

SUNDAY *Plus*

6th Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week II** Year A

Wanted and loved



I didn't yearn for a career, or maids and a fur coat, or a trip to Europe. All in the world I wanted was a happy, normal little family. Perhaps, if God could arrange it, Carl and I could have a boy first, and after that, a little girl. God didn't arrange it. In fact, as a doctor regretfully informed us, Carl and I couldn't have any children of our own...

Every time I walked down the street and saw a fulfilled mother strutting along the sidewalk behind a baby buggy, I was possessed with violent jealousy, envy and acute self-pity.

Carl, who was a patient man, finally had enough.

"For heaven's sake stop mooning, or you'll have us both neurotic," he said. "If having a baby is that important, why don't we adopt one?"

The more I mulled the idea over, the better I liked it. Wasn't motherhood

compounded more of love than biology?...

The social worker droned on, going down the two pages of the questionnaire we had filled in. God bless her, she shut her portfolio, smiled like an angel, and said, "I have a baby for you."

Just like that. "I have a baby for you..."

Carl said, "Well, Helen, have you everything you need to make you happy, now?"


"Almost," I said.

"What else?"

"A little girl," I said... "He ought to have a little sister..."

The greatest joy of my whole life has been as the mother of my twelve adopted children.

Helen Doss, *The Family Nobody Wanted*

Lord, help me to keep on going even when I am exhausted. Give me the energy I need to see me through the day. Help me to love you with every fibre of my being.  Amen.

Stay with me

"Out of all eternity, I chose you, I need you. I need your hands to continue to bless, I need your body to continue to suffer, I need your heart to continue to love, I need you to continue to save, Stay with me."

Here I am, Lord.
Here is my body.
Here is my heart.
Here is my soul.
Grant that I may be big enough to reach the world,
Strong enough to carry it,
Pure enough to embrace it without wanting to keep it.
Grant that I may be a meeting place, but a temporary one.
A road that does not end in itself, because everything to be gathered there, everything human, leads towards you.

Michel Quoist, *Prayers of Life*

Let us live our faith... in search of hope; but seeking to be ourselves the witness that offers hope to the world.

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week
Thursday 14 May

The Ascension

Dear brothers and sisters, the Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us. In our life we are never alone: we have this Advocate who awaits us, who defends us. We are never alone: the crucified and risen Lord guides us. We have with us a multitude of brothers and sisters who, in silence and concealment, in their family life and at work, in their problems and hardships, in their joys and hopes, live faith daily and together with us bring the world the lordship of God's love, in the risen Jesus Christ, ascended into heaven, our own Advocate who pleads for us.

Pope Francis

READINGS

Today:
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

Monday:
Acts 16:11-15
John 15:26 - 16:4

Tuesday:
Acts 16:22-34
John 16:5-11

Wednesday:
Acts 17:15, 22 - 18:1
John 16:12-15

Thursday:
Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday:
Acts 18:1-8
John 16:16-20

Saturday:
Acts 18:9-18
John 16:20-23

Next Sunday:
Acts 1:12-14
1 Peter 4:13-16
John 17:1-11



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

"The spiritual building up of the body of Christ is brought about by love ..." St Fulgentius of Ruspe

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sat. 9th May 6:30pm Leah Grace Garca Guimay & Jose Marie De Asis (RIP)

Sun. 10th May 9:30am L. Hallett (Health & Wellbeing) Tony Burke (Anniversary RIP)

11:00am Thomas (Tom) Reeve (Anniversary RIP) Marie Oliva (RIP)

Mon. 11th May NO MASS

Tues. 12th May 10:00am. Paddy, Garrett & Fergus (Donal Smith Family Special Intention)

Wed. 13th May 10:00am. John Quinn (RIP)

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Thursday A Holy Day of Obligation

Thur. 14th May 10:00am. Terence O'Brien (Anniversary RIP)

Fri. 15th May 6:00pm. Adoration and Benediction 7:00pm. Miss Pat Reynolds (RIP)

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
60th World Communications Day

Sat. 16th May 6:30pm. Theresa Mita Anthony (RIP) and Anna Thannbee (RIP)

Sun. 17th May 9:30am. Teresa (Kiki) Escalona (RIP)

