



**Twentieth Ordinary Sunday**

**17<sup>th</sup> August 2025 Year C**

**Red Book page 124**

*“Jesus good above all other,  
gentle child of gentle mother,  
in a stable born our brother*

**GIVE US GRACE TO PERSEVERE!**

On the evening of the *Feast of the Assumption* I reflect on some of the most poignant moments of my ministry. I remember a little lad when I was a very junior curate. He was less than 3. His mother used to bring him on a weekday to the **Holy Communion Service**. Sundays were just impossible... The boy was insufferable; literally uncontrollable, jumping on the chairs and swinging on the curtains. The vicar said this could not continue. I pleaded with him to let the mother *persevere* and eventually the lad would settle down. We had tea & cakes afterwards on Tuesday mornings. A week or so later, the lad kicked the vicar right on the shin at which point even I thought that was the end. To my surprise Fr Peter did not react. Unbeknown to me the mother had confided to him that their daughter Clare, a girl aged about 12 had a lump on her neck that was being investigated. She came to church to pray, even when the little boy was so unruly. With the passage of time and many false hopes, the lump was revealed to be inoperable. The lad must have picked up on all that domestic anxiety and used the church as a place to vent his pure frustration. The lump was to be treated medically in the hope that it might reduce but it was attached to her spine. As she developed, it advanced remorselessly towards her brain. We supported that family with so much love and patience but it was Fr Peter who had the closest bond. Thank God we had had the **“Grace to persevere”**! One beautiful sunny Sunday morning, such as we have been enjoying this year, the news came that Clare had died. Peter was supplying Holy

Communion at a village some distance away. By now, he had such a strong bond I thought it better that he should go and I would undertake his duty. When I got to the church the eucharist had started. Peter gently chided me and sent me instead. I just remember that beautiful girl now aged 15 beautifully clothed... *and she was dead*. The memory is impressed in my brain. I was accustomed to seeing dead people, even *still borns* but to see a young girl laid out so beautifully defied my comprehension.

There were many such poignant moments in my early ministry. Like the time on Christmas Eve when I was required to visit a widowed lady where her husband had died. I had just done the big children’s service, the *“Midnight Mass”* was still to follow. I wanted to be at home with my own kids, to put them to bed and do *Dad* things. We were driving to London next day and would not be back until New Year. If I didn’t visit that lady at that moment it would be too late to see her before the funeral. She had been married *and widowed* three times and was still only in her mid-60s. It was 7 o’clock on Christmas Eve. We sat together in darkness. Her 3<sup>rd</sup> Husband had begged her to marry him. She made him have a full medical before she committed. They were married for about 3 years. An aggressive cancer had run through his system and took him at Christmas.



Life; it doesn’t come easy. At **St Luke CofE Duston** there is a captivating **“Dancing Madonna”**. *Our Lady* is dancing with the **Divine Child**. It was given in 1978 by a former Vicar. *His wife died aged just 36*. We put a votive light there for Clare and turned the sculpture into a devotional image. Oh, and the little lad? He grew to be a fine guy now aged 45. **God Bless Fr K**

**Entrance Antiphon      Ps 83: 10-11**

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;  
and look on the face of your anointed one;  
one day within your courts  
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**Collect**

O God, who have prepared for those who  
love you good things which no eye can see,  
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth  
of your love, so that, loving you in all things  
and above all things, we may attain your  
promises, which surpass every human desire.

**First reading      Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10**

In those days: The officials said to the king, 'Let this man, Jeremiah, be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.' King Zedekiah said, 'Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you.' So, they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud. Ebed-melech went from the king's house & said to the king, 'My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.' Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, 'Take thirty men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.'

**Responsorial verses from Psalm 40(39):**

***LORD, make haste to help me!***

I waited, I waited for the LORD,  
and he stooped down to me.

He heard my cry. (R)

He drew me from the deadly pit,  
from the miry clay.

He set my feet upon a rock,  
made my footsteps firm. (R)

He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God.

Many shall see and fear  
and shall trust in the LORD. (R)

Wretched and poor though I am,  
the Lord is mindful of me.

