ST. PHILIP HOWARD CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH

33 Walpole Road,
Cambridge CB1 3TH
+44 1223 211235
SPH Office Email: sphcambridge@gmail.com
Web: www.sphcambridge.org.uk

21ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 23 August 2026

Lectionary:
Sundays: Year A – Weekdays: II – Psalter: Week 1



CLERGY

PARISH PRIEST:
The Revd Father PHILIP JOHN
33 Walpole Road
Cambridge
CB1 3TH
Tel: **(01223) 211235 | 0771 313 9350**
Philip.John@rcdea.org.uk

Mgr. TONY ROGERS
40 Dunstan Court
Wulfstan Way
Cambridge
CB1 8QD
Mobile: **07778221509**
tonybrucerogers@gmail.com

DEACON:
The Revd Dr JOHN BELL
3 Applewood Close,
CB1 9NU
Mobile: **07919247977**
deacon@sphcambridge.org.uk

PARISH OFFICERS

Fabric and Finance Chairman
joanmariamilne@icloud.com

Treasurer and Gift-Aid Officer
Prasanth Francis
Tel: 07877 378104
Email: **treasurer@sphcambridge.org.uk**

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Hugh Bradley
Tel: (01223) 244222
hughdbradley@gmail.com

DATA PROTECTION If you have contact details printed in the newsletter that you do not want published on our website, please inform Fr. Philip John *(details above)*.

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Fulbourn
Phoebe Vargas 07796 893 558
Alistair Milne 01223 894997
Cherry Hinton
Nicky Marks 07876 713558

HOSPITAL POLICY

PLEASE contact the Chaplaincy Office directly on (01223) 217769 to inform them of any Catholic family members who may have been admitted to ensure that they are registered as a Catholic and that the patient has ticked the box giving permission for a priest or a member of the Chaplaincy Team to visit. More information at:

www.addenbrookes.org.uk/serv/nonclin/chaplaincy/

JUBILEE EMAIL ADDRESS

A **dedicated email address** has been set up for parishioners wishing to submit photos or other media for the Diocesan Jubilee display:

Email: **jubileesph@gmail.com**

DONA & GIVING TO THE PARISH

If you have a **Mass intention**, you can use one of the small brown envelopes for your offering and give it directly to a priest or post it through the priest's door. If you pay for a Mass intention through **Dona**, please also fill out a brown envelope *clearly* and mention on it that you have paid via Dona. Other ways of giving to the parish include **standing orders**, **gift aid** and through a **legacy** in your will.

Sunday collection: £516.23



CONFIRMATION CLASSES IN 2026/27

The new Confirmation class schedule has been announced with the first class on **17 October**. The full schedule along with registration forms is **here**.

CATECHISM CLASSES IN 2026/27



Catechism classes for children in school years 1 to 5 will start in September/October. The full schedule of classes in 2026-27 is available below. You can also find the dates for your child's class, the registration form and information about the programme.

Please register your child in advance by sending your form to the class teacher listed on the webpage.

- **Schedule of classes for 2026/27**
- **Registration form (PDF)**
- **Registration form (Word)**
- **General information**

SPH YOUTH SUMMER SOCIAL

5.30-9pm, Saturday, 29 August



After the Vigil Mass, join us for a relaxed evening of board games, quizzes, good food, and great company. Whether you're competitive or just looking to have fun and meet new people, there's something for everyone. Food will be provided. This event is for anyone between the ages of 13 and 25.

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church or use the following link: **https://forms.gle/bg7d7mTWh92TMdpu5**

Would you like to **support** this event? Parents and parishioners wishing to sponsor food and drinks for the evening can make a donation via **Dona** or directly in cash to Fr. Philip.

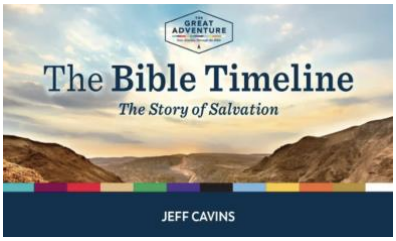


OUR LADY OF PEÑAFRANCIA

Sunday, 30 August

- **11.30am**: Procession
- **12pm**: Holy Mass
- **2pm**: Novena & Rosary

SPH BIBLE STUDY STARTS IN SEPTEMBER



The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation is a powerful journey through Scripture from Creation to the establishment of the Church. Filmed in breathtaking locations across the Holy Land, Egypt, Rome, and beyond, this updated edition brings God's Word to life.
To register, and to express an opinion about your preferred time and day for the sessions, follow this link: **https://forms.gle/ffgzNZkpCZrYY8XW7**

The study will be held at **7pm every Tuesday** (repeated on Saturdays) in the Community Hall, starting **29 September**. You can also attend on the same day via Zoom if you're unable to make it to church. There is also a **workbook** you can purchase costing £31.50 (£35 less 10% bulk discount). The workbook is not compulsory but it will help you revise long after the study is completed. Sheldon will bring his copy of the workbook this Sunday for Mass so you can check it out. There will be a trial session of Episode 1 for those interested, details of which will be shared in next week's newsletter.

