

SUNDAY Plus

2nd Sunday after Christmas **Divine Office Week II** Year A

You are going towards God



All of us must search together. First and foremost, by giving [a] good example in our lives, with joy, living the joy of the Gospel, not discouraging others, but rather looking for ways to encourage young people to hear the voice of the Lord and to follow it and to serve in the Church.

Pope Leo

Epiphany house blessing

Have you ever visited a house and seen something like 20 C+M+B 20 chalked over a door and wondered what it means?

The numbers and letters are a time-honoured Epiphany custom celebrated in many places across the world.

C+M+B stands for the names Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, the traditional names of the Magi. It's

also believed that the letters are the initials of the Latin words meaning "Christ, bless this house" (*Christus mansionem benedicat*).

The first 20 is the century and the second figures are the year, so, for 2026, 20 C+M+B 26 would be chalked over the door.

The Epiphany Blessing places God at the entrance to the home and the entire family under God's protection. It invites Jesus to be a daily guest in the home, the family's comings and goings, conversations, work and play, joys and sorrows.

Lord of hope, as this Jubilee Year of Hope ends, let me continue my pilgrimage through life in a spirit of hope, joy and confidence in your incredible love. **† Amen.**

Where are you heading for in the course of your life?

You are constantly doing, saying or thinking about something. This happens all the time, at every moment of your day.

The fact is that you are looking forward to something, whether close or far away and you tend to that, in the hope it will bring you a crumb of happiness.

This longing for happiness is present in every human being. In fact, by heaping up money, seeking glory and pleasures, people are only trying to find happiness.

Have you not perhaps sought this happiness until now in any place and thing on this earth?...

Allow your fantasy to build freely in your mind that happiness you have dreamed of. Try to imagine all that you have ever wished to have and ask

yourself: what if there still is something that lasts even longer?

You will always have the same answer: if it is possible to reach something even better, that is, if your soul is still unsatisfied, then you have not reached your happiness your purpose. And whatever limitations you might still have to overcome they shall always be an impediment towards the perfection of your happiness.

This means that you long for happiness, but a happiness without limitations: an infinite, eternal happiness.

Everything in this world is limited; That is why things are not enough to satisfy our souls. Still, every living creature under the sun longs for happiness... this longing can be fulfilled by the infinite and eternal God.

St Maximilian Kolbe OFM, Stronger Than Hatred: a collection of spiritual writings

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Our search for happiness

What is happiness? What is the happiness that we await and desire? Not some fleeting pleasure, a momentary satisfaction that, once experienced, keeps us longing for more, in a desperate quest that leaves our hearts unsated and increasingly empty. We aspire to a happiness that is definitively found in the one thing that can bring us fulfilment, which is love. Thus, we will be able to say even now: I am loved; therefore I exist; and I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint, the love from which nothing can ever separate me. Let us listen once more to the words of the Apostle: "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"

Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 21



READINGS

Today:
Ecclesiasticus
24:1-2, 8-12
Ephesians
1:3-6, 15-18
John 1:1-18

Monday:
1 John 3:22 – 4:6
Matthew 4:12-17.
23-25

Tuesday:
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Wednesday:
1 John 4:11-18
Mark 6:45-52

Thursday:
1 John 4:19 – 5:4
Luke 4:14-22

Friday:
1 John 5:5-13
Luke 5:12-16

Saturday:
1 John 5:14-21
John 3:22-30

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



St Cecilia's Church
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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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

Sat.	3 rd Jan.	06:30pm. Kevin Brady	(RIP)
Sun.	4 th Jan.	09:30am. Cecil Solomon	(RIP)
		11:00am. Alf and Marie Oliva	(RIP)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

A Holy Day of Obligation

Mon.	5 th Jan.	07:00pm Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord Simon Ridge	(RIP)
Tues.	6 th Jan.	10:00am. Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord The closing of the Jubilee Year The Anniversaries of the Vaughan Family	(RIP)
Wed.	7 th Jan.	10:30am. Funeral Mass of Albert De Mello	(RIP)
Thur.	8 th Jan.	10.00am. Thomas & Ann McHugh	(RIP)
Fri.	9 th Jan.	06.00pm Adoration and Benediction 07.00pm Jenny Dias	(RIP)

