

English Martyrs Catholic Church, Streatham

# Newsletter

**FEAST OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS 4th MAY  
2025**



The first to die were the Carthusian Prior of London, John Houghton, and two of his brothers, Robert Lawrence and Augustine Webster, who were hanged, drawn and quartered, on May 4th, 1535. The Prior is said to have declared his fidelity to the Catholic Church and forgiven his executioners before dying at Tyburn. There were many English men and women martyred for the Catholic Faith during the Reformation. Of these martyrs, two hundred and eighty four have been canonised or declared blessed, but the number of those who died or suffered harsh persecution for their faith between 1535 and 1680 cannot now be reckoned. They came from every walk of life and are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith, and courage in the face of persecution.

Much has been written on the sufferings of these martyrs; they often endured trials that are difficult for us to dwell upon today and yet their sacrifice was not in vain. Quoting Tertullian, Pope Paul VI in his homily at the canonisation of the forty martyrs wrote; "The blood of Christians is the seed that is sown." As it was with the shedding of Christ's own blood, so it is with the sacrificial offering of her Martyrs in union with His: a source of life and of spiritual fecundity for the Church and the entire world."

For most of us practising our faith in this country today, the idea of laying down our lives for the supremacy of the Pope, the unity of the Church, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, is a remote concept. True the Church here has its struggles - where does it not - but few of us would worry about persecution unto death and it is for this very reason that today's feast is of such importance. It reminds us of the selfless sacrifice made by so many that the faith might live in England through the shedding of their blood, and of the continuing sacrifice made by so many in others in less tolerant areas of the world today.

**PRAYER:**

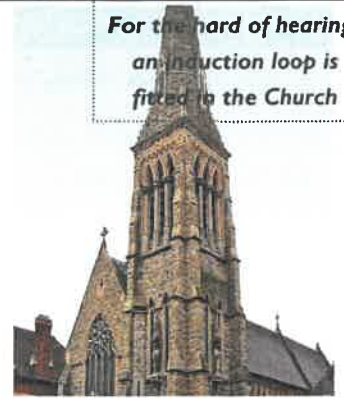
Almighty God,  
who in our country raised up martyrs  
from every walk of life  
to vindicate the authority of Your Church  
in teaching and worship,  
grant through their intercession, we pray,  
that all our people may be gathered once again  
to celebrate the same sacraments  
under the one Shepherd, Jesus Christ Your Son.  
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity



**PARISH MOTO: De Omnia Unum Sint**

**( That they may all be one )**

For the hard of hearing,  
an induction loop is  
fitted in the Church



**PASTORAL TEAM**

Rev Fr Paul Okora  
paulokora@rcaos.org.uk  
(07377452705)  
**Parish Priest**  
Fr Johnson Pezhumkoottathil  
Joseph OIC  
**Assistant Priest**

**Social Media**

**Facebook:** English Martyrs RC Church  
in Streatham London  
**Facebook:** Archdiocese of Southwark  
**Instagram**  
**RC Southwark**(@rcsouthwark)  
**Twitter-X** X.RC\_Southwark

Dinusha Fernando  
**Parish Secretary**

**Parish Contact**

2 Mitcham Lane  
Streatham  
SW16 6NN  
Tel: 020 8769 6268  
streatham@rcaos.org.uk  
www.englishmartyrsparish.life

**Parish Office**

Mon : Closed  
Tue & Wed: 11am –3pm  
Thu & Fri :9am –2pm

Mary Goggin  
Marian O'Donohue

**Safeguarding Representatives**  
07932467761

**HYMNS FOR 4th MAY 2025**

Entrance: 289  
Gloria :405  
Alleluia: 32  
Regina Cali: 616  
Offertory: 654  
Communion: 334, 175  
Recessional: 648

**EXPOSITION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Monday : 8sm –9.20am  
Friday 8am –9.20am  
Wednesday 6.30pm –7.20pm