

Our Ladye Star of the Sea (Crooms Hill)

West Greenwich www.greenwichcatholic.org

Email: kevinrobinson@rcaos.org.uk

PRIEST in Charge Fr. Kevin Robinson BD MA AKC

2nd Special End of

Summer Bumper Edition

Don't expect one like this every week!



26th Sunday Ord Time Year A 30th Sept 2023

Mustard Book Page

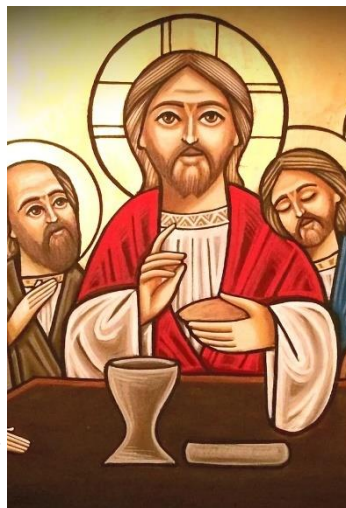
*'They recognised Him
at the breaking of the bread'* (Lk24:13-35)

First Holy Communion Program 2024

We are about to advertise our 2024 programme for Reconciliation & First Holy Communion preparation. We have good Mass attendance at our parish and we hope the families whose children have made their First Holy Communion during the recent past are attending Mass regularly –children learn from their parents. Families with younger children are always welcome and we are pleased that the *Children's Liturgy of the Word* at the 11am Mass has recommenced after the holidays.

Parents have an important role in helping children. If they see you regularly receive the Eucharist with reverence, and see that it is an important part of your life, they will also desire the Eucharist and know this is Jesus coming to us in a special tangible way. Parents if you are asking how can we in our home church prepare our child for First Holy Communion, then your child is already growing up in the atmosphere where believing, knowing and experiencing God is part of everyday life.

From early December to late June, your son or daughter (together with your family) will spend time learning about the love and mercy of God that we especially experience in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will learn about the Eucharist: to know about its origins in the Scriptures; to understand what it means when we say that Jesus is "substantially" present in the Eucharist and how the Mass prepares us to receive this gift of love. They will come to understand the consequences of this love in their family and their friendships.



Here are words of wisdom from the late *Pope Benedict XVI*.

"Dear Parents, I ask you to help your children to grow in faith, to accompany them on their journey towards First Holy Communion, a journey which continues beyond that day, and to keep accompanying them as they make their way to Jesus and with Jesus. Please go with your children and take part in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration. This is not time lost; rather, the very thing that can keep your family truly united and centred. And pray together at home too: at meals and before going to bed. Prayer does not only bring us nearer to God but also nearer to one another. Family life becomes more joyful whenever God is there and His closeness is experienced in prayer".

Included in the programme will be five sessions for parents, at the same time as the children's preparation. Parents will meet with Fr. Kevin and a team member, get to know each other and share ways of passing on the faith to their children.

Registration forms are available today at the 11am Mass. The programme is open to Primary School children aged 7 years and over (Year 3 at school) and part of a family who are attending and worshipping regularly at Mass at OLSS. Sessions will be every Saturday from 10.45am to 12 noon with breaks for the school holidays. Parents are required to attend an evening meeting in November (date and time to be advised) before the start of the programme. If you attend the 6pm or 9am Mass please contact:

elisabethsteward92@gmail.com.

Elisabeth and FHC Prep Team

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.

Collect

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon
us and make those hastening to attain your
promises heirs to the treasures of heaven...

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm

24:4-9

Remember your mercy, Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R)

In you I hope all day long
because of your goodness, O Lord.
Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me. (R)

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor. (R)

Second reading

Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions

and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, So that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Prayer Over the Offerings

Grant us, O merciful God, that this
our offering may find acceptance with you
and that through it the wellspring of all
blessing may be laid open before us.

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Remedy



Message from Deacon Duncan:

At the Diocesan Assembly last Saturday, I launched the *Prayer to Our Lady of Good Remedy*. I distributed prayer cards for everyone to take back and promote more widely to change the Government's attitude to Migrants & Refugees alongside our advocacy support at Parliament. No one in around 50 people had heard of this prayer which was slightly disturbing. We want it to be distributed throughout the Diocese and every Catholic to use it to change the Government's attitude. I have asked everyone who attended to include this in their Bidding prayers.

