

St Peter's Parish Magazine



June and July 2026

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From Fr Jonathan



Dear friends

At the beginning of May it was a joy to lead a pilgrimage of St Peter's parishioners to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk. A separate article appears on the pilgrimage appears later in this edition of the magazine, but it is an important reminder to us that our whole lives are a pilgrimage commencing with our baptism. During April it was lovely to present eleven candidates for Confirmation by the Rt Revd Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Bishop of Edmonton. Many of them had been baptised here at St Peter's and so it was wonderful to surround them with our love and prayers as they marked this important milestone in their journeys of faith and were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As we go to press we have just had the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, celebrating the many blessings in the life of our parish during the past year and recommitting ourselves to all that is to come as we prepare to celebrate our two hundredth birthday in 2027. Many congratulations to Sammie Singlehurst and Ekanem Peers, re-elected as Churchwardens, to Raluca Cimpoiasu, Della Dunsin, Jane Franses, John Hilary, Sergio Marques elected to the PCC for a term of three years and to Richard Carter, Ekanem Peers, Judith Richardson and Valerie Smith elected to the Westminster (St Margaret) Deanery Synod. It is very good that Richard Carter is also the Lay Chair of Deanery Synod, so St Peter's is well represented!

The big event of the past month was **St Peter's May Fair** on Saturday 16th May which was a great success, despite it falling on the day of two major marches in central London and the FA cup. Before expenses the May Fair brought in £10,650. A separate article on the Fair appears later in this magazine. Many thanks to Mother Jennifer and all stallholders and helpers which made everything go so well.

New lift and Parish Hall and Kitchen works

During the summer work will be begin in stall a new lift to replace our old and ailing lift, replace the Parish Hall Kitchen and other decorating and upgrading works in the Hall. All this has been made possible through a Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) grant from Westminster City Council. We are so grateful to Monica Lucas and the Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum and our local Ward Councillors for all their help and support in the award of this generous grant for which we are most grateful.

Portico and Tower Project

We are currently working with our architect, Kathryn Harris and her team at Nick Cox architects and Counterculture to apply for an initial grant from the Heritage Fund as the first stage in our wider project "Doors wide open". This work would include high level works to the tower to remove the need for the unsightly net and also raise the crash deck and make the portico useable as we continue with the project and plan the way forward.

There are many things to look forward in the next month. **Carlos Remotti-Breton** will be ordained to the diaconate in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 27th June. We pray for him as he transitions into Fr Carlos. His first Sunday in his new ordained role will be the Patronal Festival of St Peter the Apostle on Sunday 28th June.

Fr Joe Grogan, our former pastoral assistant, has been serving the first year of his curacy at St Martin's, Ruislip. He will be ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Willesden on Saturday 20th June and will preside at his First Mass on the evening of Monday 22nd June. We will be organising a party from St Peter's to his First Mass. Please look out for more details in the coming weeks.

During June we shall be joined by **Bailey Wilcock-Picknett**, an ordinand at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, where Fr Desmond, Fr Joe and I all received our formation for ordination. Bailey will be experiencing the variety and abundance of life in a central London parish. It would be lovely if parishioners could invite him out for dinner or a drink whilst he is here. Please do let me know if you can help with such hospitality.

Ave atque Vale



We bade farewell to **Andrew Sackett**, Assistant Director of Music and organist at the Family Eucharist on Sunday 24th May after eighteen years with us. Andrew is moving to Scotland. We wish him and Sarah every blessing and as they prepare for their wedding in 2027. On the same Sunday we welcomed **Jennifer Spencer-McDaid** as our new Family Choir Director. Jennifer has depped at St Peter's for a number of years and it will be lovely that she is joining us on a permanent basis.

Many congratulations to **Deborah and David Chapman** on becoming great-grandparents with the most recent birth in the family, awaiting the choice of a name.

Mother Jennifer

It was announced at Pentecost that, subject to DBS and the usual checks, Mother Jennifer has been appointed to the full-time, residential post of Preacher at the Charterhouse, a residential community of brothers in magnificent historic buildings at edge of the City of London and the Borough of Islington. Her new role will include overseeing the pastoral care of the brothers, leading the liturgical life of the Chapel and sharing in the wider life and outreach of the community. We thank her and her family for all they have done for our community since they joined us in May last year and we wish them every blessing for the future. Mother Jennifer's last Sunday with us will be 26 July.

Alexander (Sacha) Cucos : 17 October 2005 to 09 May 2026

It is with great sadness we reported the death of Alexander (Sacha) Cucos, suddenly in his sleep, whilst a student at Fordham University in New York City. Many will remember Sacha with great love and affection from the nursery and throughout his time at St Peter's School, where he and his family made many close and abiding friendships. Sacha was the much loved son of Anastasia Edwards and Stefan Cucos and big brother to Iona and will be remembered as a much loved son, brother, cousin, nephew, grandson, nephew, friend and student.

There has been a service for Sacha at Fordham University, but we will be having a memorial service for him here at St Peter's in a few months time. We will confirm the date, time and arrangements for that service as soon as we know more details. Please pray for the repose of Sacha's dear soul and hold Anastasia, Stefan, Iona and all Sacha's family and friends in your hearts and prayers at this time.

With my love, prayers and warmest good wishes,

as always

Fr Jonathan



Confirmation candidates with Bishop Anderson on Sunday 26 April – Good Shepherd Sunday. Photo taken by Fr Jonathan

From Mthr Jennifer

May Fair 16ht May 2026

Our May Fair on Saturday 16th May was a great success and a wonderful celebration of community, generosity, and fellowship at St Peter's. The rain just about held off, and there was a joyful atmosphere, with the church and car park filled throughout the afternoon with conversation, music, and activities for all ages.

