

PARISH NEWS

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for **Poor Parishes**. (21/22nd March 2026) This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese. This can also be paid by selecting the second collection option on the card machine.

EASTER ENVELOPES: There are Easter Donation envelopes in the Church porch for your personal gift for the Clergy.

LENT & EASTER AT ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH: Please collect a Lent & Easter Service Programme from the back of the Church, which gives all the details of Lenten Services and Easter Masses during the Holy Week. There will be copies available throughout the season of Lent.

HOLY WEEK MINISTRIES: If you are able to read, minister Holy Eucharist or serve at the altar during Holy Week, ie, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, please put down your name on the list at the back of the Church. Please put down your name for all the services at which you will be available to help – we shall then arrange the rota to try and make sure everybody has a fair turn. Please refer to the front notice board where you will be notified which ministry and at which Mass you will serve. **Please write your name down before 23rd March 2026**

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: Altar server training for Easter Triduum is on **Monday 30th March 2026 at 10.30am - noon**. Please note it is moved from Tuesday 31st March 2026 as mentioned last week's newsletter.

LENTEN CHARITY APPEAL: FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE JENNIFER ETUH MEDICAL CENTRE, NIGERIA AND SATURDAY SOUP KITCHEN.: As we head into the Lenten season, the church recommends prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as three practices that can help form the heart of our Lenten journey and prepare us for the great celebration of Easter. It has been said that almsgiving covers a multitude of sins. In this spirit, our parish, English Martyrs Parish Streatham, has been made aware of the urgent needs of **Jennifer Etuh Medical Centre**, a vital healthcare facility serving a rural and underserved community in Nigeria. This hospital provides essential medical care to mothers, children, and families who otherwise have little or no access to healthcare. Many arrive in critical condition, and the centre strives daily to preserve life and restore hope, often with very limited resources.

As we reflect on the words of our Lord, "I was sick and you visited me" (Matthew 25:36), we are reminded that caring for the sick is not only an act of charity but a profound expression of our faith and love for Christ Himself.

Therefore, during this Lenten season, I humbly invite each member of our parish to prayerfully consider supporting this medical centre. Your generosity, no matter how small, can help provide essential medical supplies, improve facilities, and enable the hospital to continue its life-saving mission. Your sacrifice can bring healing, dignity, and hope to those who suffer.

Lenten donations will be shared between the Saturday Soup Kitchen and Jennifer Etuh Medical Centre in Nigeria.

Donations can be made using the Lenten charity envelope or use cash machine title Lenten charity. Above all, please keep the patients, staff, and mission of the medical centre in your prayers.

All donations to Nigeria will be sent through the Southwark Diocese to the relevant Diocese in Nigeria

CONFIRMATION: The next lesson is on **Friday 27^h March 2026, 6pm** in the parish hall.

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 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 GEORGE NAPPER/NAPIER

George was expelled from an Oxford University College for daring to nominate a Catholic President for the College against the wishes of Queen Elizabeth I. He went to Douai in Belgium to study for and be ordained to the priesthood and then returned to England to promote Catholicism, a highly dangerous endeavour at the time. He was arrested and found to be carrying consecrated hosts, for which, having refused to take an oath in support of the Queen he was sentenced to be hung drawn and quartered. As was common at the time, his head was put on display after his death as a warning to others and there remains some mystery about how when and by whom it was taken down. George is commemorated on the ceiling on the left-hand side of the Church, facing the altar. He was a man who was willing to take great risks to stand up for the right to be catholic in England and the faith survived because of the courage of men like him. We should remember them in our prayers.

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

Sunday Collection 14th/15th March 2026 Loose Cash £ 585.15 Gift Aid Env £ 140.00 Total £ 725.15
For Contactless Donation: Please use the Card Machines in the Church or use the QR CODE. **Thank you for your generosity.**

Thank you to all who came and for the last Sunday's Mother's Day morning tea. Total of £113.00 was donated to the Church Maintenance.

