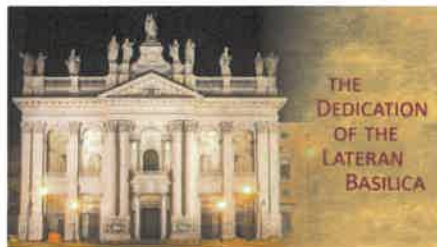


PARISH NEWS

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (Taken from Vatican News) 9th November



"To dedicate or consecrate" a place to God is a ritual that is found in every religion. To "reserve" a place to God is an act of recognizing His glory and honour.

When the Emperor Constantine granted full liberty to Christians in 313, they did not spare in order to construct places for the Lord – numerous are the churches constructed at that time. Constantine himself also constructed churches, one of which he was a magnificent basilica on the Caelian Hill in Rome, over the ancient Lateran Palace, which Pope Sylvester I dedicated to Christ the Saviour (318 or 324). A chapel dedicated to Saint John the Baptist was built inside it which served as the baptistry. This moved Pope Sergius III to dedicate it to Saint John the Baptist as well. Lastly, Pope Lucius II also dedicated it to Saint John the Evangelist in the 12th century. Thus, the name of this Papal

Basilica is the Basilica of the Most Holy Saviour and of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran. Christians consider the Basilica to be the **mother church of all churches in the world**.

The church was destroyed several times in the course of the centuries, and always rebuilt. The final reconstruction took place under the pontificate of Benedict XIII. The church was rededicated in 1724. It was at that time that the feast celebrated today was established and extended to the universal Church.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE - Sunday 9th November 2025 10:30am Streatham War memorial, Streatham Common North and Streatham High Road.

BLESSING OF GRAVES: Blessing of the Graves of Catholics in Lambeth: If you have a loved one buried in our Lambeth cemeteries, the Deanery Priests will be blessing the graves on:

***Sunday 9th November 2025** at 3pm: Streatham Park Cemetery, Rowan Road, Streatham, SW16 5JG

***Saturday 15th November 2025** at 10am: West Norwood Cemetery and Crematorium, Norwood Road, West Norwood, SE27 9JU

***Thursday 20th November 2025** - Vespers at 6pm in the Church, followed by blessings of the graves of those buried under ground and above ground in the Parish Columbarium, Holy Soul's Chapel, Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 5 Hillside Road, Streatham Hill, SW2 3HL

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.

QUIZ NIGHT: English Martyrs Church Quiz night is back! Saturday 22nd November 2025 at 7.30pm in the parish hall. Adult ticket £10.00 each under 11yrs is £5.00. Ticket includes entry, meal and a free glass of wine/soft drink. Get your team together (Max 8 in a team) for a night of fun and competition. Great prizes, good company, and a battle of the brains you won't want to miss". Tickets are available after all weekend masses. All proceeds go towards the Church Maintenance.

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 Sunday or Saturday Vigil 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.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE: Sunday 7th December 2025 after all Masses. As always, we will be seeking donations for various stalls – especially bottles, homemade items (food or crafts) and good quality or nearly new gifts. There is donation box available in the church Our Christmas Fayre is always been an enjoyable event for all ages. Also, it raises funds for the up keep of the Church Maintenance. Please do help us to make this year a big success than the previous year.

LESS PRIVILEGED CHRISTMAS DINNER: Saturday 13th December 2025 12.30pm -2.30pm the parish will be preparing Christmas Dinner for the less privileged as we have done in past years. As a parish community to show our support by donating a £10 gift voucher or by giving any warm clothing such as gloves, socks or toiletries. If you are able to support, kindly hand the gift cards to any of the priests after mass or drop them through the letterbox of the presbytery. (Gift cards from Tesco, Sainsbury)

RED WEDNESDAY- Aid to the Church in Need invite all for **RED WEDNESDAY** Mass on 19th November 2025, 6pm at St George's Cathedral. Mass is for young Christians who are suffering around the world. Main Celebrant is Bishop Nichols Hudson.

ENGLISH MARTYRS – This week Martyr is Isobel (Anne) Foster -Anne is one of the small number of women commemorated in our church. She is believed to have been 55 years old. She was one of 7 people killed for refusing to renounce their Catholic faith and she died in an exceptionally cruel and brutal fashion, being burnt in a group in a large fire in which they were chained. A sermon was read and each, including Anne, had a chance to renounce their catholic faith and save their live. They refused to give the lie requested. We will all surely pray never to find out faith so harshly tested and must give thanks for those who stood up for the catholic faith so that it could be passed on to us.

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

1/2nd November 2025 Collection. Offertory £ 539.40 Gift Aid Env £ 82.00

Total 621.40

For Contactless Donation

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

