



MONTH OF THE ROSARY: The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). 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 exsiliium ostende.
O Clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria*

REQUIEM MASS: There will be requiem Mass for late **NANCY HIGGINS** on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 11am. Morning 9.30am Mass will be as usual. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord!

INVITATION TO GROW IN FAITH- DISCOVERY- You may be aware that the diocese of Southwark is undertaking a programme of evangelisation. This programme is calling each of to respond "Let it be your chief study to put the Gospel into practice." Jean Baptiste De La Salle. You may have an active prayer life, attend Mass regularly and foster the faith in your family. Would you like to deepen your knowledge of Scripture? English Martyrs Parish is actively participating in the evangelisation programme and plan to offer the Discovery programme, the focus of which is to learn more about God's Love and develop a personal relationship with Jesus. The course will run over a period of five consecutive weeks, commencing on Tuesday 21st October from 7-8pm. If you would like to participate in this course, please contact the parish secretary to register your interest.

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 make 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.

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 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.

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

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.

ENGLISH MARTYRS – This week's Martyr is St Edmund Campion. St Edmund Campion's statue sits on the right-hand side of the main body of the church close to the back and his name is recorded on the ceiling again on the right-hand side of the Church. Edmund Campion was born in London, close to St Paul's Cathedral and was initially ordained in the Anglican Church. He came to believe that the Catholic church represented the true faith, and despite the repudiation of the Catholic Church in England by Henry VIII he chose to become a catholic and ultimately a Jesuit priest, studying at a seminary in France. He returned to England in 1580 and like many other priests of his time, practised his faith in secret, but was sadly betrayed a year later and imprisoned and tortured in the Tower of London before being hung, drawn and quartered, a brutal punishment of those times. He became a Saint in 1970 and we remember him for his enduring faith and great courage.

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

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR CAFOD

27/28th September. Offertory £ 296.00

Gift Aid Env £ 91.00

Total £387.00

For Contactless Donation

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

