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Newsletter for the week commencing 18th May 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 14: 21b - 27

Psalm 145(144) Response: I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.

Second Reading: The Book of Revelation 21: 1 – 5a

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 13: 31 – 33a, 34 – 35.

Communion Antiphon: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Father Behr writes:

Do you remember your first Holy Communion? Many people have fond memories of that special day when we first received Our Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

On Sunday children from our parish will make their first Holy Communion. I am grateful to Pat Sargent who has been preparing the children and now their special day has arrived. The front pews at the 10am Mass have been reserved for the children and their families.

Next Sunday we have a May procession in honour of Our Lady. At the beginning of Mass we will process around the church singing a hymn to Our Blessed Mother and then crown our statue of the Virgin Mary.

Fr Behr

Your Prayers are asked for:

Recently deceased: Pope Francis RIP; Brian Lawrence RIP; Ann Marie Homberger RIP

Those ill or infirm: Sophie, Lady Wyn McWilliams, Michael Payne, Roger Styles, Mary Basher, Paul Lane, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time: Henry Dowding, Percival Goulding, Anne Wardlaw, Teresa Hall, Harold Farris, Mary Iglinski, John Nesbitt, Graham Cunliffe, Katherine Hyland, Elvira Lydon and Arthur Hesmer

| Masses and services for the week (18 th – 24 th May), Feasts and Mass intentions. | | |
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| Saturday 17th May Feria | No public Mass am 6pm Vigil Mass <i>Michael and Jose Payne Wellbeing</i> | Reader: Lorraine |
| Sunday 18th May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) | 10am Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> First Holy Communion Mass 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass | Reader: James |
| Monday 19th May St Dunstan, Bishop | 10am Mass <i>Buckman Family</i> | |
| Tuesday 20th May St Bernardine of Sienna, Priest | 10am Mass <i>Ann Marie Homberger RIP</i> | |
| Wednesday 21st May St Christopher of Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs | 9am Adoration and 10am Mass <i>Donor's Intention</i> | |

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| Thursday 22nd May St Rita of Cascia, Religious | No Mass or Adoration today |
| Friday 23rd May Feria | No Mass or Adoration today |
| Saturday 24th May Feria | No public Mass am 6pm Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> Reader: Pat |
| Sunday 25th May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) | 10am Mass <i>Brian Lawrence RIP (Bridget)</i> Reader: Collette 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass |
| Flowers: for 24th/25th May – Suzanne For 29th May (The Ascension) - Kathy | |
| Cleaning for 24th/25th May – Wendy and Christine | |

Confession Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

Children's Liturgy Children's Liturgy at the 10am Mass is on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend. The next lesson with Lorraine is Sunday, June 1st

Parish WhatsApp Our parish has a WhatsApp group. We will post parish events including social events, special occasions and requests for help in the parish as well as general parish news. If you would like to join please get in touch. Fr Behr.

Safeguarding Sunday 2025. Sunday 18 May is Safeguarding Sunday and Archbishop John has issued a pastoral letter. In his letter, Archbishop John said "Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. Each of us — clergy, volunteers, parents, parishioners — is called to remain vigilant, informed, and committed to the well-being of every member of our community". You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday, including accessing the full pastoral letter, at rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday25 or via the QR code.

Advent Fair Saturday 15th November 2025: Calling all Craftworkers!

We're still deep in the joy of Eastertide, so why a note about the Advent Fair? Well, this is to remind all those who might like to make something for the CRAFT STALL/S at this year's Advent Fair. So whether your talent is quilting, knitting or other needlework; wood-turning or candle making; leatherworking or jewellery-making; ceramics or basket-weaving; or any one of a multitude of other crafts, why not consider putting your talents to the service of the parish community by making something to raise money at this year's Fair?

Events planned for 2025 - add these dates to your diary!

Saturday 15 November will see the return of our Advent Fair

Saturday 29 November we will host a 'Pot Luck Supper' to celebrate the feast day of St Andrew

Messages from Deacon Jolyon:

There are still some copies of the Parish News Magazine for sale - only £1 per copy. This issue includes a very interesting article on May customs, including the additional devotions to Jesus Christ's Mother, Mary.

