

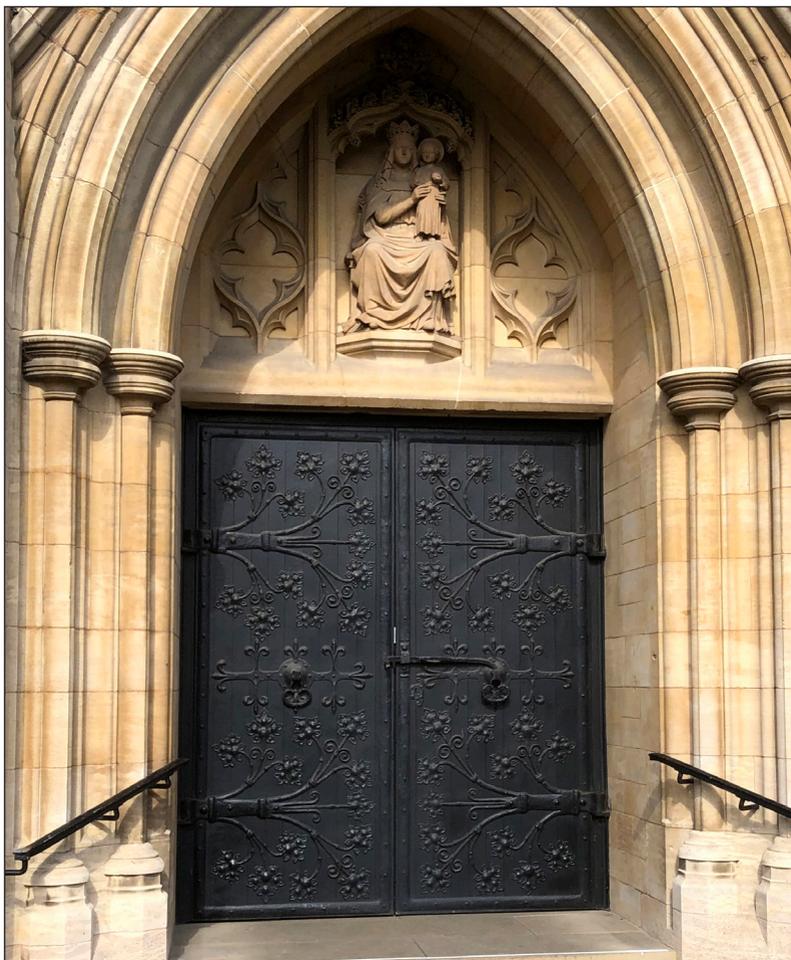
April  
2020

EDGEWAYS

# The Sacred Heart Parish magazine

Vol. 32 No. 4

[sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk](http://sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk)



## LOCKDOWN!

How parishioners are coping  
with the Covid-19 pandemic

\* FREE \* but donations are always welcome

**EDGEWAYS** – now in its 32nd year – is published every month except August. Thanks to the Parish Council, it is now free, although any donations towards our running costs are more than welcome in the box to the right of the inner church doors. Articles from readers are always welcome.

## Contact the Editor

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or via our mail basket by the bookshop in the Presbytery, or email [editoredgeways@icloud.com](mailto:editoredgeways@icloud.com)

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Please make cheques payable to **Sacred Heart Parish**

*Our next edition will be published when Covid-19 allows  
Look for details in the parish newsletter*



### SACRED HEART PARISH SOCIAL CLUB

**President:** Rev John Clark

**Chairman:** Sr Patricia

We are a small group of friends doing a large amount of work to facilitate the Social aspects of the Sacred Heart Parish.

We organise and fund a Senior Citizens party in January every year. We organise an annual BBQ for the Parishioners. We provide bar facilities to various Parish Organisations. We donate surplus funds to various Charities.

- Manna, Passage
- Raphael Pilgrimage
- Sacred Heart Youth, Sacred Heart Church

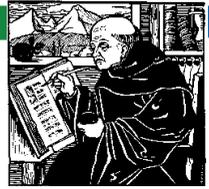
We also partly fund, maintenance of the lounge.

#### Our Opening Times

**Fridays 9.00-10.30. Sundays 8.30-10.30**

To Join please contact: Sr Patricia – 07973 950755

# The curse – and blessings – of ‘interesting times’



There is an old Chinese curse, they say: “May you live in interesting times.”

Well, the last month has been nothing if not interesting: alarming and worrying in the early days of supermarket shelves bereft of toilet rolls, baked beans and handwash, at other times sunny (the capricious British spring-time permitting), serene and relaxing – a feeling that almost threatens to tip over into ennui.

