

PARISH NEWS

MONTH OF THE ROSARY: The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. The Rosary, at its core, is a contemplative prayer where we meditate on the life, passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through the eyes of His beloved mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The repetitive nature of the Hail Marys provides a rhythmic backdrop that allows the faithful to think deep into these mysteries, drawing them closer to both Jesus and Mary. People use the rosary to ask for help with various intentions. For example, these intentions include world peace, stopping abortion, or praying for souls in Purgatory. Ultimately, we pray the rosary to grow closer to God and praying the rosary is not just for challenges or difficulties. Praying the rosary helps us fortify our Catholic beliefs and strengthen our bond with Jesus Christ.

During the Month of October, at the end of the bidding Prayers, instead of the Hail Mary, we shall sing the Salve Regina. (Hymn no: 628)

Salve Regina, Mater misericordiae

Vita dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.

Ad te clamamus, exules filii heave.

Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes,

In hac lacrimarum vale. Eja ergo, Advocata nostra,

Illos tuos misericordes oculos

Ad nos converte

Et jesum benedictum fructum ventris tui,

Nobis post hoc exsiliu ostende.

O Clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY SECOND COLLECTION: Sunday 19th October is World Mission Day. Missio is the Church's official organ for the support for foreign missions, the second collection that is taken next weekend (18/19th October) goes in its entirety to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. Missio works through local bishops, churches and missionary congregations to ensure that resources are distributed equitably and justify on the basis of need. There are special envelopes at the back of the Church for your donations. You can also donate through the church card machines at the back. Thank you for your generosity

Saturday 18th October 2025 after the 6.30pm Mass there will be a cake and soft toy sale to raise funds for MISSIO

Sunday 19th October 2025 after the 9am Mass there will be Croissants, Savoury finger food, Prosecco and tea/coffee

Sunday 19th October 2025 11.30am Mass will be an International Day Mass where the bidding prayers are in different languages, 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. All donations that's collected in the hall will go towards the maintenance of the Church, especially the Church wall.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS: If you have made your First Holy Communion, and would like to assist the priest during the Mass as an Altar Server we would like to invite you to attend the following preparation classes. Saturday 8th and 15th November 2025 from 10am –12noon Please note you have to attend **all two lessons**.

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@rcas.org.uk

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.

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.**

SCHOOL REFERENCES: Parents who are intending to apply for a Catholic Primary 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 Primary School: 16th November 2025

Initial Reference form (that can be requested from the parish office or collect from the church porch), copy of the Child's Baptism certificate, Family photo, all school forms for priest's reference, 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 Primary School documents to be collected from Fr Paul in person on Friday 21st November 2025 from 4pm -6pm. Please note there are no appointments, first come first serve basis.

ENGLISH MARTYRS - This week's Martyr is St Cuthbert Mayne

St Cuthbert's statue stands near the back of the Church on the left-hand side as you face the altar. He was, like his friend St Edmund Campion, ordained first in the Anglican church but chose to become a Catholic priest and returned from France to England following his ordination in 1576 to work as a missionary priest in Cornwall, despite the very grave threat to Catholic priests at that time, Queen Elizabeth I's agents heard of his presence and searched for him. When he was found, he was reputed to be wearing an Agnus Dei (a Lamb figure representing the Lamb of God), and this was used in evidence against him. He was sentenced to death. Perhaps we can remember St Cuthbert, his faith and courage, when we say the Agnus Dei/Lamb of God, before holy Communion.



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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION FOR CAFOD, INCLUDING CAKE SALE WAS £440.40

4/5th October 2025 Collection. Offertory £ 340.30 Gift Aid Env £ 113.00 Total £453.30

For Contactless Donation

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

Total Standing Order for September £ 2938.00 Totals Card Collection for September £ 992.00 Total Church Maintenance for September £ 1174.11