

# SUNDAY *Plus*

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

Season of Creation



## With Jesus' help

It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him come up, the former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing centre at Ravensbrück. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there: the room full of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blanced face.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. "How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein," he said. "To think that, as you say, he has washed my sins away!"

His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.

Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him.

I tried to smile. I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness...

And so, I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on his. When [Jesus] tells us to love our enemies he gives, along with the command, the love itself.

Corrie Ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*

Image: Corrie Ten Boom, [www.clcpublications.com/authors/corrie-ten-boom](http://www.clcpublications.com/authors/corrie-ten-boom)

Merciful God, soften our hearts. Teach us to forgive as you forgive: freely, fully, without condition. Heal wounds, restore peace, and renew our spirits.  Amen.

### First impressions

First impressions make a huge difference when you visit a school: your first sight of the students as you arrive, the reception area, the receptionist and then, after a few minutes of flicking through the press cuttings on the comfy chairs, the headteacher: "Good morning, welcome, great to see you." Within the first few seconds you form an impression of this person and if you sense energy,

enthusiasm and hope, embodied in a smile, good eye contact and a handshake, you feel you have met a leader who wants to be where they are, is not weighed down by expectation, and has the attributes to lead this school with confidence... The daily experience of headship is not knowing what's waiting for you when you walk in the door and knowing that most of what you will have to face is not covered in the manual.

Sr Judith Rossi SSMN,  
*How to Survive in Leadership  
in a Catholic School*

Christian education does not only form professionals, but also people open to goodness, beauty and truth. Catholic schools, therefore, when they are faithful to their name, are places of inclusion, integral formation and human development.

Pope Leo XIV



### Feast of the week Monday 14 September

## Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross honours the cross as the instrument of our salvation. It commemorates two key events: the discovery of the True Cross by St Helena in the fourth century, and the recovery of the cross from the Persians in the seventh century.

But more than historical memory, this feast invites us to contemplate the mystery of the cross itself. In the cross, suffering is not meaningless – it becomes redemptive. In the cross, humiliation becomes glory. Christ's death on the cross transforms a symbol of shame into a sign of hope, mercy and victory. We are called to venerate the cross and to carry it: in our daily sacrifices, in our acts of love, in our perseverance through trials. To exalt the cross is to proclaim that love is stronger than death, and that God's mercy reaches even the darkest places.

### READINGS

**Today:**  
Ecclesiasticus  
27:30 – 28:7  
Romans 14:7-9  
Matthew 18:21-35

**Monday:**  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Philippians 2:6-11  
John 3:13-17

**Tuesday:**  
Hebrews 5:7-9  
John 19:25-27  
or Luke 2:33-35

**Wednesday:**  
1 Corinthians  
12:31 – 13:13  
Luke 7:31-35

**Thursday:**  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 7:36-50

**Friday:**  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 8:1-3

**Saturday:**  
1 Corinthians  
15:35-37, 42-49  
Luke 8:4-15

**Next Sunday:**  
Isaiah 55:6-9  
Philippians 1:20-24, 27  
Matthew 20:1-16



## St Cecilia's Church

101 Stonecot Hill, North Cheam, Surrey SM3 9HN

Contact us via St Cecilia's Parish Office: Tel: [0208 641 3141](tel:02086413141)

Email: [northcheam@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:northcheam@rcaos.org.uk) Website: [www.stceciliarcchurch.co.uk](http://www.stceciliarcchurch.co.uk)

Facebook: [SaintCeciliaNcheam](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 at [www.suttondeanery.weebly.com](http://www.suttondeanery.weebly.com)

**"O Christian, be aware of your nobility - it is God's own nature that you share; do not then, by an ignoble life, fall back into your former baseness." Pope St Leo the Great**

*Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### EDUCATION SUNDAY

**Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 6:30pm Beatric McCormack (RIP)**

**Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. 9:30am J.A.G. (Special Intention)**

11:00am **Owen Gribben**

**(First Anniversary RIP)**

**Mon. 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. NO MASS**

**Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 10:00am A. Hallet (Health & Wellbeing)**

**Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 10:00am Shirley Donaghue**

**(Health & Wellbeing)**

**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 10:00am Patricia Trainor (RIP)**

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 6:00pm ADORATION AND BENEDICTION**

7:00pm **Joan Gray Birthday (RIP)**

### TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

### EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY (Home Mission)

**Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 6:30pm Annie Loftus**

**(First Anniversary RIP)**

**Gus Loftus (Anniversary RIP)**

**John & Peter Healy (RIP)**

**Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. 9:30am Mr Zia (RIP)**

11:00am **Rita Desa (RIP)**

### Saints of the Week

**14<sup>th</sup> The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**15<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Sorrows 16<sup>th</sup> St Cornelius**

**17<sup>th</sup> St Robert Bellarmine; 17<sup>th</sup> St Hildegard of Bingen;**

**18<sup>th</sup> St Edith of Kemsing; 19<sup>th</sup> The Blessed Virgin Mary;**

**19<sup>th</sup> St Theodore of Canterbury**

### Upcoming Mass Intentions

**22<sup>nd</sup> B. Lobo; 23<sup>rd</sup> Holy Souls; 24<sup>th</sup> L Hallett;**

**25<sup>th</sup> John & Joanie Whyte; 26<sup>th</sup> Linda Oliva; 26<sup>th</sup> John Lyons**

**Prayers for the Sick & Housebound** Please pray for the wellbeing of: D.H. Adelaide Cotter; Paul Fairhall; E.K.U.; Amy Bradbury; Marie Goti; Michael Christou; John Rosenow; Mary silva; Michael Hoskins; Phyllis Sibley; Martha Gilbert, Mary Nassan, Joe Mendes; and Nanny Cossu.

**!HAPPY BIRTHDAY all SEPTEMBER born parishioners!**

**Second Offertory** this weekend is for the Catholic Education Service. Next week's second offertory is for Home Missions/Evangelli Gaudium Sunday.

**Parish Surgery** with your Parish Priest is between 11am and 1pm, and from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**The Sick & Housebound** Parish visiting of the sick and housebound is on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please contact the Parish Office should you or someone you know require a home visit.

**Repose of the Soul** Most merciful Jesus, receive the prayers we offer for the repose of the soul of:

**Catherine Smythe** who began her eternal journey on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2026. Her Funeral Mass will be Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 12.30pm, then NE Surrey Crematorium at 2pm. Please keep her family in your prayers too. Cathy gave of her time in active service to the parish for many years. *MAY SHE REST IN PEACE & RISE TO GLORY*

**First Holy Communion Registration** opens Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Listen out for instructions.

**Dei Amor Youth Group** meet Thursday at 5pm in the Church Hall.

**Young Adult Group** get together on the 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the Parish Room. Ages 18 to 35. All welcome, share with friends.

**St Cecilia's Parish 70th Birthday Meeting** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September in the CB Parish Room at 6.30pm. Everybody welcome, come along with ideas for the celebrations.

**Private Accommodation Available** Must be Catholic, aged 55+ one bed retirement flat in Croydon. Contact the parish office if interested.

**Trainee Plasterer Wanted.** Opportunity to learn a trade. Would suit school or college leaver. Age is no barrier. Full time or part time. Contact Rob 07903 777983.

**Tai Chi Classes** in the Church Hall began last Thursday 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

**IT Workshop** The next workshop is Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 9am to 10.45am in the CB Parish Room. All welcome.

**Rainbows 6th North Cheam Group** here at St Cecilia's have spaces available for ages 4 to 7. For more details contact Jo Cole at: [nc6rainbows@outlook.com](mailto:nc6rainbows@outlook.com)

**Mass Offertory 5th/6<sup>th</sup> September:** First Offertory: £1,212.39; Candles: £120.99