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 11 October 2026

Today's Readings **1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10; 2nd Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14**

Online Missal **https://universalis.com/Europe.England.Southwark/20261110/mass.htm**

Psalm Response **In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.**

Gospel Acclamation **Alleluia, Alleluia! May the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us. Alleluia!**

FUNERAL

Please remember to pray for repose of the souls of the faithful departed. We especially remember Wendy Angela Burt. A funeral Mass will be held here at Christchurch on Thursday 22 October at 11.30am.

BAPTISM

This week we welcome Noble Coffey into the Church. Please pray for Noble and family at this important time.

RCIA

A new RCIA programme has just started here at Christchurch; if you'd like to join, please see Father John. The RCIA programme is for any adult interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, whether you are not yet a Christian, a member of another community, an adult Catholic who hasn't yet been confirmed, or just curious.

CONFIRMATION COURSE 2026

If your child is currently in year 8 or above and you would like them Confirmed into the Church, applications for this year's Confirmation Course are now open on the parish website. Please ensure that you apply for the correct course.

SCHOOL FORM SIGNING

Father John will be signing primary and secondary school supplementary forms on the following dates:

Fridays	Saturdays
3.00pm – 5.00pm	3.00pm - 5.00pm
16 Oct	17 Oct
23 Oct	

SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday and there will be a Second Collection for Missio. Missio is the Church's official organ for the support of foreign missions. This collection goes in its entirety to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

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/

TODDLER GROUP

The Toddler Group had great fun last week making scarecrow faces, dressing up and playing with cars.

Do let us know if you have free time on Monday mornings and would like to assist with the Toddler Group – why not come along at 8.30am to lend a helping hand with set-up just before 9am Mass?

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY (A)

Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23 (22); Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14

Perhaps it's not every day that we're invited to a banquet, but today in the reading from **Isaiah**, we hear ourselves invited to *"a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine"*
a banquet prepared *"for all peoples"* by*"the Lord of hosts"* Godself! This chapter is largely one of affirmation and confidence, following one which speaks only of destruction. Here, the ruthless exploitation of the poor is no more. Now there is only the wondrous, generous reign of God. More than generous hospitality is offered: *"The Eternal One will wipe away tears from all faces"*. Even more: *"God will swallow up ... the veil that is spread over all nations. God will swallow up death forever"*. Death here is not physical death, but rather an active force of negativity that prevents our wellbeing, our very humanity. It is no wonder that Paul quotes this verse when speaking of our destiny of future glory: *"Death is swallowed up in victory"* (1 Corinthians 15:54). We are reminded, too, of the Book of Revelation: *"God will wipe every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying, nor pain any more"* (Rev 21:4).

The poetry of Isaiah speaks not just of the present but of the future rule of God, the very kingdom of God. It is *"on that day"* that these glorious promises will be kept and that our hopes will be fulfilled. When envisaging how God's reign will culminate at the end of history, Jesus tells us in **Matthew's Gospel** of a king hosting a great wedding feast for his son. Shockingly, guests spurn his invitation. Luke also tells this parable, but there the substitute guests are *"the poor and crippled and blind and lame"* (Luke 14:21). Matthew allegorizes the punishment of the guests who refuse into the destruction of Jerusalem -*" he burned their city"* – and adds the expulsion of the man without a wedding garment. Matthew's interpretation has tragically provided fuel for anti-Semitism throughout the ages, with the refusing guests seen as the Jewish people and their refusal causing the destruction of the Temple. The substitute guests are seen as Christian converts. Such a view is unfortunately part of the "blame game" of the first century. Since clothing can be a symbol of new identification with Christ (Galatians 3:27), the *"wedding garment"* evokes the good deeds or quality of life that we must show at the time of the great banquet at the end of time. Those in Matthew's Christian community are being called to be suitably dressed – just as in last week's gospel, they were being called to "bear fruit" in works of loving kindness and justice.

