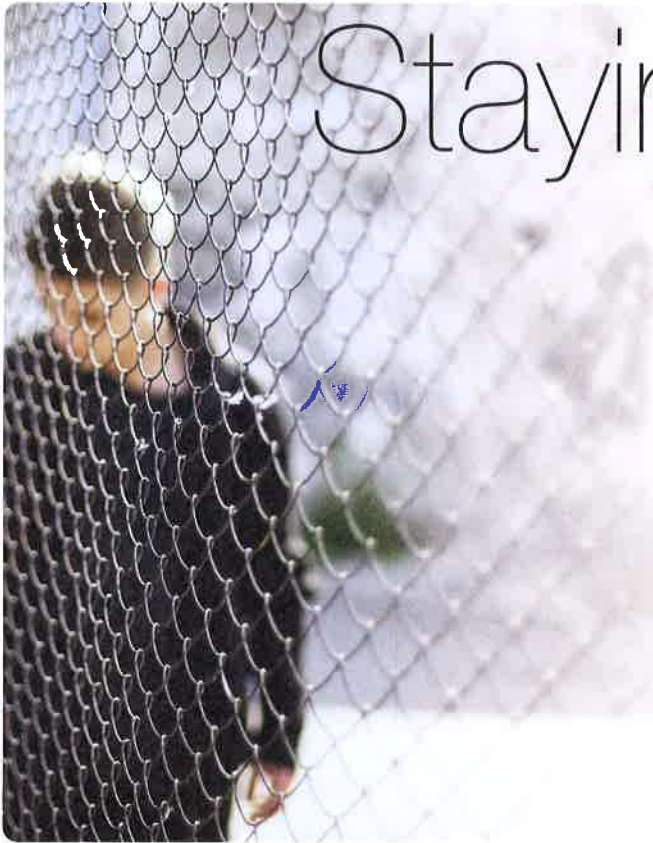


# SUNDAY *Plus*

3rd Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week III** Year A



## Staying with them

Greg's visits with each kid are short, mostly a touching of bases. He gives this one a message from a girlfriend. He asks that one when his court date is and how his case is coming. He brings to a third a bag of personals – shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste.

"I always give priority to the kids who have no-one," says Greg. "About half the kids here have no-one, no family member who will bring them personals. So, I bring them what they need."

Watching him it becomes obvious why visiting kids in juvenile facilities has long been one of the building blocks of Greg's strategy. When a kid is locked up, he is at his most vulnerable, so the priest has a better shot at turning him around. "They always cry when they're locked up," says Greg...

If kids are incarcerated in facilities that are too far away to visit regularly, Greg writes to them, sending packets of personals through the mail as needed. He gets an average of forty letters a month and answers every one. The kids guard these letters as treasured objects, quoting passages to each other, and back to Greg months later when they are free.

Greg also goes to court or writes letters on kids' behalf when he believes in their cause. All these things – combined with helping them locate jobs, getting them into school, running interference with the bureaucracy, if need be, visiting them in the hospital when they've been shot – give him leverage. "Juice," as the kids call it. Influence.

Celeste Fremon, *Father Greg & the Homeboys: the extraordinary journey of Father Greg Boyle and his work with the Latino gangs of East L.A.*

It is our faith that gives us strength. It is our faith that enables us to see the light of Jesus Christ in our lives and to understand how important it is to live our faith.


Pope Leo XIV

### I am with you

Be still and know I am with you.  
be still, I am the Lord.  
I will not leave you orphans.  
I leave with you my world. Be one.

You fear the light may be fading,  
you fear to lose your way.  
Be still, and know I am near you.  
I'll lead you to the day and the sun.

Ann Scott

Lord God, help me to bring your life and love to everyone I meet. Give me the courage to look for you even in the most difficult places.  Amen.



Feast of the week  
Thursday 23 April

### St George (d. 303)

Dragons were in rather short supply when St George was an officer in Rome's elite Praetorian Guard. Contrary to popular belief, it's highly unlikely that he ever met a dragon and even less likely that he fought and killed one. In fact, the story of his battle with a dragon post-dates George by about five hundred years.

Much of George's life is unknown. He lived and died during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian, who was responsible for the deaths of an uncounted number of early Christians, many after extreme brutality. Diocletian decreed that everybody in the Empire must sacrifice to pagan deities. George refused. His position in the Praetorian Guard meant an inevitable death sentence: Diocletian couldn't be seen to pardon a member of his own bodyguard!

