

St Matthew's Newsletter 26th July 2026

Message from the Vicar

Dear friends,

The Roman Catholic Church has been the dominant Christian tradition in Latin America for generations, but recently this has begun to change as increasing numbers of people have joined lively Evangelical Protestant churches. A few years ago, a Catholic professor at the University of Peru conducted hundreds of 'exit interviews' with those who had made this move, in order to understand why they had left Catholicism. He found that it boiled down to four key things which Evangelical churches were perceived to do better than the Catholic Church:

- a personal encounter with Jesus Christ
- meaningful community life
- biblical teaching and formation
- commitment to mission

Across the Church of England, including here in this Diocese, most of our largest churches are on the Evangelical wing of Anglicanism. More traditional, liturgical churches like our own can sometimes feel challenged, and even threatened, by this reality, and yet there is no reason why churches of all traditions should not be growing. The four characteristics listed above are marks of a healthy church, and every parish can and should be applying them.

Here at St Matthew's, we are already doing much of this work, but there is always room to grow. How can we deepen people's encounter with Jesus Christ? How can we strengthen our community so that everyone feels welcomed, included, and valued? How can we continue to teach the faith with confidence and depth? How can we do more to go out beyond the church walls and take our message to those in our community? These are all questions to prayerfully ponder – and if you have any ideas, I would love to hear them!

With my prayers,

Father George

This week's Services

Sunday 26th July – St. James

10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

All are Welcome to Tea, Coffee, and biscuits which will be served in the Lounge and Family Room after the Service.

Tuesday

7:30 pm Phone-in Service

Wednesday

7 pm Mass in the Chapel

Thursday

10 am Mass in the Chapel

11 am Messy Church

Friday

10 am Mass in the Chapel

Sunday 2nd August –9th Sunday after Trinity

10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

All are Welcome to Tea, Coffee, and biscuits which will be served in the Lounge and Family Room after the Service.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Fr. George

Email fr.george.reeves@gmail.com

Phone 07507 312 040

Fr Douglas (Area Dean):

Tel. 07570 953169 E-mail:

ad.handsworthandcentral@cofebirmingham.com

Ann Harrison (Parish Administrator)

Parish Office (open weekday mornings)

Tel. 07467 832601, E-mail: ann_harrison1@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwardens:

Janet Cook Tel. 07957 282433 Email: janet@dandjcook.co.uk

Tim Bartlett Tel. 07957 415887 Email: tabartlett64@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

Friday Coffee Mornings

All are welcome for Coffee/Tea and Cake in The Lounge

Every Friday 11am – 1pm

Bereavement and Friendship Group

If you've suffered a bereavement or are feeling isolated and lonely come and meet other who know how you are feeling. Every Monday, 1:30 to 3:30 pm in The Lounge.

Book Club.

The next meeting on Wednesday 5th August. The book for July is "The

Night She Disappeared" By Lisa Jewell. If you love reading and would like to join us over a cup of tea/coffee you are warmly invited to our next meeting.

Messy Church, in the Summer Holidays, Thursdays 23rd and 30th July and 6th, 13th and 20th August we will be holding Messy Church from 11am to 1pm.

On **Sunday 13th September** at 4pm St Matthew's is hosting a deanery confirmation service, with churches from across central and north Birmingham invited to present candidates to be confirmed.

If you have not been confirmed and would like to be, this would be a fantastic opportunity to do so. Please speak to Fr George for more information.

There will be a Christmas Fair planning meeting after the Parish Mass on **2nd August**.

NOTICES

A reminder that we welcome contributions towards the cost of flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one. Please place any donations in the pot on the table.

Contributions of food for the **FOODBANK** are always welcome. Please give as generously as you can and place any items in the basket by the door.

Our church relies on the generosity of visitors and worshippers. If you would like to make a contribution to the ministry and mission of St Matthew's but don't have any cash, there is a contactless card reader on the table by the front door.

Please put your request for prayers during the intercessions on the sheet on the table.

If you could offer a lift to someone to Church, please let us know.

We are buying a memorial stone to commemorate Fr Michael Westlake's time at St. Matthew's. Contribution towards the cost of this would be gratefully received.

In addition to our regular facebook page [here](#) we now have an Instagram page [here](#)

Scripture Readings for This Week

Sunday 26th July (8th Sunday after Trinity)

	Matthew 13.31–33, 44–52
Monday 27th July	Matthew 13.31–35
Tuesday 28th July	Matthew 13.36–43
Wednesday 29th July	Matthew 13.44–46
Thursday 30th July	Matthew 13.47–53
Friday 31st July	Matthew 13.54–end
Saturday 1st Aug	Matthew 14.1–12

A Collect for Sunday 26th July

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

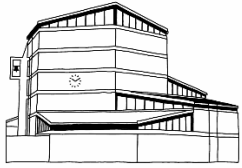
Amen

St. Matthew's Prayer List,

Please Pray for The Sick and Those in Need:

Please contact Margaret Cox if you would like to add anyone to our prayer list.

Sat:	Barbara Linley, Andrew & Gail Walker, John Hope, Barbara Hayward
Mon:	Fr Barry Smart, Revd Frank and Margaret Finch, Bali Dhugga, John Duncombe, Pam Millard
Tue:	Jayne Middleton, Loretta Charles, Bernadette O'Sullivan, Lorna Wild, Barrie Greenwood
Wed:	Shirley Woodley, Eileen Eveson, Jean Hayes, Irene Roberts
Thu:	Dai & Lal Gravell, Shirley and Ray Hollins, Mark Hawkins Ann Edwards, Mark and Shiv Furnell
Fri:	David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte



ST MATTHEW'S
PERRY BEECHES