

Our Lady Help of Christians

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The parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT)



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME **13TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest
Fr Allan Alvarado Gil
allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Secretary
Liliana Bragadin
kentishtown@rcdow.org.uk

Parish office open:

Mon - Thur
10:00am - 12:00md

Safeguarding Officer
Claire Betts
kentishtownsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Morning Prayer:
Tue - Fri: 10:00 am

Exposition:
Fri: 10:45am - 11:15 am

Masses Times:
Tue - Fri: 10:15 am

Masses during the week are celebrated in the daily Chapel

Saturday: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am (Sung Mass)
11:00 am (Family Mass with Children's Liturgy)

Church opening hours:

Tuesdays to Fridays
9:30 am to 4.00 pm

LAST WEEK COLLECTION
£ 349.78

STANDING ORDERS AUGUST
£ 4,152.00

CONTACTLESS INCOME AUGUST
£ 0

Thank you!

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT)
Registered Charity No: 233699

I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven
(Mt 18:21-35)

Meditation: Does mercy overlook justice? Justice demands that everyone be given their due. So, when is it right to show mercy and pardon to those who have acted unjustly or wrongly? The prophet Amos speaks of God forgiving transgression three times, but warns that God may not revoke punishment for the fourth (see Amos 1:3-13; 2:1-6). When Peter posed the question of forgiveness, he characteristically offered an answer he thought Jesus would be pleased with. Why not forgive seven times! How unthinkable for Jesus to counter with the proposition that one must forgive seventy times that.

No limit to granting forgiveness and pardon

Jesus makes it clear that there is no limit to giving and receiving forgiveness. He drove the lesson home with a parable about two very different kinds of debts. The first man owed an enormous sum of money - millions in our currency. In Jesus' time this amount was greater than the total revenue of a province - more than it would cost to ransom a king! The man who was forgiven such an incredible debt could not, however, bring himself to forgive his neighbour a very small debt which was about one-hundred-thousandth of his own debt. The contrast could not have been greater!

Jesus paid our ransom to set us free from the debt of sin

No offense our neighbour can do to us can compare with our own personal debt to God for offending him! We have been forgiven an enormous debt we could not repay on our own. That is why the Father in heaven sent his only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who freely and willing gave up his life for our sake to ransom us from slavery to sin, Satan, and death. Paul the Apostle states, "you were bought with a price" (1 Cor 7:23) and that price was Jesus' death on the cross. Through the shedding of his blood on the cross, Jesus not only brought forgiveness and pardon for our offenses, but release from our captivity to Satan and bondage to sin.

Set free from futile thinking and sinful living

The Lord Jesus sets us free from a futile mind and way of living in sin and spiritual darkness. "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers ...with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Pt 1:18). Christ "gave himself to redeem us from all iniquity" (Ti 2:14). Iniquity describes the futile ways of wrong thinking, sinful attitudes and wrong behaviour, and disregarding or treating God's commandments lightly. We have been forgiven an enormous debt which we could never possibly repay. We owe God a debt of gratitude for the mercy and grace he has given us in his Son, Jesus Christ.

Forgiving others is a sacred duty

If God has shown mercy to us in granting us pardon for our sins, then we, in turn, must show mercy and forgiveness towards every person who has offended us. The willingness to forgive those who offend us is a sacred duty. If we expect God to pardon us and show us his mercy when we sin and disobey his commandments, then we must be willing to let go of any resentment, grievance, or ill-will we feel towards our neighbour. Jesus teaches us to pray daily for the grace and strength to forgive others in the same measure in which God has forgiven us (Mt 6:12,14-15). If we do not show mercy and forgiveness to our fellow human beings, how can we expect God to forgive us in turn? The Apostle James says that "*judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy*" (Jm 2:13).

