

SUNDAY *Plus*

5th Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week I** Year A

With shouts of glee the children filled the boat. The soldiers ferried them rapidly to the other side. They returned and more of the children piled in. On the third journey the soldier helped the foreign woman into the boat with the last group of children. His platoon had gathered around to help. As the boat moved away from the bank, he called his men to attention and gravely saluted. He called, "Good luck, foreigner!"...

He turned to walk back along the bank to his platoon... It was curious about that foreigner. If this had been close to a large city or a settlement, he could have understood it but wandering across a battlefield escorting an army of ragged Chinese children: that was, indeed, very curious.

They found a village two or three miles from the bank of the Yellow River and the people were hospitable to them. Although many hundreds of refugees had passed through, they still found food to spare for the children...

It was just as well, thought Gladys wearily, that they [the

To rescue the children

children] didn't worry about where the next meal was coming from.

They stayed in the village only long enough to finish the food and then moved on... They spent that night in the fields and went on again next morning to the town of Mien Chu. It, too, had been badly bombed, but an old woman directed her to a refugee organisation. She found it in the old temple; there were cauldrons of steaming food; they were made welcome.

Alan Burgess, *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness*

Image: Gladys Aylward with some of the children before they crossed the mountains to Sian © wikipedia.com



Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. Give eternal rest to the people whom I've known and loved and who have gone home to you.  Amen.

New directions

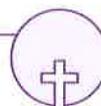
To save his friend Lazarus from dying of his sickness would have been miracle enough, but Jesus needed to go further...

It can also have, for us, a personal meaning... All too quickly can we think that there is nothing much we can do: "I'm just like that." We may want to be better but feel a change of life is simply beyond us. Remember Lazarus was dead,

decaying, buried. Yet Jesus could call him forth into a newness of life at will. Never think that our own will alone can make significant changes. Habits and weaknesses bind us fast. But the whole point of being a Christian is that it is not on ourselves that we rely. It is God who wills goodness for us and God who will achieve it in us. All we have to do is ask and, like the dead Lazarus, let God make everything different.

Sr Wendy, *The Art of Faith*

Feast of the week Wednesday 25 March Annunciation of the Lord Annunciation carol



The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow,
with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

"For know, a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify
God's holy name."
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould

READINGS

Today:
Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

Monday:
Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17,
19-30, 33-62
John 8:1-11

Tuesday:
Numbers 21:4-9
John 8:21-30

Wednesday:
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

Thursday:
Genesis 17:3-9
John 8:51-59

Friday:
Jeremiah 20:10-13
John 10:31-42

Saturday:
Ezekiel 37:21-28
John 11:45-56

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

Let us pray that we can grow in humanity, so that our relationships may be truer and richer in compassion. Let us ask the Heart of Jesus for the grace increasingly to have the same feelings as him.

Pope Leo XIV



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

.....let us be ready for all that God's will may bring, with an undivided heart, firm faith and rugged strength' St Cyprian