The end of month Churches Together Evening Worship schedule has been adjusted, and the next event will be at Rolvenden Church at 4pm (note **NOT 6pm**) on Sunday May 25th. On this occasion, we will be having a farewell service to thank Andrew Tapsell for his 3 years of ministry in this area and wish him well for his 1st post as a Priest in Charge in Blofield and Broadside in the Diocese of Norwich (6 active and 2 festival only churches). Refreshments will be served after the service.

Our Tuesday Coffee Morning from 13 May

will be exploring a spiritual "Pilgrimage to Pentecost"

Our Lady and the Apostles prepared together for the first Pentecost in prayer and reflection. Why not do the same this year, by taking part in the archdiocesan

Pilgrimage to Pentecost course? Starts the Sunday after Easter, with daily Scripture

reflections in a specially written course booklet, six weekly filmed talks pre-recorded at diocesan Jubilee shrines and churches and the closing Mass at the Jubilee. <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/pilgrimage-to-pentecost-course-a-huge-hit/>

7th June 2025 10am - 5pm

The Friars, Aylesford

A day of joy for the whole Archdiocese!

Archbishop John is inviting all of us to the Southwark Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 7 June 2025. It promises to be a great day.

Fun for families - Saints Treasure Trail for kids of all ages, Children's Rosary, pre-bookable KS1-4 ministry sessions. Nourishment for the soul - Adoration, Rosary Way for groups and families, Confessions, Veneration of Relics, CAFOD icon, Carlo Acutis Exhibition Food for thought - talks, book and other stalls, Diocesan History Exhibition. Refreshment for the body - music stages, picnics, BBQ and refreshments
Closing Mass - Archbishop John Wilson presiding, music led by Diocesan Choir and much, much more! If you would like to go but need a lift please put your name and number on the sheet in the porch. If you are willing to gift a lift please let me know. Fr Behr

Hope in Adoration. As part of the Jubilee Year, Archbishop John is encouraging people to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration and have their hopes "fulfilled by Christ".

The campaign, Hope in Adoration, will share testimonies from parish priests and laity throughout the year on how Eucharistic Adoration has helped them build a closer relationship with the Lord Jesus. Resources will also be made available for free and there is a comprehensive list of times of Eucharistic Adoration in parishes across the Archdiocese. Find out more about the campaign at rcaos.org.uk/hopeina. We have two opportunities for Adoration in our parish. On Thursday mornings from 9am and on Friday mornings from 10.30am.

Catechetical Institute. Thanks to the generosity of the [Archbishop's Appeal](#) and the Franciscan University, every parishioner, catechist, parent and teacher in our schools and parishes will now have **free access** to over 120 high-quality workshops from the Catechetical Institute. Each parish features on the [Franciscan platform](https://franciscanathome.com/southwark) (<https://franciscanathome.com/southwark>). It's simple to sign-up, with a short video on the Agency page (<https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan>) to guide you through. This offering is free to everyone until September 2025.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage
July 12th 2025, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than the middle of May, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact Carole at mflkent@rcaos.org.uk. As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Maidstone, Dover

We Believe. Celebrate the Jubilee at WeBelieve, a festival of Catholic Life gathering the Church to share the hope that we have in Christ. From 25th-28th July, join us for four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. Featuring Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray, Msgr Michael Nazir-Ali, AnMari, Fr Toby Lees & many more. Early Bird Tickets available now at www.webelievefestival.com

Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis visiting St George's Cathedral - 26-29 June. St George's Cathedral will be visited by a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis. On **Thursday 26 June**, an evening of **adoration** and **veneration** of the relic for young adults is taking place. On **Friday 27 June**, Archbishop John will preside at the **6pm Solemn Mass** of the Sacred Heart, which will include the veneration of the relic. On **Saturday 28 June**, there will be a "**morning with Carlo Acutis**", which will include Mass, adoration, rosary and a talk on the relic. An **exhibition** will also be on display at the Cathedral from **19 June to 7 July**. Visit: stgeorgescathedral.org.uk for more information.

Evangelium 2025 conference - 15-17 August. A conference on Catholic faith, life and culture to help make faithful young Catholic adults effective for Mission. Over the years, hundreds have ignited their faith through Evangelium. Guest speakers include Fr Marcus Holden and Fr Marcus Wharton. Book and more details: saintant.com/product/evangelium-2025 & [poster here](#).

Alone or bored in your marriage? Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