You are my rescuer, my help;  
O my God, do not delay. (R)

**Second reading****Hebrews 12:1-4**

Brothers & Sisters: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder & perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

**Alleluia,** My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me.

**Gospel****Luke 12:49-53**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided: three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son & son against father; mother against daughter & daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, & daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which  
is brought about a glorious exchange,  
that, by offering what you have given,  
we may merit to receive your very self.

**Communion Antiphon****Ps 129: 7**

With the Lord there is mercy;  
in him is plentiful redemption.

**Prayer after Communion**

Made partakers of Christ through these  
Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy,  
Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth,  
we may merit also to be his  
coheirs in heaven...

## Help needed to take down the Marquee

Six sturdy souls required this Wednesday from 4.00pm to take down the marquee.

## “Hospital Chaplaincy Volunteers”

The chaplaincy at QEH is currently looking to recruit volunteers to visit patients on the wards.

email Rev Emmanuel at [ekormi@nhs.net](mailto:ekormi@nhs.net), or call the Chaplaincy on 020 8836 6831.

## 1 Sept-4 Oct is Season of Care of Creation

In his Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025, *Pope Leo* writes:

*“For ten years, the encyclical Laudato Si’ has accompanied the Catholic Church and many people of goodwill ... may it continue to inspire us, and may integral ecology increasingly be chosen and shared as the path to follow.”*

On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the encyclical, Pope Leo promulgated the Decree for the *Missa Pro Custodia Creationis* (“Mass for the Care of Creation”) in time for the Season of creation which starts on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. The Pope himself celebrated the new Mass in the gardens at Castel Gandolfo. Read More

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/season-of-creation/>

*The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*, on 1<sup>st</sup> September, is the official start of the *Season of Creation*, a time of sustained prayer & action which lasts a month & four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray & engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour & the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

A community initiative that anyone can participate in, is looking after our streets, avoiding chemical spraying of weeds, picking up litter or encouraging others to not drop litter. Every year, there seems to be less insects, less bees, less butterflies. Allowing beneficial weeds such as the versatile dandelion and the fruits & flowers of ivy, on the kerbside feeds the dwindling population of creatures that are part of the ecosystem; without all the parts the system fails. Glyphosate sprayed on street weeds by the council is very harmful to wildlife and humans, it is a carcinogen, toxic to wildlife and contaminates water. Ten years ago, Pope

Francis was stating that pesticides are environmentally ‘significant’ problems. Information regarding the process for residents wishing to opt-out of chemical spraying on their street is as follows: Complete a form on the council's website here:

<https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/forms/opt-out-our-chemical-weed-spray-programme>

You will be contacted to confirm receipt and to establish arrangements for each individual location. There are 3 sprays per year.

Alternative weed control methods include:

**Mulching:** Applying a layer of organic material (like wood chips or bark,) to suppress weed

**Hand weeding:** Manually removing weeds.

**Using natural herbicides** like vinegar or boiling water.

**More tolerance of vegetation growth** in preference to highly manicured stereotypes if not causing any safety issues.



**RBG's Love Your Neighbourhood initiative gives residents the opportunity to opt-out of harmful chemical spraying in our streets**

**Why would residents want to do that?**

Carcinogenic chemicals sprayed currently are needlessly harming humans, pets, local wildlife and life-giving plants

**How do I get started?**

1. Follow the QR code to opt your street out online.
2. The Council will complete a consultation in your street and let you know if and when your street is opted out. Consultation will usually take around 2 weeks.
3. Share this flyer and encourage friends and family to opt their street out.

**Thank you for listening RBG!**

See PAN UK for latest research evidence: [www.pan-uk.org](http://www.pan-uk.org)

GREENER GREENWICH COMMUNITY NETWORK

If weeds are causing a trip hazard or obscuring traffic of safety signage, the council supervisor will be informed and will contact the street representative to advise them of the concerns and to give the residents an opportunity to carry out voluntary weed maintenance.

See <https://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-use-by-london-borough/#greenwich>

There are fliers with QR code in the porch.