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sat.	10th Jan.	06:30pm. Mick Costello	(RIP)
Sun.	11 th Jan.	09:30am. Kathleen & Patrick Sheridan	<i>Anniversary (RIP)</i>
		11:00am John Roche	<i>10th Anniversary (RIP)</i>

THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR JANUARY

For January 2026, the Holy Father's (Pope Leo XIV) prayer intention is for "Prayer with the Word of God," asking that it nourish lives, bring hope to communities, and build a more fraternal and missionary Church, transforming prayer into concrete action.

Saints of the Week

3rd **The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

3rd **St Genevieve**

4th **St Elizabeth Ann Seton**

5th **St John Neuman**

6th **St Andre Bessett**

7th **St Raymond Penafort**

We also pray for

Carmel Fitzgerald
for Healing & Wellbeing

Bridie Long recently deceased.
May she Rest In Peace.

Richard Flint (RIP)
His Anniversary is
the 9th January

*** Please note a change to the
time of Mass on Wednesday.

St Cecilia Parish

The parish newsletter is now
accessible via

QR code

email

and on the parish website
every week





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 & Dorothy Upton.

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.

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.

The Crib Offering Our crib offerings will go to support three chosen charitable organisations: UK based Crown of Thorns, The Catholic Children's Society and for our selected international charity, Friends of the Holy Land.

For the Repose of the Soul of Albert De Mello. Please keep his loved ones in your prayers. Albert regularly attended Mass in our Church was part of our parish family for many years. His funeral Mass will be held at our parish this Wednesday, 7th January at 10.30am. May Christ who died for us admit him into His garden of paradise. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Parish Life



The Canon Beausang Parish Room Please remember if using the Canon Beausang Room to clean and tidy up afterwards, wipe down the tables, put tables and chairs back in place, wash, dry and put away any crockery or cutlery used. Please don't leave it for someone else to do, that someone else is busy too. *Thanking you in advance for your co operation.*

The Thursday Club returns on Thursday 8th January 2026 after Mass, at 10am.



Knit and Natter returns the 8th January following on from the Thursday Club.



Little Church (Children's Liturgy) is back on Sunday the 11th January.



The Youth Group will be meeting up again on Thursday 13th January 2026 at 5pm.



OCIA/RCIA meets again on Saturday 10th January 2026 at 11am in the Canon Beausang Parish Room.



Parish Garden & Grounds — your assistance is needed, Saturday 10th January from 9am onwards to help clear & tidy the parish garden & grounds. Bring gardening tools, gloves and sturdy shoes. You don't have to be green fingered to help out. All are welcome to warm up with a cuppa afterwards too.



St Cecilia's Christmas Concert!

This is the last weekend to claim any prizes. All prizes must go. The remaining raffle prize ticket numbers are: **Red** Ticket numbers: 161 to 165; 171 to 175; 551 to 555; 741 to 745; 776 to 780; 851 to 855; 876 to 880; 936 to 940; 946 to 950

On the Yellow Ticket, numbers: 76 to 80; 111 to 115 226 to 230; 341 to 345; 351 to 355; 766 to 770.

Please see Louise after Mass.

Hymn for the Jubilee Year 2025

Chorus: *Like a flame my hope is burning
may my song arise in you:*

*Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.*

Every nation, tongue, and people
find a light within your Word,
Scattered fragile sons and daughters,
find a home in your dear Son.

Chorus: *Like a flame my hope is burning
may my song arise in you:*

*Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.*

God so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heaven and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free.

Chorus:

**Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
For our God is born in time.
Son made man for You and many
who will find the way in Him.**

Chorus:

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2026

A DAY WITH MARY

Here at St Cecilia's Church

Meeting for the Parents of

First Holy Communion Children 2026

We will be holding a meeting this **Thursday, 8th January** in the Church at **7pm** for all parents whose children are due to make their First Holy Communion this coming Summer.

First Holy Communion Classes for the children begins the first Saturday in February (7th) at 5pm in the Church.