

# **CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST CHRISTOPHER CHEAM**



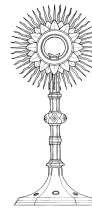
*St. Christopher*



## **PARISH DIRECTORY**

Published by Parish Office

This Directory is intended to serve as a guide to the many activities which take place throughout the Parish year, and as a general supplement to the weekly Newsletter. Additional and/or updated information on parish activities will be gratefully received by Mrs Vivienne Rozmanowski, Parish Secretary, for inclusion in future issues.



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** takes place at 9.00 am before the 10.00 am Mass on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

**Advocacy Partners** provide a variety of mental health services for adults and children, both in the community and in-patient facilities. To find out more please telephone 020 8773 3692 or visit <https://www.swlstg.nhs.uk/our-services>

**Altar Boys and Girls** serve at Masses and other ceremonies throughout the Church year. Volunteers are always welcome. For further information please contact the Parish Office - telephone 020 3649 5994, email [cheam@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:cheam@rcaos.org.uk).



**Anointing of the Sick** is administered whenever requested by parishioners at home or in one of the local nursing homes. This sacrament may be received as often as required.

**Association for the Propagation of the Faith (Missio)** operates a fund-raising scheme based on collection boxes which are retained in parishioners' homes and collected periodically for counting and despatch. For further information please contact the Parish Office.

**Baptisms** are normally celebrated on Saturday mornings. For more information, please speak to Fr Antony or contact the Parish Office on 020 3649 5994 or [cheam@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:cheam@rcaos.org.uk)



**Book Rack** at the back of the church provides a selection of free religious books and leaflets.

**Bridge** drives are held weekly. The St Christopher's Bridge Club is a friendly group that meets on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. Parishioners interested in participating may wish to contact the organisers of the club via the Parish Office.



**CAFOD Fast Days** are held twice a year, in Lent and October. CAFOD envelopes and newsletters are available at the back of the church for those who wish to make regular contributions.

**Car Parking** in the church precincts is reserved for parishioners who are asked to display a special permit on the windscreen of their vehicle. Permits are available from the Parish Office. Parishioners should park in the marked bays only.

When parking cars in Tabor Gardens parishioners are kindly requested to park with thought and consideration for local residents and in particular to avoid causing any restriction of access to residents' driveways. Parking is permitted on the single yellow lines at any time except 1100 – 1200 on Monday to Friday, but parking is never permitted on the double yellow or double red lines.

In the interests of safety and reverence please also ensure that children are restrained from playing/running around in the car park after Sunday Mass.

**St Raphael's Hospice** North Cheam, relies heavily on volunteers to help their work of providing exceptional care to the terminally ill. Drivers, Ward Carers, Receptionists and Day-Care Assistants are regularly required. For further information please contact the Voluntary Services Co-ordinator – telephone 020 8099 7777.

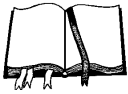
**Southwark Catholic Directory** is published annually and gives details of Catholic churches and Mass times for Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation in the Diocese, diocesan agencies and other helpful information.

**Vocations for the Priesthood** and the religious life are vital to the continuity of the Church. Those considering a vocation are invited to contact the Diocesan Vocations Director: Father John Diver, 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup DA15 7HB. Telephone: 020 8300 2480. Email: [info@southwarkvocations.com](mailto:info@southwarkvocations.com)

**Volunteers** are always needed to help with events organised for the elderly members of our parish and to transport them on an occasional basis. From time to time the parish also holds senior citizens' lunches, for which volunteers are also welcome. If you can help in any of these ways, please contact the Parish Office on 020 3649 5994.

**Parish Priest** resides at The Priest's House, 59 Tabor Gardens, Cheam SM3 8RU - telephone 020 8642 2088.

**Parish Socials** are held regularly throughout the year in the parish hall. Details of the varying events are advertised in the newsletter. All are welcome. .



**Reading** at Mass and for other ceremonies is provided by a team of volunteers who carry out this duty by rotation. New readers are always welcome and are invited to inform the Parish Office of their interest.