History: 800 years ago, Christians were being captured and sold into slavery by the thousands, and nobody knew what to do about it. Then, in the year 1198, a man had an idea. St. *John of Matha* founded the *Trinitarians* to go to the slave markets, buy the Christian slaves and set them free. To carry out this plan, the Trinitarians needed large amounts of money. So, they placed their efforts under the patronage of Mary. They were so successful that, over the centuries, the Trinitarians were able to free thousands & thousands of people and to return them safely home. In gratitude for her miraculous help, *John of Matha* honoured Mary with the title: '*Our Lady of Good Remedy*'. Devotion to Mary under this ancient title is widely known in Europe and Latin America, and the Church celebrates her feast day on October 8. *Our Lady of Good Remedy* is often depicted as the Virgin Mary handing a bag of money to St. *John of Matha*. When in need - for whatever reason, but especially where you have had difficulty obtaining help - invoke the aid of *Our Lady of Good Remedy*, and you will surely experience the power of her intercession.

O QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, Most Holy Virgin, we venerate thee.

Thou art the beloved Daughter of the Most High God, the chosen Mother of the Incarnate Word, the Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit, the Sacred Vessel of the Most Holy Trinity. O Mother of the Divine Redeemer, who under the title of Our Lady of Good Remedy comes to the aid of all who call upon thee, extend thy maternal protection to us. We depend on thee, Dear Mother, as helpless and needy children depend on a tender and caring mother.

Hail, Mary...

O LADY OF GOOD REMEDY,

Source of unfailing help, grant that we may draw from thy treasury of graces in our time of need. Touch the hearts of sinners, that they may seek reconciliation and forgiveness. Bring comfort to the afflicted and the lonely; help the poor and the hopeless; aid the sick and the suffering. May they be healed in body and strengthened in spirit to endure their sufferings with patient resignation and Christian fortitude.

Hail, Mary...

DEAR LADY OF GOOD REMEDY,

Source of unfailing help, thy compassionate heart knows a remedy for every affliction and misery we encounter in life. Help me with thy prayers and intercession to find a remedy for my problems and needs, especially for...

(Indicate your special intentions here).

On my part, O loving Mother, I pledge myself to a more intensely Christian lifestyle, to a more careful observance of the laws of God, to be more conscientious in fulfilling the obligations of my state in life, and to strive to be a source of healing in this broken world of ours.

DEAR LADY OF GOOD REMEDY,

Be ever present to me, and through thy intercession, may I enjoy health of body and peace of mind, and grow stronger in the faith and in the love of thy Son, Jesus.

Hail, Mary... . .

V. Pray for us,

O Holy Mother of Good Remedy,

R. That we may deepen our dedication to thy Son, and make the world alive with His Spirit.

duncanaitkins@rcaos.org.uk

Ursuline News

Our newly published book

“ROOTS AND SHOOTS” is now on sale!

Although the Ursulines first came to England in 1851, it is only since 1923 that several English communities joined the Roman Union which was founded in 1900 at the request of the Pope Leo 13th. We invite you to share our record of these past 100 years through our book **“ROOTS AND SHOOTS”** Ursulines of the Roman Union England. We hope it will give you some insight to our life in England and the role of catholic education in the past 100 years.

This is a coffee table style production rather than a precise history. We decided to address the hundred years from the viewpoint of those sisters who are alive today. Each one has made a personal contribution which builds up the story of our most recent past.

We have looked back to our roots and some of the decisive factors that have shaped us historically and religiously. We look to the future and our legacy.

If you would like to buy a copy we ask for a donation of £12.50 which includes P&P.

Email ursulinebook.ursuline@gmail.com

giving your name and address and send your donation of £12.50 via BACs to

Account: Ursuline Provincialate

Account No:23135852 Sort No:16-00-15

Be sure to add your name to the narrative section when ordering by bank transfer. **Or**

Write to Natasha Zammit Ursuline Convent 38 Grosvenor Road E7 8JA giving your name and address and enclose a cheque made payable to **Ursuline Sisters** or pay by BACS as above.



You can also collect a book in person from the convent in Greenwich at a price of £10. Please contact **Elizabeth Durrant- 07881205027**

Restoration Project: Wednesday 6th Sept Parish Meeting Update

What a treasure trove of interesting features we have to show off, at OLSS!

These were just a few of the things that were revealed on the night of 6 September.