In this edition of *Edgeways* – our first fully digital edition, by the way, since our printers are in lockdown like almost everyone else – we asked our priests, members of the parish team and parishioners how they were coping with the Covid-19 crisis. Their answers will resonate with many of our readers, though they are interesting in their various details. In the same way that scientists still don’t know whether we each smell things or see colours exactly alike (since neither actually exist except as electrical impulses interpreted by our brain), it seems no one is dealing with the lockdown in the same way. Free will perhaps explains why we react to a common set of circumstances in differing ways – as it does about so much of human behaviour.

† One common thread in all the replies is how much technology has come to our aid in these times – helping us keep in touch with loved ones, spend our time usefully learning new skills and in particular, keeping abreast with our parish and our faith. One of the things we should all be grateful for is that the PPC and its technically gifted helpers had the church service live-streaming equipment up and running earlier this year, well ahead of the pandemic.

At the time, few (if any) could have imagined how essential it would become,

just a few months down the line. What a boon it has been! Our priests may at times feel it lonely and disorientating to celebrate Mass in an empty church, but I’m sure they are heartened by knowing that they are actually being watched by many unseen eyes and their words responded to by unheard voices in a way that was undreamt of not so very long ago.

That said, technology does have its downside. As one of many whose day-job can be fulfilled at home, I’ve noticed that my bosses (working in their own little techno-bubble at home) have not been slow to exploit their advantage and pile on the work in a way they would never dare if we were all present in the same office. I’m sure a telling word or phrase to describe this phenomenon will emerge when the Covid-19 crisis is over.

† However, it must be said that there is a lot of goodwill around, as much as I dislike the three-metre “anti-social distancing” rule that sees people swerve off the footpath on to the street to avoid me as though I were a leper in a Brother Cadfael novel.

Replying to our Covid-19 questionnaire, Kelly Hockey wrote: “There was an Easter Egg Hunt inside the local independent petrol station shop: in-between milk in the fridge, on the cereal aisle between boxes, and on windowsills. Only one person was allowed in the shop at any one time, and it did tend to be grown-ups buying their petrol, but I’ve never had an Easter Egg hunt where I didn’t have to compete with anyone else for eggs. Nor have I ever had a situation where I got FREE chocolate from a shop that wasn’t a taster. It was such a nice idea of a member of staff, to be jolly at this time.”

A lovely Easter idea for interesting times!

# How the Sacred Heart is coping with Covid-19

*The nationwide lockdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic has led to unprecedented disruption to life in our church. We asked parish team members and parishioners how they were dealing with it – and keeping faith*

**What are you missing the most during lockdown?**

**Fr John:** I'm missing the human touch. Just being able to pop in to friends, missing friends and family

**Sr Dorothy:** I'm missing the parishioners and the people I work with, RCIA in particular.

**Fr Joe:** Parishioners of Sacred Heart Wimbledon including Ursuline Prep and Sacred Heart Primary School.

**Fr Dennis:** What I am missing most during this lockdown is the celebration of Mass with the congregation. Celebrating Mass alone in the Church is not easy.



**Sr Dorothy: Missing the RCIA in particular**

where most of my friends are, especially the choir.

**Eleanor Bowman:** People! I'm definitely missing family, friends and our parish community. It's made me realise just how much time I usually spend with people!

**Kelly Hockey:** Mass and the pub.

**Sadie Smith:** I am missing seeing and meeting my friends at church, at meetings and at social events. I miss all the par-

ish events and a number of birthday parties i.e Celia Wiggin's 90 birthday. Happy birthday, Celia!

**Wendy Tansey:** Our family. Going to the theatre.

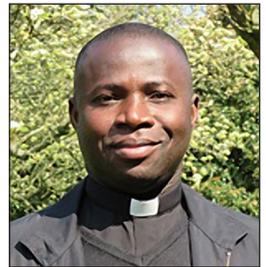
**Alison Lobo:** I've had so many people say to me, "You must be missing football and the pub!" I am and it was even harder with Liverpool being two wins away from winning the Premier League title that we've waited 30 years for. What's another few weeks...? I miss the socialising in my local pub, The Swan – it has been my second living room for nearly 20 years and we have a great community spirit there. I am also missing being in the church, doing my welcoming and seeing my fellow 12.45 Mass-goers and greatly missed the choir over the Easter services. So church, pub and football and all the people that go with those three things.

**Anne Waldron:** Seeing my family.

**David Hurst:** Being busy and seeing people. Living



**Fr John: Grateful for parishioners' prayers**



**Father Joe: Renewing his trust in the Lord**

alone it is quite a discipline having to create structure to the day but my life is fine compared to many.

**Chris Woodward:** I miss being able to visit my three children and nine grandchildren. Zoom is great, but you don't get the hugs!

