

April
2021

EDGEWAYS

The Sacred Heart Parish magazine

Vol. 34 No. 1

sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk



Parish youth group's superb dramatic take on the Passion

Our shared journey through Lent

*** FREE * but donations are always welcome**

EDGEWAYS – now in its 34th year – is usually published every month except August, but the ramifications of Covid-19 and lockdowns means we have been coming out bi-monthly. 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

John Symes

Edgeways, Sacred Heart, Edge Hill, London SW19 4LU

07745 100 596

or via our mail basket by the bookshop in the Presbytery, or email editoredgeways@icloud.com

Advertising

Our very reasonable rates are as follows:

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For details, contact David on **07716 284 28**

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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 on the parish website**



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.

The charities we have donated in the past

are

- Manna, Passage
 - Raphael Pilgrimage
 - Sacred Heart Youth, Sacred Heart Church
- We also partly fund maintenance of the lounge.

Our opening times Fridays 9–10.30.
Sundays 8.30–10.30 To join please contact: Sr Patricia - 07973 950755

Lenten thoughts and Easter treats



Mass at the Sacred Heart on Easter Sunday 2021

This year saw the Sacred Heart far better prepared for a “locked-down” Lent and Easter than was the case last year.

Then, of course, the newly imposed Covid-19 restrictions were far stricter than prevail today (though some would argue, not by much). Masses and other religious gatherings wavered between being highly restricted and totally outlawed; everyone was urged to stay at home and not mix outside their immediate household; the joy of life had, it seemed, been replaced with a general air of fear, confusion and, worst of all, despair.

But the parish has learned a lot in the ensuing year, not least how to harness technology to promote our faith, give support and help when and where needed, and most of all to foster hope and charity in ways we had barely imagined back then.

These lessons came to the fore last Christmas and were reinforced during Lent and Easter this year. There was a host of online activities and events during Lent

that parishioners could take part in. While some outside groups hosted “virtual retreats”, the Sacred Heart had its own initiative: *Our Shared Journey Through Lent*.

Fr John’s inspired idea was to create a daily collection of Lenten thoughts, memories, songs and prayers contributed by parishioners, for parishioners. The result is a wonderful treasury that is so impressive that I have devoted several pages of this issue to it, although I can only provide a mere sampling of the whole (which is available to read on the parish website [here](#)).

Augmenting this were a number of other online parish activities, such as the regular Lenten Zoom gatherings organised and hosted by Sadie Smith, and a wonderful virtual tour by the National Gallery’s Jo Walton of Easter-related masterpieces by the world’s greatest artists, a Zoom talk organised by Anne Waldron.

In other words, a lot has been going on! So read on ...

Our shared journey through Lent

The restrictions imposed by Covid-19 meant that many of familiar parish activities held during Lent, such as the weekly talks and retreats, could not be held, at least in and around the church.

So the ever-fertile mind of Father John came up with an idea that would harness the power of the internet – the parish website in particular – and involve as many of the parish as possible.

A Shared Parish Journey Through Lent was conceived as a daily series of thoughts and anecdotes, prayers and reflections, each contributed by parishioners, covering a wide range of Lent-related topics, from “My favourite Lenten prayer” to “What does Lent mean to me this year?”

A dedicated team comprising Sarah Tobin, Sr Dorothy, Sadie Smith, Eleanor Bowman and Nicki Brenninkmaijer set



about making it happen: persuading and cajoling friends and acquaintances to contribute, sorting out the entries and sourcing pictures when required, turning them into daily slides and publishing them on the website, as well as PDFs to be sent out with Fr John’s weekly News and Views.

The result is a veritable spiritual treasury of contributions from a real cross-section of the parish – the youngest contributor was 10 years old.

There is not enough room in one edition of *Edgeways* to include them all, but here is a selection of some that caught our eye. The full collection – surely one that should be preserved as a monument to how the Sacred Heart parish came together to overcome the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic – can be viewed at on the website [here](#).

Aaron Burden via Unsplash

John Symes

You can never be kind enough - shared by Judy

I can remember that for many years, when I was younger, we would have that annual discussion on what we were going to “GIVE UP” for Lent. Would it be those more-ish chocolate biscuits or that tempting glass of wine at dinner time?

As I have matured, I have realised that Lent is not about what you GIVE UP. It is about what you GIVE.

This last year has reinforced my view that, Lent or No Lent, GIVING is what it is all about. I don't mean money, I mean time and effort and energy and, above all, kindness.

If I could take one prayer and one image with me through Lent, they would be as follows:

The Prayer Of St Ignatius

Dearest Jesus,
Teach me to be generous
To serve you as you deserve,
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labour and to ask for no reward,
save that of knowing that I do your
holy will.



I spotted this on the gates outside Hollymount Primary School on Cambridge Road and this is the image I shall take with me through Lent.



Our shared journey through Lent- Wednesday 24th February, 8th day of Lent

Directions home

It can't have been easy, teaching religion to a class of rambunctious 15-year-old schoolboys. As always though, Father Cooper SJ was well prepared. He'd brought a tape cassette recorder with him - cutting-edge classroom technology in the 1970s.

