

SUNDAY *Plus*

The Baptism of the Lord **Divine Office Week I** Year A



Invited by Jesus


Is there anywhere humanity is more alive than family life? Family life is a celebration of incarnation, God with us. Our physical, created reality is where God is present – and family life is all about that. Our bodies are God's gift and through them we give ourselves to each other – through sexuality, pregnancy, birth, nurturing, holding, bathing, hugging, carrying, tickling, cleaning cuts, changing nappies, playing football, preparing food, smelly feet and sports gear, teenage hormones, man flu, menopause, new life or old age.

We speak of body language and it is through this that we express what goes on in our hearts. Often the small gestures speak loudest: a kiss, a touch, a cup of tea, a meal cooked, a chore done, a story read. These moments in the day

to day are what nurture family life and mark us as family rather than house-sharers. Intimacy articulates the bond between us.

When faith and Gospel values shape our approach, we try to live simply, challenge injustice and share our resources with those in need. The challenge is to let the Gospel come to life in our lives: to incarnate it, put flesh on it. Our baptism invites us to be the body of Christ in the world... When we reach out beyond our own families in care and solidarity for anyone vulnerable or oppressed, we know that the Spirit of Jesus is acting through us. This is what the spirituality of family life is about – living active faith in the day to day.

Bairbre Cahill, Family Spirituality

May Mary, temple of the Spirit, help us to celebrate and welcome the wonders that the Lord works in us.  Amen.

Say "Yes"

We foolishly suppose that prayer is about our own efforts, our longing for God, our attempts to love and praise and thank him. But all of this is only a consequence, a created response. Our prayer is God's work, God's creation. As you kneel there, sit there, walk about or whatever you do when you pray, you are saying "Yes" with your whole being to his will that you should be, that you should be you,

that you should be united to him. Your prayer is God's word of longing and loving in you, God's breathing of the Spirit in you, to make you want the union he wants. His desire is going through your heart to leap up to him and meet his desire again, like the desire of the writer who prayed to God to "send Wisdom"; yet it is truly your desire because he creates it as yours. His love is loving through your heart when you try to pray.

*Maria Boulding,
The Coming of God*

Do not be afraid! Accept the invitation of the Church and of Christ the Lord.

Pope Leo



Saints

St Lucy: seeing signs from God

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

After praying at St Agatha's shrine with Lucy, Lucy's mother was cured of a persistent illness and agreed to distribute their wealth among the poor people. The rich pagan whom she had wanted Lucy to marry against her mother's will was furious. Soldiers tried to take Lucy away forcibly. They could not move her, but her eyes were gouged out. She attributed her strength to the power of Jesus. Lucy means "light" and her witness over-came the spiritual darkness of her day and also helps us to rejoice in the light even in our darkest moments. At baptism, we were entrusted with the light of Christ. The vision of God's glory, revealed through Jesus, was so clear to Lucy that physical blindness did not obscure it. She embodies true vision, an example to us of spiritual understanding, focusing on Christ and his promises rather than the fleeting physical realities of this world.

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 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

Monday:
1 Samuel 1:1-8
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday:
1 Samuel 1:9-20
Mark 1:21-28

Scotland:
St Kentigern (Feast)
Isaiah 52:7-10
Matthew 28:16-20

Wednesday:
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday:
1 Samuel 4:1-11
Mark 1:40-45

Friday:
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday:
1 Samuel
9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1
Mark 2:13-17

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34



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

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

End of the Christmas Season

Sat. 10th Jan. 06:30pm. Mick Costello (RIP)

Sun. 11th Jan. 09:30am. Kathleen and Patrick Sheridan (RIP)

11:00am. John Roache (RIP)

Mon. 12th Jan. NO MASS

Tues. 13th Jan. 10:00am. Hannah Carmen (Anniversary RIP)

Francis Mc Hugh (Anniversary RIP)

Wed. 14th Jan. 10:00am. Frances McLoughlin (RIP)

