

NEWSLETTER 6th September 2026

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUTTON GREEN

Holy Family Presbytery, 9 The Green, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1QT

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Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cycle A. Called to Truth, Mercy, and Reconciliation. Over the past two Sundays, we have reflected on Jesus' question: **"Who do you say that I am?"** Peter recognised Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God," yet struggled to accept the cross. He desired the Messiah, but not the self-surrender that discipleship requires. We also considered the movement from Simon to Peter - from the **false self**, shaped by approval, achievement, and self-protection, towards the **true self**, received from God and created in the *imago Dei*. Today's readings show that this transformation must extend into our relationships with others. Faith cannot remain private; it must become a way of loving and taking responsibility for one another. God appoints Ezekiel as a **watchman**, called to see danger and speak - not to condemn, but because the lives of others matter. Jesus makes this responsibility personal: **"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone."** The emphasis is on **go**: speak to the person rather than *about* the person. Christian correction seeks not victory or humiliation, but restoration. St Paul gives the foundation: **"Owe no one anything, except to love one another."** The neighbour is not an opponent to be defeated, but a person loved by God. Christian community therefore requires **truth and mercy together** - truth without cruelty and mercy without indifference. The Psalm offers the necessary disposition: **"Harden not your hearts."** A heart secure in God does not need to defend an image of perfection. It can listen, acknowledge failure, seek forgiveness, and change. Jesus concludes with the promise: **"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."** Christ is present not only when we worship, but also when we undertake the difficult work of reconciliation. The journey from the previous Sundays continues: Jesus calls us beyond a faith shaped by self-protection into a life of courageous love, where truth, forgiveness, responsibility, and mercy belong together. Perhaps this week we might ask: **Is there someone I need to approach rather than discuss? Is there someone from whom I need to ask forgiveness? Is there a truth I need to hear - or a truth I need to speak with greater love?** May Christ free us from the false self that needs to control and win, and form within us the true self that is secure enough in God to love. May our parish become a community where truth is spoken with charity, forgiveness remains possible, and Christ is recognised as the One who stands **in our midst**.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration	Intention
Sat 5th	9:30 am 6:00 pm	St Teresa of Calcutta Vigil of Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Holy Souls Carmal Olive Lichtblau
Sun 6th	9:30 am 11:00 am	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Guan Prakam RIP People of the Parish
Mon 7th	9:30 am	Feria	Thanksgiving
Tue 8 th	9:30 am	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Anna Fernandes
Wed 9 th	9:30 am	St Peter Claver	Dolores Fernandez
Thur 10 th	9:30 am	Feria	Holy Souls
Fri 11 th	9:30 am	St Ambrose Barlow. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 10 am-11 am.	Carmen's Intention
Sat 12 th	9:30 am 6:00 pm	The Most Holy Name of Mary. Confessions after 9:30 am Mass. Vigil of Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Paulo Silva Carmal Olive Lichtblau

...Excerpt from Pope Leo XIV's First Encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"), No. 11. Building for the common good. Building a city founded on the common good implies, first and foremost, building on a firm relationship with God. It means recognizing that the truth of his love calls us to life "in all its fullness" (*Jn 10:10*) and communion with him. Like Saint Augustine, we too can say, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." [8] Indeed, God has inscribed in our hearts a desire for happiness that embraces all the dimensions of life. The Church, in dialogue with the men and women of our time, recognizes the urgent need to **safeguard and guide this aspiration toward its deepest truth.**

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for September: For the care of Water. For a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have access to it.

A Warm Welcome to Our Parish Catechists: We are especially pleased to invite our catechists to the Diocesan Day for Catechists on Saturday, 3 October 2026, at St George's Cathedral and the Amigo Hall, Southwark. The day will offer opportunities for prayer, formation, practical workshops and fellowship with catechists from across the Archdiocese, concluding with a Commissioning Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson. We warmly encourage both experienced and new catechists to take part in this valuable opportunity for renewal and formation.

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 £390.23; Contactless £215.50. Standing Orders £265.00. *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.

Dates for Your Diary: (1) **International Meal with a Difference. Sunday, 13 September, after the 11:00 am Mass.** Join us for a joyful celebration of the diversity, friendship and unity of our parish family through **food, culture and fellowship**. To assist with the arrangements, please add your name to the **registration list at the back of the church**, indicating: (a) the number of people attending; and (b) the dish or food item you would like to bring and share. We are also seeking **volunteers to help with the organisation and preparation of the event**. If you can assist, please add your name to the volunteer list at the back of the church. (c) **Raffle:** Raffle tickets are now available at **£1 per ticket or £5 per strip**. A selection of attractive prizes, including a **special hamper and other exciting prizes**, will be available to win. Please support this enjoyable part of our parish celebration and take your chance to win. **Everyone is warmly invited. Come, share your food, your culture and your friendship as we celebrate together the richness of our parish community.** (2) **Saturday, 17 October (after the 6.00 pm Mass) - Fr Patrick's Presentation: join us as we give thanks and offer our good wishes on this special occasion.**

First Holy Communion Preparation – Parents and guardians of children in **Year 3** are 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**. Please complete the form and bring it to the **first meeting on Sunday, 27 September 2026**. The preparation programme will commence on **Sunday, 11 October 2026**, with the celebration of First Holy Communion scheduled for **June 2027**. We warmly encourage parents and guardians to support their children throughout this important period of preparation and faith formation.

A Gentle Reminder About the Kneelers: Several parishioners have kindly brought to our attention that the kneelers can sometimes make considerable noise when being lowered or raised. We therefore ask everyone, where possible, to adjust the kneelers gently and quietly, particularly during the celebration of Holy Mass, so that we may preserve a prayerful and reverent atmosphere for all.

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.

RCIA & Synodality at Holy Family Parish. **RCIA – 6.00–7.00 pm:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults meets on the second Thursday of each month. These sessions are for those who wish to explore the Catholic faith, deepen their relationship with Christ and His Church, prepare for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, or discern a journey towards full communion with the Catholic Church. All who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith are warmly welcome. **Synodality – 7.00–8.00 pm:** This session invites parishioners to reflect together on communion, participation and mission, and on how we can listen to one another and contribute more fully to the life and mission of the Church. All parishioners are warmly invited to take part. May the Holy Spirit guide and enlighten us, leading us ever more deeply into communion with Christ and His Church.

✚ YOUR VIEWS MATTER ✚ We warmly invite all parishioners to share their views and suggestions on Children's Liturgy, First Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation, RCIA, parish social events and the Synodality process. Your feedback will help us plan parish life, coordinate activities and respond more effectively to the needs of our community. We would also welcome your views on the use of our church and parish hall, including opportunities to welcome diocesan initiatives and community groups and, where appropriate, generate additional income towards parish expenses. Please send your views as soon as possible by telephone or email using the parish contact details. Every voice matters and can help build a stronger, more welcoming parish.

HUMOUR: What's the one thing a sniper should never say to others? "Sorry, ... I missed you this morning." 😊

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