

NEWSLETTER 27th September 2026

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUTTON GREEN

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Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cycle A: Last Sunday, the parable of the labourers in the vineyard challenged us to examine our tendency to compare, calculate, and ask what we deserve. Those who had worked all day became resentful when latecomers received the same wage. Jesus invited us instead to trust in the generous mercy of God, whose ways are higher than our ways. God is merciful; we belong to God; therefore, we are called to be merciful. May God's generosity free us from comparison and resentment, and teach us to rejoice in the blessings of others. In today's Gospel (Matthew 21:28–32), Jesus tells the parable of two sons asked by their father to work in the vineyard. The first refuses but later obeys; the second agrees but never follows through. Jesus asks, “Which of the two did his father's will?” The answer is clear: the first son, whose actions ultimately matched his obedience. This parable challenges us to reflect honestly on our own lives. Do our words and actions truly align with God's will? The chief priests and elders, who claimed to follow God's law, failed to respond to John the Baptist's call to repentance. Meanwhile, tax collectors and sinners - those society had written off - heeded John's message and entered the Kingdom of God ahead of them. Ezekiel (18:25–28) reminds us that it is always possible to turn away from sin and choose life. No past failure has the final word. St. Paul (Philippians 2:1–11) calls us to embrace the mind of Christ, who humbled himself completely and was exalted by God. True obedience is not merely saying the right words - it is living them out with sincerity and humility. As we reflect this week, let us ask ourselves: Are we like the first son, whose actions ultimately reflected his love for the Father? Or are we like the second son, whose words did not match his deeds? God desires not empty promises but a full conversion of heart, in which both our words and our actions bear witness to our love for Him.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration	Intention
Sat 26 th	9:30 am 11:00 am 6:00 pm	Our Lady. Confessions after 9:30 am Mass. Wedding Anniversary of Robert & Naomi Chua Vigil of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Nicolapillai Louis RIP People of the Parish
Sun 27 th	9:30 am 11:00 am	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time St Vincent de Paul	Tony Kennedy Robert & Naomi Chua
Mon 28 th	9:30 am	Feria	Private Intention
Tue 29 th	12:00 Noon 4:30 pm	Funeral Mass for the late Jeannett Ferreira Reception of Bridget O'Brien	Jeannett Ferreira
Wed 30 th	11:00 am	Funeral Mass for the late Bridget O'Brien	Bridget O'Brien
Thur 1 st	9:30 am	Saint Therese of the Child Jesus	Cecil & Nelly Price RIP
Fri 2 nd	9:30 am	The Holy Guardian Angels. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 10 am-11 am.	Oscar H U Medina
Sat 3 rd	9:30 am 6:00 pm	The Blessed Virgin Mary. Confessions after 9:30 am Mass. Vigil of the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jessi (Josephine) RIP Mark & Nelly Nicholson RIP

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES - 27 September. Theme: “Even Just One of These Children.” This year's theme calls attention to the pastoral care of children and young people on the move. We pray for families forced to leave their homes through conflict, poverty and persecution, often facing dangerous journeys and separation from loved ones. May we pray that governments and communities respond with compassion, provide safe pathways to resettlement, and help migrants and refugees find safety, dignity and a welcoming place to call home.



CAFOD Harvest Appeal: As we celebrate the Harvest, we give thanks for God's gifts and remember those in need. Our CAFOD representative will speak at all Masses this weekend about the CAFOD Harvest Appeal and how we can respond through prayer and generous giving. CAFOD Family Fast Day will take place on Friday 2nd October. We are invited to pray, eat simply and give generously for our brothers and sisters overseas facing hunger and shortages of safe water. Please take a CAFOD envelope from the back of church and return your donation, or donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope. Your generosity can help children like Tayla in Zimbabwe access nourishing food and clean water and remain in school. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

PARISH INFO: New Parishioners - Welcome to Holy Family Parish!
Parish Office Hours This Week: Tuesday & Thursday 10 am – 1 pm

