CHRISTCHURCH NEWSLETTER

CANONS REGULAR OF ELTHAM

Christchurch Priory, 229 Eltham High Street, London, SE9 1TX

Parish Priest: Fr John Fricker CRE **Parish Secretary:** Rebecca Thomas

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Parish Office Opening Times: Monday-Friday (9am-3pm) & Saturday (9am-1pm)

Website: www.christchurcheltham.org.uk **Live Stream:** www.churchservices.tv/eltham

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Sunday 1 November 2026

Today's Readings **1st Reading: Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14; 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3; Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

Online Missal **https://universalis.com/Europe.England.Southwark/20260111/mass.htm**

Psalm Response **Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation **Alleluia, Alleluia! Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!**

CHARITABLE CAKE SALE TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

There will be a cake sale here at Christchurch after the 9.30am and 11.30am Sunday morning Masses on 8 November. All proceeds will go towards funding much needed projects in Ukraine. Your support will make a real difference. Please give generously.

LIFE ASCENDING MEETING

The next Life Ascending Meeting will take place here at Christchurch on Monday 9 November at 1.45pm in the Priory. Join us for a short talk exploring the question, "Is Life Fair?" All are welcome to come, listen and reflect.

SANTA'S GROTTO

Tickets for Santa's Grotto on Sunday 6 December are available to purchase from the Parish Office, £5 per child.

SECOND COLLECTION

The Second Collection next weekend will be for the Archbishop's Appeal which funds three key mission areas: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action and Clergy Care and Formation.

GREENWICH FOOD BANK FEEDBACK

SVP

Thank you to all parishioners who donate produce for the foodbank and donate to St Vincent de Paul, Christchurch. **This week, we received this message from Greenwich Foodbank!**

After the last donation received from you and all at St Vincent de Paul Christchurch, I just wanted to send an email to say a massive thank you! Your continuous donations means so much to our small charity and helps us to be able to give continuous support for those in need in the borough.

From January this year to date, the church has donated 270.7 kilos worth of donations and it really has made a difference, so THANK YOU

All Masses are streamed live.

Sunday Masses:
6pm Sat - Vigil Mass
(No Vigil Mass between third weekend in July and first weekend in September)
9.30am - Children's Mass
11.30am - Mass
6.30pm - Mass

Weekday Masses:
Mon-Fri 9am
Sat 12 noon

Bank Holidays:
12 noon

Holy Days of Obligation:
9am, 12 noon and 8pm

Confession:
Sat 11am-12 noon

Exposition:
Wed after 9am Mass

Divine Mercy Chaplet:
Sat 11.15am-11.25am

Rosary:
Sat 11.30am-11.50am

Missed a special celebration?
You can watch a recording on our website

https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/Live-Streaming/

double click on 'recordings'

LITURGY AND FAITH: ALL SAINTS' DAY

On 1 November, the Church lifts her eyes to a great multitude that no one can count, men and women from every nation, tribe, and tongue, standing before the throne of the Lamb. The Solemnity of All Saints invites us to remember that holiness is not a rare distinction reserved for a few. It is the destiny of all the baptised. Alongside the canonised, whose names we know and whose feasts fill our calendar, we honour the countless hidden saints: the grandmother who prayed her rosary in the quiet hours, the father who worked faithfully for his family, the neighbour whose kindness was never noticed by anyone but God.

These saints were not perfect people who never stumbled. They were sinners who kept returning to grace, and they found in Christ the strength to love when it was costly and to hope when it was hard. The Gospel for this day, the Beatitudes, is the saints' own portrait: the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. In every age they have shown that the way of Jesus can be lived in ordinary places, in kitchens and classrooms, hospitals and fields, and that the kingdom of heaven begins in small, faithful acts of love here on earth.

This year the feast falls on a Sunday, a fitting gift, as we gather around the altar in communion with the whole company of heaven. The saints are not distant figures from the past but our friends and family, praying for us even now. As we celebrate, let us take heart and let their example call us forward. The same God who made them holy desires to make us holy too. And as we turn the next day to pray for the faithful departed on All Souls, we are reminded that the Church is one family, living and dead, bound together in Christ and awaiting the day when we will all be gathered home.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS FOR THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Readings: Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14; Psalm 24:1-4a, 5-6; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

The **Apocalypse/Book of Revelation** from which our first reading is taken, was composed and sent to seven 'churches' - early Christian communities - between 69 and 96 CE to assure them that, despite all they were going through, they would be victorious if they remained faithful to Christ. Relations between the Roman Empire and the early Christian communities changed radically in the 60's, with hostility levelled at them as Christianity was suspected to be a dangerous and subversive movement. Various reactions to this can be seen in the New Testament. The author of the Apocalypse reminds his hard-pressed readers that, despite all their sufferings, final victory is assured through faithful witness even to the point of death, for Jesus, not Caesar, is Lord of history. Jesus' followers already share his triumph in anticipation and will share it fully at the end of time. Our passage today is part of the section expressing the experience of the delay between the 'now' and the 'not yet', addressing the issue of disappointed hope: *"How long?"* cry the martyrs. This is a book which has in all centuries inspired the martyrs. It has been the source of prophetic critiques of oppression and corruption in state and church and sustained hope and resistance in the most hopeless of situations. Today, when the whole of humanity is struggling on so many fronts, we need such a call to inspired hope – and the call to love and protect our neighbour, each one *"a child of God"* – and precious.

