

SUNDAY *Plus*

4th Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

God, I love you!

Understanding prayer means understanding that one is speaking with God.

There are two poles, one very, very tiny and very, very weak: my soul. One immense and powerful: God. But here is the first paradox, the first surprise: that he who is so great should have wanted to speak to me, tiny as I am.

It is not I who wanted prayer. It is he who wanted it. It is not I who have looked for him. It is he who has looked for me first. My seeking him would have been in vain if before all time he had not sought me.

The hope on which my prayer rests is in the fact that it is he who wants it. And if I go to keep the appointment it is because he is already there waiting for me. If he


had remained in his silence and isolation, I'd have not been able to break mine... I've been speaking with God all my life; and I've only just begun!

There's another thing to say about prayer. It doesn't come from earth but from heaven. The cry which fills my breast and makes me exclaim "God, I love you!"... When I bow before his love, he is not slow to come; rather he has already come, for he loves me much more than I, poor creature, can ever love him.

And love shows itself in action... the soul must say with sincerity, "now I will arise and go to my Father."

Carlo Carretto, *Letters from the Desert*



Lord, let me follow you in all of life's ups and downs, joys and sorrows, successes and failures. Stay close to me at every moment of every day.  Amen.

In whatever the Lord calls us to do, in both our daily lives and our journey of faith, there are times when we feel inadequate. [Jesus] tells us not to rely on our own abilities but on the mercy of the Lord who has chosen us, and to be certain that the Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us all things.

Pope Leo XIV

God calls

As Ignatius had a love for fiction, when he found himself out of danger, he asked for some romances to pass away the time. In that house there was no book of the kind. They gave him, instead, *The Life of Christ*, by Rudolf, the Carthusian, and another book called *The Flowers of the Saints*, both in Spanish. By frequent reading of these books, he began to get some love for spiritual things...

While perusing the life of Our Lord and the saints, he began to reflect, saying to himself, "What if I should do what St Francis did?" "What if I should like act like St Dominic?" He pondered over these things in his mind and kept continually proposing to himself serious and difficult things. He seemed to feel a certain readiness for doing them, with no other reason except this thought, "St Dominic did this; I, too, will do it." "Saint Francis did this; therefore, I will do it."

Autobiography of St Ignatius of Loyola

Feast of the week
Thursday 30 April

Blessed Dr José Gregorio Hernandez

Exactly five years ago today, this Venezuelan doctor and bacteriologist was beatified.

Known as the "doctor of the poor", Blessed Gregorio treated the poor for free and frequently paid for their medicines with his own money. "Most of these people do not have resources," he told his aunt María Luisa, explaining why he kept a moneybag inside his medical bag wherein his patients could either deposit what they could afford or help themselves to funds for their daily needs. "I am not going to deny them the consultation, and I am not going to make them go through the pain of telling me that they have no money," he said. "God will help."

Blessed Gregorio was accidentally hit by a car and died of head injuries as he left a pharmacy after collecting a poor woman's medicines.

The day before the beatification, Pope Francis said that he had never met a Venezuelan "who, halfway through the conversation, did not finally say to me: 'When will Gregorio be beatified?'"

READINGS

Today:
Acts 2:14, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10

Monday:
Acts 11:1-18
John 10:11-18

Tuesday:
Acts 11:19-26
John 10:22-30

Wednesday:
Acts 12:24 - 13:5
John 12:44-50

Thursday:
Acts 13:13-25
John 13:16-20

Friday:
Genesis 1:26b - 2:3
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday:
Acts 13:44-52
John 14:7-14

Next Sunday:
Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12



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

"Christ my God, you humbled yourself in order to lift me, a straying sheep, to your shoulders." St John Damascene

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*)

Mon. 27th Apr. NO MASS

Tues. 28th Apr. 10:00am. Cepta McGrath (*RIP*)

Wed. 29th Apr. 10:00am. Jenny and Josephine Fitzgibbon (*RIP*)

Thur. 30th Apr. 10:00am. Ellen Shanahan (*Anniversary RIP*)

Fri. 1st May 6:00pm *Adoration and Benediction*
 7:00pm **For the Parish**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

Sat. 2nd May 6:30pm Guia Fernandez
(Second Anniversary RIP)

