

Celebrate the Word

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY *Plus*

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year A

Season of Creation

To God in silence

There is [an] instrument that I would like to recommend to you: sacred scripture... We use its words to go beyond conceptions and reach silence. How do you do that? Take a scripture passage, "On the last and greatest of the feast days, Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, 'Let whoever is thirsty come to me and drink.'" Suppose that when you read it you are touched by Jesus' words. What are you to do? Recite this line in your heart: "Let whoever is thirsty come to me and drink!" Repeat, repeat, until your heart is satisfied. There is no need to think about the meaning of the words, because your heart knows the meaning...

This is one way to use the words of scripture, to go beyond them, to silence. Read, recite, and respond.

Soon the reaction will be silence, and in silence you will find God.

There is another way to use scripture. You remain in silence, looking and listening. That will lead you to silence. And when you reach this deep tranquility, recall a line from the Bible.

Do you know what will happen? The words of scripture will seem etched in your heart. They will have such a strong meaning that it will deepen the silence. They have a meaning beyond the mind. Could these words disturb your silence? No! It is like the peace and quiet of evening, and you hear a bird or the tolling of a church bell, and these sounds deepen your silence.

Anthony de Mello SJ, *Walking on Water*



The more joy you share, the more joy you create.

Pope Leo XIV

Praise God in Creation!

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun
Who is the day and through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour.
And bears a likeness of you, Most High One.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful...

Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
Who sustains and governs us,
And who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.

St Francis of Assisi, *The Canticle of the Creatures*

Loving Lord, you are our source of life,
love, and light. You are our joy and hope,
our home and security. Help us to spread
your sweetness everywhere.  Amen.



Feast of the week
Monday 21 September

St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

St Matthew, the tax collector turned apostle, reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of grace. When Jesus called him Matthew didn't hesitate: he rose and followed. That moment of surrender transformed a man once seen as corrupt into a faithful witness of the Gospel.

Matthew's story is a testament to divine mercy. He didn't earn his place among the apostles through virtue but through Christ's invitation. His Gospel reveals a heart attuned to justice, compassion and the radical inclusivity of the kingdom.

As we reflect on his call we're invited to examine our own readiness to follow. Are we willing to leave behind what binds us – status, comfort, fear – and walk in faith? St Matthew's feast is not just a celebration of his life, but a challenge to ours: to hear Jesus' voice and respond with courage, humility and hope.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20-24, 27
Matthew 20:1-16

Monday:
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
Matthew 9:9-13

Tuesday:
Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13
Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday:
Proverbs 30:5-9
Luke 9:1-6

Thursday:
Ecclesiastes 1:2-11
Luke 9:7-9

Friday:
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
Luke 9:18-22

Saturday:
Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:8
Luke 9:43-45

Next Sunday:
Ezekiel 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32



St Cecilia's Church

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Contact us via St Cecilia's Parish Office: Tel: **0208 641 3141**

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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 at www.suttondeanery.weebly.com

"It is not only as past history that we know all that the Son of God did and taught for the reconciliation of the world; here and now we feel the effects of its power." Pope St. Leo the Great

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY/HOME MISSION SUNDAY
Mass Count

Sat. 19th Sept. 6:30pm Annie Loftus

(First Anniversary RIP)

Gus Loftus (Anniversary RIP)

John & Peter Healy (RIP)

Sun. 20th Sept. 9:30am Mr Zia (RIP)

11:00am Rita Desa (RIP)

Mon. 21st Sept. NO MASS

Tues. 22nd Sept. 10:00am. B. Lobo (Health & Wellbeing)

Wed. 23rd Sept. 10:00am. Holy Souls

FUNERAL MASS

12.30pm. **Bernard L. Halls (RIP)**

Thurs 24th Sept. 10:00am L. Hallet (Health & Wellbeing)

Fri 25th Sept. 6:00pm. ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

7:00pm. **John & Joanie Whyte**

(Anniversary RIP)

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

Mass Count

Sat. 26th Sept. 6:30pm. Linda Oliva (Birthday)

John Lyons (RIP)

Sun. 27th Sept. 9:30am. Agatha Cornwall

(36th Anniversary RIP)

11:00am. **Frankie & Emilia Pereira**

(Wedding Anniversary)

Saints of the Week

21st St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

23rd St Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, Priest;

24th Our Lady of Walsingham, National Feast Day;

26th Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Second Offertory this weekend is Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Home Mission).

St Philomena's Open Mornings for 2027 Student Intake takes place from 9am to 10.30am on 22nd, 29th & 30th Sept.

Mass Offerings: 12th/13th Sept. 1st Collection: £1,166.78; 2nd Collection: £459.19; **Candles:** £135.39 Mass Attendance 434

Prayers for the Sick & Housebound Please pray for the wellbeing of: D.H. Adelaide Cotter; Paul Fairhall; E.K.U.; Amy Bradbury; Marie Goti; Michael Christou John Rosenow; Mary Silva; Michael Hoskins; Phyllis Sibley; Martha Gilbert, Mary Nassan, Joe Mendes; and Nanny Cossu.

Repose of the Soul Most merciful Jesus, receive the prayers we offer for the repose of the soul of:

Bernard Halls who passed away in July.

Sr Veronica Hagen, Mother Superior of the

Daughters of the Cross whom God called to be with Him on the 11th September. Sister's funeral is Monday 12th October at 12pm at Marie Terese House, Holy Cross Hospital, Haslemere GU27 1NQ.

Catherine Smythe Her Funeral Mass will be on Thursday 1st October at 12.30pm, then at NE Surrey Crematorium at 2pm.

Your Prayers are asked for **Mary Manuelpillai** who died recently on the 26th August. Mary, lived to see her 95th year.

MAY ALL REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN YOUR GLORY, LORD JESU!

Upcoming Mass Intentions

29th C. Lobo; 30th Anatasia Willington; 1st Frank Pereira; 2nd Julie & Bill Fraser; 3rd Francis Almeida 4th Mary Brady; 4th Francis Lobo

PARISH LIFE

First Holy Communion Registrations opens this week Monday 21st September. The closing date is the 31st October. Parents who have completed a form already will be required to re-register.

St Cecilia's Parish 70th Birthday Meeting on Wed. 23rd September in the CB Parish Room at 6.30pm. Everybody welcome, come along with ideas for the celebrations and/or a willingness to get involved.

Dei Amor Youth Group meet every Thursday at 5pm in the Church Hall. A safe space to meet

Young Adult Group get together is on the 24th September at 7pm in the Parish Room. Ages 18 to 35

IT Workshop The next workshop is Saturday 26th September from 9am to 10.45am in the CB Room.