

## PARISH NEWS

**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**

**SEASON OF LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** During Lent we shall be having Stations of the Cross on **Friday after 9.30am morning Mass and 7pm**. This is a traditional form of prayer and devotion associated with Lent, as it follows the journey of Jesus from Pilate's palace to his crucifixion. If you are able to help with the reading, or carrying the cross, please put your name in the Volunteer list that is in the Church porch.

**LENTEN TALKS:** Join us this Lent, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026, screening of two short films by Late Venerable Fulton Sheen talking about **The Meaning of Mass**. The screening will start at 10.45am.

**MISSIO:** Missio envelopes are ready for collection after Mass. Please return them with your donations as soon as possible.

**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](mailto: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.

**CONFIRMATION:** The next lesson is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 6pm in the parish hall.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 10.45am Children who are preparing for First Holy Communion will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please do keep them in your prayers.



**YOUR LEGACY OF FAITH:** As Catholics, we believe in the sanctity of life; a precious gift from God. We are called to live joyfully and faithfully, trusting that after a natural death, we will return to our Creator and share in eternal life with Him. When the time comes to move on to the next life, you have the opportunity to let your lifetime of faith continue through a gift in your Will.

Each of us hopes to leave a legacy - to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our families, friends, and the communities we cherish. By including a gift in your Will to the Church, no matter the size, you can help sustain and support your Catholic community for future generations.

If you are interested in leaving a Gift in your Will to the Archdiocese of Southwark, your local Catholic Church or one of the Diocesan Funds, you can contact the team on [legacy@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:legacy@rcaos.org.uk) or telephone 020 7960 2504. Please collect a leaflet from the Church porch for more information.

### ENGLISH MARTYR FOR THE WEEK PHILIP HOWARD- EARL OF ARUNDEL

Philip was born into a powerful aristocratic family which still exists, His father was the Duke of Arundel and he was baptised over a golden font by the then Archbishop of York at a ceremony attended by the Royal family. as an adult, he was part of the Court of Queen Elizabeth. His family remained loyal Catholics during long periods of persecution.

He became active in church life as an adult and tried to leave England in order to be able to live openly in his catholic faith but he was betrayed before he could do so by one of his servants The Queen offered him freedom if he would take part in ceremonies supporting her but he refused and was sentenced to death. In prison he wrote the words " *the more affliction we endure for Christ in this world, the more glory we shall have with Christ in the next.*" Philip did not seek to use his position and privilege to save his own life and he professed his faith openly even when he knew it would lead to his death. We can pray to him for such courage.

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

**Sunday Collection for 28<sup>th</sup> Feb/1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 Loose Cash £ 545.09 Gift Aid Env £ 115.00 Total £ 660.09**

**CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY Loose Collection £ 472.93**

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