DEBT JUSTICE



Many of the world's poorest countries are being pushed into a deepening debt crisis, forced to make huge payments owed on loans from wealthy banks and hedge funds.
Countries have often paid back the debt several times over but will never clear it because of extortionate interest rates. Cardinal Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla from South Sudan says, "When debt repayment takes priority over such essential services as healthcare and schools, the poorest suffer most. A debt system that prevents vulnerable nations from investing in their people undermines justice, human dignity and long-term stability". He asks us to urge the UK government to lead on fixing the grossly unfair global debt system.

- Please sign the CAFOD **petition** after Mass this weekend or online.
- You can find out more **here.**

CAFOD and its sister CARITAS organisations around the world are working together to highlight why this issue is vital to bring hope to millions of people.

SPH WEBSITE ISSUES

The SPH website has been experiencing some problems for the past few weeks; the website providers are looking into it. If you get a page of warnings/error messages when trying to access the site, a page refresh should, temporarily at least, resolve the issue.

MARCH FOR LIFE UK

London, Saturday, 5 September



Click **here** for the day's events.

CAMBRIDGE NAZARETH TRUST

This Trust was established by members of the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem to provide education and development of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

HOLY FAMILY CRÈCHE

Donation envelopes for this project are available in the display unit in our porch.

OPUS DEI

Women's group meets monthly.
Contact: Laura Roldán:
mlauramarchessi@gmail.com

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Contact: Jaci Agarwala
Tel: 01223 213895 or
ofs.assisi@yahoo.com

CARMELITE GROUP

Contact: Antonia Braithwaite
carmelite.cambridge@gmail.com

CATECHISM LATIN-RITE

Year 1 Beate Gürtler-Green:
beate@guertler-green.co.uk
Year 2 Anne Manning
ammanning15@gmail.com
Year 3 Phoebe Vargas
janphoebe5@gmail.com
Year 4 Lauren DesRuisseaux
laurenruisseaux@btinternet.com.
Year 5 Carol Kelsall
ckelsall@btinternet.com

SYRO-MALABAR COMMUNITY

Contact: Santos Mathen
Email: mathensantosh@gmail.com
Mobile: 07958139920
Contact: George Paily
Email: meringerin4@gmail.com
Mobile: 07737465958

Syro-Malabar Catechism
Years 1-5 Shiji Jenson
Email: Shijijenson78@gmail.com
Years 6-10 Bigily Joy
Email: bigilymerlinjoy@yahoo.co.uk
Mobile: 07915607421

AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Contact: Dominic Oyeniran
oad74@yahoo.com

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

antonia.braithwaite@gmail.com

MISSIO (APF)

Contact: info@missio.org.uk

ANNUAL AFRICAN MASS

5.30pm, Saturday, 12 Sept.

After the Vigil Mass, there will be a bring-and-share food & drinks reception. All are warmly invited!

JUNIOR CHOIR SCHEDULE

Junior Choir starts again in September. You will find the full schedule of practice sessions combined with the catechism class schedule **here**.

CAMBRIDGE CATHOLIC PARISHES

Our Lady and The English Martyrs
Hills Road, CB2 1JR
Tel: (01223) 350787
or (01223) 448780

Saint Laurence
91 Milton Road, CB4 1XB
Tel: (01223) 704640

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Contact: Fr Philip John:
Philip.John@rcdea.org.uk

https://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-preparation/

USE OF CHURCH PREMISES & NEWSLETTER ITEMS

For information contact:
sphcambridge@gmail.com

CAFOD & JUSTICE & PEACE

For information contact:

Bernard Shaw on **(01223) 240207**
or Sheila Brookes at
Sheila.brookes@btinternet.com
or **(01223) 503948**

Meetings are held online on the second Tuesday of each month at **19h30**.

