

Corpus Christi Catholic Church

11 Trent Road, London, SW2 5BJ



@CatholicBrixton

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SUNDAY 18TH APRIL 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Saturday	17TH	10:00			Eugene Vdouyn RIP
SATURDAY	17th	18:00	3rd Sunday of Easter	Solemnity	
SUNDAY	18TH	08:30	3rd Sunday of Easter	Solemnity	Welfare of Marion Atieno
	18th	10:00	3rd Sunday of Easter	Solemnity	Pro Populo
	18th	12:00	3rd Sunday of Easter	Solemnity	
MONDAY	19th	NO MASS			
TUESDAY	20TH	10:00	Feria		Sr Patricia Pafco RIP
WEDNESDAY	21ST	10.00	St. Anselm	Memorial	Angele Falle
THURSDAY	22nd	10.00	Feria		Elizabeth Ann Yates RIP
FRIDAY	23rd	10:00	St. George	<i>Solemnity</i>	Katrina Fleming RIP
SATURDAY	24th	10:00	Feria		Angele Falle

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY: 5PM - 6PM IN THE HALL

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER: WEDS: 12-2 SAT: 4-6



We pray for Mariana Guga, Pauline Calvey and all those who have died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. We pray for Marilyn Channer and Francoise Atta who are unwell and remember all who are sick at this time. Within the period of national mourning for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh we ask God to grant him eternal rest. We also ask for God to console his widow - Her Majesty the Queen - in her grief and give comfort to all members of the Royal Family.

This weekend we will mourn the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh as his funeral is conducted at Windsor. At the same time our Archbishop will say a Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul. There has been much coverage of him in the press and the speeches of Members of Parliament in the House of Commons were both humorous and respectful. It is difficult to sum up such a person's contribution to our national life, however, maybe - in his unstinting support of Her Majesty the Queen - it is his constancy that will be most remembered by most: he was *always there* by her side. There is a great lesson in this for each of us about the nature of friendship and of how love is made manifest: it means to be there for the other person. Our Lady exhibits this most perfectly as she was there from the cradle to the cross: she herself is the most constant of all creatures. She - in this time of the Church's liturgical calendar as we prepare to approach Pentecost - we remember praying for the early Church and I imagine her prayer for the first believers is the same for we 21st century believers: that we remain constant in our love for her son. This isn't easy but it isn't complicated. I'm sure that - during their married life - it wasn't always easy for the Duke of Edinburgh to be at his wife's side but this weekend we give thanks that he always was and celebrate his admirable service of her and our country. As we honour his example let us pray that we become examples of this constancy in our friendship with our loving God.

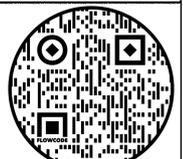
Parish Offertory

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PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU! What a great joy it was to be able to celebrate Easter with you for the first time and to share with you - albeit in a more restrained manner - the liturgies of Holy Week. I am so very grateful to all who played their part in making our worship so dignified: to all who assisted in the sacristy, our flower arranger, our readers, stewards, musicians and singers. I was very touched by your good wishes, cards and gifts which you delivered at the door of the Priests' House and also by your generous Easter Offering to me. May God continue to bless each one of us with His grace at this time as we continue our celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME - SUMMER 2021 All parents should have received an email with details of the programme which will conclude at the end of this summer term. A reminder that online bookings for the Mass you wish to attend open **this coming Thursday evening at 8pm**. The limited places at Mass will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS OF THE FUTURE: Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday when we have the annual collection for the Priest Training Fund which subsidises the formation of priests in our Archdiocese. It is the Sunday when we pray for an increase in vocations to the sacramental priesthood and the religious life and especially remember those who are in seminary or religious houses of formation. The Archdiocese have produced attractive materials which you can pick up in the porch and which I've included in our Newsletter. It is possible to follow the link in order to donate online and it will also be possible to take envelopes away with you and bring your donation back next week.

OUR NEW PARISH SECRETARY: Our new parish secretary - Melanie - will start her first day of work for us this coming week. I want to thank my own mother Mary - who has been living with me - for all the secretarial work she has done in the office during lockdown. You may well have spoken to her on the phone or received an email from her over the past few weeks: you'll be hearing a different voice from next week. Thanks Mum! :-)

GIFT-AID ENVELOPES AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: I apologise for the delay to the advertised timing of when you could collect your Gift-Aid envelopes. I can confirm it will be possible for you to collect your envelopes from the Hall after Mass this weekend. I am very grateful to those of you who are registered on the Gift-Aid scheme. It provides a very significant part of our annual income.

SURGE TESTING IN LAMBETH: All residents in the borough of Lambeth are being asked to get tested for Coronavirus in light of the presence of the South African variant in our community. For more information on where to get a test please click [this link](#) or go to the Lambeth Council website.

