

PARISH NEWS

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

SACRAMENTS: BAPTISM – 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 practising in the parish for more than 6 months. Please email the Parish office for an information pack.

MARRIAGE: You need to give 6 months' notice. Please email the Parish office to book an appointment to see the Parish Priest

PREPARATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027: Parents who are intending to register children for First Holy Communion 2027, please collect a leaflet "PRAYERS IN PREPARATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION" from the Church porch. These prayers will help the children in preparation to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and a Spiritual Foundation to receive the Most Holy Body of Christ reverently.

How Can You Help Prepare Your Child?

Mass Attendance: Regular attendance at Sunday Mass is one of the best ways to help your child understand the importance of the Eucharist. Talk to them about what happens during Mass and encourage them to participate fully.

Prayers: Teach your child simple prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and prayers of gratitude. Make prayer a regular part of your family's routine.

Talk About the Sacraments: Help your child understand the meaning of the Eucharist. Explain how receiving the body and blood of Christ brings them closer to God and the Church community.

Lead by Example: Show your child the importance of faith in your own life. Children learn best through example, so let them see how much the sacraments mean to you.

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE DAY: On Saturday 3rd October 2026 couples are invited to a day where they can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to be married at St Matthew church hall, 37 Norwood High St, West Norwood, London SE27 9JU 9.00am till 4.30pm.

The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 plus years or anywhere in between).

It seeks to help husbands and wives make their marriages better and to improve their communication skills and learn how to raise issues without hurting each other.

There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. The unique selling point of this day is it is NOT marriage counselling - Marriage Care and Retrouvaille do a brilliant job at this! Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Booking is essential. To apply please contact: Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or by phone on 07983 524 727

MASS ATTENDANCE: Mass attendance is needed if you are planning to apply for Catholic Primary or Secondary School. Also, for any of the Sacraments below.

SCHOOLS: Please note if you are applying for a Catholic Primary or Secondary school where you need to get a priest's reference, the attendance card will help the Parish Priest in filling the reference form. Please note signing the Mass attendance from mid-year does not give a true account of your Catholic Practise.

SACRAMENT - If you would like your child to receive any of the Sacraments below use the Mass attendance card as it from now. Not Nearer the sacrament time for the following

· Baptism · First Holy Communion · Confirmation.

All sacraments should be received with great faith and eagerness because Christ instituted the sacraments to nourish Christian life. Coming regularly to Sunday Mass helps each and every one to grow in faith, not merely coming near to the Sacrament of preparation time.

Jesus described his entire life as a mission "to bear witness to the truth". We, too, should bear witness to the truth in our words and example, and teaching our children to do the same. Do not let your faith be a tick to the Mass attendance slip, let it be a gift of God which enables you to serve God in Spirit and in truth.

FR JOHNSON JOSEPH: After two years in the parish Fr Johnson will be leaving us back to his home diocese in India. As a parish we shall have a farewell celebration on Sunday 12th September 2026 after both 9am and 11.30am Mass. If you would like to contribute for his farewell gift, you can use the card machines at the back of the church or the special envelopes at the Church porch

A THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP - Christian greetings and the Peace of our Lord be with you always. We would love to thank you by allowing our group to come to your church and sell the olive wood religious articles, the result of which was very beneficial and rewarding for our needy Christian families.

Which raised £3883.00 Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land. We don't have enough words to thank you and your parishioners, but make sure that you are always in our prayers.

If anyone has missed the carvings display, you can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk God bless you all

Love and blessings from The Bethlehem Nativity Group.

PARISH DONATIONS: If you wish to make a payment direct to our Bank Account these are the details:

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

REF. Offertory/ Your surname.... For Contactless Donation: Please use the Card Machines in the Church or the QR Code The best way to support the parish is by standing order, you can use a Standing Order form from the Church porch or email the Parish office to get one

SUNDAY COLLECTION: Sunday 12th July 2026

Loose Cash £483.04 Gift Aid Env £130.00 Total £613.04

Stella Maris £255.93 in loose cash.

Summer BBQ £618.00 in total for Church Maintenance. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped on the day and all who came to support the Parish.

GIFT AID – Are you registered on the Parish Scheme as yet? If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid is a great way to make your donations more valuable to the Church by an extra 25% at no extra cost to you! If you like to sign please email or fill a Gift Aid form from the Porch and hand it to the priest or the parish office.

Thank you for your generosity.

