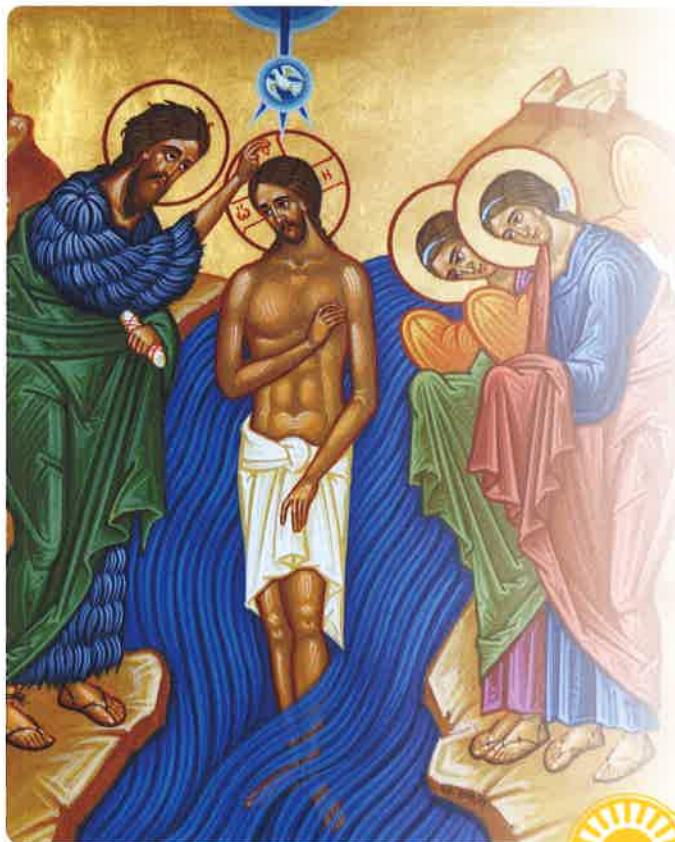


SUNDAY Plus

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week II Year A****E & W: Peace Day****18-25 January: Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Baptism of Christ. Chapel of the Convent of the Holy Trinity in Lomnica, Vranov, Slovakia. Adam Jan Figiel / Shutterstock.com

Listening is what allows us to enter into true dialogue.

Pope Leo

Looking for God

And if you would know God,
be not therefore a solver of riddles.
Rather look about you and
you shall see him playing with your children.
And look into space;
you shall see him walking in the cloud, outstretching
his arms in the lightning and descending in rain.
You shall see him smiling in flowers,
then rising and waving his hands in trees.

Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

May the cross of Christ also guide us on our daily journey towards full unity, in harmony with one another and with all creation. **†** Amen.

A new start

One of the most frequently travelled roads between Jerusalem and Galilee ran through this region [of the River Jordan]. Near where it crossed the river, at a place called Bethabara, John began to preach from a natural pulpit among the rocks overlooking the grove of sycamores that sheltered his listeners from the burning sun of midday pouring down upon John's own unprotected head...

As word of John's fiery preaching in the wilderness began to spread, more and more people stopped on the way to and from Jerusalem to hear him. There had not been a real prophet in Israel for hundreds of years...

Bethabara could hardly be called a town. Actually, it was little more than a customs station where the traveller from Jerusalem passed from the area

ruled by the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate, into the region presided over by Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea. A small post of frontier guards was stationed at the fords, more to keep order than to disturb the travellers, who could move freely from any part of the Roman Empire to another so long as they paid the necessary tolls.

John understood that baptism was not, in Jesus' case, an act of repentance, an acknowledgement of sin and a washing away of all uncleanness, as it had been with the others he had baptised. Instead, this was Jesus' way of publicly announcing his subservience to the will of his Father and his willingness from thenceforward to do only God's purpose.

Frank G. Slaughter, The Crown and the Cross: the life of Christ



St Mary Magdalene: betrayal, repentance, forgiveness

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

We first meet Mary in Luke 8:1-3, having been freed from evil spirits. It is not said, but it is strongly suggested, that Jesus freed her. She abandoned her former life and accompanied Jesus. Mary was there at the crucifixion; present also when his body was placed in the tomb. She was the first to meet the risen Lord and to announce this good news. Hers is a story of transformation, demonstrating that Jesus can change our lives, freeing us from old ways and leading us into his new way, involving evangelisation: Mary joyfully told others that Jesus was risen because she had met him. That message is given to us to share also. Through us, Jesus still reaches out to people who are marginalised, including them in his circle of friends and giving them a place on his mission team. Mary reminds us of the great privilege we have been given, which is to tell others about our encounter with the risen Lord and the difference he is making in our lives.