As you look up at the brown hardboard ceiling above the nave, have you ever wondered what lies beneath? This is what is underneath - a highly decorated ceiling: We believe that something similar may lie under the whiteboard ceilings in the



side aisles. Imagine how splendid the church would look restored to its full glory.

And did you know that:

- The Minton floor tiles in the sanctuary were designed by Augustus Pugin, the famous Victorian architect known for redesigning the interior of the Palace of Westminster and the clock tower housing Big Ben? Our tiles are very similar to those in Westminster.
- Our 'rood screen' – the section that divides the nave where the congregation sits from the altar area - is also designed by Pugin and believed to be 1 of only 4 still surviving?
- The body of Christ (Corpus) on the crucifix above the rood is one of only two still in the UK, designed by Pugin in 1847. Look closely and you'll notice that Jesus has no moustache!

This is an architecturally and culturally important church.

The launch of the ***Our Ladye Star of the Sea restoration project*** got off to a fantastic start on Wednesday 6 September. It was well attended and resulted in lots of volunteers offering to help in various capacities.

The steering committee – ***JB Rae-Smith, Brian Mooney, Tony McManus & Cormac McAteer*** – gave presentations about the fascinating history and architectural richness of OLSS – as well as the more sobering news that the much-needed restoration of this unique church would probably cost about £2.5 million and take several years.

But as JB said: ***“95% of success is in the planning.”*** The team has already made good progress talking to influential advisers and

potential funders.

Key to attracting donors big and small will be demonstrating not only the architectural importance of the building but also the vital role OLSS – and you, the parishioners - play in the life of the community in Greenwich.

The task ahead:

- This is a complex multi-year project.
- The priorities include:
 - a) sorting the roof and stopping water coming in.
 - b) Addressing external stonework issues.
- Even when we've made the building watertight, it could take about two years for the building to dry out properly.
- So we can't even begin to start stripping off the old paint and repainting until we know the walls are dry.

Progress so far

- A conservation architect from a firm that focuses on restoring historic buildings has extensively surveyed OLSS, and we now have a report identifying all that needs to be done.
- We are working with the architect to develop a phased programme of works, prioritising the most urgent.
- We have met with Historic England's chair of Places of Worship Forum and the Catholic Church's Historic Churches advisor. Excitingly, both have told us that OLSS is of historical significance and its preservation and restoration will be a 'landmark' project.
- As the historic significance of OLSS will be important to some of our targeted funders, we are commissioning a Statement of Historical Importance, which will be in a format set out by Historic England.
- On advice from Historic England, we are commissioning an Architectural Photographer to take internal and external photographs to support grant applications. Encouragingly, this photographer has snapped 39 Catholic Churches that successfully secured £6.9m between 2020 and 2022.
- As OLSS is within the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site (MGWHS), we've begun engaging with MGWHS and Visit Greenwich to raise awareness of the historical significance of OLSS with a view to getting us flagged on respective tourist maps.

So we've achieved quite a lot already and promise to keep you all regularly updated on further progress. Volunteers are forming a small communications committee with this aim, so watch this space.

Funding

We estimate that the total cost of the restoration will be around £2.5m.

While that figure may seem daunting, it appears less so when you think that this will be over a four- or five-year period. Helped by the Diocesan Funding Team, we've already begun identifying and engaging with a handful of strategic funders. We can do this!

Next steps

- By the year end, we hope to have agreed the phased programme of works with the architect.
- We can then start making formal grant applications from January '24. This can be a lengthy process, so we don't anticipate any remedial works beginning until the second half of 2024.
- Many people volunteered to help on the 6th. We will be contacting them over the next few weeks. If you would like to help, think you could add value, or simply have a question – please fill in the attached contact form and give it to Fr Kevin.

In conclusion

A very important point to make is that while a small group has started the process, it is not their project. It is not Fr Kevin's project.

It is your OLSS restoration project!

To restore the old stones of OLSS, we'll need you, the living stones of this great parish to help make it happen.

We must do this together.

Thank you for your support. God bless.

Brian Mooney, JB Rae-Smith, Cormac

McAteer & Tony McManus (all parishioners)

Further information

- If anyone would like to see the presentations from the parish meeting on the 6th, let us know via the contact form and we will send them to you.
- Curious about the history of OLSS? We've erected 8 stands around the church explaining in a little more detail what you might be looking at.

Tuesday Evening Mass 7.00pm this Week.