We might notice that Isaiah's beautiful image of God throwing a banquet for people and wiping away every tear, along with the words of **Psalm 22**, *"You have prepared a table before me ... surely goodness and mercy shall follow me/all the days of my life",* contrast drastically with Matthew's God, who consigns people to an outer darkness of *"weeping and grinding of teeth"*. We might remember this when we hear the old chestnut repeated that "the God of the Old Testament" is a God of wrath, while "the God of the New Testament" is a God of love. It is the same God and we must strive to understand the many ways in which the writers of both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures speak of God. Then we shall be able to say with Paul, in his **Letter to the Philippians**, *"To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

Sr Margaret Shepherd nds

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday:
9.30am Children's 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

Monday:
9.00am Mass
9.30am Toddler Group in the Halls
1.45pm Life Ascending meeting in the Priory

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
3.00pm School form signing in the Priory
8.00pm Baptism Preparation Course in the Priory

Saturday:
9.00am FHC 1-Yr Course in the Priory
11.00am Confession in the Church
11.15am Divine Mercy chaplet in the Church
11.30am Rosary in the Church
12 noon Mass
3.00pm School form signing in the Priory
3.00pm Baptism of Noble Coffey
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

SUNDAY TEAS AND COFFEES GROUP 2 VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Our Tea and Coffee shop volunteers do a wonderful job of offering post-Mass refreshments to our parishioners, however, one of our Teas and Coffees groups after the 9.30am Sunday Mass is short one member and would be grateful if a parishioner would come forward to join them. Usually, this involves helping out about one morning per month. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

10 October to 18 October 2026

SAT 10	The Blessed Virgin Mary
12 noon	SVP Society of Eltham
6.00pm	Those preparing for the sacraments
SUN 11	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY (A)
9.30am	For the intention of the needs of the diocese
11.30am	Parishioners
6.30pm	Jack Triplow – RIP
MON 12	Feria
9.00am	Peter Glyde – RIP
TUE 13	St Edward the Confessor, King, Feast
9.00am	Hallie McGandy – RIP
WED 14	Feria
9.00am	Fr Richard Sacksons O'Praem – RIP
THU 15	Saint Teresa of Jesus (of Ávila), Virgin and Doctor of the Church, Memorial
9.00am	Pauline Walker – RIP (Grace McCarthy)
FRI 16	St Bertrand of Comminges, Bishop, Memorial
9.00am	Hallie McGandy – RIP
SAT 17	The Blessed Virgin Mary
12 noon	David Lincoln – RIP anniversary
6.00pm	Tony Crowe – RIP
SUN 18	TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY (A)
9.30am	Santiago Harris – sick
11.30am	Parishioners
6.30pm	Clive Caton – RIP

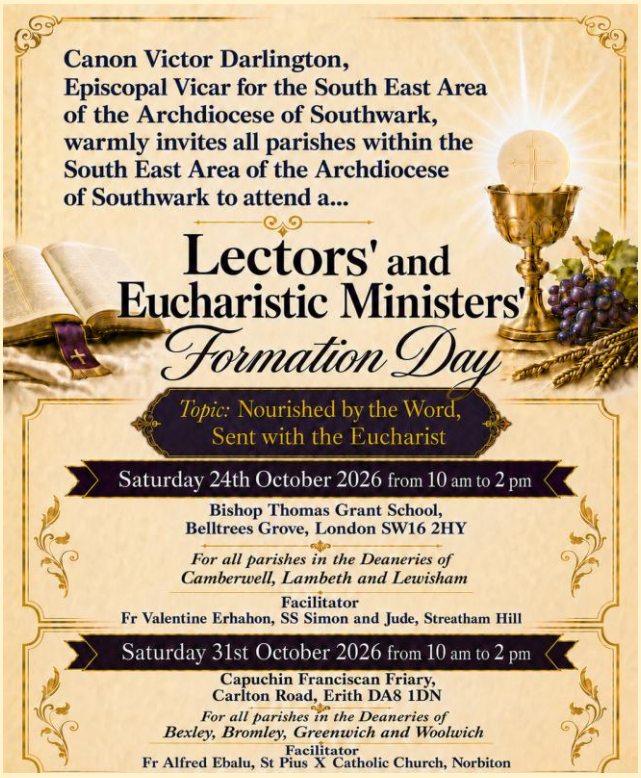
Dates for the diary

LIFE ASCENDING

Monday 12 October at 1.45pm
Christchurch Priory

A short discussion about
the way forward
and
CATHOLIC JOKES

All are welcome



LOURDES-GREENWICH FELLOWSHIP DANCE

Friday 6 November 7.30pm-10.30pm

Live Irish, Folk and Pop Music to entertain everyone here at Christchurch.

Entrance fee £4 payable on the door.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

All welcome!

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**