

## SUNDAY

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year A**Racial Justice Day**

## A martyr for justice

By 2004, she had lived in Brazil for nearly four decades, helping small farmers in the Amazon to resist the encroachments of wealthy landowners and working to safeguard the rainforests against slash and burn agriculture. She had earned a reputation over the years as a fearless and determined advocate and had recently been recognised with a couple of humanitarian awards. But it was her first time on Brazilian national television.

Dorothy Stang, aged seventy-three, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame of Namur, arrived at the TV studio

to participate in a televised panel discussion about deforestation in the Amazon and the oppression of peasant farmers. She showed up wearing a shirt that had the slogan "Death of the forest is death of us all" stencilled on it... "I have lived in the Amazon for twenty years," she said. "I know who has land documents that are forged and those that are real... and the forgers outweigh the legitimate ones." Then she reached into the cloth bag she always carried, and read out a long list of the offending ranchers as well as the crooked cops

they had in their pockets...

Less than a year later, Sr Dorothy was dead, shot down on the orders of furious ranchers who feared her advocacy of both the farmers they sought to dispossess and the rain forest they hoped to exploit... "I know they want to kill me," she wrote a friend, "but I will not go away. My place is here alongside these people who are constantly humiliated by others who consider themselves powerful."

*Kerry S. Walters, Profiles in Christian Courage: extraordinary inspiration for everyday life*

We have to know how to listen - not to judge, not to shut doors as if we hold all the truth and no one else has anything to offer. From this posture of humility will come greater clarity about where the Lord is calling us.

Pope Leo

## Setting an example

Venerable Satoko Kitahara (1929-1958) was a Japanese convert who was told of a group of children who picked through garbage to earn a living. Shocked at their situation, the young aristocrat invited some of them to come to her parents' home occasionally for piano lessons and tutoring. Before long, Satoko realised that this... wasn't enough. "I had thought I was a great Christian because I condescended to dole out some free time, helping children with their homework!... It hit me now. There was only one way to help those ragpicker children: become a ragpicker like them!" So she did, eventually leaving her comfortable home to live among the poorest of the poor... she just listened to the tug of her conscience telling her that to love, she had to live among those she loved. She died at twenty-eight, the hero of a community she had served merely by being present to them.

*Meg Hunter-Kilmer, Aletheia*

Lord of life, may I be a messenger of hope. + Amen.



## St Thomas: seeing for oneself

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

In chapter 11 of St John's Gospel, Thomas is steadfastly committed to following Jesus, even to dying with him. So he was both courageous and honest: "Lord, we don't know where you are going." After the resurrection, the other disciples tell Thomas that they have seen the Lord, but earlier they, too, doubted. When Jesus appears to Thomas, he gently offers him what he wants and Thomas is the first in the Gospels to confess Jesus as God. From confession of doubt, comes a deep faith, which transforms Thomas' life. On our own spiritual journey, our faith gets shaken, we question it, wondering why Jesus does not appear to us when everyone around seems to have seen him. But this shows we are taking our relationship with God seriously. Thomas was not really a doubter; he needed belief based on Jesus' personal revelation to him. May we, like Thomas, experience the presence of our risen Lord for ourselves. Thomas' personal encounter resulted in faith and strength to take the good news to so many.

*Sr Thérèse Garman is a Sister of Our Lady of Providence and a treasured former member of the Redemptorist Publications editorial team*

## READINGS

**Today:**  
Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13  
1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Monday:**  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40

**Tuesday:**  
2 Samuel 18:9-10. 14.  
24-25, 30 - 19:3  
Mark 5:21-43

**Wednesday:**  
2 Samuel 24:2. 9-17  
Mark 6:1-6

**Thursday:**  
1 Kings 2:1-4. 10-12  
Mark 6:7-13

**Friday:**  
Ecclesiasticus 47:2-13  
Mark 6:14-29

**Saturday:**  
1 Kings 3:4-13  
Mark 6:30-34

**Next Sunday:**  
Isaiah 58:7-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5  
Matthew 5:13-16



**St Cecilia's Church**  
**101 Stonecot Hill, North Cheam, Surrey SM3 9HN**  
 Contact us Via St Cecilia's Parish Office: Tel: **020 8641 3141**  
 Email: [northcheam@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:northcheam@rcaos.org.uk) Website: [www.stceciliarcchurch.co.uk](http://www.stceciliarcchurch.co.uk)  
 Facebook: [SaintCecilia Ncheam](https://www.facebook.com/SaintCeciliaNcheam)



