

Church of Our Lady of the Assumption

Archdiocese of Southwark

(Registered Charity number: 1173050**)**

3 The Hill, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 9ES
Parish Office ☎ 01474533689; ✉ northfleet@rcaos.org.uk
Website: ourladyofassumptionnorthfleet.com
Facebook Name: Our Lady of the Assumption R. C. Church

25/26 July 2026

+ 17TH SUNDAY, YEAR A +

LITURGY TIMES

Sunday Mass
5pm (Sat.), 8.30am, 11.00am.

Weekday Mass
Tue. – Fri: 10.00am.

Holy Days of Obligation
10.00am & 7.00pm.

Exposition/Adoration
Tue. – Fr. 9.00am.

Morning Prayer
Tue. – Fri.: 9.30am.

Benediction
Tue. – Fri.: 9.45am.

BAPTISM
See the Parish Priest.
Preparation is obligatory.

CONFESSIONS
Sat., 4.20 pm – 4.45 pm or on request.

MARRIAGE
Contact the Parish Priest 6 months in advance.

Parish Office
Tue. & Fri.: 11.00 am – 2.00 pm.



From the Parish Priest's Desk

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. (Matthew 13.44)

King Solomon (whose other name is Jedidiah) is known as the wisest person who ever lived, hence the idiomatic expression: 'As wise as Solomon.' He was so renowned for his wisdom (followed by his wealth) that royalties from all over the world (including the queen of Sheba – Ethiopia – who visited him with large retinue [2 Chron. 9.1-12]) went to see him, and all were riveted by their encounter with him. It is important to remember that he was not born with that extraordinary wisdom; he received it as a gift, after he asked it of God (1 Kg 3.5-14; 2 Chron. 1.7-13). His prayer for wisdom was recalled and elaborately celebrated in the book of Wisdom and of Proverbs. In asking for wisdom, rather than for personal security, wealth, or any other such thing, he understood the preeminence of this gift over other earthly goods, as well as its importance in our lives. This exalted gift of wisdom is the first of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11.2-3), and also one of the few things we are promised in the Scripture that we will receive when we pray for it (Jam. 1.5). It helps us to understand this life properly, to know the ways of God and discern His purpose for us, to order our lives aright. It may come with prosperity, happiness, peace, self-fulfillment, and other goods of this life, and can help us to attain eternal redemption in the life to come. The gift of wisdom is in fact the Lord Himself Whom Divine Teaching calls "the power of God and the Wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1.24). In Him "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2.3). A person who desires true life ought to use all their strength and resources to search for the true wisdom, namely, the Lord Himself, as for a treasure of an inestimable value, till they find Him.

Readings of this Weekend



First Reading, 1 Kings 3.5-6, 7-12

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this Your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.' **The Word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm, Ps 119[118].72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

O Lord, how I love Your law!

1. You, O Lord, are my portion;
   I have promised to obey Your words.
   The law from Your mouth means more to me
   than large quantities of silver and gold. **R/**
2. Let Your merciful love console me
   by Your promise to Your servant.
   Show me compassion, that I may live,
   for Your law is my delight. **R/**
3. That is why I love Your commands
   more than finest gold,
   why I rule my life by Your precepts,
   and hate false ways. **R/**
4. Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
   therefore my soul obeys them.
   The unfolding of Your word gives light,
   and understanding to the simple. **R/**

Second Reading, Romans 8.28-30

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified. **The Word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, You shave revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.
Alleluia.

Gospel, Matthew 13.44-52 (Longer version)

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all these things?' They said to him, 'Yes.' And He said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who Has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

MASS DURING THE WEEK

Sat. 25th July	**+ 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** *Divine Office: Wk 1*	**5pm**	
Sun. 26th July		**8.30am**	
		11am	Parishioners
Mon. 27th July	Feria	NO MASS	
Tue. 28th July	Feria		
Wed. 29th July	St Mary, Martha, Lazarus		
Thur. 30th July	Feria		
Fri. 31st July	St Ignatius Loyola		
Sat. 1st Aug.	**+ 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDIANRY TIME** Divine Office: *Wk 2*	**5pm**	
Sun. 2nd Aug.		**8.30am**	
		11am	Parishioners

NOTICES

Adoration/Benediction in the church on Wednesdays, 10am – 2pm. It is being led by Deacon John. All are welcome.

