

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2021: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**



**ANYONE WHO IS NOT AGAINST CHRIST IS FOR HIM**

**W**e often tend to be exclusive, thinking that God acts only through those we recognise as fellow believers. Yet there are many good people through whom the Holy Spirit works, even though they may not call themselves Christians. Rather than seeing this as a problem, we can see it as an encouragement to live our lives of faith to the full.

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

**We Welcome Fr John Mudereri,  
 Bishop Pat Lynch & Fr Desmond Doherty**

Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days

Sat 25	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
18:30	<b>Mrs Eufrasia Rubaya</b>
Sun 26	<b>✠ Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</b>
09.30	<b>Birthday Intention for Baffour Nyarko</b>
11.00	<b>Bernadette &amp; Sean Lally RIP</b>
Mon 27	<i>Saint Vincent de Paul</i>
09.30	<b>Sheila &amp; Partrick O'Driscoll Rosary</b>
Tue 28	
09.30	<b>Birthday Intention for Yaw Nyarko Rosary</b>
Wed 29	<i>Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael</i>
09.30	<b>Wellbeing of Eric Miller &amp; Percy Lisby Rosary</b>
Thu 30	<i>Saint Jerome</i>
09:30	<b>Holy Souls Rosary</b>
Fri 01	<i>Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus</i>
09.30	<b>In Honour of the Sacred Heart Exposition</b>
Sat 02	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>
09.30	<b>People of the Parish</b>
18:30	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
	<b>Robert, Klaus &amp; Zacharia Poppe RIP</b>
Sun 03	<b>✠ Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</b>
09.30	<b>Wellbeing for Elizabetta De Masi</b>
11.00	<b>Doffou Nobert Ede RIP</b>

**Gospel Reflection**

Last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for arguing about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name. His question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others. The demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal. The disciples observed the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful. He had recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others. Jesus also teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

**CAFOD - Family Fast Day**

Next Friday is Family Fast Day, and CAFOD's local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Donate online through the CAFOD website or by using the attached envelope. You can also easily give via text. Text CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate £10\*. Or choose to give any whole amount between £1 and £20 by texting CAFOD, followed by the amount you would like to donate, to 70580.

\*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70580. Visit: [cafod.org.uk/privacy](http://cafod.org.uk/privacy)

**St Vincent de Paul**

**HELP! The need now is greater than ever**

Today our parish SVP group will be addressing parishioners at all Masses. The St Vincent de Paul Society or SVP for short is a group of volunteer parishioners who set out to help anyone in need. We need your help now more than ever as people suffer terrible hardship as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. There are families short of food, lonely people who need a friend, homeless individuals and families, people struggling with financial hardship, or those facing illness. Join us and work with us to help in whatever way you can – whether it is phoning someone for a chat, helping to give out food bank vouchers or giving someone a lift to the doctor. In addition, you could make a donation that would also be a huge help. Talk to Sydenham SVP members at the back of the church or telephone us on 07494 162741.

**Churches Together - Sydenham & Forest Hill AGM**

Thursday 30th September 2021 at 7.30pm  
 Holy Trinity Church, 4 Trinity Path, Sydenham Park Road, SE26 4EA.  
 COVID observations in place. **We look forward to welcoming you.**

**LAST WEEK**

<b>Offertory</b>	Gift Aided <b>£158</b> • Not Gift Aided <b>£222</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection</b>	Home Mission Day <b>£367</b>
<b>Mass Count</b>	Sat 18:30 (40) • Sun 09.30 (88), 11.00 (94)
<b>THIS WEEK</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: <b>Pew Kneelers</b>
<b>NEXT WEEK</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: <b>CAFOD - Family Fast Day</b>

**DONATING**

<b>Gift Aid</b>	Tax payers, please sign up. We receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. Visit <a href="http://www.olspn.church">www.olspn.church</a> for details.
<b>Tap to Donate</b>	Payment Machine in Church Foyer or <a href="http://www.olspn.church">www.olspn.church</a>
<b>Standing Order</b>	Please contact the parish house for details.
<b>Cheques</b>	Payable to <b>RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham</b>
<b>CONTACTS</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Simpson • <a href="mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk">sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Steve Pearce • (9 am-12 noon, Mon to Fri) 0208 778 9460 • <a href="mailto:sydenham@rcaos.org.uk">sydenham@rcaos.org.uk</a>
<b>Catholic Club</b>	Margaret Doherty • 07930 889632
<b>Hall Enquiries</b>	Praetorium (Rita / Conor) • 01372 457651

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

## GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## FIRST READING – Number 11: 25-29

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 18

R. **The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.**

## SECOND READING – James 5: 1-6

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL - Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.