LONDON CITIZENS MAYORAL ASSEMBLY - WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 6-7.30PM: The election for the Mayor of London is approaching on 6th May. London Citizens will be putting questions to the two main candidates on the issues of Housing, Youth Safety, Living Wage, Welcome and Climate change: to view their manifesto [click here](#). In order to attend this interactive online event please register at <https://applecartarts.ticketsolve.com/shows/1173609526>. Your organisation is Corpus Christi, Lambeth Citizens. You will need a ticket for each screen you view from - please do not share your link. Any queries please contact Barbara Wilson (basiawilson1@gmail.com / 07713241449).

Good Shepherd Sunday 2021



ARCHDIOCESE
of SOUTHWARK



**Priest Training and
Vocations Annual Update**

Priest Training and Vocations Annual Update



The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. In the Archdiocese of Southwark, we are blessed to have men answering the call to the Priesthood and Diaconate and choosing to dedicate their lives to Christ and His people.

2020 was a year of great blessings when it came to ordinations, both in terms of quantity and quality. We had 8 men ordained, 5 priests and 3 deacons. The Priests ordained at St George's Cathedral were Fr Giovanni Prandini assigned to Balham parish, Fr Dermott O'Gorman based at the Cathedral, Fr John Howard assigned to Canterbury parish, and Fr Peter Sebastian at Croydon West parish. Fr Evan Royston was ordained at Immaculate Lady of Victories, Clapham.

The role of a priest is to make Christ present to people in all situations of life. Through all the events of our lives, be they times of joy or sorrow, our priests are there for us. Whether it is in a church, in a hospital, at school; the ministry of the priest is to make Christ's love, healing and forgiveness, alive and tangible.

Through your prayers and donations, you support the work of the Archdiocese of Southwark's Vocations team, so they can encourage and inspire those who hear God's calling. Your generosity also provides financial support to seminarians, covering their educational and living costs during their 7 years in priestly formation at the seminary.

Your investment is an investment in our Church now and for future generations.

Stories from our newly ordained priests

Fr Giovanni Prandini, Ordained July 2020



I have been ordained for only eight months now and it feels like I have never done anything else in my life; it feels so natural. Still, when I look back at the pastoral

classes we were given at the seminary, I wonder if you can teach people to be priests at all. To me, priesthood is to accompany people in a journey towards Christ, to help them get a bit closer to Christ and, in doing so, getting closer to Christ myself.

Some people I have talked to remarked how strange it must be to have just become a priest in these COVID-19 times. True, parishes are different now from what they were one year ago, and there are many activities we cannot do. And yet, any time is as good as another to

make our journey towards God, to imitate Jesus. And to me this gives a completely new meaning to the words of St Paul: **All things work together for good for those who love God.**

One of the most significant aspects of priesthood I have discovered is how personal and yet self-effacing it is. All the glimpses of redemption I have experienced in my personal life, all the graces I have received in prayer, and all the moments of bleakness I have gone through, all this is touched by God, redeemed and recast to help others get closer to Christ. In every pastoral encounter, what really matters is the journey of the other person towards Christ. We, as priests, are there to facilitate this encounter.

Fr Dermott O'Gorman, Ordained July 2020

I first felt called to the priesthood as an altar server at school. After university, and some years working, I 'took the plunge'. I wondered how I would survive several years of formation, but I not only survived I thrived. Seminary



life and ministry have brought great joy in following the Lord's call. This joy reminds me of Archbishop John's words to me on my ordination day: **"Joy is a beautiful consequence of love. When we stay in Christ's love, His joy makes a home in us"**.

The other word which summarises priestly life so far is privilege. It is indeed a profound privilege to minister Christ's grace to the people through Word and Sacrament, particularly the Eucharist; to stand in the person of Christ to people in the life-defining moments from the cradle to grave, Baptism to their deathbed. I pray that many more young people will consider the call to the priesthood or religious life and share in this joyful privilege.

Southwark Seminarian's story

Matthew Donnelly, Sixth Year Seminarian

I was reluctant, but it was the best thing I could have ever done



I was working in London as a Building Surveyor when I felt the Lord prompting me once more to become a priest. I had tried for the priesthood before but had given up after a couple of years in seminary. Having turned 45 and having just purchased a house, my ex-fiancé sent me a cut out from a catholic newspaper advertising a retreat for late vocations. I was reluctant, but it was the

best thing I could have done. God stepped in powerfully to let me know, through prayer and through the people I met, that this was His will, which would result in the perfect outcome for my life. The commitment we make to anyone or anything should be proportionate to the love we have received and want to express. Where God is concerned, once I had started to live-out that commitment it was only then I experienced great peace and inner freedom. I was left in no doubt that this is what He had always planned for me, right from the beginning, and that He'd never stopped calling me out of His immense love.

Frazer Bellfield, Third Year Seminarian

What greatly encourages me is to know that many people are praying for me and my brother Seminarians



My journey to the seminary began in my home parish of St. Theresa's, Biggin Hill, when our elderly and kindly parish priest encouraged me to become an altar server after my first Holy Communion. Fr. Flood was a great nurturer of priestly vocations and when I was 12 years old, he took me on a "Discovering the Priesthood Day" for young people at the seminary

at Wonersh. I could never have known on my first visit that 12 years later I would end up as a student in this very seminary.