As a Roman citizen, George – like St Paul – was beheaded, on 23 April 303. Unforeseen by Diocletian, his own wife, the Empress Alexandra, witnessed the execution, became a Christian and was herself martyred.

### READINGS

**Today:**  
Acts 2:14, 22-33  
1 Peter 1:17-21  
Luke 24:13-35

**Monday:**  
Acts 6:8-15  
John 6:22-29

**Tuesday:**  
Acts 7:51 – 8:1  
John 6:30-35

**Wednesday:**  
Acts 8:1-8  
John 6:35-40

**Thursday:**  
Acts 8:26-40  
John 6:44-51  
England: St George  
(Solemnity):  
Apocalypse 12:10-12  
John 15:18-21 or 15:1-8

**Friday:**  
Acts 9:1-20  
John 6:52-59

**Saturday:**  
1 Peter 5:5-14  
Mark 16:15-20

**Next Sunday:**  
Acts 2:14, 36-41  
1 Peter 2:20-25  
John 10:1-10



**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)

*Jesus: 'I couldn't stand being far from you. This is why I came; this is why I died; this is why I rose again—to stay with you.'*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Sat. 18th Apr. 6:30pm Jim Duffy (RIP)**  
**Kathleen Nissila (RIP)**  
**Sun. 19th Apr. 9:30am R. Selvaratnam (In Thanksgiving)**  
 11:00am Esthakky Vincent Janson (RIP)

**Mon. 20th Apr. NO MASS**  
**Tues. 21st Apr. 10:00am. Christine Doyle Gorham (RIP)**  
**Wed. 22nd Apr. 10:00am. Martin George (RIP)**  
 5:00pm Reception of the Body of Donal Smith  
**Thur. 23rd Apr. ST GEORGE'S DAY**  
 10:00am. The Costello Family (Special Intention)  
**FUNERAL MASS**  
 11:30am Donal Smith (RIP)  
 1:20pm Morden Crematorium  
**Fri. 24th Apr. 6:00pm Adoration and Benediction**  
 7:00pm Xavier Mendes (Wellbeing)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

**Sat. 25th Apr. 6:30pm Marion Gilleran (Anniversary RIP)**  
**Sun. 26th Apr. 9:30am Sarah Moroney (Anniversary RIP)**  
 11:00am John Gorham (RIP)

**Second Offertory** next weekend is in support for future priests, on Good Shepherd Sunday and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. This fund helps meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the diaconate. It also supports ongoing formation of the clergy in service across our parishes, schools, hospitals and communities. There are nine seminarians at the moment, costing around £32,000 per year over six years of formation. Your generosity makes their call to the priesthood possible. Please take a Priest Training Fund envelope.

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to the food bank collection during Lent and over Easter. We have been able to send 5 crates of provisions and toiletries to the local Food Centre to be used in the supply of food parcels, this month.

**Volunteer help** wanted with small online tax return if you are able to assist please email the Parish Office.



**Saints of the Week**

**21st St Anslem**  
**23rd St George**  
**24th St Adalbert**  
**24th St Fidelis of Sigmaringen**  
**24th St Justus & St Mellitus**  
**24th St Mary Euphrasia Pelletier**  
**25th St Mark the Evangelist**

Pray for us.

**Prayers for the Sick and Housebound:**

Please pray for the wellbeing of:

D.H.  
 Adelaide Cotter,  
 Paul Fairhall,  
 Amy Bradbury  
 Marie Goti  
 Michael Christou  
 John Rosenow  
 Mary Silva  
 Michael Hoskins  
 Mary McFarlane  
 Brian Newman  
 Phyllis Sibley  
 Marco Chavrimootoo

**Upcoming Mass Intentions**

**28th Cepta McGrath**  
**29th Jenny & Josephine Fitzgibbon**  
**30th Ellen Shanahan**  
**2nd Guia Fernandez**  
**3rd Dorothy Upton**  
**3rd Frank Egan**  
**3rd Mimi D'Mello**

**MAKE A HOLY HOUR**

for the Dignity of Life today 19th April at 4.30pm, wherever you happen to be.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/holy-hour-for-the-dignity-of-life/>

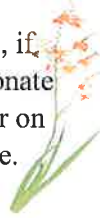
If you are registered for the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, there is a letter waiting for you in the wall mounted letter rack by the statue of St Therese of Lisieux. Please collect your letter after Mass.

Thank you.

