

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Tony Brosnan;
and all the faithful departed.

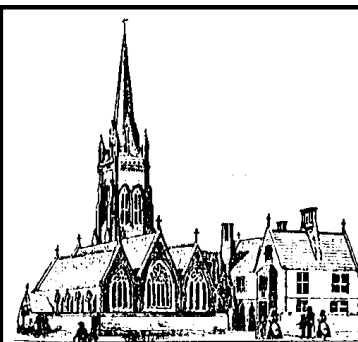
Our Saturday Mass is usually offered for those who are unwell

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 2026 Parish Mass Book Page 120

Saturday	22nd	6.00 pm	-
SUNDAY	23rd	8.30 am	-
21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		10.00 am	The People of the Parish
		12 Noon	Ints of Nancy McDermot (health)
		6.00 pm	-
Monday	24th	9.30 am	-
St Bartholomew, Apostle			
Tuesday	25th	9.30 am	-
		10.00 am	<i>Tuesday Morning Prayer Group</i>
		2.30pm	<i>St Anthony of Padua Prayer Group</i>
Wednesday	26th	<i>No Mass today. Church is closed,</i>	
Bl. Dominic Barberi, Priest			
Thursday	27th	9.30 am	-
St Monica			
Friday	28th	9.30 am	-
St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church			
Saturday	29th	10.00 am	The sick and housebound
The passion of St John the Baptist		10.30 am	<i>Exposition and Benediction</i>

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 5.00 - 5.40PM

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY
11AM - 3PM, (Closed on Wednesday except Holy Days)



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
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Dear Friends

Last Sunday I mentioned in my homily the importance of reverence for our mortal remains, in the light of the teaching of the Assumption of Mary body and soul into heaven. We have a growing problem of unworthy practice of either disposing of ashes, or storing them at home or dividing them up, often by family who no longer practise the faith. None of us can write down such wishes and expect the Church to validate them, and this can limit how a funeral can be done. Below I quote from the diocesan guide on the subject:

“Our tradition is to bury the mortal remains of the dead, entrusting them to God until that day when they are raised to the glory of new life. For centuries the practice was for the body of the deceased to be interred directly. In the past century, cremation has become a general practice, largely for environmental and economic reasons. This practice introduces a delay before the ashes, the cremated remains, can be buried.

The Church used not to permit cremation. This was largely because in earlier time enemies of the faith sometimes deliberately burnt the bodies of Catholic Christians and scattered their ashes, to ridicule belief in the resurrection, or avoid devotion to the mortal remains (relics) of her martyrs.

More recently the Church has permitted cremation. The former reasons for objecting to it do not generally apply, and there may be good environmental and social reasons for preferring cremation. However cremation is not the same as burial. Cremation merely speeds up what would be the natural processes of disintegration of the mortal remains after death.

Therefore after cremation it remains necessary for the ashes, the mortal remains, to be reverently **interred** as soon as possible. The burial of the ashes bears witness to our continued care and reverence for the deceased, and our trust and expectation that God in his mercy will raise the dead to new life.

The Church does not permit the scattering of ashes: scattering does not offer proper reverence to the mortal remains of a Christian, nor reflect the theological symbolism of placing of remains in a burial tomb in anticipation of the resurrection.”

My advice is to plan well for the future so that a proper Catholic funeral can be celebrated. I’m always happy to talk privately with anyone about all these issues, as space here only allows a brief discussion.

Fr James

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN GIVING

Don't forget you can also make an offering via the 'Touch & Tap' at the door. For details of methods of Planned Giving, see the leaflet at the door of Church. Parish bank account details are below, and on the website *Donate* page.

PARISH BANK DETAILS: HSBC

Sort code: 40-05-20

Acct. No.: 11263137

Acct name: WRC DT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FULHAM

S.V.P.(SOCIETY OF St VINCENT DE PAUL): The next meeting of our new SVP Conference is on Thursday 17 September at 7.30pm in No. 62.