**What's the first thing you will do when this is all over?**



**Potty:** A huge, huge hug for her daughter

**Fr John:** Get my hair cut! Visit my brother whom I haven't seen for weeks and stroke his cat, who is missing me!  
**Potty Connel-**

**ly:** The first thing I want to do is to see my daughter, give her a huge, huge hug and tell her how much I love her!

**Sr Dorothy:** Go home and see my brother, then see all my friends  
**Fr Joe:** I don't

know whether I will be alive or not. At the peak of the pandemic, the future is unknown. So before I begin my private Mass, I try to renew my trust in the Lord.

**Fr Dennis:** I think of offering a thanksgiving Mass to the Lord.

**Bob:** See as many friends as possible then for a meal in our favourite restaurant!

**Eleanor:** Try and see all the people I've



**Wendy:** Missing family - and theatre

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# Bereavement support

The Bereavement Support Group is very aware of all the people who usually attend the Drop In and are not able to meet just now. Also of all who have been bereaved recently and of some who have lost loved ones some time ago. We would like to let you know that we are available and we offer you support by telephone or by email. Please feel welcome to email Sadie Smith [sadiesmith3@talktalk.net](mailto:sadiesmith3@talktalk.net) or call 020 8946 5198 at any time to be connected to a Bereavement Support Group member.

## EMMA MARTIN

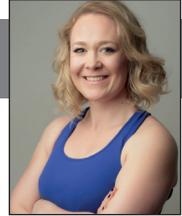
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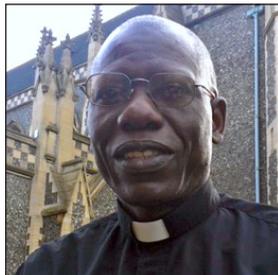
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**Fr Dennis: Celebrating Mass alone is 'not easy'**

missed. I also think we should have a great celebration in the parish once we are all back together!

**Kelly:** I'd like to set up a pop-up shrine at Wimbledon station

inviting people to light candles for the dead or lonely. On the personal side, I would really like to see friends.

**Sadie:** The first thing I will do is to get my hair cut. Then enjoy just going on a bus, meeting friends and chatting face to face.

**Wendy:** Hug all my family members – and go to the theatre!

**Alison:** Go to church, hopefully with my mum, my twin sister Elaine and her girls Maria and Rebecca. See if I can find a matching pew for the second pew on the right which is longer than the one on the left – you'll notice it when you watch the Mass online. Then straight to the pub afterwards!

**Anne:** Get on the train to Newcastle to see my beautiful grandchildren, Alexander and Elizabeth.

**David:** Check everyone I know is all right and what we can do to improve communications and care for people who need it. And then get on with working through my extensive bucket list!

**Chris:** Plan a long walk somewhere in the UK. I had booked with a few others to go to the Oberammergau Passion Play but this has now been postponed until 2022, clearly because there is a long lead-in for rehearsals.

Have you re-evaluated anything about 'life' since?

**Fr John:** It has been like a retreat. It has given me time to catch up with my prayer life.

**Potty:** *Slow down!* Yes, I am grateful for the time to appreciate the things we are too busy to notice in the frenetic rush of modern day life; birdsong, a line from a Hopkins poem – "These things, these things were here and but the beholder wanting..." – and much more besides.

**Sr Dorothy:** It has made me think about the importance of people and little things, for example making a phone call and offering to do something for someone. I also realise we don't need very much at all.

**Fr Joe:** Life is sacrifice, obedience and service. By this, life attains a huge meaning.

**Fr Dennis:** I have had time to think about all the past missions where I served and the various ministries I have engaged in. I have reflected much on the moments when

I couldn't perform well, my failures and successes.

**Bob:** I'm very much realising who we really rely on but take for granted – and not just health workers. And just how precious life is.

**Eleanor:** This time has definitely made me think about how I fill my time and what's really important to me. It's also really made me realise just how fragile and precious life is and that we shouldn't be taking it for granted.

**Kelly:** I love that nobody in the UK is competing against each other at this time.

**Sadie:** Things will never be the same again. Everything seems to have changed and we all have lost loved ones like Margaret Lumley, may she rest in peace.

**Wendy:** The ability to slow down and enjoy watching the spring take over the parks and gardens around us.

**Alison:** It is possible to live quite simply.



**Eleanor: Discovering a love of baking**



**Chris: Has been as busy as ever**

Life is more fun spent with the people you love – but I always knew that.

**Anne:** I have been reconnected to the importance of simplicity in life. We tend to

over-complicate our lives and carry around too much baggage.

