



# The Catholic Church of St Osmund, Barnes

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**Office Hours:** 10:00am - 2:00pm Tues, Wed, & Fri.

79 Castelnau, Barnes, London SW13 9RT

Website: <https://stosmunds.parishportal.net/>

## Mass Times

**Sundays:** 8.30am, 10.30am, 6.30pm

**Weekdays:** 10am Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri,  
Thurs (6.30pm), Sat (**Latin**) 10am

**Confessions:** Friday 9-9.50am, Sunday 9:45am –  
10:15am & 6pm - 6:20pm

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Fri 9-10am

**Baptisms and Weddings:** Contact the Parish Office.

## Sunday Newsletter Mass Book p118 Sunday 11 January 2026

Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Pro-populo Robertson Family Intentions Holy Souls	(w) The Baptism of the Lord (A)
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	(w) St Aelred of Rievaulx
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00am Mass	Alice Hiller RIP	(w) St Hilary
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00am Mass	Mary and Ellen Donovan and relatives RIP	(g) Feria
Thur 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	6.30pm Mass	Holy Souls	(g) Feria
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00am Mass	Fr Anthony Logan RIP	(g) Feria
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	(w) St Anthony
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Pro-populo Holy Souls Holy Souls	(g) Second Sunday (A)

### The Baptism of the Lord:

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord might seem, at first, like a simple scene. There is a river, a crowd, a prophet, and a brief moment in the water. Then the heavens open. Yet the Church places this feast at the threshold of Ordinary Time because something decisive is shown here. A single truth runs through it all, and it bears repeating until it sinks deep: **Jesus stands with us. Jesus stands with us.**

That is the wonder at the Jordan. Jesus had no sin to confess, no need for a baptism of repentance. Yet he joined the line of those who did. He stood among ordinary people carrying burdens, regrets, and fragile hopes. The Gospels do not show him watching from a distance. They show him walking into the water beside them. They show him receiving what others received, not as a symbol of guilt, but as a sign of solidarity. **Jesus stands with us.**

Each evangelist captures this in his own way. Mark tells it swiftly,

without embellishment, as if the sheer act speaks for itself. Matthew adds John's hesitation—his sense that something about this moment feels reversed. Yet Jesus insists, gentle and unembarrassed. Luke, who frames the baptism within prayer, shows that it was not spectacle but communion. John, who omits the act entirely, bears witness instead to its meaning: the Spirit descends and remains. Across their differences, they reveal the same truth. **Jesus stands with us.**

In *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, Pope Benedict XVI describes the scene as a "descent" into the brokenness of humanity, a first step towards the Cross where he will carry the full weight of sin. Scott Hahn, in *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth*, observes that when the heavens open, it signals the end of separation between God and humanity. The Father's voice, calling Jesus "beloved," resounds precisely when the Son has

placed himself among sinners. Divine love meets human repentance in one embrace. **Jesus stands with us.**

And in *The Activated Disciple*, Jeff Cavins reminds us that Christian discipleship begins where Christ stands—not above the mess of human life, but within it. Baptism, therefore, does not mark superiority; it marks belonging. It calls us to presence, to mercy, to patience. It calls us to stand beside those who struggle, rather than apart from them.

This is why the feast is not about a past event but a present identity. Each time we renew our baptismal promises, we renew that same choice: to stand where Christ stands. To stand with the weary, the penitent, the forgotten. To stand in hope. To stand in love. **Jesus stands with us.**

## **Ecumenical Vespers for Christian Unity – Sunday 25 Jan, 4pm**

On Sunday 25 January, the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul and the Octave Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we shall host a joint Evensong/Vespers here at St Osmund's at 4pm. The service will be led by Fr Ola, with preaching by the Reverend Calum Zuckert, Vicar of St Mary's Barnes. The Choir of St Mary's Church of England, joined by members of our own choir shall be accompanied by ministers from various Christian churches in Barnes. A reception in the hall will follow. Please support this important act of ecumenical worship with our fellow Christians.

## **Ambassadors for Christ: A Catholic apologetics resource**

The Archdiocese of Southwark has launched a project to provide evidence-based answers to questions such as "Is Jesus God?" or "does prayer work?". Ambassadors for Christ is designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of your faith, so you can confidently answer questions and be a joyful witness for the Lord Jesus and his Church. Every Monday, a new video will be posted on YouTube, along with a worksheet to enable parishes, schools, youth groups and families to use them as part of their faith formation. To watch the videos and take part in this exciting project, please visit: ([rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist](http://rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist)).

## **Archdiocesan Pilgrimages for Young Adults**

Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are invited to join Archbishop John on pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 7 to 13 June 2026. The cost is £789, which includes flights and full-board accommodation on a shared basis. To book, please visit:

([www.tinyurl.com/lourdes26](http://www.tinyurl.com/lourdes26))

- Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are also invited to register interest for the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Korea in August 2027 at ([www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027](http://www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027))

- For information about youth activities for all ages across the Archdiocese please visit: ([www.tinyurl.com/scys1](http://www.tinyurl.com/scys1))

## **Foodbank Manager Vacancy**

The Vineyard Community Centre & Richmond Foodbank is seeking a new Foodbank Manager (Part-time, 30 hours per week) to lead this vital ministry, supporting individuals and families facing food insecurity across the borough. This is a key leadership role, and the postholder will need to be a practising Christian. If you sense a calling to this role, or know someone who might be interested, please visit:

(<https://www.charismarecruitment.co.uk/jobs/7641-Foodbank-Manager/>)

Closing date for applications: Thurs 22 Jan 2026.

## **National Year of Reading - Parish Book Club**

This year has been designated the National Year of Reading, an initiative intended to reconnect reading with the interests that already enrich our lives, from music and sport to film, food, and family life. As a parish, we are exploring the possibility of taking part in this campaign. There is a particular desire to foster a parish reading group or book club, working with the parish priest, which would gently encourage the expansion of our reading habits into works that engage thoughtfully with the life of faith, theology, and Christian spirituality. Anyone who might be willing to assist in helping to shape, organise, or coordinate this initiative should speak with Father Ola after Mass, or contact the parish office by email. The commitment would not be onerous, and there is ample scope for creativity in how such a group might take form. Many thanks in advance for your interest and generosity.

## **Sick List**

For the sick and the suffering Paddy Grafton-Green, James and Audrey Smith, Phyllis O'Kelly, John Scott, Janet Waddington, Andrew Brodrick-Ward, Joan Moore, Maureen Carr, Eddie Henshaw, Charles Stiller, and Bridget Jabour.

## **In Remembrance**

For those who have died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Kathleen Curran, Anne Harvey, Frank Marsh, Loretta Jones, Peter Keane, Henrich Rittweiler and Wendy McEnery.

## **Alma Redemptoris Mater**

*Alma Redemptoris Mater, quæ pèrvia cæli  
Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadènti,  
Súrgere qui curat pópulo: tu quæ genuísti,  
Natúra miránte, tuum sanctum Genitórem  
Virgo prius ac postérius, Gabriélis ab ore  
Sumens illud Ave, peccatórum miserére.*

## **QR code for DONA portal donations St Osmunds**

Please use the QR code below to make a contactless donation to the parish.



You can also set-up a one-off donation or stipend online directly from your bank. Use the following details and include your surname and type of donation in the reference field. (ie Surname/Mass Intention, Surname/FHC, Surname/General Donation)

**Name of Bank:** Natwest

**Sort Code:** 600139

**Account #:** 11311096

**Account Name** - Barnes St Osmund Main Account