J&P Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/people/Cambridge-Justice-and-Peace-Group/100064618067019/

PARISH MUSIC

Contact Fiona Kirker:
sphparishmusic@gmail.com

REPOSITORY ITEMS

Contact :Antonia Braithwaite:
antonia.braithwaite@gmail.com

SPH KNITTING GROUP

From January, **the SPH Knitting Group** will meet in the **Community Room at St Philip Howard Church** on the first Tuesday of every month from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Nicky Marks (07876 713558) or Anne Manning (07742 758095).

DIOCESAN LISTENING & PRAYER MINISTRY



Whatever you are going through right now it can help to talk; it can ease the burden and help you to see the way through. The Diocese offers a Ministry of listening and prayer for parishioners in need.

- Click **here** for a booking form.
- Click **here** for other sources of support.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Jesus Claims Peter as Rock *(Mt. 16:13-20)*



At last Peter recognizes that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. At last, he realizes that in Jesus he can see the action of God made visible. The disciples followed Jesus as soon as he called, but for a long time they were puzzled about what to make of him, of his wonderful teaching and his godlike personality. Now comes a shaft of light and understanding.

We too often take some time to appreciate the true worth of someone we know well: a little gesture can sometimes reveal just how generous and thoughtful they are. Peter suddenly grasps that here is the Son of God, acting among them, a daunting or even terrifying thought. Jesus replies to Peter's recognition with his own generosity, giving him a new name, 'Rock', for this is what 'Peter' means. If you name something, you make it your own, take it to yourself. This is just what Jesus does with Simon who becomes his own Peter, his own 'Rock'. That is the importance of the naming of a child at Baptism: Jesus takes us to himself and we become his. The early Christians called themselves 'Those over whom the name of Jesus has been called'. We may have been named Mary or John, but the name of Jesus has been called over us and we have become his.

REFLECTION: READING 1

Isaiah 22: 19-23
The Master of the Palace

This reading from Isaiah is chosen to pair with the gospel reading about the appointment of Peter, for there Peter is appointed as head of Jesus' own team. In this first reading Isaiah predicts that Eliakim will take the place of Shebna as master of the king's palace in Jerusalem and that God will invest him with authority. In Isaiah's time, to open and close the doors of the palace was the privilege of the master of the place. To the Hebrew mind such a pair of opposites often signifies everything in-between them, so that opening and closing the doors means having control of everything that goes on; no one else may interfere. Similarly, by the pair of opposites 'binding' and 'loosing', Peter is given total authority over the assembly or community of Jesus that is the Church. Equivalently, as Eliakim is given the key of the palace on his shoulder (or, as we would say, round his neck), so Peter is given the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Peter is sometimes pictured as the doorkeeper of heaven, but 'the kingdom of heaven' is far wider: it means 'God's sovereignty', which Jesus came to establish on earth, in which all obey, worship and give glory to God.

REFLECTION: READING 2

Romans 11: 33-36
God's Wisdom & Knowledge

After his long and thorough exposition of the way in which the work of Christ won our salvation and how, by his loving obedience, Jesus wiped away the proud sin of Adam's disobedience, Paul has been agonizing in his letter to the Romans about how the Jews can have failed to recognize this fulfilment of God's promises to Abraham. Quoting one passage of scripture after another, Paul finally comes to the conclusion that ,in the end, in God's good time, a remnant of Israel will be saved. How this will be he really cannot explain. Throwing up his hands in incomprehension, he can only burst into this wonderful hymn of praise to God's inscrutable Wisdom. We simply cannot understand God's plans and methods. This concluding passage in Romans is reminiscent of the wonderful passage at the end of the Book of Job. Job has rejected the shallow explanations for his sufferings suggested by his friends, when God intervenes to show Job how mighty and wise he is. Job can only admit that God's Wisdom surpasses anything human beings can conceive, and God's might infinitely transcends any human power. So Paul willingly grants that God must run his own world, and we cannot even attempt to challenge God's reasoning, for everything begins and ends in God.