- We are seeking to know if there are people with mobility issues who would get to church if a lift was available. Know anyone in this situation? Please contact the office or Fr James
- The Food Hub collection is up and running, and you'll find the collection point at the back of church near St Joseph's shrine. Posters in church show you what items are needed for donation.
- **Currently the contact telephone number for any calls to the SVP is the Parish Telephone: 020 7385 4040**

NEWS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES: Everyone will be pleased to hear that because of some good local knowledge and investigation by some within the parish, the person who took away the statue of Our Lady has been identified and **OUR LADY OF LOURDES HAS BEEN RETURNED TO US!!** For now we will keep her indoors until we put together a plan for a more secure place for her in the forecourt. Also I sincerely ask you to pray for the well-being of a troubled soul who thought that taking away our statue made any sort of sense, and who has apologised for his actions.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO "SPEAK SHAKESPEARE IN THE CHAPEL": Our parishioner, voice coach Matthew Collins, loves helping people to explore their spoken voices - especially with the help of Shakespeare! **THURS 27 AUGUST (5.45pm - 7.45pm)** he's offering another workshop at Brompton Cemetery chapel: Explore Shakespeare Sonnets by Speaking Them. Tickets £16.50 - refreshments served. To book go to www.matthewcollins.com. Poster & QR code in church.

FREE ART EXHIBITION: Our parishioner and local artist, Elizabeth Topsy Meyer is exhibiting her works at the Azca Auction until the 31st August. Pop in to view at 188 Hammersmith Road W6 7DJ or view/ purchase online. Private view is on Tuesday 25th August 6.30-8.30pm, join us for this event if you can. www.azcaauctions.com. A portion of the proceeds will be for the work of **Aid to the Church in Need UK**. See poster in church.

ARE YOU A NEW STUDENT GOING TO UNIVERSITY SOON? See the flyers in church for information about Catholic support for student societies. Contact www.catholicstudentnetwork.co.uk

MARCH FOR LIFE 2026, SAT 5 SEPT: The *March for Life* is a growing act of witness in the UK and many other nations, not just Catholics but all pro-life communities. The theme this year is "Abortion hurts the family."

Details of the theme and events at www.marchforlife.co.uk . 10.30 – 1pm Pro-Life Family Summit with events for all ages at Emmanuel Centre, Marsham St SW1 **10.30am** Mass at Westminster Cathedral with many of the bishops of England and Wales **March 1.30pm** Tufton St, SW1– **3pm** Parliament Square for speeches.



BROMPTON CEMETERY OPEN DAY: Sun 6 Sept, 11 am - 5pm. With a variety of attractions and activities, stalls, tours, performances, refreshments, local charities and organisations, and much much more. Volunteers on hand to look up family records. See poster in church. <https://brompton-cemetery.org.uk/openday.html>

SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN: Day Conference on Sat 12 Sept. Holiday Inn Regent's Park, Carburton Street, W1. See spuc.org.uk/spuc-national-conference/ for details

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM SAT 19 SEPT: The cost of hiring a coach for this is now too much to make it possible for us. So, we are combining with White City parish. See the sign-up sheet in church: **We have 2 places remaining.** The cost for coach + pilgrim donation is £30. Coach leaves 7am and return is about 8pm. It is a long day, but usually a lovely event. This year with Archbishop Richard.

ENDORSEMENT OF SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: If you will be seeking the endorsement of a school application for ANY PURPOSE, Nursery, Primary, Secondary transfer etc, for ANY school or institution, between Sept - January, please register your intent with Fr James TODAY after your Sunday Mass. If you have any questions or doubts - ask Fr James after your Sunday Mass. (*Please note: Fr James won't be able to respond to Email or take telephone enquiries on this subject.*) Ample provision to meet to discuss possible endorsements will be available, but close to the closing dates for applications Fr James will be on annual leave.

INFORMATION FROM URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS WIMBLEDON: Join one of our open events to hear why Ursuline High School. Poster in church. **YEAR 7 (MAIN SCHOOL), 2027+ ENTRY** Open Evening: Wed 23rd Sept 6.00 – 8.30pm.

Open Mornings: Monday 28th September – Friday 2nd October 2026. Visit: www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk/admissions/open-events-2/

On this Sunday (23 August) Archbishop Richard is offering his Mass for the needs and intentions of Hammersmith & Fulham Deanery