From the busy stalls and delicious refreshments to the entertainer walking around with huge bubbles and making balloons, children's games, silent auction, raffle, art competition, BBQ, Saxophone Choir, marmalade and candles, tombola, Belgrave Booty, clothes, and books (sorry if I've missed anyone!) there was something for everyone to enjoy. It was great to see families, friends, parishioners, neighbours, and visitors all gathering together and sharing in such a happy occasion.

Events such as these do not simply happen on their own, and we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to the many people who gave so generously of their time, energy, and talents to make the day possible. Our gratitude goes to every volunteer who helped plan, organise, prepare, set up, run stalls, serve refreshments, welcome guests, tidy away afterwards, and support the countless unseen tasks behind the scenes. Your commitment and hard work were truly invaluable.

Special thanks must also go to all those who donated items, baked cakes, cooked marmalade, contributed prizes, and supported the silent auction, and much more! Every contribution, large or small, helped create the welcoming atmosphere that made the day such a success.

We are equally grateful to the local organisations and services, including the police and the fire service, who joined us and helped make the fair such an engaging community occasion. Their presence added

enormously to the enjoyment of the afternoon, particularly for the many children and families who attended.

Most importantly, we would like to thank everyone who came along to support the fair. Whether you stayed for the whole afternoon, volunteered your time, purchased items from the stalls, took part in the activities, or simply came to enjoy the occasion and support St Peter's, your presence helped make the day so memorable.

The success of the May Fair is a reflection of the generosity and dedication of our wider St Peter's community, and we are thankful to everyone who played a part in it. Not only was it an enjoyable and uplifting day, but the funds raised will also help support the ongoing life, ministry, and work of the church.

Thank you once again to everyone who helped make the St Peter's Eaton Square May Fair 2026 such a joyful and successful day.

Mthr Jennifer





From the Magazine for June 1936

Impressions gathered while visiting Russian friends in their home

Overcrowding in Russia is acute. There was only one room available for all purposes for each family. The Turks who numbered six in a family, and were entertaining guests as well, had divided theirs by a partition. The Russians, who were usually only three, had not. The room was meagrely furnished. A tiny open grate and an oil stove represented the cooking facilities; and a miscellaneous collection of tin basins and tubs, the washing and bath arrangements. There was no kind of sink, all the water was drawn by hand from a well in the garden.

Diet was ample, but consisted of quantities of good bread, fruit – then in season- potatoes and cabbage. Fish was obtainable, but not meat. Butter and eggs and milk could be had at that time of year. From time to time a duck was killed and eaten.

At first it seemed as though Mohammedanism was the only religion practised in this small town. The beautiful Orthodox Church outwardly still apparently in fairly good repair, stood desolate in the middle of the public gardens. Sometimes small children played on its steps; usually it was shunned, the benches near it empty. Inside gymnastic apparatus was stored. It had been intended to adapt it as a gymnasium, but the idea had been abandoned.

Some two generations ago, a Baptist Mission had been established and this still flourishes, and the few Orthodox Church member living the town and any other Christians, worship with them, in the house they own and set apart for this purpose.

It was difficult to realise how some of the Christian communities have suffered, sitting on the veranda of a lovely old single storied house, eating damson jam and drinking tea with a charming hostess, a grey aired, grey-eyed Russian woman, whose expression and voice suggested nothing but peace. She did not hesitate to praise the

excellent health services introduced to the town since the Revolution. A friend joined us and they discussed some of the difficulties at the moment. The children were tiresome, they would listen eagerly to one teacher, disobey another. Was it really the fault of the teacher, or were they getting infected by the hooliganism so common among Russian children today?

Everywhere one heard complaints of this. It was discussed in the papers. The teachers complained of the parents and the parents of the teachers. It all sounded very familiar. The teachers are handicapped by a big increase in the school population, and one imagines in many cases have been scamped in their training. No punishment is allowed in the schools; disobedient or tiresome children as sent home to their parents. The average Russian parent, without any religious background or any of the traditions which governed his own parents, sitting as many of them do, very loosely to the ideals of the Community Party, is heavily handicapped in dealing his children.

COMMENT

The author of this extract from a longer letter is anonymous, describing herself only as “A Traveller”. There was considerable interest in visiting Russia in 1930s Britain, to establish what life was really like – the start of a perfect society or a miserably oppressed land. Many visitors had to deal with a lot of bureaucracy and were accompanied everywhere. This visitor’s experience seems to have been different. She was heading for a small town in the south of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and purposely travelled by third class train so that she could get more impression of people’s day to day lives than a first-class carriage could afford. She stayed in a private house in what at first seemed to her a predominantly muslim area. Mosques were open though the calls to prayer were prohibited while Orthodox Christianity was discouraged. She was told of a growth in black magic. She found a general cheerfulness in this semi-country area despite the hard conditions although she was aware of widespread minor dishonesty, propaganda and espionage. Yet this must have been a tense time, just before The Great Purge, with the first of the show trials of Stalin’s rivals taking place in the August.

Valerie Smith

From the Parish Magazine July 1936

Extract from "London Past and Present"

The following extract was sent to be by the late Mr F A White some years ago. I thought that it might be of interest and that it should be recorded in the Magazine, which is the only record that a Parish has. Peter's (St), Eaton Square. The church was built 1824-1826 from the designs of Henry Hakewell, architect, and cost £21,515; it was nearly burnt down in 1837 and was rebuilt by Mr Gerrard. The altarpiece "Christ crowned with Thorns," by W Hilton, R.A., was bought by the Royal Academy out of the Chantrey bequest, and is now deposited in the South Kensington Museum. It was purchased of the artist for 1,000 'guineas by the Directors of the Royal Institution and presented by them to St Peter's Church in 1828. On February 26, 1877, a faculty was obtained for its removal. In 1872 a new chancel and transepts in the Byzantine style were added to the nave from the designs of Mr (now Sir) Arthur Blomfield, and they were consecrated on St Peter's Eve, 1873. Two years later the whole of the interior was remodelled under the direction of the same architect. Here was buried Admiral Sir Edward Codrington (d.1851).