Sr Thérèse Garman is a Sister of Our Lady of Providence and a treasured former member of the Redemptorist Publications Editorial Team.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 49:3. 5-6
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

Monday:
1 Samuel 15:16-23
Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday:
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday:
1 Samuel
17:32-33. 37. 40-51
Mark 3:1-6

Thursday:
1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7
Mark 3:7-12

Friday:
1 Samuel 24:3-21
Mark 3:13-19

Saturday:
2 Samuel
1:1-4. 11-12. 19. 23-27
Mark 3:20-21

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3
1 Corinthians 1:10-13. 17
Matthew 4:12-23



St Cecilia's Church
101 Stonecot Hill, North Cheam, Surrey SM3 9HN
Contact us Via St Cecilia's Parish Office: Tel: [020 8641 3141](tel:02086413141)
Email: northcheam@rcaos.org.uk Website: www.stceciliarcchurch.co.uk
Facebook: [SaintCecilia Ncheam](https://www.facebook.com/SaintCecilia.Ncheam)



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 and the Sutton Deanery Website at www.suttondeanery.weebly.com

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PEACE DAY **Church Unity Week**

Sat. 17 th Jan.	06:30pm. Mary McLoughlin	(RIP)
Sun. 18 th Jan.	09:30am. Richard Flint	(RIP)
	11:00am. Mrs Ester Keatch	(RIP)



Mon. 19th Jan. **NO MASS**

Tues. 20th Jan. 10:00am. Gemma Shanahan (RIP)

Wed. 21st Jan. 10:00am. Bernard Vaughan **Wellbeing**

Thur. 22nd Jan. 10.00am. Teresa Ingrisano *Third Anniversary (RIP)*

Fri. 23rd Jan. 06.00pm *Adoration and Benediction*
07.00pm Simon Ridge *Anniversary (RIP)*

Sat. 24th Jan. 06:30pm. Angelo Arumaithurai *10 Year Anniversary (RIP)*

Sun. 25th Jan. 09:30am. Gabriel Moroney *Anniversary (RIP)*
11:00am Teresa McGowan (RIP)

We also pray for

Mary McHugh (RIP)
John Cunningham (RIP)
Carmel Fitzgerald
A good estate?
Stephen Walsh
Speedy Recovery

Saints of the Week

19th **St Wulstan**

20th **St Fabian**

St Sebastian

21st **St Agnes**

24th **St Frances de Sales**

PEACE SUNDAY

The Holy Father's message for Peace Sunday 'Peace be with you all: towards an unarmed and disarming peace'

Pax Christi meaning Peace of Christ is a global peace movement established after the Second World War inspired by faith to strive for a just world and the peace of non violence, inspired by values of the Gospel. If you would like to donate to the important work they do, please pick up an envelope at the entrance/exit to the church and add it to the offertory next weekend.

St Cecilia Parish

The parish newsletter is now available via QR code, email or on the parish website every week.





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.

Prayers for the Repose of the Soul of Anna Halliwell who died on the 15th December. Her funeral is on the 20th January at Merton Crematorium.

Rest In Heavenly Peace Dorothy Upton who left this earth on the 2nd January. Dorothy had been on the list of the Please keep Clive, Liz and their family in your prayers at this time.

Home Visits If you, a relative or neighbour is housebound, home visits can be arranged via Fr Ben to receive Holy Communion. It is important Pastoral Care is maintained and for the Sacrament of the Sick.

Private Prayer Spend some quiet time with Jesus. The Church will be open for private prayer every Monday from 11am and after Mass each day, until 7pm. Fridays till 6pm.

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

Please pray for the parents and catechists of our First Holy Communion children as they begin in preparation to share their love for Christ in the Eucharist.

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

Community Admin Marie the parish secretary will be in the Parish Office on Wednesdays between 11am and 5pm.

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.*

Second Offertory there will be a second offertory next weekend 24th/25th January for the maintenance of St George's Cathedral.



Parish Life



Little Church (Children's Liturgy) is in the Canon Beausang Parish Room on Sundays at 9.30am and 11am for nursery children up to the age of 8. Making faith fun, in recognizing the love Jesus has for them, building a confident prayer life and encouraging care for one another and in the community, where ever they may be.



Your Youth Group meets every Thursday at 5pm to 6.30pm. Join in anytime for faith, fun and food.



RCIA /OCIA The parish RCIA group meet on Saturday's at 11am. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their journey in faith with Our Lord Jesus. If you are interested in becoming Catholic please visit the parish website and speak to Fr Ben.



The Thursday Club after the 10am Mass. Sprung from CAFOD's Live Simply campaign to share with the poor. Drop by for a cup of tea with friends, you'll be most welcome.



