

A warm welcome to

The Catholic Church of St Osmund in Barnes

Sunday 8 November | Thirty-Second Sunday | Mass Book p152

MASS INTENTIONS & FEASTS

SUNDAY 8th Nov

Thirty-Second Sunday (A) (g)

8:30am Andrzej Kedzierski RIP

10:30am Pro-populo

6:30pm Jack and Mary Ryan RIP

MONDAY 9th Nov

The Dedication of the Lateran Baslica (w)

Holy Souls

TUESDAY 10th Nov

St Leo the Great (w)

Holy Souls

WEDNESDAY 11th Nov

St Martin of Tours (w)

Holy Souls

THURSDAY 12th Nov

St Josaphat (r)

Holy Souls)

FRIDAY 13th Nov

St Frances Xavier Cabrini (w)

Holy Souls

SATURDAY 14th Nov

The Blessed Virgin Mary (w/g)

Holy Souls

SUNDAY 15th Nov

Thirty-Third Sunday (A) (g)

8:30am Eamonn Ted Kenna RIP

10:30am Pro-populo

6:30pm Holy Souls

(r) red (g) green (w) white (p) purple

A word from the presbytery...

It is one of the quietest phrases in the Gospels, and among the most overlooked. In the parable of the ten virgins, read at Mass this Sunday, Our Lord remarks that as the bridegroom was delayed, "they all grew drowsy and slept." All of them: the wise as well as the foolish.

We tend to hear this parable as a summons to sleepless alertness, as though the Christian life were a kind of sentry duty in which any lapse of attention spells disaster. Yet the text will not support that reading. The wise virgins were not distinguished by their stamina. They slept as soundly as their companions. What set them apart was not wakefulness but provision: when the cry went up at midnight, their lamps could be trimmed and lit, because the oil was already there.

This matters. A great deal of religious anxiety rests on the assumption that God requires of us a constant, strained vigilance, and that holiness is measured by how much nervous energy we expend. The parable quietly dismantles that assumption. Human beings tire. Attention wanes. Long delays wear down even the most fervent. Our Lord does not reproach the virgins for sleeping; He takes it as given.

Vigilance, then, is less a matter of keeping our eyes open than of settling our hearts. Newman, in his sermon on watching, describes the one who watches for Christ as someone whose mind is already turned towards Him, as one awaits a friend whose coming is longed for rather than feared. Such watchfulness is not a frantic posture; it is a habit of the soul, formed slowly through prayer, the sacraments and ordinary fidelity. It is precisely what allows a person to rest.

As the liturgical year draws to its close, and the calendar year with it, many of us arrive at November weary. The temptation is to read this Gospel as one more demand on depleted reserves. It is better read as a release. The question it puts to us is not whether we have stayed awake through every hour, but whether, when we sleep, we sleep as those who are ready.

The Psalmist says that the Lord gives to His beloved in sleep. That is the quiet confidence of the wise virgins: having done what could be done in good time, they could lay down their heads in peace. Resilience, in the Christian sense, is not endless endurance. It is the oil already in the flask.

PARISH NOTICES

Remembrance Sunday, 8 November

Today, we call to mind all those who gave their lives in the cause of peace, in the Great War and in the conflicts that have followed. The customary Act of Remembrance will take place at the beginning of the 10.30am Mass, when we shall pray for the fallen and keep a minute's silence in their honour. Some members of our own parish were among those who lost their lives in battle and their names are recorded on the memorial plaques in the narthex and on a commemorative prie-dieu.

November: The Month of the Holy Souls

Masses and prayers will be offered daily for the Holy Souls throughout the month of November. We are all invited to write the names of our departed loved ones in the register in the narthex. Mass Offerings for particular souls, or for the Holy Souls in general, may be made using the envelopes in the narthex, posted through the presbytery letterbox, or via our contactless machines by selecting the Holy Souls option. *May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.*

Operation Elf: Christmas Gifts for Prisoners' Children

This Sunday, Andy Keen-Downs CBE, a parishioner and Chief Executive of Pact, the Catholic charity supporting prisoners and their families, will speak at all Masses about this year's Operation Elf campaign. Please donate new children's books and toys (for babies to teenagers) in the sacks in the narthex by Sunday 15 November. Fathers at Wandsworth Prison will give the gifts to their children at a special Christmas Family Visit. Gifts must be new, unwrapped and cost no more than £15–20; further details are on the poster in the narthex.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE & BEYOND

New Votive Candle Stands

You may have noticed our new votive candle stands, which combine a traditional appearance with current safety standards. They are on trial at present, with a view to purchasing them. If you would like to dedicate a stand in memory of a loved one, please speak to Fr Ola or email the parish office; the large stand costs £738 and the smaller stands £615 each. Please note also that the suggested donation for votive candles has been increased to reflect their rising cost.

First Holy Communion Preparation 2027

Registration is now open for the parish First Holy Communion programme for children aged eight or over, or in Year 3 or above. Please complete the online form using the link below or by scanning the QR code. **There will be a meeting for parents of registered children on Wednesday 2nd December 2026 at 7pm in the Parish Hall.** Completing the form and attending the meeting are both essential.