**Parochial Administrator: Fr Benedict Fadoju**

**Confessions: 5:00pm – 6:00pm Saturdays or please contact Fr Benedict on request**

**Hospital Chaplain: Fr Philip Pak**

**Telephone: St Helier: 0208 296 2917**

Useful information can be found by visiting the Diocesan Website  
 at [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk) and the Sutton Deanery Website at [www.suttondeanery.weebly.com](http://www.suttondeanery.weebly.com)

**'Sing to Him a new song, sing to Him with joyful melody .....** *Saint Cecilia*

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** *Racial Justice Sunday*

Sat.	31st Jan.	06:30pm.	Ann Loftus	(RIP)
Sun.	1st Feb.	09:30am.	William Read	(RIP)
		11:00am.	Liam Gilmartine	(RIP)
Mon.	2nd Feb.		NO MASS Presentation of the Lord	
Tues.	3rd Feb.	10:00am.	David Owens	(RIP)
Wed.	4th Feb.	10:00am.	Joao D'Silva	(RIP)
Thur.	5th Feb.	11.30am.	Funeral Mass Dorothy Upton	(RIP)
Fri.	6th Feb.	06.00pm	Adoration and Benediction	
		07.00pm	Robert Gonsalves	(RIP)



### We also pray for

**Msgr Matthew Dickens**  
*Special Intentions*

**Gloriana Andrew**  
*Special Intentions*

**Sheila Davis**  
*Special Intentions*

**Patricia Starsmare**  
*Recently Deceased (RIP)*

### Saints of the Week

**31st St John Bosco**

**1st St Brigid of Kildare**

**2nd Presentation of Our Lord**

**3rd St Blaise, 3rd St Ansgar,**

**3rd St Lawrence of Canterbury**

**3rd St Werburgh**

**4th St Gilbert of Sempringham**

**4th St Henry Morse**

**5th St Agatha**

**6th St Paul Miki & Companions**

## **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sat.	7th Feb.	06:30pm.	Jim Duffy	(RIP)
Sun.	8th Feb.	09:30am.	Bert Upton	Anniversary (RIP)
		11:00am	Ellen Macken	Anniversary (RIP)
			Emily Reeve	Anniversary (RIP)



**Mothers Prayer Group** begins later this month, February on Saturdays at 5.30pm in the Family Chapel. Thank you to those who have signed up. If you haven't done so already but would like to join, you are most welcome to come along. More details to follow.

### Offertory 24th/25th January

First Offertory £901.47 First Offertory Contactless £284.00

Second Offertory £558.02 Second Offertory Contactless £135.00

Candle Offerings £86.11

**Parish Life information can be found on the parish website.**

**\*\* Please note** there is no 10am Mass on Thursday 5th February due to the funeral Mass at 11.30am.

There will be a second offertory this weekend for the promotion of racial justice in parishes across the diocese.

The newsletter for St Cecilia's Church is available via the QR Code at the entrances to the church, via email on request or on the parish website.





**Prayers for the Sick and Housebound:** Please keep in your prayers the wellbeing of: D.H, Adelaide Cotter, Paul Fairhall, Amy Bradbury (nee Mckenzie), Marie Goti, Michael Christou, John Rosenow, Mary Silva, Michael Hoskins.

*Contact the parish office if you would like to be added to the names of those requesting prayers.*



**Repose of the Soul** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dorothy Upton. Her funeral will be here at St Cecilia's on Thursday 5th February at 11.30am. May her departed soul find a peaceful journey into the loving embrace of Our Lord Jesus.