COMMENT



Wheatley's "London Past and Present" first appeared in 1891 in three volumes; it was a topographical and historical dictionary of London streets and landmarks, which is still valued. It is interesting that in a rather short entry about the church the former altar-piece has so much prominence. The artist William Hilton was a popular portrait painter in his day, and this was considered one of his significant works though as this extract shows, it had already been removed from the church in 1891. The end of its history is a sad one; after changing hands several times, it ended up being stored in the basement of the Tate Britain, where it was damaged beyond repair by the Thames flood of 1928. We have a drawing of the interior of the church before its extension, which tantalisingly shows the image blurred though we can just discern that it shows a group of three or four people, and not just Christ himself. A large painting as a reredos is a feature of a number of London churches built in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. All Souls Langham reportedly has a reredos by Richard Westall which has survived the wartime bombing and several later modifications of the church. It shows the mocking of Christ, but the church is rarely open except for services. You can see a fine example of a reredos; this time of the Last Supper, by William Kent, in St George's Hanover Square which gives some idea of how impressive such paintings so positioned can look.

Valerie Smith

Searching for St Peter

It was a sub-heading in a Sunday Times review that caught my eye. "One of the greatest shows I've ever seen." Even bearing in mind the hyperbole of art critics, that's quite a claim. The critic was writing about an exhibition at the National Gallery of the work of Francisco de Zurbaran. Nope, me neither.

The publicity for the exhibition uses that sentence from the Sunday Times review - along with 5 stars.

So, what to expect? The gallery blurb is naturally enough effusive. "From the rind of a lemon to the timeless gaze of a saint, he finds an intensity in the ordinary." The bit about the lemon does make some sense at least when you see the exhibition. Rather more credible in the blurb is "His paintings unite stillness, focus and faith." Like his Spanish contemporaries, Velazquez and Murillo, Zurbaran produced religious paintings aplenty. Which brings us to his depiction of the crucifixion of our patron saint. When he was martyred by the Roman Emperor Nero, St Peter asked to be crucified upside down as he felt unworthy to be put to death in the same manner as Jesus.

Its slightly confusing title is "The Apparition of Saint Peter to Saint Peter Nolasco." It was painted in 1629 in Seville. It is usually to be found in the Prado Museum in Madrid but it is the first painting in this exhibition. The story of Peter Nolasco is itself an interesting one. He was the founder of a religious order. As Nolasco prays, St Peter appears to him - not as an uplifting vision but as a disturbing, tormented, realistic representation. The two Peters are locked together in the moment - linked by eye contact, proximity and by the ethereal light which shines on our St Peter and also illuminates the front of Peter Nolasco.

It is an arresting image; one of many in the exhibition. If not one of the greatest shows, it is certainly intense and demanding of the visitor.

