



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
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19th March 2023

Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 11

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)
Laetare Sunday

Fourth week of Lent

Vol II, psalter week 4

Next Sunday's Readings

- Ezekiel 37:12-14
- Psalm 129
- Romans 8:8-11
- John 11:1-45

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays and Fridays

- Stations of the Cross after the 6.30pm Mass

Thursday 23 March

- Lent talk, 7.30-8.30pm, Upper Hall

Saturday 25 March

- Sacred Heart Chorus Workshop, 2pm, Parish Lounge

Wednesday 29 March

- Newman Circle meeting, 7.30pm, Lounge see p. 3

Laetare Sunday

This year, on Laetare Sunday, we hear a dramatic account of Jesus' cure of the beggar who had been born blind. The story parallels our own developing belief in, trust in, and knowledge of God, perhaps in opposition to the culture that surrounds us. The man comes to see the light in Jesus, physically and spiritually.

Jesus has already described himself as 'the Light of the World'. It is Jesus who approaches the blind man. The blind man is chosen by

God to display his healing work. The man is so changed that the neighbours find it hard to recognise him. They take him to the Pharisees. The Pharisees realise that it had been a sabbath day when the blind man was cured, and they are sceptical: 'How can a man of God cure people on the sabbath?'. They end up chasing him away. We can see that as the Pharisees become sceptical and threatening the once-blind man becomes more confident and assertive in expressing and developing his faith in Jesus. The blind man comes to realise who Jesus is. When first asked who cured him, he says 'the man called Jesus'. When Jesus is then criticised for curing him on the sabbath he says Jesus is a prophet. He then says Jesus is a man sent from God, after which he is driven away. Hearing of this, Jesus goes looking for him and asks him if he believes in the "Son of Man". Jesus has been using this term to refer to his role in making God known in the human story. The man replies: 'Lord, I believe', and worships him. Our own adult faith can grow, perhaps more gradually than the once-blind man's, as we get to know Jesus better and have more experience of how he works in our lives, of how he takes the initiative if we are open to him, of how he enlightens us as to what God wants for us – wants us to do and be. In the prayer after Communion we shall ask God to enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts with the splendour of his grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to him and love him sincerely.

Deacon Julian Burling



*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

THE PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest: Canon John Clark

Parish Clergy: Fr Joseph Donkor, Fr Matthew Donnelly, Deacon Julian Burling and Deacon Shaun Crocker

Team members: Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU, Sr Francis SSA

Faith Minister (Children, Young People & Families): Eleanor Bowman

SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection this weekend, 18/19 March, will be in support of those still suffering the aftermath of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Thank you for your generosity towards this cause.

Next weekend, 25/26 March the second collection will be in support of Poor Parishes (formerly the 'Needs of the Diocese' collection), a collection which enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

THANK YOU

'The Sisters of Christ wish to thank parishioners sincerely for sympathy messages, cards, Mass offerings, flowers, food! which encouraged and supported us immediately after the sudden death of our beautiful Sister Ita Conlan'.

The funeral dates: Thu 30 Mar, 10am, Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church; Fri 31 Mar, 10.30am Mass for Sister Ita followed by burial in Sittingbourne Cemetery.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

You are cordially invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of the late Archbishop Peter Smith to be followed by the unveiling of his portrait and a Reception in Amigo Hall on Fri 31 March at 12.30pm, St George's Cathedral, SE1 7HY.

PASSION OF CHRIST

Wintershall will once again be performing the Passion of Jesus Christ live in Trafalgar Square on Good Friday 7 April at 12noon & 3.15pm. Performances are free, all are welcome, arrival in good time to obtain a seat strongly recommended. No tickets required.

A WORD FROM CANON JOHN

It is nearly nine years ago when I climbed the steps of the pulpit to introduce myself to the members of the parish for the first time. Those years have passed so quickly. Now as I approach my 75th birthday I am obliged to offer my letter of retirement.

Archbishop John has kindly accepted my retirement. It will take effect from the 15th May 2023. As yet there is no appointment to succeed me, it is hoped that this will be made in the next few months. In the meantime, Fr Joe will be the acting Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart.

Do keep me in your prayers. My prayers are with you all in this time of change!

Canon John

Parish News

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to follow the Stations of the Cross in the church, every Wednesday and Friday after the 6.30pm Mass during Lent.

NO CONFESSIONS

Please note that there will be no confessions in the morning this Saturday 18 March.

PART-TIME CARETAKER

The parish requires a part-time caretaker for 3 months commencing 3 April while our permanent caretaker is away. There will be a minimum requirement of 4 hours/week (i.e. 2 hours twice a week) with additional hours as required. Payment will be £15/hr.

The person appointed to this role will be required to spend 4 hours during week commencing 27 March for induction/training.

Please contact Thelma D'Costa at the Parish Office (20 8946 0305) by Wednesday 22/3/23.