After completing my secondary education, I was given the chance to have an experience in Spain with a Spanish Religious Community which had connections to my home parish. I found myself at 18 years old living in an exciting new country, learning a new language and working alongside the Friars in several difficult neighbourhoods. My time in Spain certainly made an impression on me, to this day I still love a good Paella, but I felt more inclined towards working as a parish priest rather than being a Religious Brother, and I was not ready for in depth study at that point in my life. After returning from Spain I worked

Allan MacDonald, Fifth Year Seminarian



I was born and raised in Toronto, Canada and while I was baptized Catholic, I did not grow up in a traditional catholic family. It was not until I started College at 19 and attended my very first mass and I had the desire to become Catholic and was received into the Catholic faith. It was shortly after my reception into the church that the thinking about

becoming a priest occurred. I resisted for a long time, trying to follow my plans and not God's. I became a teacher and immigrated to the UK, but despite my success, Gods pull never left me. 'I decided to take the step and my only regret has been that I hadn't done it sooner. At this point I feel that I have made the right decision and I would advise anyone thinking about this call to take the first bold step.

"It is in silence that we find God, and in silence we discover our true self. And in discovering our true self, we discover the particular vocation which God has given us for the building up of His Church and the redemption of our world."

Pope Benedict XVI

in a parish as a pastoral assistant. This gave me a greater insight into the inner workings of the Parish Priest.

By the time I had reached my early 20s I was pretty sure that God was calling me to the priesthood. I always enjoyed travelling and got a job with EasyJet at Gatwick Airport, later with British Airways. It was during this time I met Fr John, the then Vocations Director, who helped me reach the decision that it was right for me to apply for the Diocesan Priesthood.

I am in my third year of formation and very much enjoying being part of the seminary community, just like "the real world", the seminary is a place where we are called to serve God to the best of our ability, with all the joys and challenges that brings. It is great to be living with likeminded guys who help and support me on my journey to the priesthood. What greatly encourages me is to know that many people are praying for me and for my brother seminarians. I would encourage anyone that feels they may be called to the priesthood to pray about it and when the time is right, to speak with one of our Diocesan Vocations promoters who will be very helpful in guiding them through their discernment.

If God is calling you, you should listen!

Fr Paul Kyne, Director of Vocations for Southwark



I was born in Lewisham into a Catholic family and attended primary and secondary schools within the Archdiocese of Southwark.

When I was attending Salesian College Battersea, as it was called then, one of the priests who taught me asked me if I had considered a vocation to the priesthood? I had not and, being only around sixteen years of age and lacking maturity, I had little intention of doing so. Later, in my early twenties, while I was involved at my local parish of St Mary Magdalen's, Brockley, I was again asked by the parish priest if I had considered a vocation to the priesthood. Clearly these priests recognised something in me that I could not see. During this time, I was completing my studies at the University of Greenwich as part of my plan to become a surveyor.

Qualifying in 1998, I worked in the construction and property industry

and later on my career took me to Australia where I worked in the international oil and gas industry. I very much enjoyed my career and the benefits it brought. However, while I was living in Australia, I was experiencing an increasing interior struggle of discontentment which led me to ask whether God was possibly calling me to priesthood? Finally, and somewhat reluctantly, I decided to formally discern priesthood while I continued to work. I contacted the local Vocations Director at the Archdiocese of Perth, Western Australia, who was both supportive and challenging to help me discern priesthood. I eventually commenced formation and was ordained priest for the Archdiocese of Southwark in 2017. If I may share one thing from this experience: if God is calling you, you should listen! I was able to avoid the call but only for a period of time, eventually I had to listen, and I am glad I did. Everyone's vocation story is different. If you think God is calling you... then please contact your Vocations Director who will accompany and support you in discerning God's plan for you. If you are called to priesthood, it is a wonderful life!

Your Vocation – Is God calling you?



“Each one of us is called – whether to the lay life in marriage, to the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or to a life of special consecration; in order to become a witness of the Lord, here and now”

Pope Francis

If you have a calling to the Catholic Priesthood or the Diaconate please contact Fr Paul Kyne, Southwark Vocations Director, on vocations@rcaos.org.uk or by telephone: 020 8300 2480

Thank you for your prayers and generous support of the Priesthood

We rely on the prayers and generosity of our parishes and parishioners to support the formation of our priests and deacons here in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Priest Training Fund Annual Appeal – April 2021

If you would like to donate to the Priest Training Fund, you can do so via:

- Online: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm
- Telephone: 020 7960 2504 (office hours)
- PayPal: Scan QR code via your camera phone
- Cheque: made payable to **RCAS Priest Training Fund** – send to the postal address below.



If you would like to become a Friend of the Priest Training Fund with a monthly gift, or are interested in supporting future priests with a gift in your Will, please contact the team on fundraising@rcaos.org.uk

Address: Priest Training Fund, 59 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JE

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