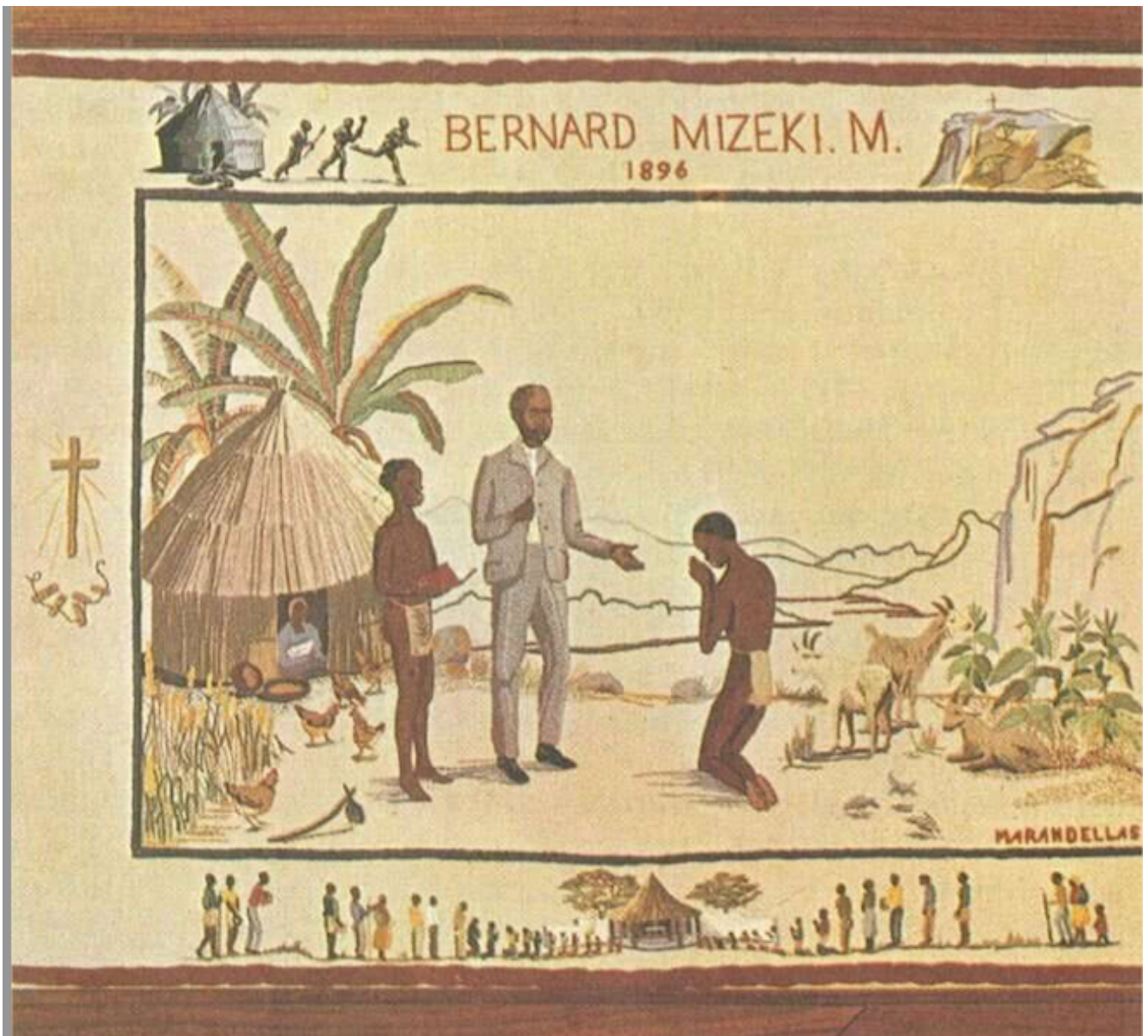
David Stanley

The Zurbaran exhibition at the National Gallery ends on 23rd August



Bernard Mizeki

1861 -1896



Bernard Mizeki, 1861 -1896 who gave his life as a martyr, serving the Shona people of Africa. His life and ministry among the Shona people of Zimbabwe 'left an indelible work Christian Africa.'

Martyred during the Mashona rebellion against the British

Elizabeth Fry



Elizabeth Fry 1780-1845 remembered especially for her work to improve the treatment of prisoners. Known as 'the angel of prisons'.

Calendar of Intentions June 2026

Date	Day	Mass intention
Mo1	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth (transferred)	Sion College
Tu 2	Feria	Eaton House School
We 3	Martyrs of Uganda, 1885-7, 1977	The Church in Uganda
Th 4	Corpus Christi	Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ
Fr 5	Boniface, bishop, martyr, 754	Metropolitan Police
Sa 6	Ini Kopuria, founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 1945	The Church in Melanesia
Su 7	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 8	Thomas Ken, bishop, hymn writer, 1711	Hymn writers
Tu 9	Columba, abbot, missionary, 597	The Church in Ireland
We10	Feria	London Ambulance Service
Th 11	Barnabas, Apostle	St Barnbas', Pimlico
Fr 12	Feria	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital
Sa 13	Feria	Royal College of Defence Studies Seaford House
Su 14	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Tu 15	Evelyn Underhill, spiritual writer, 1941	Spiritual Directors

Date	Day	Mass Intention
Th 16	Feria	St Peter's School Leavers
Fr 17	Feria	Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum
Sa 18	Elizabeth Ferard, deaconess, founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883	Deaconesses
Su 19	SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 20	Margaret of Antioch, martyr, 4 th century	St Margaret's, Westminster
Tu 21	Feria	Royal Marsden Hospital
We 22	St Mary Magdalene, apostle to the Apostles	All Churches dedicated in honour of St Mary Magdalene
Th 23	Brigid of Sweden, Abbess, 1373	The Church of Sweden
Fr 24	Feria	The Goring Hotel
Sa 25	St James, the Apostle	St James', Picadilly
Su 26	EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 27	Brooke Foss Westcott, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1901	Westcott House Theological College, Cambridge
Tu 28	Feria	Caxton Youth Project
We 29	Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of Our Lord	The Society of Mary and Martha, Sheldon, Devon
Th 30	William Wilberforce, social reformer, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, anti-slavery campaigners, 1833, 1797, 1846	The Clewer Project and all endeavours to combat modern day slavery
Fr 31	Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556	The London Jesuit Centre and all Jesuits

Calendar of Intentions July 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mass intention</i>
<i>We 1</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Royal Marsden Hospital</i>
<i>Th 2</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>House of Commons</i>
<i>Fr 3</i>	THOMAS, APOSTLE	<i>The Church in India</i>
<i>Sa 4</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Rachel Blake MP</i>
<i>Su 5</i>	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</i>	<i>The Parish and People of God</i>
<i>Mo 6</i>	<i>Thomas More, scholar and John Fisher, bishop, martyrs 1535</i>	<i>Westminster Cathedral</i>
<i>Tu 7</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Two Cities Episcopal Area Clergy Conference</i>
<i>We 8</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>London Diocesan House</i>
<i>Th 9</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Westminster City School</i>
<i>Fr 10</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>The Passage</i>
<i>Sa 11</i>	<i>Benedict, abbot, c 550</i>	<i>All Benedictine Communities</i>
<i>Su 12</i>	<i>SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</i>	<i>The Parish and People of God</i>
<i>Mo 13</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>The Guards Chapel</i>
<i>Tu 14</i>	<i>John Keble, priest, poet, 1866</i>	<i>Anglican Catholic Future ACF</i>
<i>We 15</i>	<i>Swithun, bishop, c 862 Bonaventure, friar, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1274</i>	<i>+Emma, acting Bishop of London</i>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i>
<i>Th 16</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>St Peter's School Leavers</i>
<i>Fr 17</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum</i>
<i>Sa 18</i>	<i>Elizabeth Ferard, deaconess, founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883</i>	<i>Deaconesses</i>
<i>Su 19</i>	<i>SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</i>	<i>The Parish and People of God</i>
<i>Mo 20</i>	<i>Margaret of Antioch, martyr, 4th century</i>	<i>St Margaret's, Westminster</i>
<i>Tu 21</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Royal Marsden Hospital</i>
<i>We 22</i>	<i>St Mary Magdalene, apostle to the Apostles</i>	<i>All Churches dedicated in honour of St Mary Magdalene</i>
<i>Th 23</i>	<i>Brigid of Sweden, Abbess, 1373</i>	<i>The Church of Sweden</i>
<i>Fr 24</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>The Goring Hotel</i>
<i>Sa 25</i>	<i>St James, the Apostle</i>	<i>St James', Picadilly</i>
<i>Su 26</i>	<i>EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</i>	<i>The Parish and People of God</i>
<i>Mo 27</i>	<i>Brooke Foss Westcott, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1901</i>	<i>Westcott House Theological College, Cambridge</i>
<i>Tu 28</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Caxton Youth Project</i>
<i>We 29</i>	<i>Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of Our Lord</i>	<i>The Society of Mary and Martha, Sheldon, Devon</i>
<i>Th 30</i>	<i>William Wilberforce, social reformer, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, anti-slavery campaigners, 1833, 1797, 1846</i>	<i>The Clewer Project and all endeavours to combat modern day slavery</i>
<i>Fr 31</i>	<i>Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556</i>	<i>The London Jesuit Centre and all Jesuits</i>

