

PARISH NEWS



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: We congratulate and pray for Fr Paul who will be celebrating 18 years of his ordination on Sunday 23rd August 2026. We keep him in our prayers as he continues doing God's work here in our parish. After both Sunday 9am and 11.30am Mass there will be a celebration reception in the hall.

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 be helping 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 I Help Prepare My 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.

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

SCHOOL REFERENCES: Parents who are intending to apply for a Catholic Primary/ Secondary school for 2027 September entry, please send the following documents to the parish office. **Please do not email the documents to the office.**

- **Closing date for Secondary School: 30th September 2026, Primary School: 15th November 2026**

1. Initial Reference form (that can be requested from the parish office or collect from the church porch)
2. Copy of the Child's Baptism certificate
3. Family photo
4. All school forms for priest's reference.
5. Copy of the Mass Attendance Card. You are required to stamp a mass attendance card whenever you come to Mass, as this helps the priest in giving you a reference.

All sign Secondary School documents to be collected from Fr Paul in person on Friday 2nd October 2026 from 3.30pm 5.30pm
Please note there are no appointments, first come first serve basis.

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.

DINNER DANCE: Sisters from the Daughters of Divine Love will be hosting their Fifth Annual Fundraising Dinner Dance in aid for the mission on Saturday 17th October 2026, 2pm – 10pm at St Mary's Catholic Church Hall, Croydon. Tickets are £20 for adults and children under 12yrs £10 each. Please RVSP 079304 79685/ 07377229830. Please see the poster for more details.

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

Sunday 2nd Aug 2026 - Offertory Loose Collection £464.15 Gift Aid Env £66.00 Total £530.15

Sunday 26th July 2026 - Offertory Loose Collection £517.49 Gift Aid Env £90.60 Total £608.09

REF: Offertory/ Your surname.... For Contactless Donation: Please use the Card Machines in the Church or 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



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.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE: For the up keep of the Church Maintenance

A/C Name: RCAS STREATHAM A/C: 23416416 S/C: 60-20-39

Thank you for your generosity