PARISH LEDGER: Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our parish. Your contributions enable us to sustain our mission and continue serving both our parish community and the wider neighbourhood. If you have not yet done so, please consider supporting the parish through a Standing Order, which provides a reliable source of income and helps us plan responsibly throughout the year. For your convenience, online giving is now available, so there is no longer any need to write cheques. Last weekend's offertory: Plate £495.59; Home Mission Sunday 2nd collection £195.70; Contactless £501.00. Standing Orders £220.00. Mass Intentions: £245. *Ira, Gift Aid Organiser & Bookkeeper* (suttongreengac@rcaos.org.uk). Donations to the Building Fund can be made using the contactless giving machine at the back of the church. Every gift, however large or small, helps us move these important projects forward and is sincerely appreciated. Thank you once again for your generosity and continued commitment to the life and mission of our parish. May God bless you and your families. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our International Meal, which raised an impressive £2,500. Congratulations to all our raffle winners; one prize remains unclaimed: 2nd Prize – Blue Ticket No. 289 – Kittie, Tel. No. ...7353. If you hold this ticket, please contact Albert or Fr Michael to claim your prize, and God bless you all for your generosity and support.

Dates for Your Diary: (1) Blessing of Animals – Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Sunday, 4 October – 9.30 am Mass in the Parish Hall. On the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, we will give thanks for the gift of God's creation. Following the 9.30 am Mass, there will be a blessing of animals in honour of St Francis, who had a deep love of God, the poor and all creation. Families are warmly invited to bring their pets. For everyone's safety, please observe the following: (i) Dogs must be kept securely on a lead and under control at all times. Aggressive or difficult-to-control dogs should not attend. (ii) Cats must be kept in a secure carrier or safely restrained with a harness and lead. (iii) Fish, birds and other small animals must remain securely in their cages, tanks or containers. (iv) A responsible adult must supervise all pets throughout the Mass. If your pet cannot attend, soft toys or photographs of animals are very welcome.
(2) Fr Patrick's Presentation: Wednesday, 2 December 2026 - Mass at 6:30 pm, followed by a reception in the parish hall. Please join us as we thank Fr Patrick for his ministry among us and offer him our prayers and best wishes. Donations towards his presentation may be made via the contactless machine or collection box in the porch.

First Holy Communion Preparation - 🔔 **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2026** 🔔 Parents and guardians of children in **Year 3** are warmly invited to register their children for preparation for the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**. Registration forms are available at the **back of the church** or on the **parish website**. **We warmly invite you to register your child and join us for this special journey of faith.** Please bring completed forms to the **first meeting after the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, 27 September, in the church.** The preparation programme begins on **Sunday, 11 October 2026**, with First Holy Communion planned for **June 2027**. We encourage parents and guardians to take an active part in supporting their children throughout this important journey of **faith, preparation and sacramental life**. **We look forward to welcoming you and your children as we begin this special journey together.**

Parish Surgery: Fr Michael will be available without prior appointment every Monday from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm for parishioners who wish to: have school forms signed; discuss the reception of the Sacraments; raise any pastoral or personal matter or seek pastoral guidance. All parishioners are warmly welcome to come along during these hours.

A Service of Prayer and Solidarity: The Archdiocese of Southwark's annual service for those harmed by abuse will take place on **Wednesday 30 September at 6.30 pm at St George's Cathedral**, led by **Archbishop John Wilson**. The service is an opportunity to pray, express our solidarity and compassion for those affected by abuse, and reaffirm our commitment to safe environments for all. **All are welcome, and we hope that you may be able to join us.**

...Excerpt from Pope Leo XIV's First Encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"), No. 14. Finally, building for the common good requires an evangelical language. We must avoid humiliating or antagonistic words, opting rather for a clarity that sheds light and a frankness that unlocks new possibilities. We cannot condone naïve enthusiasms, nor fuel unfounded fears. Instead, let us establish standards for discernment - the dignity of the human person, the universal destination of goods, the preferential option for the poor, care for our common home and peace - and let us translate these standards into practices such as responsible planning, the assessment of human and social impact, the inclusion of the most vulnerable, the promotion of digital literacy and guiding research and industry toward justice and peace.

NATIONAL MASS COUNT: The annual National Mass Count commenced last weekend and will take place over four weekends. We are grateful to all those assisting with the counting of Mass attendance during this period.

HUMOUR: You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They even left a little note on my windscreen. It said, "Parking Fine." So that was nice. 🙏😊🙏😊