

PARISH NEWS

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: Sunday 1st February 2026 is Racial Justice Sunday. This special celebration will be led by Archbishop John Wilson, who will preside over the **10:00 AM Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark**.

To mark this occasion in a spirit of unity and cultural diversity, we encourage attendees to wear traditional attire and, where possible, bring a flag representing their country of origin. This will be a beautiful expression of the universal nature of our Church and our shared commitment to justice and inclusion. Following the Mass, refreshments will be served in Amigo Hall, offering an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. There will be second collection to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in the wider Society.

There will be a second collection on 31st January/1st February 2026 weekend.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD: Monday 2nd February is the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord or presentation of Christ in the Temple, the occasion when the Virgin Mary, in obedience to Jewish law, went to the Temple in Jerusalem both to be purified 40 days after the birth of her son, Jesus, and to present him to God as her firstborn. The feast focuses on Jesus' early life. According to the New Testament gospel, a Jewish man named Simeon held the baby in his arms and said that he would be a light for the Gentiles (Luke 2:32). It is for this reason that this event is called Candlemas. Christians consider Jesus as the "light of the world" so it is fitting that candles are blessed on this day, please **do bring a candle or take one from the porch**.

 **BLESSING OF THROATS:** Monday 3rd February 2026 is the **Feast of St Blaise**. Blessing of the Throats ceremony will be held after the 9.30am Mass.

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebastea and a doctor. The first known record of the saint's life comes from the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is recorded as helping with patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are written of 400 years after his martyrdom in the "Acts of St.

Blaise." Saint Blaise is believed to begin as a healer then, eventually, became a "physician of souls." He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to Saint Blaise for healing miracles.

WORLD DAY FOR THE SICK: Wednesday 11th February 2026 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World day for the sick is celebrated. We shall be having a special Mass at 11.30am for all who are sick and housebound in our parish community. After Mass there will be a light lunch served in the Parish Hall.

CONFIRMATION 2026: Next Confirmation lesson is on Friday 6th February 2026 at 6pm in the parish hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026: The next lesson for First Holy Communion is on Saturday 7th February 2026 at 9.30am.

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.

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

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 for 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.

ENGLISH MARTYR FOR THE WEEK : German Gardiner .German (also known as Jermaine or Germyn) was not a priest or a monk, but a lay man. He was believed to have German refused to swear an oath been involved in putting together a list of heresies (opinions contrary to Christian belief) committed by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer who had been appointed for his loyalty to the King. It took great courage to criticise such a powerful individual. Faced with sentences of death, one of German's collaborators renounced him and chose to support the King and the Archbishop to save his own life. German refused to declare his belief in a church he believed was not the true church and for this he died, treated as a traitor and executed at Tyburn. His faith and courage helped to enable the Catholic church to continue to exist in this country.

GRATITUDE: Thank you to all the Musicians who performed last weeks Vanbrugh Concert. A sum of £252.78 was raised for Church maintenance.

CHRISTMAS SURPLUS GIFT: If you have any surplus(extra) **NEW CHRISTMAS GIFTS** such as Bath & Body Lotions, Chocolates or bottles of wine please do bring them as we could use them for fundraising events for the Church.

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

Sunday Collection for 24/25th January 2026 Loose Cash £598.74 Gift Aid Env £ 116.00 Total £ 714.74

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