**David:** Value the important things – we don't value the emergency services enough, especially the NHS and care workers, and we should re-evaluate this. **Chris:** I am used to living on my own. I quite enjoy solitude, so self-isolating is not a great sacrifice for me. I realise how privileged I am in that I have space, a garden and can walk, within the rules, to Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park and enjoy nature – even the wretched ring-necked parakeets!

### What are you doing to fill the time?

**Fr John:** I'm looking for ways of keeping the parish together: News and views, weekly homily, streamed Masses, countless emails, work for the Deanery, and for the Tribunal, telephone contact with parishioners. And loads of small jobs that always seem to get put off till the next day. I'm also cooking lunch most days.



**Anne: Reconnecting to the simplicity of life**

**Potty:** I have completed two 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles, with more awaiting, and spent hours in the garden

**Sr Dorothy:** I'm quite busy on the com-

puter, I have a schedule of prayer and enjoy my hour-long walks. I am cooking quite a lot and this week have made marmalade cake and proper ginger biscuits.

**Fr Joe:** Praying my office and rosary, reading extensively, writing, chatting with family members and friends, exercise, cleaning the house on every Monday between 9am–11.30am.

**Fr Dennis:** I have intensified my prayer life, I play the piano and sing, do more reading and writing, listen to news.

**Bob:** Gardening, reading, playing the piano and my home practice organ.

**Eleanor:** I've discovered a love for baking so there's lots of cake being consumed. My flat is also the

tidiest it's ever been as I now have no excuses not to do all the housework.

**Kelly:** Reading, gardening, and background jobs that don't normally get

done.

**Sadie:** Mass and my daily walk. Then the phone is busy. Lots of email, somehow the day flies, hardly got time to say my prayers!

**Wendy:** No problem – I'm just too busy! Cupboards to be sorted, Edge Hill Players costumes and props (sorted!) and two hours a week on the phone writing the next pantomime, *Aladdin*, with Terry Marsh.

**Alison:** I start with 10am Mass. I am working from home but most of what we can do has been temporarily shut down. Between Elaine and I, making sure Mum is well stocked up with food so she doesn't need to go out. I love cooking and am enjoying being more imaginative in the kitchen. Going for a long walk on Wimbledon Common/Richmond Park – I love my walks! Taking lots of nature/sunset photos to share on



**Sadie: Things will never be the same again**

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**Alison: Exploring paths on Wimbledon Common**

themed plague literature – e.g. Albert Camus’ *La Peste*, a visceral fictional account of a bubonic plague hitting a city on the Algerian coast in 1947; and Daniel Defoe’s *A Journal of the Plague Year*, which recounts his real experiences of the London plague of 1665. Scary stuff!

**David:** As well as calling family (my 28-year-old son has been in Sydney since February, my 56-year-old brother lives and teaches in Malaga, and I have two sisters with large families in Lancashire), I try to call one person a day that I haven’t spoken to for a long time to catch up and share how they are dealing with this strange situation. This has been inspirational and revelatory.

**Chris:** I seem to be as busy as ever! I have had three clashes of Zoom meetings in the last two weeks. One was a two-hour training session which left me exhausted and with a very stiff neck. Plenty of gardening to do and the kitchen definitely needs a lick of paint. I have ordered five bags for a confidential shredding service – it’s a good time for a clear out!

**Have you learnt any new recipes or taken up new hobbies?**

**Fr John:** Not had the time as yet.

**Potty:** No!

**Fr Joe:** Improvements in my ironing and cooking skills.

**Fr Dennis:** I have improved a bit in playing

Facebook and trying to keep in touch with as many family and friends as possible. I have about 200 unread books that I should make a start on.

**Anne:** I am reading lots, including appropriately

the piano.

**Bob:** Not really – just re-learning old ones!

**Eleanor:** I’m enjoying learning to cook lots of new things now I have the time. I made an apple crumble loaf that will definitely be made again. I’ve also been spending my time reading lots of new books!

**Kelly:** Dabbled with a comedy class on line and with an online coding course. I have been gardening in my parents’ garden in Sussex and read *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

**Sadie:** I am learning about virtual meetings, using Zoom, WhatsApp, Skype etc. Sharing a meal with my sons on Zoom was great fun.

**Wendy:** We are trying to learn Italian!

**Alison:** I’ve been experimenting a bit more in the kitchen and am learning all the different paths on Wimbledon Common, especially the little paths away from everyone else – sometimes I feel like an explorer in the jungle!

**Anne:** No new recipes, but lots more home cooking!

**David:** I live on “meat and two veg”, with fruit

for afters, so nothing new there. Getting my life in order – I have even written a will!

**Chris:** Nothing new, but if I find time on my hands, I will be getting the water colours out again and play around with my Canon camera.



