

PARISH NEWS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents who are intending to register children for First Holy Communion 2026, please note that the children will be tested on the below prayers prior to starting the lessons. Testing **will take place on Saturday 4th October 2025 from 10.45am – 11.30am**. Enrolment forms will be given to the parents for all the children who have successfully completed the test. Completed forms to be returned to the parish office before **18th October 2025** Please note no registration forms will be accepted after the closing date. You are encouraged to make this part of your family prayers.

· Sign of the Cross · Our Father(Prayer) · Hail Mary (Prayer) · Glory Be to the Father (Prayer)

CONFIRMATION 2025: If you are in year 8 or above at present and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please collect a registration form from the priest after the weekend Masses. Please note the candidate must collect it, not by parent. Closing date for all registration is **1st October 2025**. Please note no forms will be accepted after the closing date.

Completed forms should be return to the parish office with a copy of the baptism, First Holy communion certificate of the candidate. And a copy of the Mass attendance card. Incomplete forms will be not be accepted.

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 to 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.

INDUCTION MASS OF CANON GREGORY VERISSIMO: The Parish of the Good Shepherd Downham has, cordially invited all parishioners of English Martyrs Church to the induction ceremony of their new Parish Priest Rev Canon Gregory Verissimo by the Episcopal Vicar for the South/West London Area of the Archdiocese of Southwark, Rev Canon Victor Darlington on the 31st of October 2025 by 6.30pm. This will be followed by a reception in the parish hall.

There will be 53-seater coach leaving Streatham at 5pm on Friday 31st October 2025 for the Induction Mass and it will depart 10pm from Downham back to Streatham. If you would like to go please put your name down in the list that is in the Church porch. **Cost per person is £14.00, this can be paid by cash. Cheque, Card or bank transfer.**

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: Sunday 19th October 2025 is the World Mission Sunday. To celebrate all nationalities that makes our parish community we shall have an International Day Mass at 11.30am There will be bidding prayers in different languages and after Mass a reception with cuisines from different parts of the world. Please bring a dish to share, the food name list is at the back of the Church. If you would like to give a donation towards the reception please do so through the Card Machine or the special envelopes at the Back.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: We warmly invite those adults seeking Baptism/Confirmation/Holy Communion to be part 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

PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Choir has begun planning for the Christmas concert on Sunday 14th December at 5 pm. To add to the programme, they would welcome performances from our Parish communities. This will entail the community group singing a Christmas song of their choice. If you would like to take part, the group lead should please contact the parish office. If anyone plays an instrument and would also like to take part in the concert please contact the Parish office before 6th October 2025 or as soon as possible.

SCHOOL REFERANCES: Parents who are intending to apply for a Catholic Primary/ Secondary school for 2026 September entry, please send the following documents to the parish office. **Please do not email the documents to the office.**

Closing date for Secondary School: 30th September 2025, Primary School: 16th November 2025

1. Initial Reference form (that can be requested from the parish office or collect from the church porch)
2. Copy of the Child's Baptism certificate
3. Family photo
4. All school forms for priest's reference.
5. Copy of the Mass Attendance Card. You are required to stamp a mass attendance card whenever you come to Mass, as this helps the priest in giving you a reference.

All signed Secondary School documents to be collected from Fr Paul in person on Friday 3rd October 2025 from 4pm - 6pm. Please note there are no appointments, first come first serve basis.

OFFERTORY DONATIONS: Most of you may have noticed that our Sunday loose cash collection is massively dropped down. One reason could be is most of us are carrying less or no cash at all. We have got used to taping our cards, phones and smart watches for easy payments. For offertory donations if you do not have any loose money please do use the card machines at the back of the Church. The Parish donation QR CODE posters are available at most places in the Church and in the parish newsletter. When you scan the QR CODE it takes you straight to the parish donation and you can use the amount which you want to donate. If you would like to set up a standing order please use the Church bank details below.

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

13/14th September. Offertory £ 315.25 Gift Aid Env £ 228.00 Total £543.25

Catholic Education Service £284.44

For Contactless Donation

Please use the Card Machines in the Church or use the QR CODE. Thank you for your generosity.

