

## PARISH NEWS

**A DAY OF RETREAT:** A day of retreat for **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND READERS** for the South East area, will take place at Bishop Thomas Grant School, Belltrees Grove, SW16 2HY, on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025 for Parishes in the Deaneries of Camberwell, Lewisham and Lambeth. If you would like to attend please give your name and contact details to the parish office **before 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**. More details of the programme for the retreat day will be available in September 2025

**WELCOME SUNDAY:** On **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025** after both 9am and 11.30am Masses there will be a parish welcome Sunday with Bacon butties, Irish coffee, Tea/Coffee. We would like to invite all new parishioners to join us as this would be a great opportunity to meet the priests and introduce yourselves. This would be a good opportunity to catch up with friends over the lovely Summer holiday memories and looking forward to the rest of the year.

**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](mailto:streathamrcia@rcaos.org.uk)

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 **18<sup>th</sup> 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 **1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**MISSIO:** Missio envelopes are ready to be collected from the back of the Church, please return them as soon as possible.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be a second collection next weekend **13/14<sup>th</sup> September 2025** for Catholic Education Services. The collection help support Catholic Education and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

**ENGLISH MARTYRS – This week Martyr** is Ralph Milner was a farmer in Hampshire and lived during the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1, the daughter of King Henry VIII. His was not a rich family. He converted to Catholicism as an older man and was arrested and imprisoned very soon after he received First Holy Communion. Unusually, because he was respected and trusted by prison guards, he was often allowed out of prison and he used his time to help catholic priests who had to hide, enabling them to say mass and to minister to other Catholics. When this was discovered, he was offered the opportunity to save his life by attending a protestant church service but he refused to do so, knowing that it would cost him his life, because he considered it would be a denial of his faith and belief.

Men like Ralph Milner made it possible for the catholic church to survive some very dark times in England. He became Blessed Ralph Milner in 1929 and his story reminds us that we all have a part to play in upholding what is right and true.

**SCHOOL REFERENCES:** 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: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Primary School: 16<sup>th</sup> 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 sign Secondary School documents to be collected from Fr Paul in person on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 from 4pm -6pm. Please note there are no appointments, first come first serve basis.**

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

**For Contactless Donation**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 Collection. Offertory £ 346.79**

**Gift Aid Env £ 86.00**

**Total £432.79**

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

