

PARISH NEWS

Peace Sunday 2026



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

PEACE SUNDAY: PAX CHRISTI: Today is Peace Sunday. 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 donate, 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*

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection next weekend (24/25th January 2026) for St George’s Cathedral. For over half a century, St George’s Cathedral has been the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark, home to 175 parishes and over 50,000 Roman Catholics. For many Catholics living and working across London and the South East of England, St George’s has been a beacon of light. Today, St George’s Cathedral continues to attract thousands of worshippers and visitors each year, as well as serving a lively local parish community which proudly reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of South London. The Cathedral frequently hosts important Diocesan and national celebrations, as well as concerts and events for various Catholic charities. There is a rich musical tradition, maintaining a choir of boys and men, as well as a girls’ choir, both of which sing at Sunday Masses and on major feasts. In many respects, St George’s Cathedral serves as a spiritual home and ‘beehive’ for Catholic evangelisation and mission across the Archdiocese of Southwark. St George’s Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship. You can donate through by cash/cheque, using the card machine or the QR code in the poster at the back of the Church.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: We warmly invite those adults seeking Baptism/Confirmation/Holy Communion to be part of 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 **JOHN ROCHESTER**. John was one of many Carthusian Monks who were persecuted because of their refusal to agree that King Henry VIII was the final authority on religious matters in England. At this time, the monks, based at Charterhouse in London, enjoyed great status and prestige due to widespread respect for the simple and holy lives they led. Faced with a refusal to accept the King’s authority, the King ordered that Monks be arrested and in May 1537, John was taken to York where he was found guilty of treason and hanged. When faced with their deaths, the Carthusian monks refused to deny their faith and their loyalty to the Catholic church and bravely accepted that for this they would die.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026: The next lesson for First Holy Communion is on Saturday 24th January 2026 at 9.30am.

CONFIRMATION 2026: Registration for 2026 is closed. Next Confirmation lesson is on Friday 23rd January 2026 at 6pm in the parish hall.

Sunday 25th January 2026 is the Mass of Enrolment. All candidates with their parents to be there for the 9am Mass. We invite all prayer Sponsors to join them in the hall for a cup of tea & a chat after the 9am Mass.

Please note Sunday 25th January 2026, Candidates will be doing the welcoming, reading, collection & Offertory at the 9am Mass.

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.

GRATITUDE: Thank you to Hamd, Agnes, Karen and all the volunteers who helped with last Sunday’s Eritrean Christmas lunch. Total of £214.06 was raised for the Church Maintenance.

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

Sunday Collection for 10/11th January 2026 Loose Cash £ 549.37 Gift Aid Env £ 116.00 Total £ 665.37

For Contactless Donation

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