Announcements

LENT TALKS

We continue to explore the significance and importance of reconciliation in our faith and meet again on Thursday 23 March from 7.30-8.30pm in the Upper Hall, and - using the book *The Return of the Prodigal Son* - unpack, reflect & discuss the importance of the story of the Prodigal Son.

R.C.I.A.

There will be a special prayer and blessing for members of

our parish R.C.I.A. group, who have begun their final preparation for full reception into the Catholic Church at Easter, on Sunday 26 March at the 12noon Mass, and 19 March at the 5pm Mass.

Let us continue to keep Daniel, Ian, Kirsten, Linda, Sarah and Sam, also Katie, Sophia and Victor, who will be confirmed, in our prayers.

CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

A special service of the Stations of the Cross for children will be held at 11am on Good Friday, 7 April.

A rehearsal for all actors and readers will take place at 9.30am until 10.30am on Good Friday; please email Rachel Marshall (rachel@marshallmail.net) if your child would like to take part. Adult help welcomed!

Parish Organisations

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The Bereavement Team invites everyone experiencing loss in their lives, no matter how long ago, to drop in for a coffee and a chat on Saturday 25 March from 10.30-11.30am, in the Parish Lounge. For more information, please email

bereavement@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

MEMORY LANE CLUB

This popular club for people with dementia and their carers is open every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Parish Lounge with tea, coffee & cake along with lots of chat, laughter,

snooker and different activities. For more information please ring Jenny on 07906 856 183.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Friday 14 April, at 2.30pm in the Lounge: your *Desert Island Discs*; do join us for an afternoon of music, tea & cakes. Everyone is welcome!

Social & Cultural

SACRED HEART CHORUS

The Sacred Heart Chorus are performing Bruckner's *Te Deum* and Poulenc's *Gloria* on Saturday 24 June. We would welcome any more parishioners, who would like to sing these marvellous works, and are holding a workshop to introduce the music on Saturday 25 March in the Parish Lounge from 2-5pm. £10 (students free) - email concerts@sacredheartmusic.co.uk to let us know if you'd like to attend.

NEWMAN CIRCLE

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 29 March at

7.30pm in the Parish Lounge: Talk and film on the life and assassination of St Óscar Romero. Speaker: Julian Filochowski, former chair of CAFOD & the Romero trust who worked with Óscar Romero (Archbishop of San Salvador from 1977, assassinated on 24 March 1980 while celebrating Mass, canonised on 14 October 2018). Julian will introduce a powerful documentary 'Righting the Wrong', providing an excellent overview of Romero's life and martyrdom (film lasts 80 minutes, considered the best film

about St Óscar Romero currently available, Spanish with English subtitles).

Oscar Romero was a voice for those who had no voice. He spoke truth to power. He loved the poor, defended the poor and challenges us to become their advocates. All are welcome to this talk.

DESIGN HELP WANTED

Are you a professional graphic designer? Could you help the parish design an A5 fundraising leaflet? Please email Primi at primi@fontanora.com if you think you can volunteer.

Exploring our Faith

LOVE HEALS BODY MIND AND SPIRIT

You are welcome to come to a 1-day retreat of quiet reflection on Sat 18 March from 11am-4.30pm, at the Catholic Church of our Lady of Assumption & St Gregory, Piccadilly, W1F 9JR; Holy Rosary, Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Celebrant Priest: Fr Mark Elliott Smith); lunch break (please bring your own lunch, tea & coffee available); talk based on Scripture, Catholic Christian Meditation, Blessed Adoration - Divine Mercy, Individual Healing Prayers. For more information, please visit www.lovehealsbodymindspirit.com.

A DAY WITH MARY

You are invited to a *Day with Mary*, a day of instruction,

devotion and intercession, on Saturday 25 March at St Anselm, West Hill, Dartford, DA1 2HJ, from 9.30am-4.30pm; celebrant & preacher: Fr Henry Mukasa; sermons on Our Lady by Frs Stephen Boyle and James Tolhurst; Exposition & Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Meditations on the Passion of Our Lord, Silent Prayers (www adaywithmary.org).

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The CPG will be meeting again on Thursday 23 March evening from 7.30pm in the Lounge. Praise & worship, scripture sharing, tea & coffee. For more info and future dates, please visit their page on the parish website.

CHURCHES TOGETHER WEST WIMBLEDON

This annual act of witness starts at 10am on Good Friday, 7 April, at the Lantern Methodist Church, Worple Rd and ends at 11am outside Raynes Park Station; procession, stops at various stages, enacting parts of the passion of our Lord, conclusion with a homily and hymns. It is a wonderful joint act of witness with our brothers and sisters in other Christian Churches. If you are interested in participating (guitar players, flautists, ..) or in taking part in reading or enacting some of the parts, please email the parish (wimparish@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk for the attention of Cathy Dickenson).

New to the Parish?