**Rosary** is said on weekdays before the 10.00 am Mass.



**Safeguarding** It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. Further safeguarding information can be found on the parish website. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are: Kim O'Brien (07711 757399) & Angela Pitcher (07818 516321).

**Saturday Social Circle** (for those who live alone) meets once a month on Saturday afternoon. Members of the group also meet for coffee after the 10.00 am Mass on Tuesday and for other social events. For further information please contact the Parish Office.

**Catechists** are parishioners who give their time to prepare children and young people for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation, and who conduct the Children's Liturgy. Anyone interested in becoming a catechist should contact the Parish Priest who will put them in touch with the relevant co-ordinator. It is not necessary to have any expert qualifications to be a catechist and many parents have found great fulfilment in assisting in the preparation of candidates for the Sacraments of the Church. Please note that this voluntary post requires a Disclosure and Barring Service check.



**Catenian Association** is an organisation of Catholic professional and business men who meet monthly with the primary objective of fostering friendship and a spirit of constructive mutual support amongst themselves and their families. The obligations of membership are not onerous either in terms of duties or financial commitment.

**Children's Liturgy** is conducted in the parish hall during the 10.00 am Mass on Sundays to encourage children to develop their understanding of the Mass. Anyone interested in assisting with Children's Liturgy should speak to the Parish Priest or contact the Parish Office who will put them in touch with the Children's Liturgy Co-ordinator. Please note that this voluntary post requires a Disclosure and Barring Service check.



**Choir** provides music for the liturgy on Sundays at the 10.00 am Mass and on other major feasts. The choir leads the singing at other Parish services, and at weddings and funerals on request. Rehearsals are held in the church on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm.

New members are most welcome. Ability to read music is not essential. For further information please contact the Director of Music via the parish office.

**Church Cleaning** takes place each week on a Thursday morning after the 10.00 am Mass. Volunteers are always needed and are asked please to contact the Parish Administrator.



**Coffee** and refreshments are served in the parish hall after the 10.00 am Mass on Sunday. Please add your name to the coffee helpers rota if you would like to help, by contacting the Parish Office. Coffee is also served after the 10.00 am Mass on Fridays.

**Confession** (Sacrament of Reconciliation) is available before the 10.00 am weekday Mass and on Saturdays between 10.30—11.00 am and 5.00—5.30 pm.



**Confirmation** (Sacrament) takes place every two years. Candidates from age 12+ and in years 8 and 9 (or higher years) at secondary school are asked to apply for Confirmation when they feel ready. A team of catechists conduct a course leading up to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Classes are held in the parish hall from on Friday evenings. For further information please contact the Parish Priest or the Parish Office.



**Parish Council** is the principal consultative body in the Parish. Membership is as follows:

*Ex-Officio Members:* Parish Priest  
Parish Secretary  
Parish Treasurer  
Parish MC  
Director of Music  
Choir Leader  
Deanery Pastoral Council Representative  
Ecumenical Representative

*Parish Group Representatives:* Catechists  
Church Cleaners  
Church Flower Arranging Team  
Ministers of the Eucharist  
Parish Social Group  
Readers  
Senior Citizens  
Youth Ministry

**Parish Hall** serves as a community meeting point for people of the parish. It is available also to rent for various meetings arranged by parishioners and existing hall users. Otherwise the use of the hall is restricted to Parish, Diocesan, Catholic and Sacramental activities.

**Parish Office** is at: St Christopher's Church, Dallas Road, Cheam SM3 8RS - telephone 020 3649 5994. The office administers the day-to-day business of the Parish, and is open from 9.00 am—1.00 pm, Mondays to Fridays inclusive. It is accessible via the door on the far right-hand side of the church. The Parish Administrator may also be contacted by email ([cheam@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:cheam@rcaos.org.uk)). Items for inclusion in the weekend newsletter should be submitted not later than the preceding Wednesday.

**Newcomers** are warmly welcomed to the parish and are kindly requested to take a newcomer's leaflet from the front porch of the church or the sacristy and complete and return the enclosed form. Contact will then be made by the Parish Office and information will be sent to you inviting you to participate in parish activities of your choice.

