



# **The Parish of St. Peter, Bushey Heath January 2026**



## **From the vicar**

I remember many years ago copying the saints' days and other festivals from the lectionary into the parish diary which was kept in the sacristy of the church in which I was then serving. The year was 1986 and to all intents and purposes it was the same as any other year, but on this occasion I was struck by the various alternative festivals that were attached to some of the saints. Some were obvious like those for our Lady: The Immaculate Conception, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, Assumption and so forth, but others required a little exploration.

St. John the Baptist has two, unusually for his birth (24<sup>th</sup> June) and his death (29<sup>th</sup> August). The usual day to celebrate the saints is the day of death which marks the heavenly birthday, but the Baptist is also celebrated on his nativity because he recognised the presence of Jesus from the womb. Other saints are remembered on the day of their death (or on a date near it if there is a clash with another saint or feast), but sometimes also on the day of the translation of their relics to a final resting place. There are other reasons too. A few examples are offered here.

St. Alban, the first martyr in this island, is celebrated on 20<sup>th</sup> June (albeit with some variations). His translation is celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Our own patron, St. Peter is celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> June often with St. Paul (whose conversion is celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> January – a unique occurrence). St. Peter also has two feasts celebrating his episcopacy, the Chair of St. Peter at Rome on 18<sup>th</sup> January and the Chair of St. Peter at Antioch on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The former date marks the beginning of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity which concludes on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. St. Peter also has a subsidiary celebration on 1<sup>st</sup> August to mark his escape from prison (Acts 12) known as St. Peter's Chains.

St. John the Evangelist is celebrated on 27<sup>th</sup> December, but also has a subsidiary feast on 6<sup>th</sup> May which is the dedication feast of the church of St. John before the Latin Gate which commemorates a failed attempt to boil him in a cauldron of oil during the persecution of Domitian.

The date perhaps matters less than the willingness to celebrate the lives and death of the saints who have witnessed to Jesus in life and in death. These are the heroes of the faith who have laid the foundation for the life of the Church and continue to inspire to this day.

## **Sunday after Christmas Day**

Parish Mass, 28<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am  
Preacher: Father Thomas Singh SSC

## **St. Peter's Church, Bushey Heath**

wishes to appoint a

### **Verger**

The verger assists the parish priest by helping to prepare for the occasional offices (baptisms, weddings and funerals). No previous experience is required as full training will be given. This is a voluntary post which would suit anyone who wants to support the ministry of the parish at the significant points in people's lives.

For an informal discussion please speak to Father Andrew.

## **PRAYER FOCUS**

Please continue to pray for an end to conflict in the Near East, Ukraine and all countries beset by violence. Remember the faithful suffering persecution, especially this month those in North Korea.

## From the diary...

Usual Sunday services: 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.30am Parish Mass
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### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December, 10.00am

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January, 10.00am

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

*No midweek services*

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00am

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 7.00pm

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 10.00am

8.00pm

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 7.00pm

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00am

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 7.00pm

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

### Sunday after Christmas Day

Mass

Mass (The Circumcision of Christ)

*no service*

### The Epiphany of our Lord

### Epiphany 1

*In addition to services at 8am and 9.30am: Family Service at 11.15am.*

Mass

Mass

### Epiphany 2

Mass (*St. Agnes, virgin and martyr*)

Parochial Church Council in the Parish Hall

Mass

### Conversion of St. Paul

Mass

Mass

### Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Mass

Mass

### Sexagesima / Second Sunday before Lent

*In addition to services at 8am and 9.30am: Family Service at 11.15am.*

## From the registers

### Funerals

27<sup>th</sup> November Doreen Abbott (98 years)

9<sup>th</sup> December John Halford (95 years)

18<sup>th</sup> December Pam Brooks (94 years)

### Christmas Feast

A very big thank you to all who contributed to or supported the fair in any way. A delightful day was enjoyed by regulars and visitors alike. The profit from the occasion exceeded £2,800 which is a new record. The money will support the maintenance of both fabric and ministry at St. Peter's.

### Confirmation 2026

Bishop Luke is coming to confirm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00pm. Please put the date in your diary.

### Summer Concert

The North London Military Wives Choir are holding their Summer Concert at St. Peter's on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm. Please note the date and look for further details in June.

### Contact details:

Vicar: Fr. Andrew Burton SSC, a priest of the Society. (020 8950 1424). Usual day off Monday.

Churchwardens: Mr. Simon Farley (020 8950 4073) and Mr. Tony Quinn (07786 332654)

[www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk](http://www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk) / [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)