



The Catholic Church of St Osmund, Barnes

Parish Priest: Fr Oladele Craig

Parish Secretary: Cath Brizzell. Tel:020 8748 5833 or barnes@rcaos.org.uk

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 p125

Sunday 18 January 2026

Sun 18 th Jan	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Louise Musante RIP Private Intention Holy Souls	(g) Second Sunday (A)
Mon 19 th Jan	10.00am Mass	James Donovan RIP	(w) St Wulstan
Tues 20 th Jan	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	(r) St Fabian
Wed 21 st Jan	10.00am Mass	William Edward Oakden RIP	(r) St Agnes
Thur 22 nd Jan	6.30pm Mass	Rev Frank Ryan RIP	(r) St Vincent
Fri 23 rd Jan	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	(g) Feria
Sat 24 th Jan	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	(w) St Frances de Sales
Sun 25 th Jan	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Eileen Gasson RIP Pro-populo Holy Souls	(g) Third Sunday (A)

Extraordinary Grace in "Ordinary" Time

As the festive lights of Christmas are packed away and the "January blues" settle in, the Church enters a season we call **Ordinary Time**. To the casual observer, the name suggests something plain or unexciting—a mundane stretch of the calendar. However, the term actually derives from the word **ordinal**, meaning "numbered." It is a rhythmic counting of the weeks that lead us through the life and ministry of Jesus. Far from being "simple," this season is an invitation to find the extraordinary presence of God within the regular patterns of our lives.

This Sunday, the liturgy bridges the gap between the wonder of Christ's birth and the beginning of his public mission. In the Gospel of John (1:29-34), we encounter John the Baptist at a pivotal moment. He sees Jesus approaching and cries

out: *"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."*

What follows is a masterclass in Christian discipleship. John the Baptist was a man of immense influence, with his own followers and a reputation that shook Jerusalem. Yet, when the Messiah appears, John does not seek to share the spotlight. Instead, he engages in a profound act of **self-diminution**. He admits, *"I did not know him,"* and insists that his own role was merely to prepare the way through water, so that the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit might be revealed.

John's humility is the blueprint for our own journey through these numbered weeks. In a culture that demands we "brand" ourselves and seek constant recognition, the Baptist whispers a different truth: we are at our most effective when we point away from ourselves and toward Christ. This is the essence of the "ordinary" disciple—to be a conduit

rather than a destination. St. Augustine famously noted that John is merely the "voice," while the Lord is the "Word." A voice exists only to carry the message; once the Word is heard, the voice naturally fades so the truth may resonate.

This discipline of stepping back allows the glory of God to become visible in our daily actions. **St. Bernard of Clairvaux** captured this spirit of holy redirection when he wrote, *"The man who is wise will see his life as more like a reservoir than a canal. The canal filters out as much as it takes in, but the reservoir waits to be filled before it overflows."* By emptying ourselves of the need for prominence, we become reservoirs of his grace. As we move into this season, our task is to embrace this "ordinary" path of John—to decrease so that Christ may increase, and to find our purpose in simply saying to the world, "Behold the Lamb."

There will be no Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday 23 January. However, there will be Mass at 10 am.

Parish Diary:

First Holy Communion: Sun 18 Jan, 9am (Hall) and 5pm (Church).

Confirmation: Sun 18 Jan 4.30pm (Hall)

Catholicism for the Curious: Mon 19 Jan, 6:30pm (Hall)

The funeral service of Vincenzo Dallaglio RIP will be held at St Osmunds Church on Tuesday 27 January at 11.30 am. For more information please use the following link:

(<https://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notices/23-12-2025-vincenzo-dallaglio/>)

Burns Night

Please join the St. Osmund's PTFA on Saturday, 24 Jan in St Osmunds Church Hall for a celebration of poet Robert Burns! There will be ceilidh dancing, an 'address to the haggis', Scottish canapés, and whiskey cocktails on the bar. Tickets are £25 each and include a welcome glass of prosecco, canapés, dancing and a parting gift. All parishioners are welcome! Please follow the link below for tickets - which are sure to go fast. It will be a night tae remember!

(<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q1PBNW9I>)

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

Next Sunday, 25 Jan, on 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?". Every Monday, a new video will be posted on YouTube, along with a worksheet to enable groups to use them as part of their faith formation. For more information, please visit: (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)

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: Adrian Palmer, Helen Humphreys, Anthony Fonseca, George Frank Gibbons and Veronica Middleton.

Alma Redemptoris Mater

*Alma Redemptoris Mater, quæ pærvia cæli
Porta manes, et stella maris, succûrre cadénti,
Sûrgere qui curat pôpulo: tu quæ genuísti,
Natûra mirânte, tuum sanctum Genitôrem
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