



St John the Baptist & St Theresa of the Infant Jesus

Catholic parishes of Westerham and Biggin Hill

www.jandtcatholic.com



Newsletter 19/20 September 2026

Parish information:

Parish Priest – Fr John Olaniran
Contact – Phone: 01959563226
Email: johnolaniran@rcaos.org.uk
Address: The Presbytery,
Crowsnest, Hosey Hill, Westerham, TN16 1TB

Parish Office open: Mon/Wed/Fri
Parish Secretary: Vigilija Bielskyte
Contact email:
westerham@rcaos.org.uk and
bigginhill@rcaos.org.uk

Safeguarding:

Biggin Hill: Majella Wakeley – Contact email: bigginhillsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Westerham: Marie Price – Contact email: westerhamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

It's been years of exile in Babylon and the people still nurse the memories of the invasion and ruins of Jerusalem. They look forward to the rebuilding of the city and the visitation of the anger of God on their oppressors. Today, the oracle of Isaiah to them is - the thoughts and ways of God are different from theirs. God is rich in forgiveness and desires the conversion of the wicked. The Gospel speaks of the harvest time – the landowners were always tensed, the grapes must be harvested and pressed before they go bad, thus today's landowner hired laborers into the vineyard at five different times. The parable is simply about the gift of God's grace and not a representation of the equal work and equal pay of the Labour relations. Some were called in their youthful days and others at the sunset of their days – this grace of God is freely given and in proportion to our needs. Thus, the generosity of God calls for a commensurate response from us – a devotional service. He does not want anyone to be idle. And there is no place for an attitude of self - righteousness, fault finding, and undue rivalry – the Lord is close to all who call on him.

Fr John Olaniran

The relic of St Gerard Majella will visit St Augustine's Catholic church, Tunbridge Wells, on Tuesday, 6th October 2026. Details of the timetable on the poster.

2nd Collection this weekend for **Home Mission - Evangelii Gaudium**. This collection provides the bishops of England and Wales with resources to support Home Mission, the spread of the gospel in our own country. The money collected enables a breadth of work to be done in support of parish evangelization.

How do we pray? How do we build a better, more fulfilling relationship with God?

You are warmly invited to join an experiential programme called **Teach Us to Pray** facilitated by Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Commission. The programme will be **online on Tuesdays, starting 6th October from 7pm to 8.15pm**. Following 4 online sessions, there is an invitation to conclude the programme with an in-person Reflection Day in a Diocesan Retreat Centre on 5th or 12th December. There is no commitment to attend all sessions – join us whenever you can. For details/ to sign up see <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/tnpn4hqd> or email for further information spirituality@rcaos.org.uk

Mass times:

Saturday 19th September	09:00 18:00	Biggin Hill Westerham	<i>Int: Miles O'Connor RIP</i> <i>Int: Chris Venus RIP</i>
Sunday 20th September Twenty-fifth Sunday	09:00 11:00	Biggin Hill Westerham	<i>Int: Thanksgiving to God for His mercies on Nicole, Natalie & Natasha Olisa</i> <i>Int: Margaret Harrington welfare</i>
Monday 21st September	09:30	Westerham	<i>Int: Holy Souls</i>
Tuesday 22nd September	08:30 19:00	Biggin Hill Biggin Hill	No Mass No Rosary
Wed 23rd September	19:30	Westerham	No Mass
Thursday 24th September	08:30 19:00	Biggin Hill Biggin Hill	No Mass No Adoration & Confessions
Friday 25th September	09:30	Westerham	No Mass
Saturday 26th September	09:00 18:00	Biggin Hill Westerham	No Mass No Mass
Sunday 27th September Twenty-sixth Sunday	09:00 11:00	Biggin Hill Westerham	<i>Int: Maryanne Fenwick birthday</i> <i>Int: Jason & Jessica – Birthday, Thanksgiving & God's protection</i>