While I remain committed to the care of my Father, being without assistance for Mass, I will begin to offer an Evening Mass at OLSS on Tuesdays at 7.00pm. The Church will be open from 6.00 with Exposition. If somebody would like to lead the Rosary say from 6.15 that would be very welcome. I will be available at OLSS on that night for Wedding Admin & paperwork - School Forms & Passports etc after Mass.

Also Confessions from 6.15pm



Letter to the Boy Who Felled The Sycamore on Hadrian's Wall

*Tell me what it's like to live
without curiosity, without awe.
To stroll along wild moors,
rolling your eyes at the rugged
evidence of history around you,
ignoring the ghosts of soldiers in
the mist, looking at the world
and feeling only boredom.*

*To walk on the wall of a crumbled Empire,
the falcons circling,
a rangale of deer racing past
and to yawn with indifference.*

*To discover something primordial and holy.
To stand in the gap before a tree
three hundred years old.*

*To take it all in, and then,
to reach for your saw. (after Matthew Olzmann)*



Further Traffic Proposal Meeting

Last week's meeting proposed by the Local Authority at the Old library was something of a disaster. With over 160 people queing for entry only 87 were finally admitted. It was heartening to see so many church people though most of us

were locked outside like *Foolish Virgins* (or perhaps not, though there was some grinding of teeth) Yet another meeting is arranged this Tuesday at the Woolwich Town Hall. This will be a ticketed event apply online using the EventBrite booking link. To clarify my own position, I am not against sensible traffic reducing measures that might tackle pollution and fuel use. I am in favour of a Bus service for Crooms Hill helping elderly and families with young children to get to church. I am in favour of a pedestrian crossing near the junction with Gen Wolfe Road allowing safe passage on foot, especially the many Ursuline girls crossing the impossible A2. I am in favour of local businesses such as ourselves and traders along Trafalgar Road being consulted. I am in favour of consideration for this church especially for funerals such as this coming Thursday that would be unnecessarily diverted onto South Street to join the stationary traffic on Blackheath Hill, perhaps with 10 cars in procession. To say nothing of all other events at Weekends when it is not unusual to see 1000 people through the doors with Three Masses, Weddings, Baptisms & FHC. I am not in favour of the environmental impact of actually *increasing* congestion on all the boundary roads, which the combined LTN of W&E Greenwich will inevitably produce. The "boundary roads" Trafalgar Rd, Blackheath Hill South St etc are not the responsibility of **RBG** but **TFL**, if only they consulted each other! another public meeting, this time by TFL is proposed re Blackheath Hill, on Thursday October 5th again at Greenwich Old Library

**[https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/
a2-greenwich-south-street](https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/a2-greenwich-south-street)**

St Thomas More RC Comprehensive

Details about Open Days at St Thomas More Catholic Comprehensive for families with Year 6 children can be found on the website

www@stmcomprehensive.org

NB, the Open Days are ticket only events.

James Joseph "Jim" Whelan RiP

The funeral of *James Whelan* is arranged for 12.noon at OLSS this Thursday 5th October
Burial at Grove Park



Agency for Evangelisation
and Catechesis

ARCHDIOCESE of SOUTHWARK

Some Definite Service!

The Archdiocese has launched a Diocesan wide mission project across all the parishes named “*Some Definite Service*” We are required to return a “*mission plan*” by Christmas for OLSS This could embrace the Restoration Component as a major theme but the purpose is to transform the ethos of Catholic Faith into a “Missionary Church”. The project comes with a detailed 12page document which needs to be shared and digested (apart from the “Restoration” Project) I am very grateful to 3 Volunteers who have offered to form a small group to help to look at what is required. 2or3 others welcome. To say I feel out of my depth with so many conflicting tasks is an understatement. Do come and join us at the presbytery 68 Crooms Hill, this Wednesday 4th October from 7.00pm to help to take this project forward

60+ Group

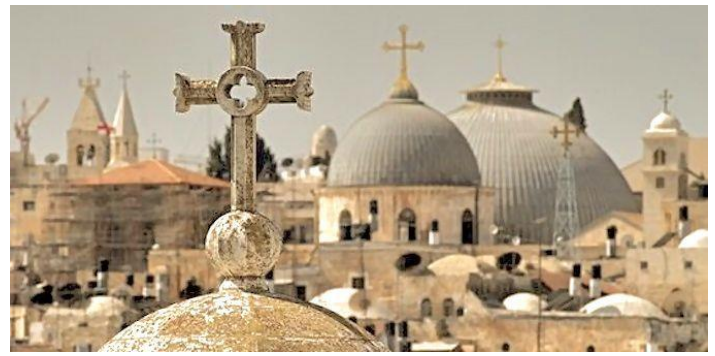
Welcome again This Thursday at the **Dominican Convent Hyde vale at 2.00pm.**

No need to be lonely or alone in Greenwich.

