

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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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

Fifth Week of Easter

3 – 10 May 2026

Services and Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 3 May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	9am	Holy Mass	Francis & Lorna Jayamanne RIP	<i>[Saints Philip and James]</i>
	11am	Holy Mass	Confirmation Mass	
	6pm	Holy Mass	For all parishioners	
Monday 4 th	No Public Mass		Fr Niall Thornton RIP	<i>The English Martyrs</i>
Tuesday 5th	9.30am	Holy Mass	Deceased Parishioners	
		10 – 11am	Coffee Morning in Hall	
Wednesday 6 th	No Public Mass		King Charles	
Thursday 7th	9.30am	Holy Mass		
		7 – 8pm	Adoration Holy Hour	
Friday 8th	10.30am		Funeral Mass for Rosa Antonini RIP	
Saturday 9 th	11am	Confessions		
Sunday 10 May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	9am	Holy Mass	For all parishioners	
	11am	Holy Mass	First Holy Communion Mass	
	6pm	Holy Mass		

Rosary for Life. Archbishop John Wilson is calling all to join him in praying the Rosary for Life this May (Month of Mary). Together, we will pray through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries, each one offered for the most vulnerable who are facing growing threats to life: unborn children at risk of abortion, victims of war and persecution, people with disabilities, and the elderly and vulnerable. For video, audio and written versions of the Rosary for Life, visit rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife. **Pray the Rosary. Encounter Christ. Defend life.**

Encounter Pentecost: Saturday 23 May, 10am to 5pm at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road SE1 6HR. You are all invited to our Cathedral on Pentecost Saturday. Come to discover and experience the meaning of Pentecost, the Birthday of the whole Church. Like last year's celebration at Aylesford, this will be a great celebration with spiritual and fun activities for all the family. Children and Teen ministry. Latin American, African and Caribbean food. Talks, praise and worship, prayer spaces, stalls, and confessions, rosary and Mass (at 4pm). For more information, and to pre-book the sessions for children and young people, visit www.encounterpentecost.com. ALL WELCOME!

Vacancy for a lay Catholic College Chaplain at St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College in Clapham South. Full details and the application link can be found at: <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/college-chaplain-lay-wandsworth-2315288>

Defend NHS staff conscience rights. Following the fall of the Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill, fresh bids to introduce an assisted dying law in England and Wales are anticipated. Any new law would likely pressure NHS staff to be involved in some way and offer even less protection to institutions like hospices. You can help protect healthcare workers and hospices by **signing the Bios Centre online petition**. It calls on Health Secretary, Wes Streeting, to protect conscientious objection rights for religious and personal beliefs. Sign the petition at bioscentre.org/petition-on-conscience-protection or **scan this QR code with your smartphone**.



May: Month of Mary

During the whole month of May we continue our celebration of Eastertide, especially on Sundays, and are hopefully filled with fresh joy at the presence of the risen Christ alongside us, especially in the Holy Mass. **This Sunday** we will rejoice with our four teenagers who since last autumn have been preparing to be confirmed in their faith. **Next Sunday**, it will be the turn of those who have been preparing to receive Our Lord personally in Holy Communion for the first time. Let us all make these Masses celebrations when we thank the Lord for the wonderful gift of faith, and to pray for these children to persevere in faith.

Over the next fortnight, the Scriptures turn our attention to those final days of Jesus' earthly life; and on **Thursday 14th** we will celebrate the **Ascension of Jesus to the Father** (it's a Holyday of Obligation, when we will have a **morning Mass at 9.30am**, and a **Vigil Mass the previous evening at 7pm**).



Veit Stoss (1447-1533): Altarpiece in St Mary's Church, Krakow, Poland, carved 1477-1489

Jesus promised he would bestow his Holy Spirit on his followers after he ascended, 'to lead them into the whole truth'. That he did on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after his resurrection.

We celebrate **Pentecost on 24 May**. That day, there will be a Mission Appeal at all Masses on behalf of the Vincentians (The *Congregation of the Mission*, founded by our patron Saint Vincent de Paul in 1625) by Fr Michael Denis. Today, they serve in 96 countries across the world.