Readings for June and July 2026

7 June 2026 Corpus Christi Genesis 14: 18-20 Corinthians 11: 23-26 John 6: 51-58	5 July 2026 Trinity 5 Zechariah 9: 9-12 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
14 June 2026 Trinity 2 Exodus 19: 2-9a Romans 5: 1-8 Matthew 9: 35-10:8	12 July 2026 Trinity 6 Isaiah 55:10-13 Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
21 June 2026 Trinity 3 Jeremiah 20: 7-13 Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39	19 July 2026 Trinity 7 Isaiah 44:6-8 Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43
28 June 2026 St Peter the Apostle Acts 12:1-11 Matthew 16:13-19	26 July 2026 Trinity 8 1 Kings 3:5-12 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13: 31-33 & 44-52

St Columba (Colmcille)

7 December 521 – 9 June 597

To readers of these pages, St Columba — or Colmcille, as he is known in Irish, a name meaning “dove of the church” — will already be a familiar presence, at least in outline. He is the man who founded the monastery on Iona from which St Aidan set out to evangelise Northumbria, and whose tradition shaped St Cuthbert’s world. But Columba deserves to be known in his own right, for his story is one of the most dramatic and paradoxical in the history of the early Church: a man of royal blood, formidable energy and at times ruinous pride, who was eventually driven from his homeland by the consequences of his own actions, and who then spent the remainder of a long life winning for Christ, in Scotland, the souls he reckoned he had cost Ireland on the battlefield.

He was born at Garten in County Donegal on 7 December 521, great-great-grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages, the Irish king of the fourth century who gave his name to the Uí Néill dynasty. The name given at his baptism was simply Colum — “dove” — and if there was something of the dove’s gentleness in his maturity, there was rather more of the hawk in his earlier years. Educated at the great Irish monastic schools, he went on to found monasteries at Derry, Durrow and elsewhere, and established a formidable reputation as a monastic founder, scholar and preacher.

Then came the episode that would define his life, though modern historians approach it with considerable caution, as its source is much later than Columba’s lifetime. Tradition asserts that sometime around 560, Columba became involved in a quarrel with his former teacher Finnian of Moville over a psalter he had copied, intending to keep it. The dispute went before the High King of Ireland, Diarmait mac Cerbaill, who found against him with the lapidary judgement: “To every cow belongs her calf, therefore to every book belongs its copy” — which has a reasonable claim to being the earliest copyright judgement in history.

Enraged, Columba is said to have supported his Uí Néill kinsmen in a battle at Cúl Dreimhne in which many were killed. Earlier sources suggest the conflict with the High King may have stemmed from a violation of sanctuary — the killing of a young prince under Columba's protection. Whatever the precise cause, a synod met and came close to excommunicating him. The Chronicles of Iona record simply that "in the second year after the battle of Cul-drebene, the forty-second year of his age, Columba sailed away from Ireland to Britain wishing to be a pilgrim for Christ."

In 563, Columba and twelve companions left Ireland, arriving first at what is today Southend on the southern tip of Kintyre — still within sight of Ireland — before travelling further north and landing on Iona on 12 May 563. The island was granted to him by Conall mac Comgaill, King of Dál Riata, a distant kinsman. Tradition holds that Columba settled on Iona because it was the first place from which he could not see his beloved Ireland: one of the island's features is still known as "the Hill with its back to Ireland." The monastery he built there was conceived, in his own words, as an image of the heavenly city of Jerusalem. The monks worshipped and worked daily, following Irish Christian practices and disciplines, and engaging with the local and wider community.

From this base, Columba set about the evangelisation of the Picts of northern Scotland with characteristic determination. The corner was turned when, together with St Comgall and St Kenneth, Columba called on the Pictish King Brude at his fortress overlooking what is now Inverness. Brude refused to receive the missionaries, but — it is said — at the sign of the cross made by Columba, the barred gates of the fortress simply opened. Columba's *Vita*, written by his successor Adomnán around the year 700, also records his encounter with a ferocious "water beast" in the River Ness in 565, in which he drove off the creature with the sign of the cross — the first account of what later tradition would associate with the Loch Ness Monster. Whether or not that story is to be believed, it illustrates the character of Columba's missionary work among the Picts: dramatic encounters, divine power

visibly demonstrated, and the slow winning of a suspicious and formidable people.

He was not only a missionary but a statesman. Columba gave formal benediction and inauguration to Áedán mac Gabráin as King of Dál Riata — one of the earliest recorded instances of Christian royal inauguration — and accompanied Áedán to Ireland in 575 to take part in the Council of Druim Cetta, which settled the political relationship between the Irish and Scottish branches of the kingdom. Columba's aristocratic connections and his easy authority with kings made him a figure of real political weight in the turbulent world of sixth-century Celtic Britain.