Please introduce yourself to a member of the Parish Team after Mass and register online at <https://sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/> or by filling in a registration form, available at the back of the church.

CARITAS SOUTHWARK

Archbishop John Wilson wishes to share with you the wonderful news that the Archdiocese is about to launch *CARITAS Southwark*, a network to co-ordinate the practical loving service of others, putting faith into action in smaller and larger ways, in service of those who are vulnerable and in need. *CARITAS Southwark* will work with parishes and schools to support them in serving those in need. Volunteers have worked hard to get to this point of a formal launch in a Mass in St George's Cathedral at 12.30pm on Saturday 18 March. Everyone is invited to the Mass and the reception afterwards where you can find out more about the participating groups and charities and about how to get involved.

SHOES & TRAINERS NEEDED

The Jesuit Refugee Service is in need of trainers & other adult shoes in good condition. Please bring any donations to the entrance to the Upper Hall on Sat 18 March between 4-6pm. Alternatively, shoes may be dropped in the box by the front door at 1 Malcolm Road any time until Mon 20 March.

SAFEGUARDING

It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. Further safeguarding information can be found on the parish website.

CELEBRANTS FOR THIS SUNDAY

6.30pm (Sat) Fr Matthew Donnelly
8.00am Fr Joseph Donkor
10.00am Fr Joseph Donkor
12 noon Fr Michael Barnes SJ
5.00pm Canon John Clark & Deacon Julian Burling
8.00pm Fr Matthew Donnelly

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat 18 6.30pm Mervin Ledlie RIP
Mon 20 10.00am Sadie Kirwan RIP
6.30pm Jeronimo Fernandes RIP
Tue 21 10.00am Martin Paul Foley RIP
6.30pm Marissa Pereira RIP
Wed 22 10.00am Holy Souls
6.30pm Carmel Eglington RIP
Thu 23 10.00am Pat Reynolds
6.30pm Claire De Souza (Quick recovery)
Fri 24 10.00am Marian Fulford
6.30pm Rehana Edun-Noys Thanksgiving
Sat 25 10.00am Diana Ferrari RIP

HOSPITAL CONTACTS

If you or a member of your family are admitted to one of the local hospitals, do please let the hospital's Catholic chaplain know.

St George's Hospital: Fr Isah Katuka (020 8725 3069)

St Heliers and Epsom Hospital: Fr Philip Pak (020 8296 2000)

Kingston Hospital: Fr Tony Oleh (020 8546 7711)

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: Christopher Webb, Doug Portious, Teresa Blackhall, John Redwood and Sr Ita Conlan (Sisters of Christ)

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Elizabeth Dewry, Margaret O'Donnell and Pat Burling

The sick: Karolina Masica, Anne McHale, David Fry, Paul Stromborg, Mike Greene, Teresa Escalona, Donal Weir, Giovanni Baldacchino, Kim Carr, Patricia Small, Luca Buttaci, David Steele, Shanu Mathew, Maureen May, Ryan Lyndsey, Samar Staussi, Emily Grey and Andrew Tan

Please note that for data protection reasons, individuals must explicitly agree for their names to be mentioned in our newsletter. Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either your name or the names of your relatives and friends should appear in our sick list.



FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS THIS WEEK

Mon 20 Mar St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Universal Church, Solemnity
Thu 23 Mar Collect of St Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Fri 24 Mar optl. Collect of St Óscar Romero
Sat 25 Mar The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity

Crucifixes and images may be veiled for the remaining two weeks of Lent. Crucifixes remain so until the afternoon Liturgy on Good Friday; images of the saints are unveiled before the Easter Vigil.

EXPOSITION

Wednesdays & Fridays
after the 10.00am Mass
and from 5.25 - 6.25pm

RECONCILIATION

Monday - Saturday:
6.00 - 6.20pm
and Saturday morning
10.30 - 11.30am

MUSIC AT THE 12 NOON MASS

Entry hymn: 253 *Here in this place*
Kyrie: 459
Offertory motet: *Ave Maria*, Casali
Communion motet: *O Lord, give Thy Holy Spirit*, Thomas Tallis
Post-communion hymn: 914 *Walk in the Light*

If you wish to include items in the weekly newsletter, please keep them brief, - if possible no more than 40 words - send them by Tuesday before publication to newsletter@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk / wimparish@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

PARISH SERVICES

Parish Office/Reception Hours: 9am - 4pm (Mon-Fri), 020 8946 0305

Executive Assistant & Hall bookings: Thelma D'Costa (Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm) Caretaker: George McLennan

Parish Pastoral Council: ppc@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

Baptism, Marriage, First Sacraments, Funerals contact the parish office.

Bereavement Support: one to one support or bereavement drop-in, for more information please contact the co-ordinator by email bereavement.group@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

Sacred Heart SVP Conference meets to help those living locally in need. All enquiries are dealt with confidentially. Leave contact details with the parish office or email presidentA190704@svp.org.uk.