



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Presbytery

Edge Hill, Wimbledon

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NEWS and VIEWS 1/21

10 JANUARY 2021

The Baptism of the Lord (B) Vol I

This Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 55:1-11

Psalm: Is 12:2-6

1 John 5:1-9

Mark 1:7-11

End of the Christmas Season

First week in Ordinary Time, psalter week 1

A WORD OF THANKS

With the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord we come to the end of the Christmas Season. It has been a strange time for all of us but through the hard work and dedication of so many in the parish it has been a time of grace. We have all been helped in our celebration this Christmas by the beautiful decorations in the church and the central position of the crib. Our team of florists and decorators worked hard to ensure a magnificent display that helped us get a true appreciation of the significance of the feast. The liturgy, too, helped in the pious celebration of the liturgy and for that we are indebted to our sacristans, altar servers, choirs, stewards, readers, Eucharistic Ministers.

To all of you I say a heartfelt "Thank You". While it is invidious to name individuals, I know you would want me to say a special word of thanks to Alison Lobo and her great team of stewards who, day after day, have kept the church disinfected after each Mass and confessions. They have also helped us to maintain safe distancing in the church especially when approaching the altar for communion. Without their dedication, day in and day, out we would not be able to keep the church open for Mass and confessions, nor would it be possible to have funerals and weddings. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. We were this Christmas able to distribute 101 Christmas Hampers to those on their own this Christmas Day. My thanks to the team who worked so hard in the organisation and distribution of these welcome gifts. To all the many people who worked so hard to make this Christmas such a success "Thank You" from the clergy and people of the parish.

NEW LOCKDOWN

With the announcement of a new lockdown for England - the restriction came into force on 5 January - to curb the rapid spread of COVID-19, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: *'The regular practice of our faith in God is a well-established source of both personal resilience and dedicated service to those in need. Such resilience and enduring service are vital in these difficult circumstances. I am glad that no measures have been introduced that would obstruct or curtail this essential source of energy for the common good. Catholic parishes will continue to serve the needs of their local community.'*

ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITING THE CHURCH

Our church is open for private prayer and for Masses.

Masses are celebrated at 10am and 6.30pm on weekdays, at 10am & 6.30pm on Saturday, at 10am, 12 noon, 5pm and 8pm on Sunday.

Confessions: Every day from 6-6.20pm and Saturday 10.30-11.30am and 6-6.20pm.

The church will be open for private prayer and Exposition weekdays from 10.30am - 1pm. There will be **no** private prayer or Exposition at weekends.

Funerals can take place in the church, but are limited to 30 people only, however, live streaming will normally be available.

Any time the church is open, there will be stewards on duty to ensure we observe the COVID-safety practices. Parishioners are asked to wear face masks when entering the church. To aid safe distancing and to avoid a queue when entering the church, please bring your completed Track and Trace form with you to Mass. Alternatively, download the NHS COVID-19 app and scan it (scanning codes are on the pillars by the rear tables). For everyone's safety, please follow the guidelines and be respectful of our stewards and their role in keeping the church open. Please keep a safe distance of 2 metre, use hand gel on entry and (unless exempt) wear a face mask.

For further information please visit the parish website <https://www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk> or telephone the Presbytery (020 8946 0305) between 9.30am and 4pm on weekdays. Please note that you should only contact the office by phone or email and not visit the Presbytery during this new period of lockdown.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to act as stewards to enable the church to be kept open for private prayer and for Masses. If you would like to help, please contact Alison Lobo at radar1972@hotmail.com or call 07711 583 414.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Please pray for those who are sick, Maria Moniz, Carol Donnelley, Caroline Pugh, Kim Perrot McGroaty, Simon Wood, Pamela Hannigan, Samar Staussi, David Carrier, Oscar Carrier-Sippy, John Clancy, Andrew Tan, Ian Parr, Harriette Cahill and Paul Saunders.

We pray for those who have died recently, and all who have died due to the effects of the Coronavirus, Lilly Auza-Coloma, Michael Paice, Denis Lenihan and Teresa Falzon.

We remember all whose anniversary occurs at this time: Peter Abberton, John Baldesare, Beatrice Nyeko, Anne Hussey, Rui Braganza, Iris Desmier, Catherine O'Brien, Thomas Limna and Claude Bonnichou.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

'The joy of Christmas was increased this year by so many of us being able to share it. This took on many different forms this year – the Clergy and the Parishioners rejoiced in being present to many people in a variety of ways. One area of great pleasure was had by the sending out of hampers to people who were on their own or for one reason or another and were unable to spend Christmas with loved ones. This involved an army of volunteers – planning how to do it in a safe way, packing goodie bags into hand decorated bags, Children writing Christmas cards, cooking and packing the delicious afternoon tea hampers, making them look so beautiful, people taking the hampers out all around Wimbledon and Raynes Park on Christmas morning to parishioners and other lovely people, not to mention the very detailed preparation needed to do this safely within the COVID-19 restrictions in tier 4.