READERS		
Chris Anoop Mary Archibald	Vigil Mass 5.30pm	Saturday, 22 August
Antonia Braithwaite Beate Gürtler-Green	10am	Sunday, 23 August
Vincent Doronila Phoebe Vargas	12pm	

COUNTERS FOR THE WEEK OF 9 AUGUST

Nicholas & Barbara Burnett

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
The Passion of St. John the Baptist	Saturday, 29 August
SPH Youth Summer Social (5.30-9pm)	Saturday, 29 August
Our Lady of Peñafrancia (from 11.30am)	Sunday, 30 August

The Sacred Liturgy This Week (22–30 August)

22 AUG. SATURDAY QUEENSHIP OF THE BVM. Mem.
09h00 Office of Readings & Lauds
09h30 **Holy Mass**: Stephen Whitty (F)
17h30 **Vigil Mass**: Roland DeSilva (S. Peiris)

23 AUG. 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Psalter Week 1
07h40 **Syro-Malabar Qurbana**: John Latham Sr. (U. Anoop)
10h00 **Holy Mass**: People of the Parish
12h00 **Holy Mass**: +David O'Donoghue (C. Donoghue)

24 AUG. MONDAY ST. BARTHOLOMEW Ap. Feast
08h30 Office of Readings & Lauds
09h00 **Holy Mass**: Frederick Smith (F)
Bernadette Radford (F)

25 AUG. TUESDAY FERIA
09h00 Office of Readings & Lauds
09h30 **Holy Mass**: David Harper (F)

26 AUG. WEDNESDAY FERIA
09h30 Office of Readings & Lauds
10h00 **Holy Mass**: Departed souls (T. Abraham)

27 AUG. THURSDAY ST. MONICA Mem.
09h00 Office of Readings & Lauds
09h30 **Holy Mass**: +Cayla Carter (B. Leyden)

28 AUG. FRIDAY ST. AUGUSTINE BD. Mem.
09h30 Office of Readings & Lauds
10h00 **Holy Mass**: +Tommaso Pascuzzi (A. Pascuzzi)
19h00 **Syro-Malabar Qurbana**

29 AUG. SATURDAY PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
09h00 Office of Readings & Lauds
09h30 **Holy Mass**: Monica Cheney (F)
17h30 **Vigil Mass**: +Theresa Williams (M. Archibald)

30 AUG. 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Psalter Week 2
07h40 **Syro-Malabar Qurbana**
10h00 **Holy Mass**: +Jacek Rokitnicki (Family)
12h00 **Holy Mass**: People of the Parish

(F): Foundation (L): Living (T): Thanksgiving. (S): Sick (B): Birthday

AUGUST 2026

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Phyllis Adolfson, Angela Ambrose, Mrs. E. Borrelli, William Brinn, John Cambridge, John Campbell, Bridget Carolan, Eveline Castro, Donald Chave, George Cheeseborough, Teresa Clery, Mabel Cole, Michael Connelly, Bernadette Coogan, Allan Cook, Minnie Corrigan, Annie Cosgrove, Eugene Cryan, Mary Cryan, Lucy Cunningham, Kathleen Cuviello, Mark Dempsey, Patrick Devine, Kathleen Doherty, Marie Dyra, Patrick Dyra, Mary Edwards, Margaret Fagan, Duggie Fennell, Joyce Firek, Bridget Agnes Sheila Gardener, Mary Grosvenor, Irene Gustie, Ann Halligan, Joan Hands, Earl Reginald Harkness, Bridget Harwin, Kenneth Hawkins, Leonard Hanson, Brendon Heron, Jessie Hicks, Linda Hodge, Bill Hurley, Helena Iwanko, Bridie Johnson, Alice Keane, Edie Kennelly, Bill Lane, Edward Lindsay, Patrick Lindsay, Maurice Lynch, Joaquin Mattos, Margaret Mattos, Kathleen McBride, Kathleen McDevit, Michael McKeown, Thomas McManamon, Martin Morris, Catherine Munnelly, John Thomas Munnelly, Jane Murray, Jennifer O'Briazs, Michael O'Hara, John O'Neil, Mary O'Shea, Stanley Pickard, Ivy Pizey, Tim Pizey, Patricia Ramsay, Louisa Mary Santry, Alfred Sharp, Jenny Sinclair, Annie Sisam, Frederick George Smith, Mark Swain, Elizabeth Sylvester, Patrick Tynan, Elsie Walker, Dorothy Weaver, Stephen Whitty, Ken Williams, Theresa Williams, Margaret Willsmore, Mary Wilson, Terry Wilson, Annie Wire, Lady Patricia Hennessy, John Domone, Richard Rayner Clayton.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Owen Crouch, Teresa Margaret Creet, Angela Fordham, Simon Janos, Beth Malubay, Joseph Mashapure, Monica Nwaiku, Sr. Noreen O'Connor, Lucy Richardson, Vyramuthu Sabanathan, Jayne Stewart, Michelina Starace, Frances Wiseman, and all others.

PRAYER

Loving God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. May all who suffer pain, illness, disease, and the frailty of old age realise that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. Being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. Amen