At the same time, his monastery on Iona was becoming one of the greatest centres of learning and Christian culture in Western Europe. Columba himself was an excellent scribe, credited with having transcribed three hundred books, and was the author of commentaries, prayers, hymns and poems. The Cathach of St Columba, a magnificent psalter on vellum, may be his own work. Pigments from the south of France were used in the Iona scriptorium, a sign of its reach and connections. The Book of Kells, one of the supreme achievements of mediæval art, is believed to have been created by monks of the Iona tradition in the generation after his death.

Adomnán wrote of him that he had “an angelic face, was of an excellent nature, perfect and polished in speech, holy in deed, great in counsel, loving to all.” Despite his extremely ascetic way of life, he was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, always courteous and benevolent to everybody. The austere rule of the monastery — long hours of prayer, fasting, manual work, and the copying of scripture — was presided over by a man who, in his later years at least, radiated warmth as well as authority.

On 9 June 597, at the age of seventy-seven, Columba died peacefully. Some accounts say he was in the act of transcribing the Psalter at the moment of his death — a fitting end for a man whose love of scripture

had shaped his entire life. He was buried on Iona, and the island became a place of pilgrimage immediately after his death. His remains were later divided between Scotland and Ireland, with half sent to Dunkeld and half to Downpatrick. Relics were carried before Scottish armies in a reliquary called the Breckennoch; legend holds that it was present at Bannockburn, and the saint's intercession credited with the Scottish victory.

The monastery he founded outlasted him by centuries, though not without suffering. Iona was attacked by Viking raiders repeatedly from 795, and during the raid of 806 sixty-eight monks were massacred at Martyrs' Bay. Yet the tradition survived, transplanted to Kells in Ireland and eventually to many parts of Europe. The Iona Community, founded in 1938, continues Columba's mission on the island today, in a restored mediæval abbey that stands on the site of his original monastery.

Columba is a patron saint of Scotland and one of the three patron saints of Ireland, alongside St Patrick and St Brigid. He is also the patron saint of Derry, of poets, and of bookbinders. His feast day is 9 June.

Richard Carter

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2026



St Peter's pilgrims at Walsingham



Our lamp in the Holy House

From Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd May a group of nine pilgrims from St Peter's led by Fr Jonathan joined Fr Richard Collins and our friends from Christ the Saviour, Ealing Broadway for our annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk, known affectionately as "England's Nazareth". We arrived on the Friday afternoon and, after settling in, did our "First Visit" in the Shrine Church, beginning at the altar of the Annunciation at the West End and processing to the Holy House, built on the traditional dimensions of the house in which the Holy Family lived in Nazareth. There is a stone in front of the altar in memory of +Brian Masters, the late Bishop of Edmonton, who Fr Jonathan served as Chaplain from 1996 until his death in 1998. The beautiful carved wooden image of Our Lady of Walsingham at the west end of St Peter's Church is modelled on the image of Our Lady and the child Jesus in the Holy House. After supper we met in the Barn Chapel for the first celebration of the Eucharist of our pilgrimage, before some welcome drinks in the Norton Room before bedtime.

The next morning, after breakfast, we walked the fourteen Stations of the Resurrection down the old railway line to the Roman Catholic Shrine and the Slipper Chapel. The Slipper Chapel is traditionally where pilgrims would remove their shoes to undertake the final holy mile of the pilgrimage barefoot.

We returned to the Anglican Shrine to join the other weekend pilgrims, from Sheffield, Doncaster and Brighton and other day pilgrims for the Pilgrimage Mass at 12 noon. After the lunch we had a few free hours to explore the village or else take a trip out to the Norfolk Coast, before the St Peter's and Christ the Saviour pilgrims met at the Holy House for own intercessions and the prayers we brought with us as we held you all in our hearts.

After supper there was the evening devotion in the Shrine Church, which included the outdoor procession of Our Lady, the ministries of healing and laying on of hands and reconciliation in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

The next morning, as is our custom, we travelled a few miles to the beautiful Parish Church of Our Lady, South Creake for the Parish Mass. We are always made very welcome by our friend the incumbent, Fr Clive Wylie SCP. We returned to the Shrine refectory for a Sunday roast before gathering again in the Shrine Church for the final liturgy of the pilgrimage which is a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction and receiving the living waters from the Holy Well and our final visit to the Holy House, where a lamp burns for St Peter's Church and School.

Our Walsingham Pilgrimage during Eastertide has become one of the highlights of the year at St Peter's and we will be going again next year. If you'd like to come, please don't hesitate to ask Fr Jonathan for more details.



With Fr Richard Collins and our friends from Christ the Saviour, Ealing Broadway at South Creake on Sunday morning

Carlos Remotti-Breton

Please pray for Carlos as he prepares to be ordained deacon in St Paul's Cathedral by Bishop Emma and as he remains with us to serve his curacy at St Peter's as a self-supporting minister. Here is his ember card in English and Spanish.



Please pray for
CARLOS AGUSTÍN REMOTTI-BRETÓN
to be ordained Deacon by
+ EMMA, ACTING BISHOP OF LONDON
In the Cathedral Church of St Paul, London
at 3pm on Saturday 27TH June, 2026



Pray too for Carlos's family and friends,
for the Revd Jonathan Kester
Vicar of St Peter's Church, Eaton Square
and the people whom Carlos will serve.



"We love because he first loved us."