The generosity of the local supermarkets in response to request by members of the planning group was greatly appreciated and of course to all of you who contributed so generously to the funding of the project. We would like to thank all the people who volunteered to help - whom we couldn't use because of restrictions of people working together. This meant that front line workers like Louise Cooper with Peter Hetherington and Dave Garioch cooking, Rehana Edun-Noys on buying and packing, Jan Chielewski organising deliveries, Naomi Linkson talking to the supermarkets and helping in many other ways and Ben Smith overseeing and stepping in whenever help was needed at every point – all cheerful and rejoicing, made the whole thing work. So, a wonderful Christmas was made happier by people who received and people who sent out the Hampers. It gives me great pleasure to see an event – the Parish Christmas Lunch, which I started about 30 years ago, now being carried on so successfully by a younger generation.

We would like to go on sharing this joyful sense of sharing and caring throughout the New Year in any way that we can. If any of you are inspired about what we could do please let us know' – Sadie Smith (sadiesmith3@talktalk.net)

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 8 December 2020, the Holy Father announced that a *Year of Saint Joseph* was to begin that same day to mark the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1870. In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)*, Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. See: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papafrancesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

The Holy Father wrote *Patris Corde* against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of 'ordinary' people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, 'the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence' who nonetheless played 'an incomparable role in the history of salvation'. More information about the Year of St Joseph and a link to the Apostolic Letter can be found at the Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/year-of-st-joseph/>

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2021

18 - 25 January *Abiding in Christ*

The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, 'Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit', is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. Resources are provided by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and are available on the Vatican website: <http://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacrisciani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita.html>

Resources are also available on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) website: www.ctbi.org.uk; hymns can be accessed and heard on the website of the Community of Grandchamp: www.grandchamp.org. You can also listen to their common prayer online every day at: www.grandchamp.org/prier-avec-nous.

Prayer (which will be said at Masses during the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*)

Jesus Christ,
you seek us, you wish to offer us your friendship
and lead us to a life that is ever more complete.
Grant us the confidence to answer your call
so that we may be transformed
and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world.

COMMISSION FOR PROMOTING RACIAL AND CULTURAL INCLUSION

Fr Victor Darlington, as Episcopal Vicar, has accepted the challenging role of leading the newly established Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion. I am very grateful to him and the working group who are already addressing important matters in this area.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

There has been some uncertainty within the Catholic community with respect to vaccinations for COVID-19. It is very important that the pastoral counsel we offer our people accurately reflects the Church's moral teaching and tradition which affirms that such vaccinations are morally licit. This is articulated in the most recent statements by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/update-on-covid-19-and-vaccination/> and the Vatican http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

CHRISTMAS CONNECTIONS APPEAL

A heartfelt thank you to all those who have so generously donated items to this year's appeal which have been delivered to the women's refuge at *The Link Café* in the Salvation Army building in Morden.

The appeal is due to finish soon, however, donations of toiletries and household cleaning products are still most welcome and can be placed in the two (clearly marked) wheely bins inside the Lower Hall/Lounge door. For more information, please contact David Hurst (dthurst52@gmail.com). Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to take this opportunity to cordially congratulate Samantha Jane Axbey on receiving the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) by the Queen for voluntary service to Girlguiding in Wimbledon, London. Samantha J. Axbey has been predominantly - and with the most admirable dedication - running the parish Guide unit (28th Wimbledon/Sacred Heart Guides) over the past 35 years! Many congratulations on her New Year's honour which is well deserved indeed.

PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

The Parish Bereavement Support offers individual (confidential) support by appointment to ANYONE who is experiencing the pain of bereavement, irrespective of when or where the bereavement took place. Grief is a particular isolating experience that can affect all aspects of your life, physically, emotionally and socially, there are so many kinds of grieving. We are here for you. Sadly, during these difficult times, we are restricted to support by telephone. But you are very welcome to talk to one of our trained group members for a friendly conversation, to help you to cope with your sadness.

This group has been working in the Parish since 2012. Please feel very welcome to contact us at any time – call Sadie Smith 020 8946 5198 or email [sadiesmith3@ talktalk.net](mailto:sadiesmith3@talktalk.net).

FAMILIES IN NEED

If you are in need of help or know of a family who is in need, please contact The Sacred Heart Conference of St Vincent de Paul, in confidence, either through the website https://www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/Groups/290592/SVP_The_Society.aspx or phone the Presbytery 020 8946 0305 and ask to be put in touch with SVP.

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.

Our main hospital is St George's, and the chaplain Fr Mark Higgins can be contacted on 020 8725 3069.

The contact number for Fr Philip Pak, chaplain at St Heliers and Epsom Hospital, is 020 8296 2000.

Fr Tony Oleh is chaplain at Kingston Hospital and can be contacted on 020 8546 7711.

Every blessing on you all.

Canon John