



R.C. PARISH CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

“Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago” Isaiah 25:1

Message from Father Sjaak

Spring is here. On Palm Sunday we welcomed over 1700 people in church. It set the tone for a wonderful start of the Easter celebrations in our parish. With 11 adults entering the church, over 80 children receiving their First Holy Communion, and 33 teenagers being confirmed, we have lots of reasons to rejoice. Read [more](#).

Recent Highlights

Charities all over the world receive funds from the Food Fairs 2022 and 2023
The Charities committee presented its deliberations to the Parish Board, which went on to approve 13 charities all over the world. These charities were nominated by the parishioners. After a diligent and rigorous process of vetting the applications, an amount of Euros 20,000 was distributed to very deserving causes. Read more [here](#).

Kerkbalans Campaign

The Kerkbalans campaign this year was organized by a new coordinator, Brian Olivier. His fresh energy and drive helped raise over Euros 20,000 which will be used for various projects within our parish. Many thanks to everyone who donated to this campaign.

Parish Staff Workshop with the Luxembourg Parish



From 27-29 February, the COS Parish Staff travelled to Luxembourg to meet with the parish priest of the International English-Speaking Community of the Parish of Luxembourg Notre Dame, Fr. Michael Cusack. He was an incredible host and rolled out the red carpet for the team from The Hague. The 3 days were spent exchanging ideas and experiences, and the group came back enriched and grateful for the welcome and hospitality shown by

Fr. Michael and his team. Thank you, Fr. Michael, and may God bless you.

Holy Week 2024

Holy Week 2024 was a time of celebration and prayer for many of our parishioners. Church attendance for Holy Week 2024 services was record breaking, surpassing all past years by leaps and bounds. More photos [here](#).



Palm Sunday



Easter Vigil



RCIA candidates

COS Got Talent - Lenten Campaign 2024 & Welcome Reception for New Volunteers

During Lent we usually have a fundraising campaign for an outside charity as a token of our solidarity with those in need. Besides prayer and fasting, the Lenten Campaign 2024 focused on donations of time and talents, launching the “COS Got Talent” campaign. This idea was born out of the fact that many of our groups have been operating with the same volunteers for a long while and need new helping hands, new ideas, and fresh energy!

The campaign was very successful, with many people coming forward to sign up for groups in our Parish. On Monday 22 April, there was a reception for the new volunteers and group leaders. The evening started with a short introduction and welcome from Fr. Sjaak in the church. The group then moved to the atrium to get to know each other in an informal setting with drinks and snacks.



New volunteers receiving a blessing at the altar from Fr. Sjaak before the reception.



A bird's eye view of the reception in the atrium

First Holy Communion

During 2023- 2024, 85 children (the biggest group in the history of our parish) attended First Holy Communion preparation classes as part of our Religious Education (RE) program. They received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday 14 May during a special Mass at 12.30.

Huge thanks go to Margaret van Emmerik and her group of RE teachers for their incredible dedication to the children and to the parents who supported their children on this journey. It is a blessing to see so many children learning about their faith and putting it into practice every day of their lives.

We take this opportunity to thank Margaret van Emmerik who has laid down the baton after running the RE program for over 15 years. She hands over to Silvia Sallent who has kindly agreed to take on this mantle. Welcome Silvia! We are confident you will keep the standards high, and the program will continue to be engaging for the children and parents in the years to come. Online registration for RE classes will begin by late June via our parish website.



Parish Board Changes

We say thank you and goodbye to Mumanthi Mvuria, Stephanie Wellink and Michiel Heere who have served on the parish board with great devotion and commitment in their respective portfolios. Mumanthi served for 7 years as the Board liaison for all the maintenance together with our Maintenance Team; Stephanie served for 8 years and helped with Communication, HR, and outreach; and Michiel served for an amazing 17 years as our Board Secretary and legal advisor.

We welcome with gratitude 3 new members - Genevieve Desouza, Lynne Mecca and Andriew Lim who will be inducted as new board members from 1 June 2024 for 4-year terms. Andriew is a member of the Indonesian Parish and will further solidify the great rapport, camaraderie and support we have with our Indonesian congregation. We look forward to the contribution of our 3 new members on the Parish Board team.

Baptism of the Grandchild of the late Princess Christina of the Netherlands

Carmen Ester Ruby Guillermo, the granddaughter of the late Princess Christina (former parishioner) was baptised by Fr. Sjaak in our church on Sunday 28 April in a private ceremony witnessed by members of the Dutch Royal Family and other Canadian family members. HRH King Willem-Alexander and HRH Queen Maxima were also present and joked about being woken up every Sunday morning by the pealing of our church bells.



Confirmation Program

On the weekend of 3-4 February, our 33 confirmation candidates participated in a successful retreat. More info [here](#). The group has been in preparation since September 2023, under the able guidance of the Confirmation Team: Audrone Buckiene, Patricia Butterfield, and William Marinus.

On Ascension Day 9 May, they received the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Bishop of Rotterdam, Msgr. Johannes van den Hende.

The church was filled with well-wishers comprised of family and friends who were present at the mass which was [live streamed](#) so that other friends and relatives all over the world could follow the celebration.

We pray that these young people continue to be witnesses of the faith and live their lives with Christian values in a very secular world. God bless you all.



Relics of St. Therese of Lisieux Coming to COS

Our parish will welcome the relics of Saint Therese of Lisieux on Tuesday 11 June and we will celebrate this historic occasion with a special Mass at 12.30. More information [here](#).

What's Coming Up

Here is an overview but please check the [website](#) for all timings.

11 June - Mass at 12.30 celebrating the [visit of the relics of St. Therese of Lisieux](#).

14 June - Last Friday noon Mass. Will resume in September.

15 June - Bus trip with our refugee friends to Den Bosch.

16 June- Father's Day & End of Pastoral Year. COS Parish BBQ after the morning Mass. Tickets available at the Welcome Desk.

Wine and Cheese reception after the evening mass. No tickets necessary. All are welcome.

Every weekend in August we will celebrate a wedding at COS.
Congratulations to the 20 couples who are getting married this year.

As our parish website is updated regularly and the COS Communication team actively updates the Instagram and Facebook pages, there is a good flow of information to all our parishioners and alumni. The COS Newsletter which started in 2020 and provided an important monthly source of information during the pandemic, is now published every quarter.