

PARISH NEWS

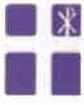
Almighty God,

We thank you for your gift of peace. Your peace is 'unarmed and disarming' not victory or defeat, but fraternity and dialogue, the fruit of justice and forgiveness.

Open our eyes to see the world - not from the viewpoint of the mighty but from that of the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the wounded child, the exile and the fugitive.

We pray for change to come - a new era, the dawn of your kingdom of justice and peace.

Disarm our hearts, Lord, that we may have peace in ourselves and bring that gift to others. Amen

 Pax Christi,
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PEACE SUNDAY: PAX CHRISTI: This year Peace Sunday 2026 will take place on Sunday 18th January 2026. Pope Leo has announced the theme - 'Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming peace' - and we are putting together liturgy and prayer resources to help you mark the day and reflect on this vital theme in your parish or group. Pope Leo has continued the exhortation of Pope Francis that the call to live nonviolent 'disarmed' lives is core to Catholic Social Teaching and the key to peace in a world scarred by violent conflict.

PAX CHRISTI (International Catholic Movement for Peace) produces resources on peace and nonviolence issues, organises events and vigils, represents the Catholic church in the peace movement and works with young people in both schools and churches.

Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023> Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/vxfcw67x> Or send a cheque payable to 'Pax Christi' to: *Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY*

Peace Sunday 2026



Peace be with you all: towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace
(Pope Leo)
paxchristi.org.uk

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 MARTYR FOR THE WEEK IS THOMAS WELBOURNE Thomas was a Catholic school teacher in Yorkshire. He was very public in his faith and his encouragement to others to keep their Catholic faith despite this having been made illegal in England by King Henry VIII. As a teacher he would have been prominent in his community and as a result he was arrested and executed at York on 1 August 1605. We can all remember teachers who have inspired us and encouraged us to be brave or bold, just as Thomas did for those he encountered.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026: The next lesson for First Holy Communion is on Saturday 17th January 2026 at 9.30am.

CONFIRMATION 2026: Registration for 2026 is closed. First meeting for Candidates and parents is on Friday 16th January 2026 at 7pm in the Church.

MASS ATTENDANCE: Parents who wishing to apply for a Catholic Primary or Secondary School please note to obtain a Catholic Practise Certificate from the Parish Priest, Mass attendance of minimum of **TWO Years** is needed. (This means attending Saturday Vigil or Sunday Masses) If children are planning to register for Sacraments in the future at English Martyrs Church please do get a Mass Attendance Card and get it stamped.

Mass Attendance is not only children who are registered for First Holy Communion/ Confirmation this year. It is for all the who are planning to do it in 2027 & 2028.

GE'EZ RITE (ERITREAN) CHRISTMAS: The Eritrean community will be celebrating Christmas with the parish on Sunday, 11 January 2026, at 9:30am and 11:30am. They would like to use this occasion to fundraise for the Church. Eritrean food and coffee will be available, with the following prices:

Lunch: £3.50, Coffee: 50p, Wine: 50p, Juice: 50p

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

Sunday Collection for 3/4th Jan 2026 Loose Cash £ 518.91 Gift Aid Env £ 131.00 Total £ 649.91
For Contactless Donation

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