11:00am. Eric & Edna Desouza Pinto (First Wedding Anniversary) William McFadden (Wellbeing)

4:00pm. Cassian & Ann Mendes In Thanksgiving 25th Wedding Anniversary

Upcoming Mass Intentions 19th Xavier Mendes; 20th Donal Smith 21st Gail McCarthy; 22nd Georgina McKenzie; 23rd Maura Oats Adams

Second Offertory next week is for World Communication Day established by Pope Paul VI to help the church engage with modern society, highlighting issues across journalism and the media. This year Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme 'Preserving Human Voices and Faces, focusing on safeguarding the human person in an age of artificial intelligence.

St Raphael's Hospice Martin Brown will be making an appeal this weekend on behalf of our local hospice, to raise much needed funds.

Saints of the Week

10th **St John de Avila**
12th **SS Nereus & Achilles; St Pancras; SS John Houghton, Robert Lawrence, Augustine Webber & Richard Reynolds;**
13th **Our Lady of Fatima;**
15th **St John Stone;**
16th **St Simon Stock.**

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

We also pray for

Georgina McKenzie
Teresa Mary Hook

** Visit the parish website or scan the QR code at entrances, for more parish information and news of other catholic events.



If you love Me keep My commandments. John 14:15

REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Mary McFarlane who died on 16th April, Her funeral is Tuesday 19th May at 12.30pm and burial at 2pm at Morden Cemetery.

Moya Condon who died on the 24th April. Her funeral is Wednesday 3rd June at 12.30pm and at the Morden Crematorium at 2pm.

Kathleen Webster who died Friday 8th May. Funeral details to follow.

Please keep all their families and loved ones in your prayers too.

May they Rest in Peace and Rise to Glory



Parish Life

Sacrament of Confirmation Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation will open for six weeks from Saturday 16th May until Sunday 28th June, only. Any registrations received outside this time frame will not be accepted. Due to the volume in numbers, priority will be given to those children whose families are registered with the parish as members. Thank you for your compliance.

Parish Gift Aid Scheme thank you to those who have collected their Gift Aid letters already. Please check the letter rack, letters are filed under surnames. Remember we are able to claim an extra 25% on contributions from those who are tax payers. Gift Aid boxes are in the narthex. Should you wish to join the Gift Aid Scheme please send an email to the parish office.



Altar Servers Rally St Cecilia's was represented at Aylesford Friary by 14 of our altar servers and their families, who did us proud on Monday 4th May. 10 were awarded their Bronze St Stephen's Medal by Bishop Paul Hendricks, who was surprised to see just how many servers, of all ages, from across the Diocese, have joined the Guild of Stephen this year. The weather stayed kind to us for our picnic and a game of football after Mass. Did Fr Ben score that winning goal? Thankfully there were no injuries and no one was sent off.



St Cecilia's Church Summer Fayre 2026 is on Saturday 11th July. Volunteers are needed for lots of different roles. If you would like to lend a hand use sign up sheets are at the entrances to the church or send an email to Louise at stceciliashurchevents@outlook.com

You can still support Michael and Katie Snook at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/michael-snook-2> following their successful London Marathon run, for *St Raphael's Hospice*.

SAVE THE DATE Saturday 30th May 3pm All Parish Volunteers for a Special Mass of Thanksgiving followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

THE PARISH HALL

is available to hire.

For all enquiries send an email to 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

A Day With Mary at the *Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham* on Sunday 17th May, gathering at 12.30pm at Walsingham Village Coach Park for the Procession along Pilgrims Way.

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. Meet 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://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/hoid9ldf> for tickets.

The Life of Christ 16 - 20 June 2026 - The Story of Jesus, Brought to Life Discover the wonder of Jesus' life with an unforgettable event for all the family. The Life of Christ, places you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Join over a hundred actors in the stunning grounds of Wintershall Estate as this magnificent story is movingly recreated with authentic detail in an epic open-air production. Watch the Wedding in Cana, the Feeding of the 5000 and the Last Supper unfold before your eyes. It's the perfect day out for families, faith groups, theatre lovers and schools. Book tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/life-of-christ/>

Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group Wednesday May 20 1.30pm to 3p.m. Hinsley room, Morpeth Terrace., SW1. Talk by Daniel Mann. Daniel has recently returned from 3 months in the West Bank as a human rights monitor with an international programme led by the World Council of Churches. The programme responds to a call from church leaders in Jerusalem to international civil society to provide protection to vulnerable communities and support peace activists in Israel and Palestine.