The Beatitudes from **Matthew's Gospel** introduce the section known as 'The Sermon on the Mount', a term whose origins go back to St Augustine. Deceptively simple, this sets out powerfully both the gift and demand of the Gospel. The Greek word *"makarios"* – *"happy"* or *"blessed"* is more accurately, if more clumsily, translated as *"God's gift of salvation is given to those who ..."* We have, perhaps, become over familiar with this passage and we need to approach it afresh, for the beatitudes are, far more deeply than we realise, about the way in which we come close to God by facing our vulnerability. Jesus is not saying, 'These are the things you must do', but rather, 'These are the sorts of people and the sorts of situation where you *see* something called blessedness.' It is not *primarily* an agenda to work for, but a window that is opened. *"Blessed are the peacemakers",* for example, means '*Watch* people who are working for reconciliation, and you will see action that is God-like. You see God. In them. Now – how are *you* going to make peace?' It is the summoning up of a vision that matters, a set of hints about where we begin to see the truth of our reality and God's, as we wait for glimpses of God's Kingdom. With our reading from the Apocalypse in mind, it's no accident that in Matthew's Beatitudes, peacemaking and persecution go together. Peace is *shalom*, wholeness, God's gift to us all, so it's no wonder that those who make peace are to be called God's children. They do God-like things. But Christ, according to the Letter to the Ephesians, *"made peace by the blood of his cross"*. So the Beatitude about making peace leads straight into the one about persecution. Peace costs. If we are to make peace, we have to let go of the longing for control; we must be poor in spirit. If we are to make peace, we must not be aggressive and acquisitive; we must be vulnerable and receptive. If we are to make peace, we must let ourselves be hurt by war and violence, oppression and injustice. And we have to learn to mourn. We have to feel our own loss and deprivation. In a world of injustice, we must be hungry and thirsty for justice. The Beatitudes begin and end with the phrase *"theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* – for the poor in spirit, those who know their dependence upon God, who do not seek to carve out their own defensive position against everybody else. By the time we finish the Beatitudes we have realised just how difficult that is.

This is echoed in **John's First Letter**, which refers to being *"called children of God"*. In the Beatitudes, being children of God is the precondition of *"seeing God"*, associated with *"purity of heart"* – the singleminded desire to see the world made whole. This passage concerns present confidence and future hope: *"what we will be has not yet appeared"*. Likewise, **Psalm 24**, a pilgrim song, speaks of the conditions for the pilgrims' entry into the sanctuary – their lives should reflect those who *"seek the face of the God of Jacob"*, as should ours.

Sr Margaret Shepherd nds

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday:
9.30am Children's Mass
11.30am Mass
After 9.30am and 11.30am Mass
Sunday Teas & Coffees in the Main Hall
6.30pm Mass

Monday:
9.00am Mass
9.30am Toddler Group in the Halls

Tuesday:
9.00am Mass
7.00pm RCIA group 1 in the Priory

Wednesday:
9.00am Mass
After 9.00am Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church

Thursday:
9.00am Mass

Friday :
9.00am Mass
After 9.00am Mass Friday Coffee Shop in the Main Hall
10.00am RCIA group 2 in the Priory
7.30pm Lourdes-Greenwich Fellowship Dance
8.00pm Baptism Preparation Course in the Priory

Saturday:
9.00am FHC 1-Yr Course in the Halls
11.00am Confession in the Church
11.15am Divine Mercy chaplet in the Church
11.30am Rosary in the Church
12 noon Mass
6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday:
9.30am Celebration Mass
9.30am Children's Liturgy in the Halls
11.30am Mass
After 9.30am and 11.30am Mass
Sunday Teas & Coffees in the Main Hall
6.30pm Mass

ONLINE DONATIONS

Dona

Did you know that you can donate online, with the option to Gift Aid your donations? Please scan the QR Code below or use the following link to access the DONA portal:

https://donate.mydona.com/christchurch-parish-eltham

PARISH REGISTRATION

Please register your details with the parish using the QR code below.

For queries, please email Maria-Christina Eskioglou (one of our parish volunteers) who can help you at elthamjoin@rcaos.org.uk

ChurchSuite

MASS INTENTIONS

31 October to 8 November 2026

SAT 31	The Blessed Virgin Mary
12 noon	Cathy Lynam – wellbeing (Pat Tims)
6.00pm	Monica Lynch – RIP
SUN 1	ALL SAINTS, SOLEMNITY, HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION
9.30am	Lucy Abram – RIP
11.30am	Owen Birmingham – RIP
6.30pm	Parishioners
MON 2	THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, (All Souls' Day)
9.00am	Andor Jakab – RIP
TUE 3	Feria
9.00am	Michael Malachy Glynn – RIP birthday anniversary (Maureen and all the family)
WED 4	St Charles Borromeo, Bishop, Memorial
9.00am	Sr Chris – private intention
THU 5	St Gerald, Bishop, Memorial
9.00am	Keith Johnson – birthday intentions
FRI 6	Feria
9.00am	Serena Michalakis – private intention
SAT 7	The Blessed Virgin Mary
12 noon	Life Ascending's deceased members – RIP
6.00pm	Michael and Evelyn McDonnell – RIP
SUN 8	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY (A)
9.30am	Bernadette (Bunny) Coakley – RIP
11.30am	Parishioners
6.30pm	Ann Chart – RIP

SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

IN AN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE POLICE ON 999

Mary-Jane Crowley – Head of Safeguarding	**maryjanecrowley@rcaos.org.uk**
Safeguarding Office	**safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk**
Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency	**admin@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk**