



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.

Eighth Sunday (C) Mass Book p144 Sunday, 2 March 2025

Date	Time	Intention	Feast
Sun 2 nd Mar	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Georgina Chevallier and Jozef Langiewicz RIP Marie Bonnon RIP Michael McCormack RIP	Eighth Sunday (C)
Mon 3 rd Mar	10.00am Mass	Vincent Herbert Egan and family RIP	Feria
Tues 4 th Mar	10.00am Mass		St Casimir
Wed 5th Feb	10.00am Mass 6.30pm Mass		Ash Wednesday - Day of fasting and abstinence
Thur 6 th Mar	6.30pm Mass	Agnes Foley RIP	Feria
Fri 7 th Mar	10.00am Mass		Collect of Sts Perpetua and Felicity
Sat 8 th Mar	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls	Feria
Sun 9 th Mar	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Edward Collini RIP James Sacré and Cathie Sacré-Eassie RIP Pro-populo	First Sunday of Lent (C)

Reflection

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus poses a piercing question: "*Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?*" (Luke 6:39). It is a sobering image, one that speaks not only of physical blindness but of the deeper, more dangerous blindness of the soul. Jesus warns against hypocrisy, urging us first to remove the plank from our own eye before attending to the speck in our brother's. His words are not merely an ethical lesson - they are a call to true conversion, to a purification of heart that allows us to see with the eyes of Christ.

This is the invitation of Lent, which begins on Wednesday with the imposition of ashes, a visible sign of our mortality and our need for

repentance.

Yet it is easy to approach Lent with a superficial understanding, reducing it to an annual exercise in self-denial, as if the essence of the season were simply to forego chocolates or sugar in tea. But why do we give anything up at all? If our fasting is only about restraint, it becomes a burden rather than a path to freedom. The true purpose of Lent is not deprivation for its own sake but the making of space - letting go of even good things in order to prepare a place for Christ.

Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are not ends in themselves but means to an interior cleansing, a stripping away of all that clutters the soul. When rightly undertaken, they enable us to recognise the deeper attachments

that hinder our growth in holiness. Are we blinded by

pride? Do we hold onto comforts that shield us from a real dependence on God?

True fasting goes beyond mere habit—it is an act of love, a surrender that makes room for divine grace.

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us: "*Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One and to find the truth of our existence*" May this sacred season grant us the courage to see ourselves honestly and, in doing so, to walk more surely in the light of Christ.

Season of Lent

This Wednesday marks Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a season of penitence, reflection, and renewal. It is a day of Abstinence, and in keeping with the spirit of this sacred time, all are encouraged to attend Mass. The imposition of ashes will take place during Mass, serving as an outward sign of our inward repentance and commitment to spiritual renewal. Two Masses will be celebrated in the parish:

10am: With the pupils of St Osmund's School,
6:30pm: Evening Mass

Let us enter this holy season with hearts open to God's grace.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

The Stations of the Cross, a cherished Lenten devotion, will be prayed communally each Sunday of Lent at 5:30 pm. This prayerful journey with Christ on the way to Calvary invites us to meditate on His Passion and deepen our own spiritual preparation for Easter. All are warmly encouraged to take part in this traditional prayer of the Church as we walk together in faith through this sacred season.

Rite of Election for those entering the Catholic Church

On Saturday, 8 March, at 12 noon, St George's Cathedral will host the Rite of Election, a significant milestone for those preparing to enter the Catholic Church at Easter. Adults from across the Archdiocese who are to be baptised or received into full communion will gather with the Archbishop for this special liturgy. Among them will be three members of our own congregation, who are currently journeying towards this moment of deep commitment in faith. Please keep them in your prayers as they take this important step in their spiritual preparation.

Called to Bear Fruit

We continue to encourage every member of our parish to take part in the on-going consultation requested by the Archbishop. Anyone wanting to join small groups of 4-7 people to take part in the "Called to Bear Fruit" consultation being organised by Southwark Diocese covering themes in the "Called to Bear Fruit" booklets is very welcome to contact one of the group facilitators Stephen Donnelly at (donnellysm@hotmail.com) who will be running groups on Sun 2 and 16 March 9.15-10.15am in the Priest's house. Let him know if you would like to join at that time, or just turn up - it may help if you've been able to consider the questions beforehand. If some of you wish to form other groups, please feel free to do so.

Help needed - church brass and silver cleaning

We are still looking for a couple of extra volunteers to help join a team to polish candles holders and other brassware especially in preparation for major festivals (Christmas and Easter). Occasional hours only. Training will be provided. Please contact the parish office (barnes@rcaos.org.uk) or speak to Fr Ola if you have a few hours to spare.

Mozart Requiem – Sat 22 March

Members of our parish will be performing with The Thames Philharmonic Choir, singing Mozart Requiem, Regina Coeli Divertimento in D, featuring Marianna Martines, on Sat 22 March, 7.30pm at Cadogan Hall, SW1X 9DG. Call the Box Office on 0207730 4500 for tickets or see (cadoganhall.com) for more information.

Gift aid envelopes

Please collect your named Gift Aid box from the narthex containing envelopes up to April 2026. If you are expecting a box and cannot see your name, please contact the parish office: (barnes@rcaos.org.uk).

QR code for DONA portal donations St Osmunds

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

**Sick List**

For the sick and the suffering especially Janet Waddington, James and Audrey Smith, Teresa Cockburn, Andrew Brodrick-Ward, Joan Moore, Susan Kelsey, Maureen Carr, Eddie Henshaw, Charles Stiller, and Bridget Jabour.

In Remembrance

For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Julie Cunningham, Marie Bonnon, Mattie Worthington, Margaret Minch and Mark, Cathie Sacré -Eassie, Annie Macklow-Smith, Edward Collini, Tony Hallam, Pauline Calvery, Ralph Hedderwick, Maria Paz Figueroa, Margaret Quinlan and Mary McGowan.

Ave Regina Caelorum:

*Ave, Regina Caelorum,
Ave, Domina Angelorum:
Salve, radix, salve, porta
Ex qua mundo lux est orta:
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,
Super omnes speciosa,
Vale, o valde decora,
Et pro nobis Christum exora.*