

THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, LAVENDER HILL

Sunday 31 July 2022
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
11.00am Solemn Mass

*A very warm welcome to everyone especially if this is your first visit.
Please join us for refreshments following the service.*

Please take this order of service away with you

THIS WEEK

Observances	Monday:	<i>St Alphonsus Ligouri</i>
	Tuesday:	<i>St Peter Julian Eymard</i> Low Mass: 10.00am
	Wednesday:	<i>Feria</i> Low Mass: 7.30pm
	Thursday:	<i>St John Vianney</i> Low Mass: 10.00am
	Friday:	<i>Dedication of St Mary Major</i>
	Saturday:	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD Holy Rosary: 11.00am Low Mass: 11.30am
	Sunday 7 th :	19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Solemn Mass & Holy Baptism: 11.00am

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NOTICES

SUMMER FAIR

Many thanks to all those who supported last week's fair – in particular to those who helped to set up and clear away and to those who manned stalls. We raised £676 for Parish funds – thank you!

COLUMBARIUM

We will be tidying up the Columbarium area **today** after Mass. Any assistance (even if only for a short time) will be gratefully appreciated.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM: SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 2022

Solemn Mass at 11am as usual, followed by a barbeque. Assistance would be gratefully received with logistics for the barbeque. Please speak to Fr Philip or Ann. Thank you.

Later that day: **6pm Solemn Evensong, Procession of Our Lady & Benediction** at All Saints', Margaret Street W1

Preacher: Fr Graeme Rowlands, Parish Priest of St Silas, Kentish Town

BOAT TRIP: WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST

Lavender Circle boat trip from Battersea Power Station to Greenwich. Please speak to Barbara Marcham if you'd like to join the group.

WALSINGHAM: HEALING & RENEWAL PILGRIMAGE

Monday 29 August 2022.

Friends from St Alban's, South Norwood are travelling by coach to this pilgrimage and have invited anyone from the Ascension who wishes to join them. The coach leaves Thornton Heath at 6.45am. Cost: £27 per adult; £10 per child. Please speak to Fr Philip if you'd like to come.

Travel from here to Thornton Heath can be arranged, depending on the number of people that wish to come.

12 noon Mass in the Shrine Grounds

Principal Celebrant: The Bishop of Fulham

2.30pm Sermon, Ministries of Healing, Benediction

FIRST AID

We seek another registered first-aider for our Parish. Do you have recent first aid training? Or would you be willing to acquire some? Please have a word with Fr Philip or the Churchwardens. Thank you.

NIGHT SHELTER VOLUNTEERING

After the Covid hiatus, St Barnabas', Clapham Common will be hosting a weekly night shelter on Thursday evenings from November. Would you like to volunteer for a few sessions – each one is early evening between 6.30 and 9pm? Fr Philip plans to volunteer, and would be pleased if some people from the Ascension might like to join in with this important work. Please have a word with him if you wish to know more.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

St John Vianney was the son of a peasant farmer, and a slow and unpromising candidate for the priesthood: he was eventually ordained on account of his devotion rather than any academic achievement or promise.

In 1818 he was sent to be the parish priest of Ars-en-Dombes, an isolated village some distance from Lyon, and remained there for the rest of his life because his parishioners would not let him leave. He was a noted preacher, and a celebrated confessor: such was his fame, and his reputation for insight into his penitents' souls and their futures, that he had to spend up to eighteen hours a day in the confessional, so great was the demand. The tens of thousands of people who came to visit this obscure parish priest turned Ars into a place of pilgrimage.

The French State recognised his eminence by awarding him the medal of the *Légion d'Honneur* in 1848, and he sold it and gave the money to the poor.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori was born in Marianella near Naples on September 27, 1696. In 1723, after a long process of discernment, he abandoned his legal career and, despite his father's strong opposition, began his seminary studies. He was ordained a priest on December 21, 1726, at the age of 30. He lived his first years as a priest with the homeless and marginalized young people of Naples.

In 1729, Alphonsus left his family home and took up residence in the Chinese College in Naples. It was there that he began his missionary experience in the interior of the Kingdom of Naples where he found people who were much poorer and more abandoned than any of the street children in Naples.

On November 9, 1732, Alphonsus founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, popularly known as the Redemptorists, in order to follow the example of Jesus Christ announcing the Good News to the poor and the most abandoned. From that time on, he gave himself entirely to this new mission.

Alphonsus' greatest contribution to the Church was in the area of Moral Theological reflection with his *Moral Theology*. This work was born of Alphonsus' pastoral experience, his ability to respond to the practical questions posed by the faithful and from his contact with their everyday problems. He opposed the sterile legalism which was suffocating theology and he rejected the strict rigorism of the time... the product of the powerful elite. According to Alphonsus, those were paths that were closed to the Gospel because "such rigour has never been taught nor practised by the Church". He was canonized in 1839, proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1871 and Patron of Confessors and Moralists in 1950.