Don't be shy come on down

OLSS Calendar for the 26th Week of Ord Time Oct 1st - 8th

- Saturday 30th 6.00pm OLSS Int: Pat & Mollie Brehany (RiP Ann's)
- Sunday 1st 09.00am OLSS Int: John, Bridget & Brnadt' Murphy (RiP)
11.00am OLSS Int: Elianne Andam (RiP)
- Tuesday 3rd **NB 7.00pm OLSS** Int: Rhea Egan 3yrs W/B – Kidney Fail'
- Wdnesday 4th 9.30am OLSS Int: Della O'Connor (W/B)
- Thursdy 5th 9.30am OLSS Int: All our recently serving FSM Sisters
12.00 Noon Requiem Mass **James Joseph “Jim” Whelan RiP OLSS**
- Friday 6th 9.30am OLSS Int:
- Saturday 7th 6.00pm OLSS Int: Mary Morrison (RiP)
- Sunday 8th 9.00am OLSS Int: Parish & People
11.00am OLSS Int: Joseph Green (RiP)



Possible Holy Land Pilgrimage?

Since the time that I arrived in Greenwich I have intended to lead a ***Holy Land Pilgrimage***. I have previously conducted three such tours. I am negotiating prices for a week or ten days around May 2024 when Air flights are not too expensive and the weather is not too hot! A viable group requires 35 people. More details next week. I welcome people from Greenwich and all past friends. Do email me so that I can judge the level of support. It would co-ordinate well with a “Mission Plan”. We could use some Autumn Evenings to look at some of the ancient sites, the Biblical significance, the modern-day shrines and the political situation.

kevinrobinson@rcaos.org.uk



- St Francis of Assisi Wednesday-

Times of Mass and OTHER Services

- Saturday Vigil at 6.00pm** at The Star of the Sea (For Livestreams cf: Facebook: Our Ladye Star of the Sea)
- Sunday Masses** at 9.00 am & 11.00am **Twitter:** Stella Maris@MarisCrooms benchandpew@yahoo.com
- To make an online gift via BACS Please use Nat West – RCAS Greenwich Sort Code; 60-09-16 AccNo 25240676 OLSS
- 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 evenings on the 2nd Wednesday at OLSS 7.00pm (Check this N/L)
- Ursuline Conv:** 66 Crooms Hill SE10 8HG Tel: 020 8858 0779
- Dominican Conv:** 38 Hyde Vale SE10 8QH Tel: 020 8692 3382
- St Joseph's RC primary school** Tel: 020 8858 4182 Commerell Street SE10 9AN H/T: Suzanne Long
- St Ursula's Girls Convent School** Tel: 020 8858 4613 Crooms Hill, SE10 8HN H/T: Ursula Norbert

Thinking of becoming a Catholic?

Catholic Instruction for Adults

I intend to establish a Catholic Instruction group (RCIA) that will meet at the presbytery from 7.00pm on Thursday nights from November 2nd. If you are on the periphery of the Catholic faith. Wondering if you should become a Catholic or simply interested in revisiting the foundations of your faith as a Catholic Person come and join us in a group that will run between now and next Easter (with appropriate breaks) beginning in November. Fill in the form or drop me a line on kevinrobinson@rcaos.org.uk.

The coffee (& wine) mornings are back at OLSS!

All welcome to the coffee (and wine) mornings in the Parish Rooms after 11am Mass at OLSS on the following dates:

- Sunday 15th October
- Sunday 19th November
- Sunday 10th December

Please come along for a tea/coffee and cake or a glass of wine and savoury nibbles.

All proceeds will go to the Greenwich & Bexley Hospice

Sincere thanks to Pat Farren

Catholic Instruction Group
From Thursday November 1st

I would like to join the group:

Name

.....

Address

.....

Email:

.....

Mobile Phone

.....

Are you Baptised? Yes/No

.....

Have you been raised in a different Church? Yes/No

.....

Have you previously had any type of Faith?

.....

Were you born into a different faith community?

.....

Would 7.00 or 7.30 suit you best?

