

PARISH NEWS



FUNDRAISING FOR CHURCH MAINTENANCE- A parishioner who is downsizing is organizing a sale with household goods, Ladies Shoes(new), Clothes(new), stationary, luggage, hand bags, costume jewelry and other miscellaneous items this **weekend 26/27th September** after both Sunday Masses and the Saturday Vigil Mass. There will be Irish Coffee and cakes for sale on Sunday after Masses All proceeds go towards the Church Maintenance. Please do come to the hall and see what may interest you.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT- This Sunday is the **second week** for the National Mass Count so the attendance at each mass is to be counted over the next two weeks. Last week's total was 508.

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.

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

MARRIAGE: Please email the Parish office to book an appointment to see the Parish Priest.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027: We would like to invite all parents who are intending to register children for First Holy Communion 2027 for a meeting with Fr Paul and the Catechists on **Saturday 17th October 2026** after the 10am Mass. Children who are in Year 3 or above can be registered for next year's programme. Lessons will be on Saturday mornings from 9.20am – 10.30am Registration forms can be collected during the meeting. To help children in preparation for First Holy Communion, as Parents/ Guardians it is good to lead by an example. Regular Mass attendance, talking about Sacraments, especially about the Eucharist and teaching prayers such as **The Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be** will help them through the First Holy Communion programme and in their faith.

CONFIRMATION 2027: If you are in Year 8 or above and have done your First Holy Communion, and would like to receive the **Sacrament Confirmation** in 2027, please collect a registration form from Fr Paul after the weekend Masses. Please note only the candidate can collect it not by parents or guardians. Closing date for registration is **19th October 2026**. Copy of the Regular Mass attendance, Baptism and First Holy Communion certificates should be attached to the completed forms. Incomplete and late entries will not be considered.

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 signed Secondary School documents to be collected from Fr Paul in person on Thursday 1st October 2026 from 3.30pm 5.30pm Please note there are no appointments, first come first serve basis.

SCHOOLS- Please note if you are applying for a Catholic Primary or Secondary school where you need to get a priest's reference, the mass 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.

MASS ATTENDANCE: Weekly Sunday (Saturday Vigil Mass) mass attendance is needed if you would like your child to receive Sacrament of Baptism, First Holy Communion or Confirmation. Please collect a mass attendance card and get it stamped after Mass. 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. **Please note if you are late, attending after Mass starts, attendance cards will not be stamped.**

A DAY OF RETREAT: A day of retreat for **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND READERS** for the South East area, will take place at Bishop Thomas Grant School, Belltrees Grove, SW16 2HY, on Saturday 24th. October 2026 for Parishes in the Deaneries of Camberwell, Lewisham and Lambeth. If you would like to attend please give your name and contact details to the parish office **before 30th September 2026**. Please see the poster on the noticeboard for the programme for the day.

HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS: If you have a relative or a family member who is housebound or sick and would like their names to be in the newsletter so that as a Parish community we can pray for them, please email the parish office.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: Sunday 18th October 2026 is the World Mission Sunday. To celebrate all nationalities that makes our parish community we shall have an International Day Mass at 11.30am There will be bidding prayers in different languages and after Mass a reception with cuisines from different parts of the world. Please reserve the date, more detail nearer to come.

MONTH OF THE ROSARY: The Catholic Church dedicates October to the Holy Rosary, encouraging the faithful to pray it more faithfully to grow closer to Christ through Mary, our Holy Mother.

The Rosary is an important set of prayers for Catholics. Rosary beads are often used for protection, and many people believe that having a rosary with them will keep evil and danger away. The main reason why the Month of the Holy Rosary takes place in October is because the Catholic liturgical "Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary" occurs on October 7th each year. This marks the moment when the Rosary was established. In an apparition, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to give the Rosary to a young priest named Dominic de Guzmán (later becoming a Saint) in order to help him continue his mission of converting people to Catholicism. To help in meditating the mysteries and asking the intercession of Mary there are rosary booklet at the Church porch

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 20th Sep 2026 -Offertory, Loose Collection £444.67 Gift Aid Env £121.00 Total £565.67

Home Mission Sunday Collection in cash £277.57

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

