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NEWSLETTER 25th October 2026

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUTTON GREEN

Holy Family Presbytery, 9 The Green, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1QT Parish website: holyfamilysutton.org.uk | General Parish Email: suttongreen@rcaos.org.uk | Safeguarding: 0730 666 5040

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time- Cycle A: **Reading the Law Through the Heart of Love.** Last Sunday, Jesus reminded us to give Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God, calling us to recognise that our deepest allegiance belongs to God, whose image we bear. This Sunday, Jesus takes us to the heart of our faith. Asked which commandment is the greatest, He brings together two commandments from the Jewish Scriptures: to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22:34–40). Of the 613 commandments traditionally counted in the Torah, Jesus identifies these two as the foundation on which the whole Law and the Prophets depend. In the first reading (Exodus 22:20–26), God commands His people not to oppress strangers, widows or orphans, or exploit the poor. Remembering that they, too, were once strangers in Egypt, the Israelites are called to extend the compassion they have received from God. In the second reading (1 Thessalonians 1:5–10), St Paul praises the Thessalonians for embracing the Gospel and allowing it to transform their lives, making their faith an example to others. Together, these readings illuminate what Jesus is doing in the Gospel. Jesus consistently drew on books of the Hebrew Scriptures that emphasise mercy, justice and compassion, particularly Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Psalms and Hosea. By contrast, He rarely quoted certain other books, including Numbers, Joshua and Judges, which contain passages concerning ritual laws, legal obligations and violence. He is not merely selecting two important commandments; **He is revealing the heart of the Law and showing us how to understand Scripture in the light of God's love.** The command to love our neighbour in Leviticus 19:18 makes clear that faithfulness to God must shape our relationships and our treatment of others. Jesus does not reject the Jewish Law. Rather, He calls us to understand and practise our faith in a way that reflects God's character. Religious observance loses its purpose when we follow rules while overlooking the suffering of others or use religious authority to justify indifference and exclusion. Genuine love, by contrast, calls us to conversion, forgiveness, responsibility and practical service. Our prayers, traditions and participation in the Eucharist should help us become more welcoming, patient and attentive to those around us. The true measure of our faith is not simply how well we know the commandments, but how faithfully we put their purpose into practice. Are we willing to listen before judging, accompany those who struggle, and recognise the dignity of every person? Does our faith lead us beyond simply observing rules towards a deeper love of God and a more compassionate love of our neighbour? Let us ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our love for God and enlarge our hearts for our neighbour. May our faith bear fruit in lives of mercy, justice and service. May Christ, our strength, teach us to live the heart of the Law through love.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 25TH OCTOBER 2026

Day	Time	Liturgical Celebration	Intention
Sat 24th	9:30 am 6:00 pm	The Blessed Virgin Mary **Vigil of the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	Bryan Train Bridget O'Brien, Clifford Ogbuagu Winni Lunkuse, Caroline Sewwe
Sun 25th	9:30 am 11:00 am	**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time** St. Crispin and Crispinians	Catherine's Intentions People of the Parish
Mon 26th	9:30 am	Saints Chad and Cedd	Holy Souls
Tue 27th	9:30 am	Feria	Holy Souls
Wed 28th	9:30 am	Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles	Holy Souls
Thur 29th	9:30 am	Feria	Lola's Intentions
Fri 30th	9:30 am	**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 10 am-11 am.**	Mike & Yai Ja Tansacha RIP
Sat 31st	9:30 am 6:00 pm	The Blessed Virgin Mary **Vigil of the Solemnity of ALL SAINTS**	Fred & Jeanne Nicholson RIP People of the Parish

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) invites all to an #RedWednesday: Holy Mass for Persecuted Christians. Wednesday, 18 November | 5.30 pm–9.00 pm. Venue: St George's Cathedral, Southwark, London. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) invites all to mark #RedWednesday, standing in solidarity with Christians and others facing persecution for their faith. The evening includes prayer and music, Sung Holy Mass at 6.00 pm, an award presentation and a reception. The Cathedral will be illuminated in red to raise awareness of religious persecution worldwide. All are welcome to attend in person or join the livestream: Watch on YouTube. To support ACN's work**,** **please donate here** or <**https://acnuk.org/pakistan-faith-freedom-witness-event?form=donate**>**.**

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

PARISH LEDGER: Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our parish. 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 £498.63; Contactless £350.00. Standing Orders £385.00. Second Collection: Mission Sunday £230.90. Repository £80.00. *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: (🎄✨ PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH & GRAND RAFFLE 🎁 Sunday, 6 December. Join us for our **Parish Christmas Lunch** as we share food, fellowship and the joy of Christmas together! **GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – 10 HAMPERS TO BE WON!** Raffle tickets will be available for purchase in advance. Further details will follow. **DONATIONS WELCOME!** Please donate items for the Christmas hampers or contribute towards the parish lunch. A **marked donation box is placed at the back of the church**. Bottles and larger donations may be taken to the sacristy or parish office. 👐 **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - PLEASE SIGN UP!** We need your help to make this celebration a success! Please **sign up on the list provided at the back of the church**, indicating whether you will attend and how you can help. Volunteers are needed for food preparation, serving, setting up, and clearing away. **Please add your name to the list today and help make this a wonderful celebration for our parish family! All family and friends are most welcome. 🎄 Food • Fellowship • Fun • Christmas Spirit.** Thank you for your generosity, time, and support. May God bless you all!
(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.

[1] RCIA & Synodality at Holy Family Parish. We hope to resume our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and Synodality sessions after the 9.30 am Mass on Sunday, 1 November, in the Margaret Nolan Room. These sessions offer an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Catholic faith, grow in our spiritual journey, and reflect on how we can walk together as a welcoming, listening and missionary Church. All are warmly welcome to join us.
[2] First Holy Communion Preparation – continues today after the 9:30 am Mass in the Margaret Nolan Room.

🙏 **PARISH MINISTRIES: VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!** We are inviting more parishioners to serve in our various ministries and teams, including R**eaders, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Catechists, the sound system team, Bidding Prayers Writers, website and IT team, Sacristans, Ushers, and Holy Dusters (Church cleaners).** Please check the **various lists displayed at the back of the church** to see whether your name is included. If you are already involved in a ministry, kindly check that your name is on the relevant list. If you would like to volunteer, please add your name to the appropriate list. Every contribution, big or small, helps our parish community grow in faith and serve God together. **Your gifts, time, and willingness to serve are greatly valued and appreciated.** Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the life and mission of Holy Family Parish. 🙏

🎄 **CHRISTMAS CARDS & RELIGIOUS ITEMS:** Christmas cards and religious items are now available from the **Repository at the back of the church**. Please visit and browse the items available. Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

…Excerpt from Pope Leo XIV's First Encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"), No. 18
CHAPTER ONE. A DYNAMIC APPROACH FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL. This overview, however, would not be very comprehensible if, before reflecting on the contribution of individual popes and their most relevant documents, we do not first clarify some fundamental principles concerning the way in which the Church exists in history and relates to the world. Failing to do so would expose Social Doctrine to the risk of being perceived as an undue interference in "worldly" matters or as an external code of ethics imposed from above. In reality, it stems from a Church that walks alongside humanity, recognizing the autonomy of earthly realities and the distinction between ecclesial and political communities. Indeed, it is for this very reason that she strives to serve the common good.

HUMOUR: "I did my horse-riding training before I did my philosophy degree. I didn't want to put Descartes before the horse!" - David Rose, Edinburgh Fringe 2026