

Our Lady & St. Philip Neri Church
NEWS LETTER

06th September 2020
 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1st Reading Ezekiel 33: 7-9
2nd Reading Romans 13: 8-10
Gospel Matthew 18: 15-20



CORRECT ONE ANOTHER IN CHARITY

We live together in society and we are called to be prepared to correct and encourage each other. No one is an island. If Christ is among us, then we will encourage and help each other. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour.

If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Sat 5 th 18:30	First Mass of Sunday Theresa Dean RIP
Sun 6 th 09.30 11.00	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Margaret & Patrick Mathins RIP Doreen Joseph: Birthday Thanksgiving
Mon 7 th 09.30 12:30	Beb Ouzman: Wellbeing Funeral Mass: Rita Mastegan RIP
Tue 8 th 09.30	<i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Daniel & Ellen Sullivan RIP
Wed 9 th 09.30	<i>St. Peter Claver</i> Adi Yazdabadi RIP
Thu 10 th 09.30	Mass
Fri 11 th 09.30	Mass
Sat 12 th 09.30 18:30	People of the Parish First Mass of Sunday Alex & Laura Estelita RIP
Sun 13 th 09.30 11.00	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mass Mass

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
 AND CONFIRMATION**

The children who should have had their First Holy Communion in June are having their FHC at this time. I have organised a special mass for these children on Saturday and Sunday afternoon at 2pm. We are taking only three children for every mass. We are not allowed to have more than 30 people attending such a mass. We started on the weekend of 22/23 August and we hope to complete this programme this coming weekend of 5/6 September.

I will make an announcement concerning the confirmation programme within the next few weeks.

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

On Wednesday we celebrate the memorial of St Peter Claver. He was a priest. He was a Jesuit missionary in Cartagena, ministering to the Africans who were transported and sold as slaves in what is now Columbia. Claver believed that it was essential to minister to the physical needs of the starving, ill-kept, and often plague-ridden slaves before attempting to evangelize them, speaking to them of the love of Christ, "with our hands before we try to speak to them with our lips."

SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

There is a deceptively attractive school of thought that equates human happiness and prosperity with God's blessing and the lack of both as punishment from God. Jesus turned such conventional wisdom upside down when he uttered the Beatitudes and the woes. Do not poverty, hunger, grief, and persecution cause pain and not joy? Undoubtedly, yes. Yet these are precisely conditions when all illusion of control over life is shattered and utter dependence on God becomes most apparent. It is indeed a paradox that suffering has no power to separate us from the blessings of the Kingdom of God. And that is cause for joy.

THANK YOU

Since we have reopened the church for worship, I have not had an opportunity to say, thank you to all the members of our parish for the outstanding financial support you have been giving to the parish over these difficult times. Many of you have signed for standing order arrangements. And those who are not on standing order arrangements have been bringing their offerings to the presbytery. Easter came when we were under lockdown, but you remembered to give generous offerings for the parish priest. The lockdown brought out the best in all of us. I was not left to languish in loneliness at the presbytery. Every single day I received phone calls from parishioners who were checking out on me. And rarely did I have to queue up at the supermarket for shopping. Many parishioners included me when they did their shopping. One family prepared a warm meal for me, for three times in a week. I always shared some of the food with families who are struggling at the moment. We are a Eucharistic community in deed. And finally I would like to say thank you in special way to Pauline Assemien and Christine Masters. Pauline cleaned the church on her own during the months of the lockdown, while Christine Masters decorated the church with beautiful flowers. At Easter, the church was very clean and beautifully decorated.

COVID-19

Our Church now operates and functions in a different way than we are used to. Here are the guidelines:

- **Feeling Unwell:** If you feel unwell in any way, for example you have a cold or flu-like symptoms please DO NOT attend Church.
- **Face Masks:** Please bring a face mask which you MUST wear at all times during Mass. Please ensure your face mask covers your mouth and nose.
- **Track & Trace:** If you can please complete a Track & Trace form before you leave home. The form can be downloaded from our website. This helps speed up entry to Church.
- **Arrive promptly:** Entry to Church is on a first-come first-served basis, and the capacity of the Church is greatly reduced. Please observe the 2-metre social distancing directive outside of Church.
- **Children:** As with adults, children also need to obey all social distancing and hygiene protocols and for this reason, children under the age of 16, attending Mass MUST be accompanied, by a parent or guardian, and supervised at all times.
- **Personal Possessions:** Please DO NOT bring anything into Church which is unnecessary, for example, shopping, or food.
- **Repository:** Please note our repository remains closed.
- **Sanitisation:** You MUST sanitise your hands with alcohol hand gel as you enter and leave Church. This will be available in the Church and Tower lobbies.
- **Newsletters:** Paper copies are discouraged. However, for those who do not have access to online facilities there are copies at the back of Church. Please take one if you need one, but DO NOT return it to the pile.
- **Veneration:** The physical veneration of relics, statues, crucifixes, shrines etc., within the Church is NOT permitted, and Holy water is NOT available.

These measures may seem burdensome, or even a little daunting. They are however necessary, not least because if any churches are seen to be operating in a way that may increase the spread of the virus, there is risk that stricter measures such as prohibition or enforced closure notices could be imposed by local authorities or even national administrations.

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE

Gift Aid	UK tax payers increase your donation by 25% at no extra cost to yourself. Forms are available at the back of the Church or via our website.
Standing Order	(Preferred Method) Ask your bank to make a standing order to: RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham. Sort Code 60-21-12 Account Number: 37298445
Cheque	Place your cheque, payable to: RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham in an envelope stating the purpose of your donation and post in at the parish house, or place in the Offertory Collection.
Cash	Offertory collection at Mass.

MIDDAY MEALS SUPERVISOR - OLSPN SCHOOL

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed Midday Meals Supervisor to join our friendly staff and help ensure that children's lunchtimes are enjoyable and safe. Hours: 7 hours 30 minutes per week (12:00 to 1.30 pm daily) x 38 weeks per annum, term time only. If you would like further information then please contact the school office on 0208 7784386. Applications need to be completed on the CES application form. Please see the posters on the Church noticeboard for further details.

Closing date Wednesday 16th September, Interviews Friday 18th September.

Parish Priest:	Fr. Regis Rubaya regisrubaya@rcaos.org.uk 0208 778 9460 Parish House, 208 Sydenham Road, Sydenham SE26 5SE	Secretary:	Steve Pearce (9 am-12 noon Mon-Fri) sydenham@rcaos.org.uk
Treasurer:	David Simpson sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk	Catholic Club:	Margaret Doherty Enquiries 07930 889632
		Hall Enquiries:	Praetorium (Rita/Conor) 01372 457651
		Website:	www.olspn.church

Parking: Do not park in the Church grounds, this is reserved for blue badge holders, and those dropping people off.
Children: During Mass please keep your children with you at all times, accompanying small children to the toilet.