The month of May is traditionally dedicated by Catholics to honouring Our Lady, and provides a special opportunity to reflect on the place Mary holds in the life and prayer of the Church. Several feast days during this month recall key aspects of her maternal presence – although not all are celebrated this year:

- **On Wednesday 13th**, '**Our Lady of Fatima**' is commemorated. The apparitions of 1917 are remembered, in which she urged the children to pray the Rosary to bring peace to the world and an end to the first World War – so a celebration reminding us about the significant power of prayer, and the special place the Rosary has in Catholic prayer. We still need to pray for peace.
- **On 24 May**, (when it is not Pentecost Sunday) we would be honouring Mary with the title '**Help of Christians**' – a very ancient title referring to Mary's advocacy for us in the battle against sin, and her care for all who love and follow her Son.
- On the Monday after Pentecost, **25 May**, she is honoured as '**Mother of the Church**' – we recall that Mary was present with the Apostles in the Upper Room after the Ascension and when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. She accompanied with her prayers the growth of the early Church.
- Finally, on the last day of May, the **Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady** (also superseded liturgically by a Sunday this year) recalls not only her journey to see her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, bearing in her



womb her Saviour and her Son, but also its wider significance – for the heart of her vocation was to carry him and his Gospel to all and help us all to ‘proclaim the greatness of the Lord’.

Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1533), Gnadenbild Marienhilf (Mary, Help of Christians) (around 1520), in Sankt Jakob Cathedral, Innsbruck.

May also begins by putting before us some powerful examples of people who faithfully followed the Risen Christ, our Good Shepherd, some even giving the ultimate witness of dying for him.

St Athanasius, (2 May) was Bishop of Alexandria, and was driven into exile several times in the fourth century for steadfastly proclaiming the full divinity of Jesus Christ;

The feast of the **Apostles Philip and James** would normally be celebrated on 3 May if it was a weekday, but we do hear of them, nevertheless, in Sunday’s Gospel at Mass.

On Monday 4 May, are celebrated the many hundreds of **English Martyrs of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries** (1535 – 1680). These were people of a variety of ages and from different walks of life, who were martyred because they were constant in their Catholic faith even as they faced threats and coercion, persecution, and eventually torture and savage executions. Many

Catholics in those recent centuries were condemned in this country as so-called ‘traitors’, when in fact they died praying for King or Queen and country, praying for their persecutors in the manner of Christ himself. We too should pray for our current monarch, Charles III, on Wednesday, the third anniversary of his coronation.

Pray fervently for Peace in these Dangerous Times

Pope Leo appeals often for the hearts of those waging war to turn to Peace.

On Easter Sunday, in his first *Urbi et Orbi* address, for example, he said:

‘Let those who have weapons lay them down! Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace! Not a peace imposed by force, but through dialogue! Not with the desire to dominate others, but to encounter them!’

‘We are growing accustomed to violence, resigning ourselves to it, and becoming indifferent. Indifferent to the deaths of thousands of people. Indifferent to the repercussions of hatred and division that conflicts sow. Indifferent to the economic and social consequences they produce, which we all feel. There is an ever-increasing “globalization of indifference,” to borrow an expression dear to [Pope Francis](#), who one year ago from this loggia addressed his final words to the world, reminding us: “What a great thirst for death, for killing, we witness each day in the many conflicts raging in different parts of the world!”’ ([Urbi et Orbi Message](#), 20 April 2025).

You can also read his words at the **Vigil for Peace**, held in St Peter’s Basilica on 11 April, [here](#).

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 peoples of Lebanon and Iran, 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, as they endure 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 so many Christians in numerous places who are facing 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 May - That everyone might have food

'Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.' Pray along with Pope Leo: <https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>

Please pray for our young parishioners who will be confirmed this Sunday: Alban, Arthur, Elisabetta and Isabella – that they will open themselves up to the guiding power of the Holy Spirit and so become more conformed to the image of Jesus and more deeply committed to the life of the Church.

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.

Your Parish needs your generous financial support

**Thank you for last Sunday's Donations to our Parish: loose collection: £209; card readers: £348; Bank: £735
Your Donations to the Priests' Training Fund were £425.**

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 Eastertime
Fr Tim*