**Fr Ben**

## Parish Life

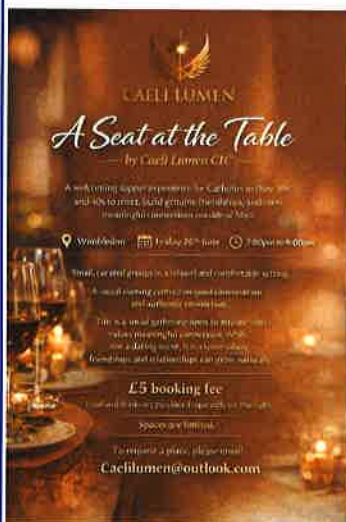
We are hoping to plant church garden borders, if anyone has plant cuttings or spare plants to donate please leave them by the Presbytery front door on a Wednesdays for the attention of Abi Rylance.



### THE PARISH HALL

Available for Hire

For all enquiries send an email to [stceciliashurchevents@outlook.com](mailto:stceciliashurchevents@outlook.com)



**A Seat at the Table (by Caeli Lumen CIC)** is an independently organised monthly supper gathering for Catholics in their 30s and 40s to meet, build friendships, and form meaningful connections outside of Mass. Open to Catholics across London.

- Wimbledon
  - Friday 27th June
  - 7:00pm to 9:00pm
- £5 booking fee (food purchased separately)

Look out for the posters in church. To reserve your place contact: [Caelilumen@outlook.com](mailto:Caelilumen@outlook.com)

**'Upper Room Experience'** The All Nations Catholic Charismatic Group invites the people of the parish for the celebration of the Feast of the Pentecost at St Andrew's Church, Thornton Heath, Croydon CR7 7RD on Sunday 24 May 2026 from 3pm onwards. The Feast of Pentecost is an integral part of our Christian life. Let us come together to celebrate the birthday of our church and experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In Praise and Worship, Spirit filled talk, Adoration and Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Food and drinks will be provided after the celebration. Attendees are encouraged to attend Mass in their own parishes.

### Pilgrimages with A Day with Mary

*Pilgrimage to Fatima* (8 July to 15 July 2026) Closing date 28 April 2026

*Pilgrimage to Italy* (1 September to 10 September 2026) Closing date 23 June 2026

Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

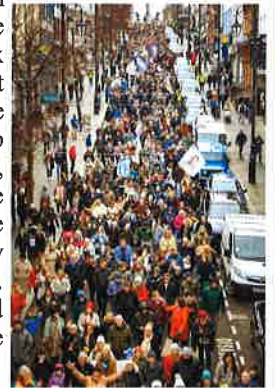
**Dare to Believe** Panel Discussion Sunday 19th April 2026 from 3pm to 5pm at Farm Street Church. Is religious freedom under growing threat around the world? Testimonies from survivors of persecution. Organised by Aid to the Church in Need. Chaired by Fr Dominic Robinson. Visit [acnuk.org/events](http://acnuk.org/events)

**Westminster Cathedral Choristers** *Ordinary boys doing extraordinary things.* Interested in finding out more? Join the next Chorister Zoom Information Session on **Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 6:30pm.** Register here - <https://tinyurl.com/2zsf92j8> Alternatively, contact Rachel Bonnet at 020 7798 908, or [RBonnet@choirschool.com](mailto:RBonnet@choirschool.com)

**CTSL Big Gathering: Being Visible** Wednesday 20th May 7-8.45pm, with an informal buffet offered from 6pm onwards at Trinity House, Chapel Court, SE1 1HW (off Borough High Street near London Bridge). We will be supporting and resourcing churches to be more visible as Christians in South London, united by God's love and the call to love our neighbours. With the far-right and nationalists distorting Jesus' teaching for political ends and waging war, how can we help churches be more visible as we act and witness together to God's love, welcoming the stranger, and following the Prince of Peace?

**Vocations Weekend for Women** (in their 20s and 30s) organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus on **Discerning God's Call in your life** 15th - 17th May, Liverpool. For more information contact Sr Lynne [fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit their website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org) To register: <https://bit.ly/Vocation2026>

**Mary's Blue Army** Saturday 13th June the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, churches across six continents will take part in the first ever synchronized world wide Marian Eucharistic Procession to bring souls to Jesus through Mary, and for the intention of peace in the World, in the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary so every nation may honour Christ the King. 70 churches have signed up and numbers are expected to double. The procession brings many conversions.



### Our Safeguarding Team

Your parish Safe Guarding Reps can be contacted at

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

**Annaley Humphrey**

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

**Linda Mamedy**

[northcheamsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto: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.catholicssafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.catholicssafeguarding.org.uk)  
[www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

**Safeguarding Sunday is on the 3rd of May.**