PARISH FEAST DAY: Our parish feast which falls on the solemnity of the Assumption of Virgin Mary on August the 15th will be celebrated on Sunday August the 16th. As usual, a number of activities will be lined up for the celelrbation. If you have any ideas about this, please contact Annie, Sheila, or Amaka. Thank you.

World Youth Day Korea 2027: Join Archbishop John Wilson for the Archdiocese of Southwark's pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea, from 2 to 9 August 2027 for young adults aged 18-35. World Youth Day brings together over one million young Catholics from across the world with Pope Leo XIV for prayer, catechesis, pilgrimage, and celebration of the faith. It is a unique opportunity to deepen your faith and experience the joy of the universal Church. Package prices: **Full package including flights: £3,270; Ground package only: £1,870.** A £400 deposit is required by close on Monday 29 June. For full details, fundraising information, and booking, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/wydhome1

2026/2027 RCIA: The programme will start in October. It is for Catholics aged 13 years or above who wAould like to make their First Holy Communion or receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is also for non-Catholic adults who seek admission into the full communion of the Church. Anyone interested in the programme should please contact the Parish Clergy.

MASS BOOKING: You can request that a Mass be offered for any intention of yours, in thanksgiving, in petition for for your needs, for the peaceful repose of a deceased loved one, or for any other good intention. Please use the brown envelope at the back of the church to book a Mass. The archdiocese recommends a donation of £10 or more for each Mass.

Pope's July 2026 Prayer Intention

"Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God."

Divine Mercy Devotion
Sun. after the 11am Mass.

St Pio Meeting & Rosary for World Peace

Thur., 9.45 am – 10.45 am.

Tea & Coffee

Last Sunday of the month, after the 11am Mass. Please join us.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Loose Plate - £
SO/Contactless - £

Thank you very much.

"My house shall be called a house of prayer."
Mt 21.13; Jer. 7.11

Please be sensitive to those who want to pray in the church.

Before Mass – Talk to God
During Mass – Listen to God
After Mass – Talk to each other.

KEY PARISH VOLUNTEERS

Safeguarding: **4**
Vice Chair, Parish Council: **Solomon Appah**
Chair, Finance Committee: **Cyril Okolie:** northfleetfc@rcaos.org.uk
Gift Aid Coordinator: **Dixciam Costa**
Bookkeeper: **Eileen Norris**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Springhead Rd., Northfleet, DA11 9QZ; Ph: 01474533515; Email: office@st-josephs-northfleet.kcsp.org.uk; Mrs Lucy Owen; www.st-josephs-northfleet.kent.sch.uk

Our Lady's Pre-School: Springhead Rd., Northfleet, DA11 9QZ; Ph: 01474365877; ourladyspreschool@gmail.com; Mrs A. Franco; www.ourladypreschoolnorthfleet.com

Get Well Soon: Please pray for Mandy Ermis, Rosemary Reilly, Catherine Gomer, John Prior, Denis Griffin, Billy Damer, Sharon Docherty, Michael Mitchel, James Alan Richards, Rasma, Mary Irwin, and Shirley Fahy.

The Week's Death Anniversaries: Peter Irwin, Dorothy Bailey, Michael Rossi, Minnie Bennett, Mary Byrne, Winston John Ronald Nurse, Ronald Towyns,and Josep Gerard Cumiskey. May they rest in peace.

DONATE TO HELP PAY OUR BILLS

You can donate for your weekly offering by:

- Using the QR Code on the right,
- Setting up a Standing Order, or
- Sending your offering envelope to the Parish Office.

Our bank details are:

NatWest Bank; Sort Code: 60-09-10
Account Number: 71502122



Please let us know when you set up a Standing Order. Thank you.

Parish Priest: **Fr Livie ONYEBUCHI msp**
☎ **01474533689; 07459718783** ✠ ✉ **livinusonyebuchi@rcaos.org.uk**

Parish Deacon: **Revd John FOGARTY**
✉ **johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk**