palestinian West Bank; and to all provocations of Israel by Hamas, Hezbollah and similar armed terror groups.

- For the people of Lebanon, cruelly attacked and driven from their homes and workplaces.
- For an end to the violent civil war in Sudan.
- For the suffering people of Ukraine, undergoing the fifth year of Russian aggression.
- For peace in so many 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.

Other Intentions for our Prayer

Join Pope Leo in his Prayer Intention for April - For priests in crisis: 'Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.' Pray along with Pope Leo:

<https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>

Please pray for our young people to be confirmed in May; and the first Holy Communion children.

For all who are sick or housebound, particularly: 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 pray for the repose of the soul of Rosa Antonini. She died on Maundy Thursday, and her funeral will be on Friday 8 May.

Your Parish needs your generous financial support

Thank you for last Sunday's Donations to the Easter Offering.

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 do this **DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT**, you require these **BACS details** (please use your surname as the reference, particularly to ensure Gift Aid):

Sort Code:	50-21-01 Nat West, Clapham Junction Branch
Account Number:	82117209
Account Name:	RCAS Battersea Altenburg Gardens
- **ALWAYS GIFT AID YOUR OFFERING please.** Gift Aiding by UK taxpayers makes an indispensable contribution for it adds 25% to your donations from tax you have already paid - **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 your 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 us all this Easter
Fr Tim*