**Bob: Re-learning old skills**

**What helps you get through each day?**

**Fr John:** Knowing that the people of the parish are supporting me by their prayers, and my Masses and prayers. Responding to people’s needs, especially the bereaved.

**Sr Dorothy:** Being thankful: there is so much to be grateful for, I am keeping a posi-



**Kelly: Dabbling with an online comedy class**

thought that it won't last forever and we might be a more compassionate society as a result.

**Eleanor:** Having some form of routine. I'm trying each day to spend an hour or so doing different activities/chores so I then don't get bored of any particular thing. I've been doing a lot more walking in my local area and have found lots of different routes that take in some beautiful scenery.

**Kelly:** My dog! And hope in other people.

**Sadie:** I am very busy every day. Being able to attend the streamed Mass from our own church every morning has kept me anchored – otherwise I don't think I could have got myself out of bed. Then talking to friends on the phone helped a lot. Being part of a great parish has been such a help.

**Wendy:** A daily walk together and the great luxury of our garden.

tive outlook.

**Fr Dennis:** I plan my daily activities well and follow my schedule but also attend to my brother priests whenever they call my attention.

**Bob:** My wife and my cat! And the

normal life, by doing the simple things we took for granted, will seem very special. I can't wait to be standing at the -back of church again.

**Anne:** Feeling fit and well and the lovely weather. As a natural introvert, I enjoy the absence of pressure to be always 'out there' whether socially or in business.

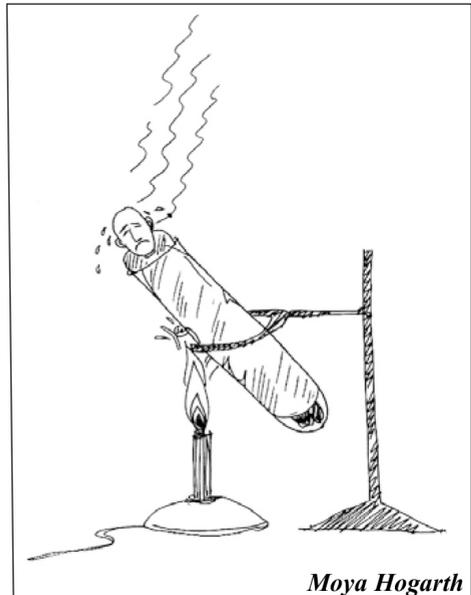
**David:** Keeping busy writing stories and articles for *Edgeways* and for two other magazines. Also, sending emails to friends and relatives. And clearing out my over cluttered in-box.

**Chris:** After the compulsory mug of strong tea, I try to spend 15–20 minutes in prayer and meditation each day. More recently I have been tuning into the streamed Mass. With a full-screen television setting, I feel very much part of the Mass. Thereafter I offer the day up to the Lord. Phoning around a few people each day helps my sanity.



**David: Clearing out his overcluttered inbox**

**Alison:** Faith and gratitude. Knowing that everyone else around the world is going through something similar and that when this is all over, going back to living a more



**To collect fumes of sulphur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube.  
(School science class written answer)**

# Parish work continues online

While the church is closed during the coronavirus crisis, daily Mass at 10.00am and Sunday Masses at 10am and 8pm are being streamed online at [www.churchservices.tv/wimbledon](http://www.churchservices.tv/wimbledon) and spiritual communion is now part of the Mass.

Weekly homilies and updates from Canon John are being emailed to all parishioners and are on the parish website.

Plans are being put in place to keep in touch with parishioners who need help during lockdown.

Many volunteers have already offered to shop or do errands for those who ask while others are offering a telephone befriending service.

Enquires should be sent to [dthurst52@gmail.com](mailto:dthurst52@gmail.com) or call 07716 284287.

The Confirmation programme is continuing online. New dates for First Holy Communion will be announced when possible and will probably be in the Au-



A lot of parish work is still going on, as you will discover on our website, [sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk](http://sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk)

tumn.

The [parish financial report](#) is available on the website. The parish needs our continuing financial support, especially given there are no offertory collections. An electronic payment facility is now available online via the parish website. Thank you for this.

The PPC welcomes applications for membership which are open to all parishioners.

Anyone interested is invited to enquire for more information from one of the parish team or from the PPC Chair, Anne Waldron, who can be contacted at [anne@annewaldron.com](mailto:anne@annewaldron.com) or call 07886 034323.