While living in the region, participants monitor human rights violations, provide a protective presence and support Palestinian and Israeli peace groups. On their return home, they share their eyewitness stories and use their experience to raise awareness and advocate for an end to the military occupation of Palestine.

The session will provide the opportunity to hear from Daniel about daily life under occupation, learn about developments since the war in Gaza, and to discuss what can be done to promote a just peace. Stay for refreshments afterwards, all are welcome.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of May.
He invites us to pray 'That everyone might have food.' Millions continue to suffer from hunger while so much is wasted at our table. That we learn to consume simply, to share with joy and care for the fruits of the earth as gift from God, destined for all not just the few.



BIOS
centre

We have been asked by Dr Anthony McCarthy, Director of the Bios Centre for our support. The Bios Centre is a Catholic run Centre for bioethics in the UK.

Established in 2019, the **Bios Centre** (<https://bioscentre.org/>) is an independent research centre committed to promoting ethical healthcare practices.

- Bios Centre is an organisation dedicated to upholding the dignity of the human person and respect for life within the spheres of UK medicine, law, and public policy.
- Beyond its academic research, Bios offers healthcare professionals advice on conscience dilemmas
- Key members of staff previously served at the Anscombe Bioethics Centre

Please see below.

Dear Reverend Father,

No 'opt out': Hospices and Nursing Homes required to facilitate assisted suicide.

Under the terms of the Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill, hospices and other institutions in England and Wales were denied an 'institutional' opt out.

Sponsors of assisted dying at Westminster plan to introduce a new bill soon, and it's unlikely they will alter their stance on conscience rights unless public pressure is brought to bear.

Without a robust conscience protection clause built into any future assisted suicide law, NHS workers and especially non-clinical workers who refuse any form of involvement will risk career marginalisation—and perhaps even the loss of their jobs. Institutions like hospices and care homes may be entirely unprotected.

Look what happened in Canada:

The Fraser Health authority terminated a \$1.5 million contract with the Delta Hospice Society to operate the 10-bed Irene Thomas Hospice in British Columbia in 2021 after the society refused to provide medical assistance in dying (MAiD).

Defend NHS Workers & Patients' Rights

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has fallen, but a very similar assisted dying bill for England and Wales is expected to be introduced soon. Such a bill is expected to deny nursing homes, hospices, health and social care professionals who oppose all involvement in the suicide of patients on conscience grounds—including NHS staff—the right to 'opt out' completely from such involvement without facing penalties.

In addition, doctors with years of clinical expertise who are opposed to assisted dying on ethical or religious grounds (including frontline GPs) could be forced to resign, depriving NHS patients of their services.

'I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper.'

We, the undersigned, request that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care:

Instruct the NHS to protect conscientious objection rights, generously interpreted, for all NHS staff.

Make clear to all healthcare employers that existing human rights and equality laws prohibit discrimination based on religion or belief.

Help ensure that, should assisted dying be legalised in the future, institutions such as hospices and Care Homes can refuse any form of involvement in the suicide of patients/residents without fear of sanctions.

Help ensure that patients can consult with a doctor without fear that they may be invited to end their own lives.

Signatories must be 18 or over. To sign online: Scan QR code or go to bioscentre.org/petition-on-conscience-protection



Kind hearts are the garden,
kind thoughts are the root,
kind words are the blossoms,
kind deeds are the fruit.

The Dignity of Workers in the 21st Century

hosted by Caritas at Westminster Cathedral Hall Friday 15th May 9.30am to 4pm. Guest speakers Monsignor John Armitage, John Battle + others, for a day of reflection, dialogue and action on the continuing relevance of Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* and ask how its vision for the dignity of work speaks into today's economic realities: automation, the gig economy, low pay, migration, social care, and the future of work. Lunch and refreshments provided. General tickets £65, £30 for members. A limited number of free places are available for students and those unwaged.

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