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Nanette Allies nee Mistry, Anna & Tammy and family, Ola Alalde, Keith Bence, Mary Butler, Jacqueline Bleicher, Hannah Bryant, Sheila Clarke, Richard Clarke, Reggie Davies, Paddy & Hannah Delaney, Teresa Dering, Anita Dunn, Hugh Ferris, Margaret Furey, Colin Field, Marion Gordon, Heath St John, Moira H., Margaret Harrington, Anna Harper, Adil Hamidovic, Barbara Howe, Paul Humphries, Kay Ions, Nicole Jones, Dominic Lincoln, Alison-Marie, Doreen Lilian Hicks, Katie Louise Hicks, Mark Keefe, Mike Martineau, Lynn Pilditch, Francesca Peake, Joan Potts, Mary Ralph, The Rivett Family, Francesca Rodrigues, Josie Shankey, Jill Selbie, Roy & Lyn Shergold, Annette Shepherd, Sean Torpey, Claire Valsler, Bridget Walsh, Jim Wakeley, Sean Wakeley, Aldona, Yvonne & Anthony, Norma, Vytautas, Michelle & Family, Paul & his wife, Shoobridge family.

Please pray for the Peace in the World, and for those in need. We ask the Mother of Our Lord to protect us and to keep us always true to Him and his truth:

**We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God;
despise not our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.
Our Lady Queen of Peace - pray for us!**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Thomas Scannell and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

Offertory collections on 12/13 September'26:

Biggin Hill – Cash: £125-80; Gift Aid: £103; Total: £228-80.

Westerham – Cash: £115-89; Gift Aid: £22-50; Total: £137-89 .

2nd Collection - *Catholic Education Service* – BH: £60; W: £30.

August'26 Standing Orders: Biggin Hill - £759; Westerham: £867-43. *Thank you!*

**'50 50' September draw winners: 1st place - No 26; 2nd - No 6; 3rd - No 27.
Congratulations!**

Repository – The Christmas stock is in! Please come into St Theresa's Hall after Mass and view the lovely display of Christmas cards, advent calendars, 2027 calendars, tree decorations, candles and gifts. Jane

Rooted in Love - Is an opportunity for engaged and married couples to meet for one hour, once a month on Zoom. In each session we share friendship, reflect on real-life topics, and pray together as we grow in love, rooted in Christ. We meet on the following **Thursdays: 24 September at 8.30pm, 22 October at 8:30pm, 26 November at 8:30pm and 10 December at 8:30pm**. Email: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to sign up or receive more information.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest - Please support our *Family Fast Day* collection and help communities facing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can help children like Tayla in Zimbabwe stay in school through improved access to water, nutritious school meals, and school gardens. Donate using a CAFOD envelope in church, online at www.cafod.org.uk/envelope, or by calling 0303 303 3030.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre (EOHSJ) has organised a **Mass to pray for peace in the Holy Land** at St Mary's Catholic Church, Crown Lane, Chislehurst on **Saturday 3rd October at 11am**. See poster on the notice board.

St Gregory's Catholic School, Reynolds Lane, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9XL

Tel: 01892 527444 - Open events for entry in September 2027

Open Afternoon: Wednesday 7 October – 1.20pm to 2.45am

Headteacher talk at 1.20pm; tours at 1.35pm. Parking available.

Open Evenings: Wednesday 16 September – 5.00pm to 7.30pm

Thursday 15 October – 5.00pm to 7.30pm

Headteacher presentations at 5.15pm and 6.45pm. Parking available.

Register for our Open Events: www.sgschool.org.uk/open-events

Discover life beyond the classroom: www.sgschool.org.uk

Every child is known, loved and called to greatness.

Southwark Catholic Youth service - A new year of faith, friendship, formation and unforgettable experiences. There's plenty happening this term across SCYS, with opportunities for young people, young adults, and parish youth leaders. Take a look at what's coming up and start planning for the year ahead. <https://scys.org.uk/event-booking/>

Twenty-Fifth Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading **Isaiah 55:6-9**

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for
he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your
ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

R: The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second reading **Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a**

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. **Alleluia.**

Gospel **Matthew 20:1-16**

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too."

'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Hymns at St John the Baptist:

Entry – No 840 'God of mercy'
Gloria – No 532
Offertory – No 609 'In bread we bring you'
Communion – Not in book
Recessional – No 719 'To God be the glory'

Hymns at St Theresa's:

Entry – No 71 'Be still and know'
Gloria - No 406
Offertory – Back page 'Gifts of bread and wine'
Communion – No 752 'Turn to me'
Recessional – No 739 'Though the mountains'