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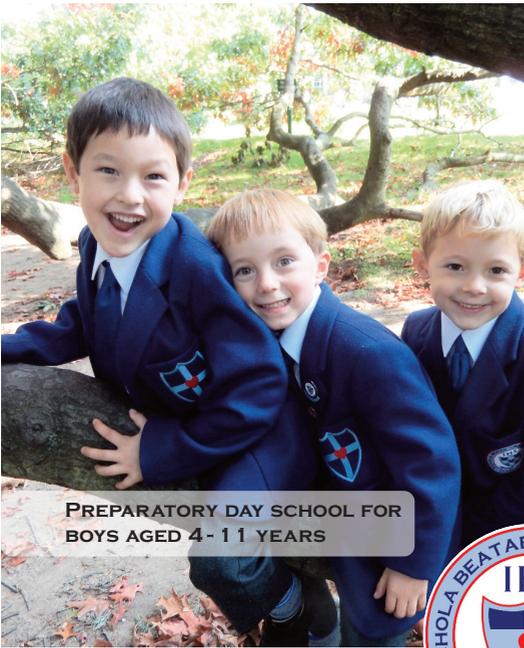
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*Outstanding Inspection Report available to view at: [www.donhead.org.uk](http://www.donhead.org.uk)*

# The Most Rev Peter Smith

## *Emeritus Archbishop of Southwark*

*Archbishop Peter Smith died peacefully in his sleep at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea, just before midnight on March 6, following a short illness. In November 2011, Sacred Heart parishioner the late EUGENE BYRNE interviewed the then new archbishop for Edgeways. We reprint his article below, which makes interesting reading in the light of future events.*



### **Eugene Byrne chats with the newly installed Archbishop of Southwark, Peter Smith**

“What you see is what you get.”

This phrase, which he used himself, gives you a good picture of our recently installed Archbishop, the Most Rev Peter David Smith. From the hour’s interview that he kindly gave us we took away the picture of an open personality, founded on an unpretentious self-knowledge. No wonder he does well on TV and radio interviews.

Born in Battersea in 1943, he went to the Xaverian College, Clapham. Not see-

ing himself as university material, he followed his brother into a job in Coutts Bank in the Strand and the West End. In those days the men in Coutts, bankers to the Queen, worked in morning dress and much of their basic training was about etiquette.

After six weeks he decided that this was not for him, but he was attracted by the idea of being a lawyer, so he obtained an LLB at Exeter University. He became chair of the Catholic Society and an ecumenical



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group, and it was at about this time that the call started, as so often seems to be the case, to sound quietly in the background.

Dismissed at first, it wouldn't go away – he couldn't get it out of his heart, he says, so he went to see the chaplain, Fr George Hay, who was helpful but stressed that it had to be his choice. Archbishop [Cyril] Cowderoy, late of our diocese, took the same line. Finally, he gave in and was accepted at the diocesan seminary at Wonersh, to the dismay of his non-Catholic father.

That was shortly after Vatican II, which he found led some of his fellow students to see the priesthood in a social worker framework, whereas he was firmly drawn to the spiritual essence of the pastoral role.

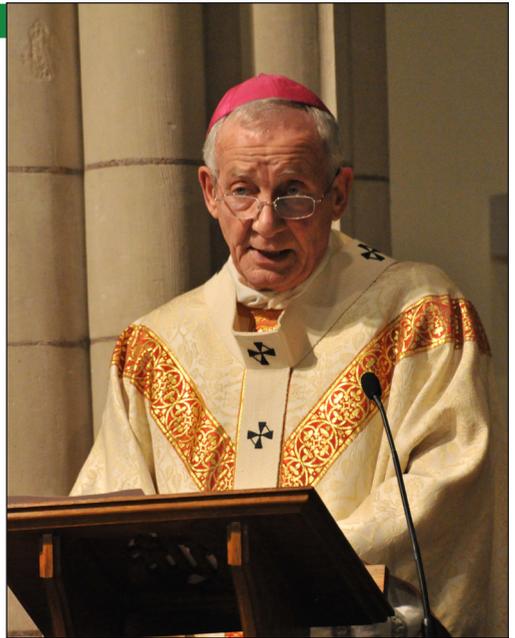
He teaches that in our disoriented society the Church must become more and more a 'praying Church' where our lives are focused on the Cross, the heart of the matter.

### ***Ambition***

As things turned out, after his ordination in 1972 he was not allowed to fulfil his ambition of parish work for very long. However, he did work in Larkhall Lane parish for two years, after which he was dispatched to the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas in Rome to gain a doctorate *summa cum laude* in canon law.

Then, after seven years at Wonersh as Vice-Rector, he became 'administrator' of the large Thornton Heath parish. His parishioners were campaigning to have him made parish priest but after a year he was back in Wonersh as rector.