## The Twentieth Ordinary Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 2025

Satd 16<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Int: Eduardo Manuel & Antonio Yorge Alves (RiP)

**Sunday** 9.00am Int: Sheila Perkins 80<sup>th</sup> BD today.

**20<sup>th</sup> Ord** 11.00am Int: Sarah Walsh (RiP)

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Int: Delia & Heather Bray (RiP)

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Int: Clare Aslett (RiP)

Thrs 21<sup>st</sup> 9.30am Int: Peter Garlick & Fmy (W/B)

Frid 22<sup>nd</sup> 9.30am Int: Thg Our Ladye Star of the Sea – Mother & Queen

Satd 23<sup>rd</sup> 6.00pm Int: Thg Jesus, Mary & Joseph

**Sund 24<sup>th</sup>** 9.00am Int: Ints of Janus Kurucz (W/B)

**21<sup>st</sup> Ord** 11.00am Int: Fr Tamazs Wargacki (W/B)

Holy Mass continues every  
Saturday 4.30 at Qn  
Elisabeth Cottage Chapel

### Holy Baptism

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 12.30 and  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> at 12.15



### Can You Help Us Identify Your Standing Order?

We have been blessed to receive a number of new standing orders into our parish bank account – thank you! These regular donations are vital in supporting the mission and ministry of our parish.

**However, we're currently unable to identify some of these standing orders.**

If you give by Standing Order to our parish, and can Gift Aid, please renew your Gift Aid declaration online via:

<https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid/>

Or by scanning the QR code with your phone:

***if you are NOT a Gift Aider, but ARE supporting our parish via Standing Order, you can email [greenwichwest@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:greenwichwest@rcaos.org.uk)***



### The Charlton Society

**Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> 2025**

2.30pm at St Luke's Church, Charlton Village

Jane Lawson will present her talk

***'Urban Plants – weeds or wonders?'***

**A Requiem Mass** for Mr ***James J McGovern*** will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Aug at 11.30 at "***St Mary's***" Blackheath. James was a highly respected solicitor for over 40 years, working

almost exclusively in advocacy, from a practice in Islington until 1993 and then in Greenwich. He was well known for free legal advice services presented live on radio & TV and for his charitable work. He helped to set up voluntary duty solicitors schemes and free legal advice centres across London. He served on the Boards of Governors for Catholic Schools. In the early 1980's he was solicitor to the Archdiocese. He received a Papal Blessing in 1989 from Pope John Paul II.

### To all catechists and those thinking about helping in this ministry:

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Annual Diocesan Day for Catechists. This day is for all catechists of your parish, **including those involved in Children's Liturgy**. Registration now open! You are invited to join us for a day filled with teachings & prayer & a chance to meet fellow Catechists. Join us at St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HU from 10am. Register

[aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2025](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2025)

For the last few years the day has reached full capacity; registration is therefore necessary as soon as possible to guarantee a place.

**MEMENTO VEVERE**  
**"Remember to Live"**



### Times of Mass and OTHER Services

DONA card payment system. To make an online gift via BACS Please use

Nat West – RCAS Greenwich Sort Code; 60-09-16 AccNo 25240676 OLSS

**Saturday Vigil at 6.00pm** at the Star of the Sea **Twitter:** Stella Maris@MarisCrooms

**Sunday Masses** at 9.00 am & 11.00am

[benchandpew@yahoo.com](mailto:benchandpew@yahoo.com)

**Weekday Masses:** Tuesday NB at 7.00pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30 am

**Confessions:**

Saturday at 10.00am Tuesday from 18.15 at the Star of the Sea or by appointment

The Presbytery 68 Crooms Hill London SE10 8HG Tel: 020 8858 0662

**BAPTISM**

Preparation & Arrangement commences again in September.

**Dominican Conv:** 38 Hyde Vale SE10 8QH Tel: 020 8692 3382

**St Joseph's RC Primary School** Tel: 020 8858 4182 Commerell Str SE10 9AN H/T: Suzanne Long

**St Ursula's Girls Convent School** Tel: 020 8858 4613 Crooms Hill, SE10 8HN H/T: Mark O'Shaughnessy