1 John 4:19



Les pedimos que recen por
CARLOS AGUSTÍN REMOTTI-BRETÓN
que será ordenado Diácono por
+ EMMA, OBISPA INTERINA DE LONDRES
En la Iglesia Catedral de St Paul, Londres
a las 3pm el sábado 27 de junio de 2026



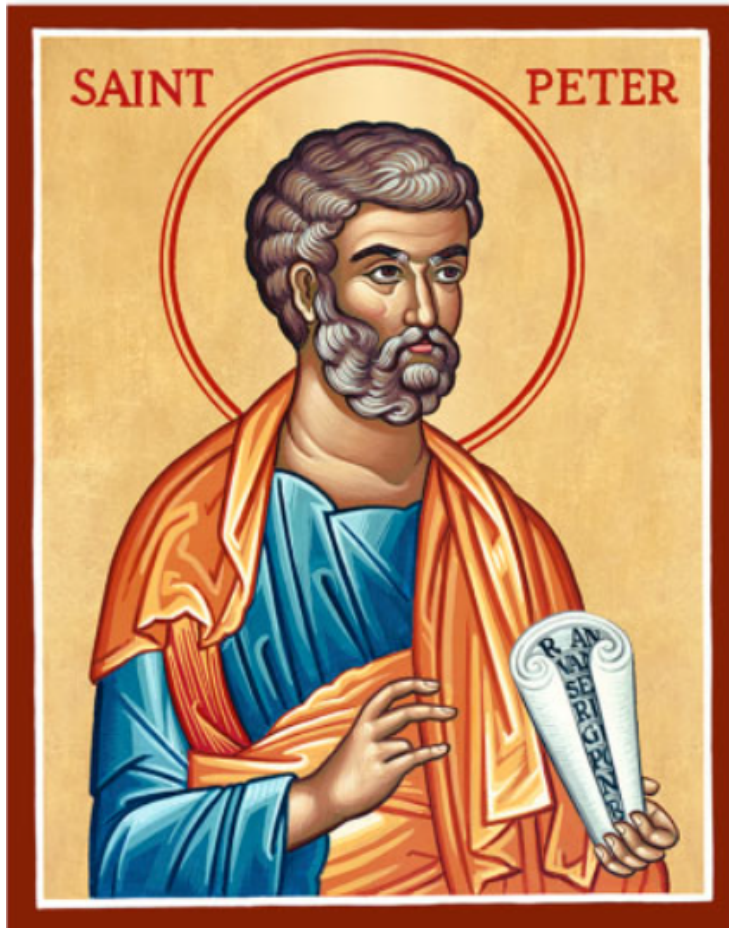
Recen también por la familia y amigos de Carlos,
por el Revdo Jonathan Kester
Vicar of St Peter's Church, Eaton Square
y la comunidad que Carlos servirá.



"Nosotros amamos porque él nos amó primero."

1 Juan 4:19

**OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL
OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE
SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2026**



8 am Holy Eucharist BCP

10.30 am JOINT PARISH MASS

Followed by lunch

3.30 pm CHORAL EVENSONG

Canticles: St. Paul's service - Howells
Anthem: Blessed city, Heavenly Salem - Bairstow

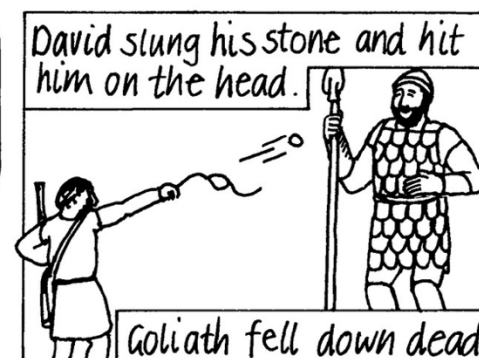
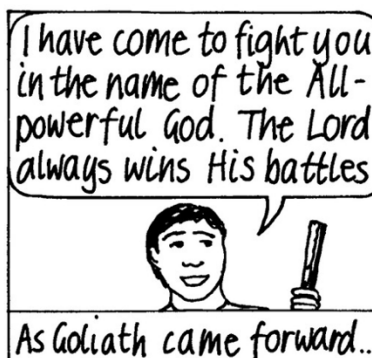
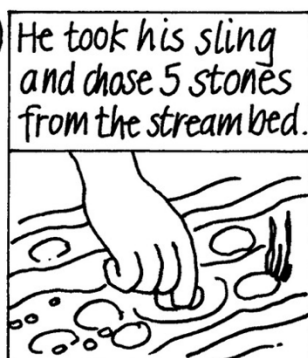
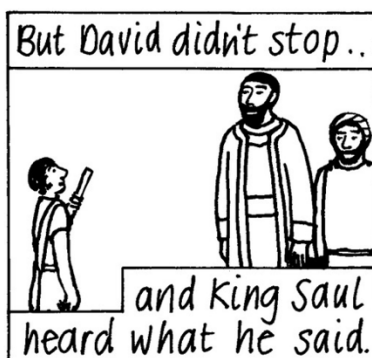
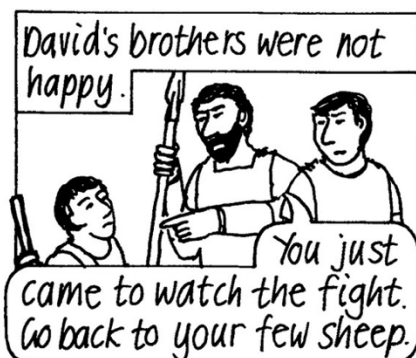
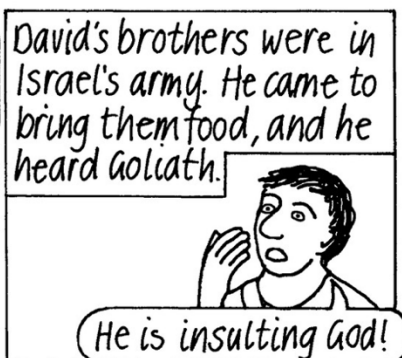
Children's Pages