After 10 years there he felt that he needed a sabbatical, but, in 1995, was told he was to be appointed Bishop of East Anglia. He loved East Anglia, the people, the parishes, but after six years there he was asked to take over the task of Archbishop of Cardiff where recent events had presented the diocese with a challenge in re-



**Archbishop Peter at the handover of the Sacred Heart from the Jesuits to the Diocese of Southwark in January 2014. "I'm inclined to say, 'We've got it at last!'" he joked**

covering its reputation.

After two challenging years he had another six-and-a-half satisfying years in a supportive community. A satisfactory media climate was restored and he engendered good relations with BBC Wales.

So now, since April last year, to Southwark to succeed the ailing Archbishop [Kevin] McDonald. Consider the challenges in a diocese of over 90,000 Mass attenders in 185 parishes. He is unlikely to be able to get round to all of them, so we were very lucky to see him at our celebration. Even the Auxiliary Bishops, such as our own Bishop [Paul] Hendricks on whom he has to rely, have 60 odd parishes to look after. Worst of all – no garden: he's a keen gardener. The lilies of the field do not grow around St. George's Road, only the odd weed in the paving.

# The little-known story of St Corona

*Yes, there actually is a St. Corona. She was only 16 when she was martyred and her remains are in Northern Italy, as LARRY PETERSON of [aleteia.org](http://aleteia.org) explains*

Right in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic in Italy is the city of Anzu, where there is a basilica where the relics of St Victor and St Corona have been preserved since the 9th century. The word Corona is Latin for crown. Ironically, St. Corona is considered in some regions as one of the patron saints of pandemics.

Little is known about St Corona, but she and the man she prayed for, St Victor, are listed in the Roman martyrology and the Hagiography of the Church. There is ambiguity surrounding the dates and locations of St Victor's and St Corona's martyrdom. Most sources say it was in Syria, which was under Roman rule. Some say Damascus; others, Antioch. Most agree they were put to death in the year AD170, during the reign of Marcus Aurelius and that they were put to death by order of a Roman judge named Sebastian.

The story (legend) tells the tale of a Roman soldier named Victor, whom the Romans discovered was a Christian. They brought Victor before Sebastian, who despised Christians. He decided to make an example of Victor, who was bound to a pillar and summarily whipped until his skin was hanging from his body, and then Sebastian had his eyes gouged out. Through it all, Victor never denied Christ.

Nearby was a 16-year-old girl named Corona. She was the wife of one of the soldiers, and she was also a Christian –



National Gallery of Denmark

unknown to her husband. As Victor was being brutalised, Corona decided she needed to help the slowly dying man. She chose to announce her Christianity to all present and hurried over to where they were torturing Victor. She knelt and began to pray for him, letting him know she was there for him. It did not take very long for the soldiers to bring her too before Sebastian.

The judge was livid that this young woman had so disrespected his authority and immediately had her put in the prison and tortured. Then, he ordered her tied to the tops of two palm trees, which had been pulled down to the ground. At his signal, the ropes holding the bent trees were cut. The trees sprang back away from each other to an upright position. The force was so great that Corona's body was ripped apart. Then Sebastian ordered Victor beheaded.

The two martyrs' remains in the basilica have been there since the 9th century.

In 1943 and again in 1981, they were examined, and the bones are from both a male and female. The 1981 examination, they discovered cedar pollen, which was a typical plant from the Mediterranean basin during the time in question. Both Victor and Corona are pre-congregation saints, meaning that they were recognised as saints prior to Church canonization processes being standardised by the general law of the church under Pope Gregory IX (1227-41).

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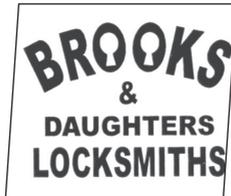
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# England is rededicated to Mary

More than 500,000 people watched history being made on Sunday 29 March via live streaming, when the ceremony to mark the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary was held at Walsingham Catholic National Shrine in Norfolk. Many more joined at home at other times of the day.

The ceremony followed a 2017 decision by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales. The original plan was for the rededication to take place in all cathedrals and churches but the lockdown imposed because of Covid-19 made that impossible as all churches were closed.

The number of people trying to connect to the livestream made the Walsingham site crash and soon after the churchservices.tv stream also crashed. Viewers were asked to switch to YouTube to watch the rededication there. Throughout the day the ceremony was repeated by bishops in their cathedrals and priests in their churches, but without congregations.