Knit and Natter follows on after the Thursday Club. Bring a craft you love to share stories, tips and talents.



Flower Arranging Thank you to the person who returned the faux flowers and foliage to the sacristy kitchen, last week. They will be most useful to the Flower Arranging Team coming up to Easter.

Food Bank Donations Please do not leave clothes and toys at the back of the church for the food bank. The Trussell Trust will only accept food items. Help to sort and take to the food centre would be most welcome.

Lost Property Items There are a number of lost property items on the table in the narthex. Any articles not claimed by the 24th January will either be donated to a local charity or disposed of.

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2026
A DAY WITH MARY
Here at St Cecilia's Church
Please see notices

Our Safeguarding Team

Your parish Safe Guarding Reps can be contacted at

northcheamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk for

Annaley Humphrey

northcheamsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk for

Linda Mamedy

northcheamsg3@safeguardrcaos.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

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 GDPR Regulations.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DEANERY

Canon Gerard Bradley, our Episcopal Vicar, will soon be ordained as the new Auxillary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark, on Monday 2nd February at 12.30pm at St George's Cathedral. All are invited.

Archbishop John Wilson has entrusted Fr Patrick Udotai, of St Elephege's Church in Wallington, the office of the Dean for Sutton.

Please keep them both in your prayers as they continue to serve the flock and take up their new roles.

St Christopher's Church, Cheam SM3 8RS is holding a Christian Unity Ecumenical Prayer Service on Tuesday 20th January at 7pm led by Fr Antony James in a joint service of collective prayers and as a walk of intentional united accompaniment.

WHY EVANGELISE?

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

The Deanery Pastoral Council invite all adults to an event 11am - 1pm Saturday 31st January 2026, in Saint Matthias Church Hall. Father Sean will introduce the Sycamore programme and explore how it can be used to evangelise in your parish life.

NEWS FROM NEIGHBOURING PARISHES

Youth 2000 Retreat at Sacred Heart Church in Wimbledon on the 24th January from 9am to 9pm. Join for a new year get together jam-packed with prayer, sharing, friendship, and fun with other young people (age 16-35) from across London! Register at <https://youth2000.churchsuite.com/events/swcbtmvy>.

Father Agnelo Souza There is a special Mass to pray for the canonisation of Father Agnelo on Sunday 18 January at 2pm at St John Fisher Church, Merton. There will be light refreshments in the hall after the service - feel free to bring snacks to share. All are welcome, those with connections to Goa are especially encouraged to attend! Contact 07944 692920 for further details.

Fr Agnelo was a Portuguese priest serving in Goa. He was known for his humility, simplicity, and deep compassion for the poor and forgotten. Following his death there were numerous accounts of healing and miracles attributed to him. Recognising his extraordinary life, the Catholic Church has started the process to pronounce him as a saint but this takes many years. Prayers are sought to make this process successful so that he can be officially recognised as a saint from Goa.

Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home.

Pope Francis (Fratelli Tutti)

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

18th to the 25th January

CHURCHES TOGETHER SUTTON

ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT

is the ecumenical celebration of Christian Churches coming together. This year the prayers have been prepared by the Armenian Orthodox Church signifying unity and diversity at St Barnabas Church, Sutton

SM1 4NP on Sunday 18th January at 6.30pm.

All are welcome.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

celebrated 1st February.

Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism, while celebrating the diversity of our Archdiocese. ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON invites everyone to take part, and those who wish may wear national or cultural dress as a sign of unity. The procession with national flags takes place at 9.45am. Mass at 10am.

If you are unable to make it you can watch the livestream via the online link at: <https://www.youtube.com/live/fdmGwmESSgI>

BECOME A FRIEND OF ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral

Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504

Cash or Cheque – please use the St George's Cathedral envelopes at the back of church.

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

The Archdiocese of Southwark has launched an apologetics project to provide evidence-based answers to the burning questions of both new and practicing Catholics. The aim is to help people find the answers to burning questions of faith and being a reliable resource in understanding the faith.

Ambassadors for Christ is a series of short video aimed at building witnesses for Jesus and His Church.

Find out more at rcaos.org.uk/AmbassadorsforChrist.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

A Thanksgiving Mass is being offered for Cardinal Vincent Nichols at Westminster Cathedral Thurs 5th February at 5.30pm.

NEWS FROM ROME

The 'Poverello' of Assisi

Last week 2026 was declared a special Jubilee Year celebrating 800 years since the Transitus of St Francis of Assisi in 1226. The message of St Francis is still as relevant today giving us the beautiful prayer the Canticle of Creation. The Franciscan Jubilee Year is from 10th January 2026 to 10th January 2027. Did you know the first Franciscan arrived in the UK at Dover in 1224 instructed by the saint?