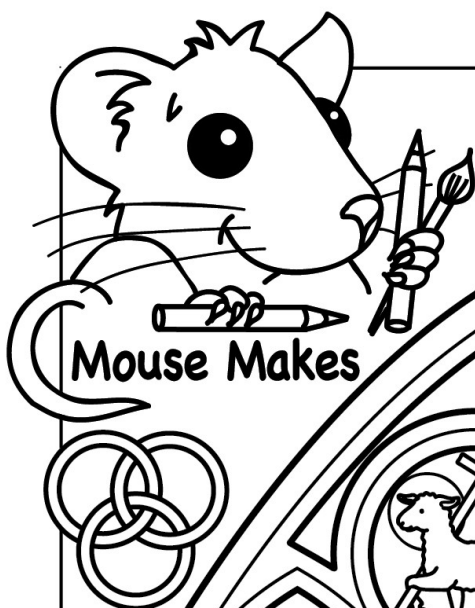
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..





"May the grace of the Lord
JESUS CHRIST and the
love of **GOD** and the
fellowship of the
HOLY SPIRIT be
with you all."

2 Corinthians
13:14



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R L G B F I S
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JESUS • CHRIST

SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
BREAD • WORD • HEALER
VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

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GOD • FATHER

ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
ETERNAL • CREATOR
KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

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E S L G I F T
D S G U I D E
T H E L P E R

HOLY SPIRIT

GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
COMFORTER • GUIDE
ADVOCATE • WISDOM
POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
WIND • FIRE • TEACHER



Recipe

Strawberry mascarpone tart

Ingredients

For the crumb case

- 75g/3oz [butter](#)
- 250g/9oz almond, orange or sweet oat [biscuits](#)

For the filling

- 1 large free-range [egg](#), separated
- 1 tbsp [caster sugar](#)
- 250g/9oz [mascarpone](#)
- 2 drops [vanilla extract](#)
- 250g/9oz fresh [strawberries](#), hulled, thinly sliced



To make the crumb case, melt the butter in a small saucepan.

Method

1. Place the biscuits in a food processor and process to fine crumbs (alternatively, place in a plastic bag and bash with a rolling pin, taking care not to split the bag).
2. Mix the crumbs thoroughly with the melted butter and spoon into a 25cm/10in diameter loose-bottomed flan tin. Press the crumbs firmly over the base and up the sides of the tin to cover completely. Transfer to the fridge to chill until firm.
3. To make the filling, put the egg yolk into a bowl with the caster sugar and beat for a few seconds until thoroughly mixed.
4. Add the mascarpone and beat until thoroughly combined. Stir in the vanilla extract.
5. In a separate bowl, beat the egg white with a clean whisk until stiff peaks form when the whisk is removed from the bowl. Gently fold the egg white into the mascarpone mixture.
6. Remove the biscuit crumb case from the fridge. Spoon the mascarpone mixture into the case and gently smooth the top with a spatula. Arrange the sliced strawberries on top of the mascarpone.
7. Transfer to the fridge and chill. Remove the tart from the fridge 20 minutes before serving.

Our Common Life	
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Assistant Priest Mother Jennifer Midgley-Adam 020 7201 9950 motherjennifer@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk Honorary Assistant Priest Fr Herbert Bennett	Bookkeeper Susan Redwin 020 7235 4482 finance@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
Licensed Lay Minister Dr Judith Richardson 07907 459693	Choral Eucharist Director of Music Andrew John Smith 07545 009607 music@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk Assistant Director of Music (Choral Eucharist Organist) Dan Moulton
Churchwardens Samantha Singlehurst sammiefromlondon@hotmail.com 07930 826475 Ekanem Peers empeers@yahoo.co.uk	Family Eucharist Deputy Director of Music Andrew Sackett andrewjsackett@gmail.com Director Family Eucharist Choir
Hon Treasurer John Hilary jhilary@gmail.com	Resources Committee Convenor: Richard Carter
P.C.C. Secretary Valerie Smith Vasmith440@gmail.com	Formation Group Convenor: Fr Jonathan Kester
Verger/Facilities Coordinator Colin Chadwick 07365 002204 verger@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk	Transformation Group Convenor: TBC

Our Common Life	
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Hospitality Co-Ordinator Raana Khatabakhsh	Communications Group Valerie Smith
Parish Magazine Editor Phoebe Hilary	Safeguarding Officer Raana Khatabakhsh safeguarding@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
School Headteacher Jane Carrington 020 7641 4230	Children's Champion Maite Boudy
	Bible Reading Fellowship Please contact Parish Office for more information
P.C.C. Members Richard Carter Stephen Couttie Robin Duttson Oliver Grant John Hilary Raana Khatabakhsh Alasdair Locke Nicolas Moore David Propert Ekanem Peers Judith Richardson Valerie Smith James Watson Rulaca Cimpoiasu Della Dunsin Jane Franses Sergio Marques	Deanery Synod Richard Carter 020 76414230 Valerie Smith vasmith@btinternet.com Ekanem Peers empeers@yahoo.co.uk Judith Richardson 020 3268 0055
	Lay Eucharistic Ministers Valerie Smith Carl Muller Jane Booth Raana Khatabakhsh Evelyn Olugboja

Sunday Morning Services

Holy Communion BCP	08:00 am
Family Eucharist	09:30 am
Choral Eucharist with our world-class choir	11:00 am

Weekday Eucharist

Each day Monday to Friday	12.30 pm
also Wednesday	08.00 am

Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday at 08:00am
(Excluding Wednesday)

Evening Prayer:
Monday - Friday at 5.00pm

We are open for private prayer Monday – Friday
8.00am – 5.00pm