Before Covid-19, communities were encouraged to sign up to the Rededication map on the official website, and 299 churches, schools and organisations did so, including all cathedrals. As the lockdown made it impossible to gather in these places, an individual sign-up was made possible so that the rededication could be celebrated at home and 2057 individual sign ups were made. A map of these can be found in [www.behold2020.com/](http://www.behold2020.com/)

In a message sent before the ceremony Pope Francis said that he “prays that the act of rededication will inspire all to persevere in the urgent task of sharing the joy of the Gospel with the men and women of our times. As they strive to bear witness to the beauty of our Catholic faith, to promote unity between Christians and to proffer the merciful love of Jesus to the poorest of



our brothers and sisters,” he encourages them “to draw wisdom and strength from the example and intercession of the country’s many confessors and martyrs.”

In his homily after the rededication ceremony, Mgr John Armitage, Rector of the Catholic National Shrine, said, “When our bishops decided three years ago to undertake this rededication, they could never have foreseen the extent of our need at this time. Today we undertake this dedication in the ‘eye of the storm’. We have long pondered and treasured the words of Pope Leo XIII to an earlier generation of Bishops “When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England” in the hour of our need Our Blessed Mother has indeed returned to England!”

Cardinal Vincent Nichols said on Twitter, “Today is the day we rededicate ourselves to Our Blessed Lady. This act of dedication asks of us to make a gift of ourselves to her. We ask for her protection, her mantle of love cast over us and our nations.” ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcvL3NxLNj8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcvL3NxLNj8))

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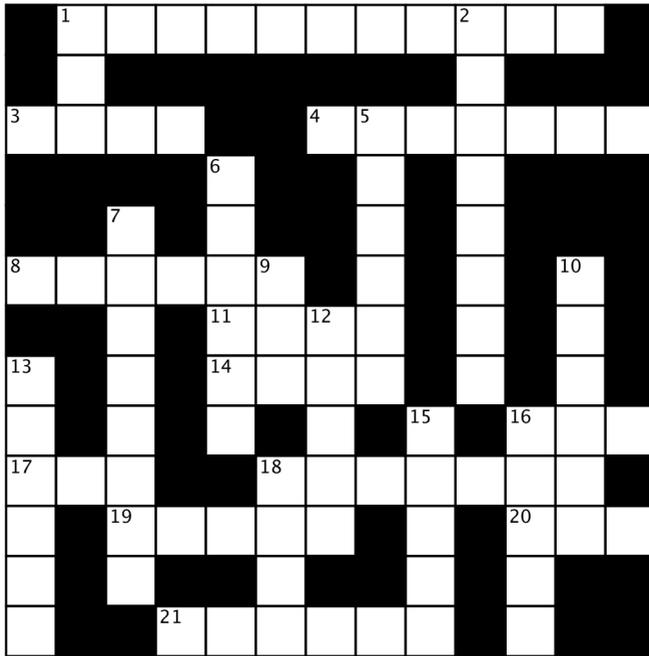
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# As you're sitting in the garden...

*A Catholic-based crossword to print out and have a go at*



**Across**

1. English playwright who is said to have "died a papyst" (11)
3. English monsignor who wrote *Essays in Satire* (1928) (4)
4. Financial support given to a priest (7)
8. Stream that Jesus crossed to enter the Garden of Gethsemane (6)
11. 18th-century Catholic poet who wrote *The Rape of the Lock* (4)
14. The original paradise (4)
16. Church of St ---, parish church for Vatican City residents (4)
17. Essential word omitted from the sixth commandment in the "Wicked Bible" of 1631 (3)
18. Hollywood film director who defended his subject matter by saying: "I didn't write the Bible and I didn't invent sin" (2,5)
19. Catholic composer of *The Dream of Gerontius* (5)
20. Small case in which one carries the Host (3)
21. Common feature in churches, but lacking in Norman ones (6)

**Down**

1. Surname of the Cardinal Archbishop of Manila 1974–2003 who enjoyed making jokes about his own name (3)
2. Name given to the sprinkling of holy water over the congregation at High Mass (8)
5. Catholic fantasy writer whose most famous work was made into a film trilogy by Peter Jackson (7)
6. Surname of keen advocate of birth control and fervent eugenicist who chained a copy of her critical book *Roman Catholic Methods of Birth Control* to the font of Westminster Cathedral (6)
7. North African sect mentioned by Augustine who practised nudism (8)
9. Land that Cain went to after murdering Abel (3)
10. James ---, Catholic film star who never actually said, "Mmmm, you dirty rat!" (6)
12. Brother of St Andrew (5)
13. Gregor ---, monk and botanist who first described genetic inheritance (6)
15. St Peter's successor as head of the Church (5)
16. First letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
18. Spanish surrealist painter (1904-1989) who lost and later regained his faith (4)

# We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God

*Pope Francis has urged all Catholics to recite this prayer, imploring the help of the Virgin Mary during the Covid-19 pandemic, after saying the rosary during the month of May*

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.



Daniel Ibanez/CNA

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illuminate the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.