

PARISH NEWS

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: Thursday 29th May is the Feast of The Ascension of the Lord, it is a Holy day of obligation. There will be Mass at 9.30am and 7.30pm in the evening.


NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (30th May to 7th June 2025): Pentecost is on Sunday 8th 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.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2025. Sunday 18 May 2025 was Safeguarding Sunday and Archbishop John has issued a pastoral letter. In his letter, Archbishop John said "Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. Each of us — clergy, volunteers, parents, parishioners — is called to remain vigilant, informed, and committed to the well-being of every member of our community". You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday, including accessing the full pastoral letter, at rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday25.

PARENTS NEED TO ACCOMPANY CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES WHEN GOING TO THE TOILETS.

ENGLISH MARTYRS This week's Martyr is **Blessed JOHN FROST**

Blessed John Forest is commemorated in our Church, being one of those depicted in the beautiful screen (Reredos) above the rear altar, and listed on the ceiling of the main church, closest to the Altar). He became a Franciscan Friar aged 17 and was ordained a priest when he was 26 and served as personal Chaplain to Catherine of Aragon, the first wife of Henry VIII, like most religious orders, the Franciscans fell out of favour with Henry VIII when they refused to recognise support his attempt to dissolve his marriage to Catherine. The Franciscan orders were suppressed and many of their brothers and priests imprisoned. John Forest was tried for heresy and refused to deny the authority of the Pope and the Catholic Church. Even as he approached the place of his death he continued to argue for his faith but was sentenced to be burnt to death using a wooden statue of St Derfel Gadarn to start the fire. He was heard to proclaim that "neither fire nor faggot nor scaffold will separate me from Thee O God" He became a Saint in 1874. We remember him for his enduring faith and courage.

 **BAPTISM:** We congratulate and welcome into the family of the Church **CHENOI KELLY , NYLA-JHENEA REID and DENZEL ANUNIRU** who will be Baptised on Sunday 25th May 2025
We wish them and their families the joy of the Holy Spirit.

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

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

First Holy Communion Mass is on Saturday 14th June 2025 at 11am.

First Holy Communion thanksgiving mass is on Sunday 15th June 2025 11.30am

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend 24/25th May 2025 weekend for LEpra. Lepra is a charity meeting the needs of people affected by leprosy and ensuring that they are represented at local and government level.

Leprosy is a disease that affects the nerve endings in the hands and feet and can affect the blink reflex of the eyelids. If not treated early enough it can cause life-changing disabilities and even blindness. One-in-two people diagnosed with leprosy suffer moderate to severe depression and anxiety due to the prejudice and discrimination associated with the disease. Evidence shows over 3 million people are living with undiagnosed leprosy. Over 4 million people are living with a life-changing disability caused by leprosy.

But it is curable! 2024 was Lepra's Centenary Year and for over 100 years Lepra's research has led to new and innovative approaches to healthcare programmes. Lepra seeks to provide better detection, treatment and support mechanisms, to advocate for those without a voice, to challenge prejudice wherever it exists, to strengthen local health systems and to help provide sustainable healthcare in partnership with local communities for a future free from the terrible impact of the disease.

WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY: There will be a second collection next weekend 31st May /1st 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 news releases, features and podcasts, information from Bishop's Conference of England & Wales, and trains spokesmen & Women.

LENTEN CHARITY BOX: If you have collected a Lenten Charity box, please return them with your donations as soon as possible.

GIFT AID ENVELOPS: Gift Aid envelope boxes are ready for collection. Please collect it from the Sacred Heart Chapel.

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



Loose Collection: £633.71 Gift Aid Envelopes: £ 56.00 **Total Collection: £689.71**

Thank you for your generosity