Confirmation 2027: Preparation Programme

If your child is aged twelve or over, or in Year 8 or above, and wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2027, please register them using the QR code below by Sunday 6 December. We encourage you to speak with your child beforehand, as part of their discernment, about their readiness and willingness to be prepared. The programme will run alongside our parish youth club, with additional content for candidates, and sessions will begin in January and continue until the celebration of the sacrament. **There will be an obligatory meeting for parents of candidates on Monday 7 December at 7pm in the church hall.** A separate programme will be arranged for older teenagers and adults seeking Confirmation.

PARISH DIARY

Parish Youth Club:
Sunday 8 November: 5pm (Hall)

Mothers' Prayers Group:
Tues 10 November: 10:30am (Presbytery)

Family Mass:
Sunday 15 November, 10.30am

St Osmunds Reading Club:
Wednesday 18 November: 7pm (Presbytery)
Our next book is *Shrines of Gaeity*, Kate Atkinson. All welcome.

Art and Faith Lecture with Dr Teresa Lane (Symbolism in Christian Art):

Thursday 19 November, 7.15pm, (Hall)

St Osmund's Christmas Carol Concert:

Friday 11 December: 7.30pm (Hall)

Twelfth Night Dinner:

Saturday 9 January: 7.30pm (Hall)

Parish Hall Enquiries email

All enquiries regarding the use of the parish hall should be sent to the hall bookings address, barneshall@rcaos.org.uk, rather than to the parish office. Using the correct address will ensure that your enquiry receives a prompt response.

Faith and Art Lecture Series:

We welcome back Dr Teresa Lane, Professor of Art History, on Thursday 19 November at 7.15 pm in St Osmund's Parish Hall, to explore symbolism in Christian art, with a special focus on the Holy Trinity. All are welcome, of all faiths and none. Simple refreshments provided; donations welcome.

St Osmund's Youth Club

All young people aged 12-17 are to join our thriving parish youth club which meets on Sundays from 5.00 pm and finishes shortly before the 6.30 pm Mass. Please do encourage the young people of your family and acquaintances to come along and join us. Our next date is Sunday 8 November.

PRAYER LIST

For those who are unwell, especially:

Sr Margaret (Byrnes)
Andrzej Dzierzynski
Audrey Smith
Andrew Brodrick-Ward
Phyllis O'Kelly
Janet Waddington
David Stabb
John Scott
Joan Moore
Charles Stiller
Maureen Carr
Nora Timmins

IN REMEMBRANCE

For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Fergus O'Kelly
Eamonn Ted Kenna
Diana Thompson
Henry Worthington
Patrick Rice
Susan Sardell
Jane O'Neill
Paul Parletti
Christine Wylde

USEFUL INFORMATION

Tea, coffee and cake!

Join us in the Church Hall every Sunday after the 10:30am Mass. Donations welcome.

Car parking

Limited car parking is available at the back of the church.

Recycling

Parish recycling is co-ordinated by the Green Team. Please contact the parish office if you would like to get involved.

Food bank collections

Items for our local food bank can be placed in the container in the Narthex.

Homemade jam and marmalade

Made by one of parishioners, these are available to purchase in the Narthex. Cash or contactless payments welcome.

Sunday Mass Times

8:30am, 10:30am, 6:30pm

Weekday Mass Times

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 10:00am
Thurs 6:30pm
Sat (Latin) 10:00am

Confessions

Fri 9:00-9:50am
Sun 9:45-10:15am & 6:00-6:20pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Fri 9:00-10:00am

For baptisms, weddings and Mass intentions, please contact the Parish Office

SALVE REGINA

Salve Regina, mater misericordiae, vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra salve. Ad te clamamus, exules filii Evae. Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes, in hac lacrimarum valle. Eia ergo, advocate nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos, ad nos converte. Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exsilium ostende. O Clemens, o pia, o dulcis virgo Maria.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION

For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

PARISH GIVING

Thank you for supporting St Osmund's. Your generosity helps maintain our church and sustain parish life.

Full details on all ways to give, including standing orders and Give As You Live (donations when you shop online) can be found on our website or by using the QR code below.

If you are eligible, please consider Gift Aid, which increases your donation by 25% at no extra cost.

Contactless payments: We have several payment portals in the Narthex for easy, instant donations.

BANK DETAILS

Account name:
Barnes St Osmund Main Account

Sort code: 60-01-39

Account number: 11311096

Reference: Surname/Donation Purpose

SECOND COLLECTION

Archbishop's Appeal

Our second collection this weekend is for the support of the Archbishop's Appeal funding key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation, throughout South London and Kent. To find out more see: (*www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal*) Envelopes are available in the Narthex.

Parish Priest: Father Oladele Craig | Parish Administrator: Cath Brizzell
Office hours: 10:00am-2:00pm Tues, Wed, & Fri
020 8748 5833 | barnes@rcaos.org.uk