

PARISH NEWS

PRISONER'S WEEK: Prisons Week began life in 1975 when an ecumenical committee was formed to encourage Christians to focus their thoughts and prayers on prisoners, their families, victims of crime, and those working across the justice system. This year **Prisons Week 2026** begins with **Prisoners' Sunday** on **11th October** and runs through to **17th October**. This year's theme, "**All Are Invited**," draws on the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22:1-14, where the servants are sent out "into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests." It is a theme of radical hospitality, a reminder that God's invitation excludes no one, whatever their past. Please keep prisoners, their families, victims and all who work in the justice system.

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. **Candidate and Parents meeting with Fr Paul and the catechists is on Friday 27th November 2026 at 7pm.**

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 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

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

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: Sunday 18th October 2026 is the World Mission Sunday. This would be 100th Year of its celebrations. To celebrate all nationalities that makes our parish community we shall have an International Day Mass at 11.30am If you would like to do a bidding prayer in a different language, and would like to bring a dish to represent your home country please write your name down on the list at the Church Porch. A donation of £5.00 will be collected for Church Maintenance.

MISSIO. Missio is the Church's official organ for the support for foreign missions. The **second collection that is taken on 17/18th October weekend** goes in its entirety to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. Missio works through local bishops, churches and missionary congregations to ensure that resources are distributed equitably and justifiably on the basis of need. To help generate funds we shall be having a cake sale after the 6.30pm and 9am Mass.

SCHOOL REFERENCES: Parents who are intending to apply for a Catholic Primary 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 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.

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.**

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.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT: This Sunday is the **last week** for the National Mass Count Last week's total was **483**

ENGLISH MARTYR FOR THIS WEEK IS -MARGARET WARD: Margaret is one of the small number of women who are commemorated as martyrs of the catholic church. She worked as a housekeeper for a wealthy lady in London, where she met a priest William Watson. When he was arrested, Margaret took food to him in prison and smuggled in a rope so that he could escape. He succeeded but the rope was traced to her and she was savagely beaten over an 8-day period before being hung. Her courage was great and her belief sustained her through harsh trials. She became a saint in 1970 and her feast day is 30 August.

BREAKFAST & COFFEE MORNING: Monday 12th October 2026, there will be Breakfast & Coffee morning after morning Mass. All are welcome.

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

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

Sunday 4th October 2026 - Offertory Loose Collection £600.31 Gift Aid Env £94.00 Total £694.31

FOR CAFOD £300.72

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

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 upkeep of the Church Maintenance

VC Name: RCAS STREATHAM A/C: 23416416 S/C: 60-20-39 Thank you for your generosity

