

**BAPTISM AT ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH:** Baptism is a Sacrament of faith, and the Church asks for a serious and loving commitment by the parents and godparents of a child to live the life of the Sacraments. Parents wishing to baptise their child at English Martyrs Church Streatham should be living in the parish for more than 6 months. If you belong to another parish you will need to obtain a letter of permission from your parish priest. If you are new to the Parish, you can get a letter from your previous parish to say that you are a practising Catholic. Baptisms take place on the last Sunday of every month at 2pm. The date will be confirmed once the preparation course is completed. Please collect a Baptism pack from the parish office for registration at least four weeks before the preparation date.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH:** We warmly invite those adults seeking Baptism/Confirmation/Holy Communion to be part of our Journey in Faith group. The weekly sessions involve learning about the Catholic faith and the truth and beauty of the Gospel. If you are thinking about becoming a Catholic, please call or email the Parish office. We would love to hear from you. Please email [streathamrcia@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:streathamrcia@rcaos.org.uk)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025:** The next lesson is the First Holy Communion Mass rehearsal on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 10.30am -12noon in the Church.

First Holy Communion Mass is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 11am. Please note that Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025 morning Mass will be at 9.30am instead of 10am, as the First Holy Communion Mass starts at 11am.

First Holy Communion thanksgiving mass is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 11.30am

**NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (30<sup>th</sup> May to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025):** Pentecost is on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that someone can become a Saint. We cannot save ourselves and it is only by the grace of God that we are saved. So, we must rely completely on the power of the Holy Spirit and the death of Our Lord Jesus. That is the essence of this novena. The Pentecost novena is really THE original novena. The disciples waited in unity and prayer for the Holy Spirit for nine days after Jesus' ascension to heaven. Jesus asked them to pray constantly in the upper room until the descent of the Holy Spirit.

**DAY 2 OF THE NOVENA PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT—Joy (Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025)**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate.

O Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Joy within us.

All of the Saints are marked with an uncompromisable Joy in times of trial, difficulty and pain. Give us, O Holy Spirit, the Joy that surpasses all understanding that we may live as a witness to Your love and fidelity! Holy Spirit we ask for the grace of **[Mention your intention here]**. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**DAY 3 OF THE NOVENA PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT—Peace (Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025)**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate.

O Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Peace within us. The Saints were tempted, attacked and accused by the devil who is the destroyer of peace. When we are accused by the devil, come to our aid as our Advocate and give us Peace that lasts through all trials!

Holy Spirit we ask for the grace of **[Mention your intention here]**. Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY:** There will be a second collection this weekend **31st May /1<sup>st</sup> June** for World Communication Day. The collection helps support the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN), the media office of the Bishops Conference of England & Wales. The CCN provides up to date new releases, features and podcasts, information from Bishop's Conference of England & Wales, and trains spokesmen & Women

**ENGLISH MARTYRS** This week's Martyr is **St Margaret Clitherow**

You may have noticed that one of the Statues in the Church is much newer than the others it stands alongside. This is that of St Margaret Clitherow who stands in the middle of the left-hand side of the main body of the church. Her statue was placed there in 1965 following a reconfiguration of the church. Margaret was born to a family who supported the Anglican Church but she converted to Catholicism and refused to attend Anglican services for which she was fined and later imprisoned. Not alone was her husband a staunch Anglican, he was responsible for enforcing local attendance at Anglican services so feelings must have run high in her home. Margaret had 3 children and so was a mother as well as a wife and daughter. She was warned in her trial that if she did not repudiate the Catholic church she would suffer a particularly awful death- by being pressed to death. She refused to recant and underwent martyrdom in this particularly brutal manner. Her courage appears to have been noted by Queen Elizabeth 1 (daughter of Henry VIII) who wrote that Margaret's life should have been spared. She was a courageous woman who sadly was often described in the years after her death as mad rather than brave. She was canonised as recently as 1970 by Pope Paul VI who described her as "the pearl of York (her home city).

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

A/C Name: RCAS STREATHAM      A/C: 23416386      S/C: 60-20-39

**For Contactless Donation**

Please use the Card Machines in the Church or use the QR CODE

Collection on 24/25<sup>th</sup> May 2025 :      Loose Collection:    £353.95    Gift Aid Envelopes: £ 61.00    **Total Collection: £414.95**

**Lepra Second Collection: 234.81**

**Lenten Collection: £664.45**

**Thank you for your generosity**