Sun. 3rd May 9:30am Dorothy Upton
 Frank Egan (*First Anniversary RIP*)

11:00am Mimi D'Mello (*RIP*)

Upcoming Mass Intentions

**5th Mrs Patsy Brown; 6th Paul Smith; 7th Marie Mamedy;
 8th Nida, Toni, Louise & Antonio; 9th Marie Oliva**

Second Offertory World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Please do use the Priest Training Fund envelopes available. This fund helps meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the diaconate. It also supports ongoing formation of our clergy in service across our parishes, schools, hospitals and communities. There are currently diocesan 9 seminarians, with potentially another 6 due to join next year. Your generosity makes their call to the priesthood possible.

London Marathon Please keep Michael Snook and his wife Katie in your prayers this weekend as they run the London Marathon in aid of St Raphael's Hospice. We thank them for their sacrifice and will be looking out for them on the TV! Please support if you can at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/michael-snook-2>

Parish Gift Aid Scheme letters for everyone registered are in the letter rack by the statue of St Therese of Lisieux for collection.



Saints of the Week

25th St Mark the Evangelist
26th Our Lady of Good Counsel
28th St Peter Chanel
28th St Louis de Montfort
29th St Catherine of Siena
30th St Pius V
1st St Joseph the Worker
2nd St Athanasius
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

All Parish Volunteers, in every capacity, are invited to take part in a Special Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday 30th May at 3pm followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Mary McFarlane** who died on Thursday 16th April, Her funeral is Tuesday 19th May at 12.30pm and burial 2pm at Morden Cemetery.

Your prayers are also asked for the Repose of the Soul of **Moya Condon** who died on Friday the 24th April.

Please keep their families in your prayers too.

May they Rest in Peace and Rise to Glory



St Cecilia's Summer Fayre 2026

Following the success of the Summer Fayre last year we are doing it all again this year, on Saturday 11th July. Sign up on the sheets are at the entrances to the church or send an email to Louise at stceciliascirchevents@outlook.com

Fr Ben



In March of the 1950s, a busy teacher-principal was interrupted by a salesman at her door. As he reached for his pen to get her signature his Rosary accidentally fell out. Curious, she remarked, "So, you are a Catholic."

"Oh no the man replied but a lot of us owe our lives to Our Lady. I promised her I would always

keep my Rosary with me and say it every day.

What followed was an incredible story from May 1940.

A young group of Canadian airmen had just been assigned their new squadron leader, Stan Fulton. To their surprise, this officer chose to sleep in the bunkhouse with his men instead of the officer's quarters. That very first night, he knelt on the floor and quietly prayed his Rosary.

The men were stunned. But night after night, more of them began joining him. Soon, the entire squadron was praying the Rosary together before bed.

Before leaving for dangerous night missions over Germany, Fulton gave each man a Rosary and made them promise; "If you keep this Rosary with you always and pray it, I can promise you that Our Lady will bring you all back safely to Canada."

For the next four years—flying through flak, fire and the terrors of combat—whenever danger closed in, Fulton's voice would echo through the aircraft: "Hail Mary" and the men would humbly respond in chorus.

Hundreds of Rosaries were prayed in the skies.

And the miracle? Their squadron was the only one that never lost a single plane or a single life throughout the entire war. In 1945, every man returned home safely to Canada.

Sr O'Neil

Rosary For Life The Archbishop is calling all of us to pray the Rosary for Life this May, the Month of Mary. Together, we will pray through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries, each one offered for the most vulnerable 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.

Joyful Mysteries (1 May – 9 May): pray for unborn children and an end to abortion

Sorrowful Mysteries (10 May – 16 May): pray for peace and for victims of war

Luminous Mysteries (17 May – 23 May): pray for people with disabilities

Glorious Mysteries (24 May – 30 May): pray for the elderly and vulnerable

YOU RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION... BUT WHAT FOLLOWS

You walk forward.
You receive the Host.
You say "Amen."
You return to your seat.
Mass ends.
You leave the church.
You go home.

Here is the truth most people never consider:

Something does not end when you leave the church.
Something follows you home.
Christ does not leave the moment you walk out the Church

When you receive Holy Communion:
you receive Christ Himself.
Not symbolically.
Not emotionally.