<p>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p>Sat. 21st Mar. :30pm. Anthony and Edward Lawrence (RIP) Susan McHugh (RIP)</p> <p>Sun. 22nd Mar. 9:30am. E.U. (Special Intentions) 11:00am. John Regida & Family (Special Intentions)</p>	<p><u>We also pray for</u></p> <p>Oscar Rosaria (4th Anniversary RIP)</p> <p>William McFaddeen (Wellbeing)</p>	<p><u>Saints of the Week</u></p> <p>23rd St Turibius 25th The Annunciation of the Lord</p>
<p>Mon. 23rd Mar. NO MASS <i>The church is open for private prayer</i></p> <p>7:00pm Lenten Penitential Service and Sacrament of Reconciliation</p> <p>Tues. 24th Mar. 10:00am. John and Joan Gray (RIP) and Wedding Anniversary</p> <p>Wed. 25th Mar. 10:00am. John Whyte (RIP) 7:30pm. Stations of the Cross</p> <p>Thur. 26th Mar. 10:00am. Carmel Fitzgerald (RIP) James (Special Intentions)</p> <p>Fri. 27th Mar. 6:00pm. Adoration, Bible Reflection & Benediction 7:00pm. The Holy Souls</p>	<p><u>Prayers for the Sick & Household:</u></p> <p>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</p>	<p><u>Upcoming Mass Intentions for the Coming Week</u> 2nd April for All Priests 4th April Holy Souls and Murty Conneely</p>
<p>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</p> <p>Sat. 28th Mar. 6:30pm Helen Davey (RIP)</p> <p>Sun. 29th Mar. 9:00am Deidre Egan (First Anniversary RIP) 11.00am For the Departed Souls of the Fernandez & Pinto Family (RIP)</p>	<p><u>Private Prayer</u> Spend some quiet time with Jesus. The Church is open for private prayer every day until 7pm. <u>Prayer Petitions</u> can be entered in the Parish Prayer Book on the small altar in the Narthex and will be include in at Mass on Friday evenings.</p>	<p><u>Parish Surgery Hours</u> Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00am to 5.30pm to visit with your priest.</p> <p><u>Parish Office Hours</u> are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10.30am to 5.30pm. The Parish Office will be closed during</p>
<p><u>HOLY WEEK</u></p> <p>Sun. 29th Mar. PALM SUNDAY. THE PASSION OF OUR LORD 9am Mass (**Please note the change to the Mass time) 11am Mass and Procession</p> <p>Mon. 30th Mar. No Mass</p> <p>Tues 31st Mar. No 10am Mass 11am Funeral Mass - John Lydon</p> <p>Wed. 1st Apr. No Mass 7:30pm Stations of the Cross</p> <p>Thurs 2nd Apr. MAUNDY THURSDAY 8:00pm Mass of the Last Supper Waiting with the Lord to midnight.</p> <p>Fri 3rd Apr. GOOD FRIDAY 10:00am Children's Stations of the Cross 3pm The Passion of the Lord</p> <p>Sat. 4th Apr. HOLY SATURDAY 10:00am The Blessing of the Baskets 8.00pm EASTER VIGIL</p> <p>Sun. 5th Apr. 9:30am & 11:00am EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</p> <p>Please Note: LITTLE CHURCH is meeting in the Church Hall this weekend 22/03/26 for the 9.30am Mass only.</p>	<p><u>Repose of the Soul</u> Please pray for the Repose of the Souls of John Lydon whose Funeral Mass is 31st March at 11am and Eileen Quirke, Funeral Mass 17th April at 12noon burial at Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery, SM4 4NW</p>	<p><u>Parish Registration</u> If you worship at St Cecilia's Church please ensure you are registered with the parish and your information is up to date. Pick up a Form at the back of the church and return it at the Sacristy or pop it through the Presbytery letter box, next door.</p>
	<p><u>Second Offertory</u> this weekend is for the poor parishes of our diocese.</p> <p><u>For Mass Intentions</u> look for the green envelopes & hand them to Father or the parish office.</p>	<p><u>St Matthias Worcester Park</u> is offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation for all on Sat 28th March between 10am and 12 noon.</p> <p>For Mass Offerings via QR.</p> 

MASS OFFERINGS

Weekend of 14th/15th March 2026

First Offering £1,209.44

Candles £134.25

Parish Life

Thank You to Marian and Carmel the Ladies of The Repository, who with your support, were able to donate £1000 to the parish, last month.

Visit our Repository for gifts for Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation or Marriage (for Ordinations please ask in advance). With Easter approaching you may wish to give a rosary, a prayer book, a religious candle and/or a card as an alternative to that chocolate egg. There is much to choose from.

Little Church 22nd March is the last session for Little Church, they return on the 12th April. The 9.30am group will be in the Church Hall. The 11am group remain in the Canon Beausang Parish Room.

First Holy Communion Children and Families

As ever, we have a delightful group of children making their First Holy Communion this year.