*Almighty Father be a comforting presence to those who mourn, assure them of Your love, and eternal peace.*

**\*\*Please note** There will be no 10am Mass Thursday morning this week.

**Home Visits** If you know of anyone who is housebound, a regular home visit can be arranged through Fr Ben for the person to receive the Holy Eucharist. It is important they continue to receive Holy Communion and that Pastoral Care is maintained, also for the Sacrament of the Sick.

**Private Prayer** Spend some quiet time with Jesus. The Church is open for private prayer every Monday from 10am and after Mass each day, until 7pm. Fridays until Benediction at 6pm.

**Mass Intentions** If possible please allow for 6 weeks notice for your intended Mass Intention/s to accommodate dates and times requested. In some instances, you may be asked to share and pray for two intentions at the same Mass.

**Parish Office** Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00am to 1:00pm and 4:00pm to 6:00pm, for all enquiries formal, informal or personal.

**Notices for the newsletter** Any notices for inclusion in the parish newsletter should reach the parish office email address by Wednesday of each week, for inclusion the following weekend. *Many Thanks.*

**Parish Registration** If you are recently moved to the parish of St Cecilia's please make yourself known to Fr Ben and pick up a Parish Registration Forms at the back of the church. The form can be returned at the Sacristy or to the Presbytery, next door.

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**Racial Justice Sunday** is 1st February. There will be a second offertory, in support this weekend.

#### **Preparing for Lent**

18th February — Ash Wednesday

25th February — Stations of the Cross every Wednesday at 7.30pm throughout Lent

27th February — Friday Family Fast Day for CAFOD

We celebrate with all our parishioners born in **February**.



## **Parish Life**

All are welcome.

**The Thursday Club** meets after Mass, at 10am.

**Knit and Natter** follows on from the Thursday Club. Bring a craft to share.

**Little Church** (Children's Liturgy) is on Sundays at 9.30am and 11am

**The Youth Group** meets on Thursday from 5pm to 6.30pm If you are in Years 7 to 11 you are most welcome to join for faith, fun and food. The young people are organizing a one day retreat on Monday 16th February. Pick up a leaflet in the church or email [deiamorsc@gmail.com](mailto:deiamorsc@gmail.com) to find out more and sign up.

**Mothers Prayer Group** will gather on Saturdays at 5.30pm before the Rosary and Vigil Mass. News of the first meeting is on it's way.

**The Gardening Club** is due to meet on Saturday 7th February at 9am. All hands on deck.

**Trussell Trust Food Bank** Thank you to the person who sorted and took donations to the food bank centre on behalf of the parish. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

**Community Notice** With effect from 28th February the A24 Stonecot Hill from the junction of Gander Green Lane to the junction with Sutton Common Road, a 20mph speed limit will be enforced & monitored by speed safety cameras. Scheduled works are to take place over 2 nights between 3 and 7 February.

#### **Our Safeguarding Team**

Your parish Safe Guarding Reps can be contacted at

[northcheamsg1@safeguardraos.org.uk](mailto:northcheamsg1@safeguardraos.org.uk) for

**Annalee Humphrey**

[northcheamsg2@safeguardraos.org.uk](mailto:northcheamsg2@safeguardraos.org.uk) for

**Linda Mamedy**

[northcheamsg3@safeguardraos.org.uk](mailto:northcheamsg3@safeguardraos.org.uk)

**Lorna Gallagher**

***The Safeguarding representatives have special responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people and adults at risk.***

**The Diocesan Safeguarding Co-Ordinator can be contacted on 020 761 1606**

**Find out more at**

[www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)

[www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

**\*\*CCTV Cameras** are in operation 24 hours within the church, memorial garden and surrounding grounds, for surveillance and as a deterrence against criminal action. Signs are visible around the parish property. The parish is legally obliged to inform all parishioners of their presence, & the security measures in place. Any recorded footage will be held and disposed of in accordance with statutory GDP Regulations.