**Newsletter** is published weekly and is distributed at all weekend Masses providing information on current activities. Items for inclusion in the weekend newsletter should be made available to the Parish office by not later than the preceding Wednesday.

**Offerings** for the support of our Parish Priest are made on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.

**Organ Playing** for occasional Sunday Mass – if you can play the piano to about grade 6 standard you have the potential to learn to play the organ with proficiency. For further information please contact the Director of Music via the Parish Office.



**Parents and Toddlers Group** meets during school term on Wednesday mornings in the parish hall from 9.45–11.15 am. There is usually a waiting list and for further information please contact the organisers via the Parish Office.



**Ecumenical Contact** is maintained with neighbouring churches through the Annual Cheam Christian Unity Service and is actively encouraged within the Parish.

**Emergency Contact Numbers** for a priest:

- 8642 2088 - St Christopher's, Cheam
- 8641 3141 - St Cecilia's, North Cheam
- 8642 0275 - Our Lady of the Rosary, Sutton
- 8641 7458 - Holy Family, Sutton Green

**Finance** and fund-raising is an important activity in the parish. Details of weekly and monthly income are published in the Newsletter. A special 'finance weekend' is held annually in April/May, in the course of which the parish income and expenditure account is published for the preceding calendar year.

**First Holy Communion** classes are held on Saturdays during term-time, for children in year 3. A team of parish catechists prepare the children for their first reconciliation and First Holy Communion in May/June.



**Flowers** in the church are arranged during the week by a team of volunteers who work on a rota basis. If you would like to lend your expertise on an occasional basis, please contact the Parish Office on 020 3649 5994 or email [cheam@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:cheam@rcaos.org.uk)



**Funerals** are conducted at St Christopher's if the deceased was resident in the parish or attended St Christopher's regularly; otherwise, the family is directed to the appropriate parish. Funerals can be arranged with Truelove's Funeral Directors on Cheam High Street (telephone 020 8642 3300), or any funeral director of choice. The funeral liturgy is arranged by families in consultation with the Parish Priest. Liturgical guidelines are available from the Parish Office.

**Gift Aid** is a system by which the financial contributions made by taxpayers to the parish can further benefit the parish by qualifying for a tax refund at the rate of 25% on the amounts paid. For further information please contact the the Parish Office on 020 3649 5994.

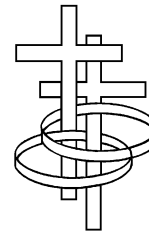
**Holy Days of Obligation** are The Epiphany of the Lord (6 January), The Ascension of the Lord (Thursday after 6th Sunday of Easter), St Peter & St Paul (29 June), Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15 August), All Saints (1 November), and Nativity of the Lord (25 December). For Mass times - see entry under **Mass Times**.

**Job Vacancies** available locally in Catholic organisations are advertised from time to time in the weekly Newsletter.

**Journey in Faith** is a study programme for those wishing to be baptised or to be received into the Catholic Church. For further information please contact the Parish Priest.

**Knights of St Columba** are a world-wide fraternal benefit society formed to provide religious and civic usefulness. The local council meets in the parish hall on the third Tuesday of each month. For further information please contact the Parish Office.

**Lost Property** may be found in the front porch of the church or enquiries directed to the Parish Office.



**Marriages** and convalidation of civil marriages are arranged by appointment with the Parish Priest. It is the policy of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales that at least six months' notice be given, but it is quite usual for couples to see the priest one year before they plan to marry. Marriages are conducted for parishioners or for those who attend St Christopher's regularly.

**Mass Intentions** can be arranged with the Parish Office. Mass offering envelopes are available from sacristy. Completed envelopes should be posted in the parish office letter box.

**Mass Times** are at 6.00 pm on Saturday (Vigil Mass) and at 10.00 am and 12.00 noon on Sundays. The 10.00 am Mass is sung, and incorporates a children's Liturgy of the Word.

Weekday Mass time is at 10.00 am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

On Holy Days of Obligation (see entry) Masses are at 10.00 am and at 8.00 pm. Current information is available in the weekly Newsletter.

**Ministers of the Eucharist** perform this duty by rotation at all Masses and also administer the Eucharist to the sick and housebound.