They have been gathering for three weeks now in preparation to receive the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, please keep them, their families and Catechists in your prayers as they continue to explore their love of faith in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Gardening Club will be gathering again at 9am on the 11th April (change of date). Donations of shrubs, bulbs or long lasting plants would be most welcome. Could you help start a vegetable patch or parish herb garden. There is still much to do, so come along with your garden tools.

The Thursday Club are looking for a mini bus driver, to drive a hire bus for five club outings a year. MIDAS license holder essential. Please contact: Mary Newman on 07587 146 441 ** There is no Thursday Club, Maundy Thursday, 2nd April.

IT Workshop the next workshop is arranged for Saturday morning, on the 18th April. More information to follow.

**For Parish Hall Hire Contact
stceciliashurchevents@outlook.com**

Thank you from CAFOD for your generous support this Family Fast Day. Your kindness is helping families to grow food, even when facing drought and floods. You have shown what it means to love your neighbour this Lent. Find out how your support is making more of a difference at cafod.org.uk/thankyou

'**Friends of the Holy Land** would like to thank all parishioners for £603.17 raised for Christians in the Holy Land, at a time when they are most vulnerable. Please continue to remember our work in your prayers, giving our brothers and sisters strength to continue and enabling us to provide them with key humanitarian, development, and healing programmes.'

<https://livinglaudatosi.com/2026/03/06/an-ecological-conversion/>

An Invitation from Bishop Paul Hendrick to join him on this year's SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21 to 28 August 2026. A great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. It a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled. Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/> Complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026> For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) Deacon John Fogarty (johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk) or Bishop Paul Hendricks (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)

Churches Together Sutton and Cheam

Join the local 'Walk of Witness,' Good Friday 3rd April from 10am to 11am. Gather for an ecumenical service gather outside ASDA, Sutton High Street for the walk in silence to Trinity Square all are welcome to join for an open air service led by Hope Church.

Sutton Foodbank and Community Food Shop are looking for a warehouse volunteer to co-ordinate weekly orders and deliveries, keep records and oversee rotation of stock and storage of foods. Required for Tuesdays 9am to 12.30pm plus an hour of admin at home.

Also Foodbank volunteers, no experience needed, next training day 24th March. Day or evening shift. Compassion, prayer and food. Contact 07540 077377.

RADIATE Evangelisation Expo



Evangelisation Expo entitled *Radiate: an Evangelisation Expo* join on Saturday 18th April at Amigo Hall, 11am:4:30pm. In this the year of St Francis of Assisi, we welcome Fr Casey Cole OFM as the keynote speaker and his Franciscan brothers

Frs Tito Serrano OFM and Jason Damon OFM. The keynote talk will be on *God Evangelises Through Ordinary People – We Need to Go and Get Them*.

There is also a choice of two workshops:

Living a Faith That Attracts and *From Friendship to Invitation*. There are also Practical Parish Evangelisation ideas and an *In Conversation with the Friars* (your opportunity to ask questions about Evangelisation) as well as opportunities to meet new people, pray for Evangelisation and be inspired by the Lord. It will be a very special day. Details and Registration are available at - [Expo — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis](http://Expo—AgencyforEvangelisationandCatechesis) (www.aec.rcaos.org.uk/expo)

Assisted Suicide Bill, Scotland — God Bless Scotland. Members of the Scottish Parliament rejected the McArthur Bill and the introduction of assisted dying, on the 17th March, by 69 votes to 57. A similar Bill in England and Wales looks unlikely to be accepted before the Parliamentary break.

The Crime and Policing Bill Archbishop John Sherington, Lead Bishop for Life, issued a Statement on behalf of the Bishops Conference for England and Wales, on the Crime and Policing Bill, passed by the House of Lords, ironically on the Feast of St Joseph, Model of Fatherhood. The Archbishop expressed his deep distress at the rejection of Baroness Monckton's amendment to remove Clause 208 from the Crime and Policing Bill leaving unborn babies with no legal protection, putting pregnant woman at risk of isolation, coercion and pressure. He thanked all those who advocate and work continuously to offer practical support and provide hope of a better future for both mothers and their babies. Inspired by the Holy Family as our example the faithful are called to pray for society and to continue to defend the dignity