Mercy seasons justice and perfects it

Mercy is the flip-side of God's justice. Without mercy justice is cold, calculating, and even cruel. Mercy *seasons* justice as*sault* seasons meat and gives it flavour. Mercy follows justice and perfects it. Justice demands that the wrong be addressed. To show mercy without addressing the wrong and to pardon the unrepentant is not true mercy but license. C.S. Lewis, a 20th century Christian author wrote: "Mercy will flower only when it grows in the crannies of the rock of Justice: transplanted to the marshlands of mere Humanitarianism, it becomes a man-eating weed, all the more dangerous because it is still called by the same name as the mountain variety." If we want mercy shown to us we must be ready to forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven us. Do you hold any grudge or resentment towards anyone? Ask the Lord to purify your heart that you may show mercy and loving-kindness to all - and especially to those who cause you grief and ill-will.

Fr Allan

PARISH ACTIVITIES

TEAS AFTER MASSES

TEAS after masses in the Don Bosco Hall:

After 9am Mass every Sunday.

After 11am Mass once a fortnight

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This takes place during the Liturgy of the Word at the 11am Mass.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION SESSIONS

Every Thursday at 4pm in the Day Chapel (Session lasts about 30 minutes).

OVER 60's BINGO CLUB

The over 60's Bingo Club, run by SanKTus, takes place on Tuesdays morning. All parishioners and friends in our local community are most welcome to join us and there is the chance of winning a cash prize!
The programme is as follows:
Refreshments – 10.40am,
Bingo 11.00 – 12.00 pm,
Two Course Meal -12noon –1pm.
There is a charge of £5 to cover all activities.

FREE HOT LUNCH SERVICE

SanKTus also offers a free hot lunch service to all-comers on Sunday afternoon at 2pm and a sandwich service on Wednesdays. Prospective volunteers to help with any part of this activity are invited to get in touch with Richard Mallon at sanktus.welfare@gmail.com

REPOSITORY

The repository is open on Sundays from 10:30-12:00
Anne, our dedicated volunteer, has enriched the offer with a greater choice for Christmas Mass Cards, Advent Calendars, Candles, Cribs and Diaries. Please come as numerous as possible! Thank you.

OLHC GOSPEL CHOIR

After a successful performance at the Castlehaven celebrations, we are making plans for performances at Christmas.

Please feel free to join us in Tuesday 15th September at 6.30pm, in the hall on Falkland Road.

We're looking forward to what *Singing together .. brings us and where it will take us...*

CONTACTLESS



Our Machine is not working, please donate by scanning the QR code with your phone.

Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Intention
Sat 12th	6:00 pm	Jean Motan & Jackie Ansley (RIP)
Sun 13th	9:00 am	Roland De Souza (RIP)
	11:00 am	For the People of the Parish
Tues 15th	10:00 am	Roland De Souza (RIP)
Wed 16th	10:00 am	Marian's intentions
Thu 17th	10:00 am	
Fri 18th	10:00 am	
Sat 19th	6:00 pm	For the People of the Parish

ALTAR SERVERS

A reminder of our invitation to all those who made their Holy Communion this year who would like to join our excellent group of Alter Servers at the 6pm Mass on Saturday or the 09 am Mass on Sunday or at the Family Mass at 11 am on Sunday.

Please see Fr Allan, Akua, Tom or Jackie for more information.

BAPTISM PREPARATION 2026

The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held **on Friday 18 September to Friday 2 October,** from 7:30—8:30 pm. Please contact the office to book a place.

Bright Women, Bold Futures

La Sainte Union CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We are delighted to invite prospective students and their families to our upcoming Open Events.

Come and explore our outstanding facilities, dedicated careers centre and learn about our inspiring work in STEM and the Performing Arts. Meet our passionate staff, speak to current students, and discover how we support every girl to achieve her bold future.

Open Evening: Tuesday 29th September 2025 4pm-7pm (no booking required)

Open Mornings: Tuesday 13th October and Thursday 15th October (book on website)

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Scan the QR code with your Phone