Thur. 15th Jan. 10.00am. Deceased Members of the Cowman Family (RIP)

Fri. 16th Jan. 06.00pm Adoration and Benediction
 07.00pm Peter Hoe & Maria Moi (RIP)



We also pray for

**Carmel Fitzgerald
 for Healing & Wellbeing**

Mary McHugh (RIP)

**Eileen McHugh
 Wellbeing & Speedy Recovery**

WORLD DAY OF PEACE and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sat. 17th Jan. 06:30pm. Mary McLoughlin (RIP)

Sun. 18th Jan. 09:30am. Richard Flint (RIP)

11:00am Mrs Ester Keatch (RIP)

Saints of the Week

12th St Aelred of Rievaulx

13th St Hilary, Bishop & Pope

**17th St Anthony the Abbot or
 St Anthony the Great,
 Father of Monks**

HOLY FATHER'S MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF PEACE

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 work they do please pick up an envelope at the entrance/exit to the church.

St Cecilia Parish Newsletter

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

Offering 3rd/4th Jan. 1197.49

Candle Offerings £ 119.13



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 until 7pm all week.

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 as usual on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00am to 1:00pm and 4:00pm to 6:00pm, for all enquiries formal, informal or personal. Please send any notices for the parish newsletter by Wednesday of each week, for issue the following weekend.

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.*

Parish Life

The Canon Beausang Parish Room Please leave the Canon Beausang Room to clean and tidy. Please don't leave it for someone else to do, that someone else is busy too. *Thank you in advance for your co operation.*



The Thursday Club after the 10am Mass. 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.



Little Church (Children's Liturgy) is back this Sunday the 11th January at 9.30am and 11am. The children take part in the offertory procession.



The Youth Group This week our youth group tried their hand at making a Brazilian bread called Pão de queijo, and very tasty it was too. Made in small rolls that are lighter than a dough but heavier than a French choux pastry and traditionally eaten for breakfast, gluten free made with cheese. Delicious!



RCIA **OCIA/RCIA** The parish RICA group meet on Saturday's at 11am. If you are interested in becoming Catholic please visit the parish website and speak to Fr Ben.

Flowers A large display of flowers and foliage donated to the parish, have been removed from the sacristy kitchen. The Flower Arranging Team would be most grateful if these could be returned as soon as possible.

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.

Lost Property Items There are a number of lost property items on the table in the narthex, please check that you are not missing an item of clothing. Some items were left a number of weeks prior to Christmas. Any articles not claimed by the 24th January will be donated to a local charity.

St Cecilia's Christmas Concert!

The remaining raffle prize ticket numbers are: **Red** Ticket numbers: 161 to 165; 171 to 175; 551 to 555; 851 to 855; 876 to 880; 936 to 940; 946 to 950
On the Yellow Ticket, numbers: 111 to 115
226 to 230; 341 to 345; 351 to 355; 766 to 770.

Please claim your prize after Mass.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2026

A DAY WITH MARY

Here at St Cecilia's Church with Fr Benedict

More information to follow.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT

18th to the 25th January is the ecumenical celebration of all Christians coming together. This year the prayers have been prepared by the Armenian Orthodox Church taking place at St Barnabus Church, Sutton SM1 4NP

Youth 2000 Retreat at Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon 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 from across London!

NEWS FROM ROME

Our local Episcopal Vicar, Canon Gerard Bradley will soon be ordained as the new Auxillary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark, under the ecclesiastical role of Titular See of Beverley, on Monday 2nd February at St George's Cathedral. Please keep him in your prayers.
<https://suttondeanery.weebly.com/>

Our Safeguarding Team Can be contacted at

northcheamsg1@safeguardraos.org.uk
northcheamsg2@safeguardraos.org.uk or
northcheamsg3@safeguardraos.org.uk

****CCTV Cameras** are in operation within the church and surrounding area. The parish is legally obliged to inform all parishioners of their presence, & security measures in place.