Christ is really present.

His sacramental presence remains with you.
This is why the Church insists:
silence after Communion matters.
Because you are carrying:
His presence you just received.

EVEN DEEPER

Even when the sacramental presence passes...
the grace does not disappear
Communion is not just about a moment.
It is transformation.
You do not just receive Christ.
Christ begins to shape you.

WHAT FOLLOWS YOU HOME IS A CALL
After Communion, something invisible follows you:

a call to live differently
to speak with charity
to forgive more quickly
to act with patience
to love more deeply
Because you have received Love itself.
And Love does not stay hidden.

YOU BECOME WHAT YOU RECEIVE

This is one of the deepest truths of the Eucharist:
You receive the Body of Christ...
so that you may become the Body of Christ.
So when you leave the church:
you are not empty.
You are sent. Sent to: your family, your work,
your daily life
Carrying what you have received.

THE HARD TRUTH

Many receive Communion...
and leave unchanged.
same anger
same habits
same indifference
So Christ was received...
but not allowed to transform.

We don't leave Christ at the altar...
we carry Him into the world.

NEXT TIME YOU LEAVE MASS

Pause at the door. Silently say: "Lord, go with me."
"Live through me."
Because what follows you home... is not just a memory of Mass. It is a presence... and a mission.

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 door on a Wednesday for the attention of Abi.



THE PARISH HALL

Available for Hire

For all enquiries send an email to stceciliaschurchevents@outlook.com

Missio and Mill Hill Missionaries invite all Red Box supporters and the wider Diocesan community to come together for two important events in 2026. At St Simon Stock Church, Bleakwood Rd, Walderslade, Kent ME5 0NF on Saturday 6 June at 11am. Join Fr Joseph Donkor (Missio Diocesan Director for Southwark) and the Mill Hill Missionaries for Mass, followed by lunch and sharing of mission work.



Mission Masses are an opportunity to hear about how missionaries share the Gospel throughout the world and how we can be missionary disciples in our own parishes. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please email redbox@missio.org.uk or visit <https://missio.org.uk/mission-masses-and-events/> for further information.

Widowed, Separated or Divorced? If so, Beginning Experience is there for you. They are organising a weekend on May 8-10 at Worth Abbey, West Sussex, to help you deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. Email beginningexperience.soe@gmail.com for details.

A Day With Mary on 9th May at *St Bede's Catholic Church*, Thornton Heath SW12 from 9.30am and on 17th May at the *Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham* gathering at 12.30pm at Walsingham Village Coach Park for the Procession along Pilgrims Way.



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

Build A Better Marriage This is a one-day marriage-enrichment event on May 23 aimed at couples whether married five years or 55 years. There is no charge and no group sharing. Couples have the opportunity individually to explore their relationship and levels of communication, which is the key to relationship. It starts at 9am and finishes by 4.30pm. The venue: St Elphege's, Church Wallington. More details – T: 07983 524727 or E: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Raising Teenagers in a Catholic Family. This webinar provides guidance to parents of young people developing into adulthood, on how to encourage and help them to value and follow their faith and to navigate those difficult teen years by modelling the behaviour parents wish to see in their sons and daughters. The webinar, scheduled for June 2 at 8pm, is presented by a Catholic family ministry from the USA. Details: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting>

Encounter Pentecost Saturday 23rd May at 10.15am A day of praise and worship activities, witness testimonies. There is something for all the family including stalls, music workshops, the day ends with Mass at 4pm. Charismatic prayers lead by Canon Michael Branch at St George's Cathedral.

Tyburn Martyrs Walk 2026 to commemorate the 105 Catholic Martyrs. Meeting at Churchyard of St Giles in the Field on Sunday 17th May at 1.30pm ending at Tyburn Convent for Benediction at 3.30pm, praying for England. See www.tyburnmartyrswalk.org.uk



An Evening with Scott Hahn. Meet Scott Hahn (of Hallow) Thursday 28th May 6pm to 10pm at St George's Cathedral for this special event on the Eucharist and a reflection on the Lord's Prayer. Sign up at <https://aeccsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/hoid9ldf> for tickets.

Mondon 4th May is a Bank Holiday.

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**

Safeguarding Sunday is on the 3rd of May.