He played a dramatised story about the disciples. Judas was on his way to meet the others but had become separated and was quickly lost in a maze of backstreets.

It was growing dark and the bustling city was noisy and confusing.

We listened as Judas asked one of the crowd for help: 'I'm lost, I'm lost and I can't find my way.'

Father Cooper stopped the tape. He repeated the line, pausing for a long moment.

Even the most inattentive student could join the dots and understand the metaphor:

It was only one line from a lesson nearly 50 years ago. Yet I think of it often.

Lord, through this holy season, help me to find my way when I am lost and stumble, and turn toward you.

Our shared journey through Lent- Day 3



Open our hearts to be available for your mission

'God our Loving Father,
pour out on us afresh the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
Open our ears to hear your Word,
open our eyes to see your Presence,
open our minds to understand your Wisdom.

and open our hearts to be available for your mission,
so that we can truly be a sign and instrument of your presence in our world
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Shared by Chris, 14 March, 27th day of Lent

'Choose a plant, look at it every day and keep a note of any changes that happen over Lent' - shared by Michael

This story was told by the priest on the first Sunday of Lent. It left an impression on me and that is well over 10 years ago.

Fr Chris arrives as the new parish priest on the first Sunday of Lent.

'To get to know all the children of the parish would all children come up to the altar please. Have you been asked to give up things for Lent,' he asked them and a number of things came tumbling out including sweets etc. 'Well', he said, 'you can forget that and I will tell you and your parents why'.

'I would like each of you to choose a plant in your garden or in the park or nearby your home and go and look at it every day and keep a note of any changes that happen. Will you do that for me?'

On Easter Sunday he called all the children up to the altar and with the help of the microphone asked them what type of plant they had been following. 'Mine was all sticks now it is all green' 'mine was a shoot, now it is a big yellow daffodil' and he went round them all.



"Well your plants don't have brains and they cannot talk and yet in those 40 days of Lent they have changed a lot. Your parents do have brains and they can talk. So for my Easter message I would like you to go back and ask them how much THEY have changed in Lent and listen very carefully to the answers."

The noise was massive and after about five minutes he tapped the microphone - 'thank you so much children for doing my Easter homily for me and I do hope that you and your parents remember the answers for years to come.'

The message, that I still remember, was 'parents you have to do something as well as the children'.

Our shared journey through Lent- Wednesday 3rd March, 15th day of Lent



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 or call 020 8946 5198 at any time to be connected to a Bereavement Support Group member.

EMMA MARTIN - PERSONAL TRAINER -



**IN NEED OF SOME HELP GETTING INTO SHAPE?
GET IN CONTACT TODAY!**

Training sessions can be in the home, outdoors or at David Lloyd
Raynes Park

- Personal Training • Massage Therapy • Life Coaching • Nutritional Advice

Having worked in the corporate life for 12 years before switching careers, I can relate to my busy clients' desire to start or maintain a healthy lifestyle but struggle with time, injuries or knowledge. Using a combination of training, life coaching, nutritional advice and soft tissue therapy, I will help you towards a healthier lifestyle – physical, mental or emotional.

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Dante's Divine Comedy acknowledges our shortcomings and fills us with hope, joy and love - Luisa



Source: wikipedia

“A light there is in the beyond which makes the Creator visible to the creature, who only in beholding Him finds peace.”

This is the 21st year of the 21st century; 700 years since the Italian poet, Dante, died. He wrote a famous poem called ‘The Divine Comedy’. In the poem Dante is on a journey to Heaven and travels through Hell and Purgatory to reach Heaven. The messages in the poem show us that within each of us there is a spark of all three, Hell, Purgatory and Heaven.

Katya Adler, the BBC Europe correspondent, reveals 21st century meanings to Dante’s 14th century poem, in 3 half hour episodes, available on BBC Sounds <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/m000r36j>. I would especially recommend listening to, Purgatorio (Purgatory) and Paradiso (Heaven). Adler gives 21 reasons why the epic poem is such a key reflection for the 21st century.

The journey reveals surprising resonances for today and fills us with hope and joy and love. We acknowledge our shortcomings, God is revealed to us, and we will be like God.

Our shared journey through Lent- Friday 19th March, 32nd day of Lent



Begin again to walk with Jesus



I have a little book called *Pilgrim in Lent* by Fr Donal Neary SJ and I have used it during Lent for many years now.

There is a scripture reading and meditation for each day. At the start of Lent, he invites us to: *Begin again to walk with Jesus in faith, hope and love so that we may know Him, love Him and serve Him more.*

Shared by Fidelma, 17 March, 30th day of Lent

‘Take up thy cross and follow me...’ - shared by David, our organist

The events of Holy Week, the most holy season of the year, have inspired some of the world’s most profound sacred music. But while there are so many beautiful settings of the Passion narrative from the Gospels, very few composers have risen to the challenge of writing musical illustrations of the 14 Stations of the Cross. One of them was the great French organist Marcel Dupré (1886-1971), whose death 50 years ago is being commemorated in many events all over the world this year. I have played this wonderful work several times in our beautiful church during the past 20 years, but as a special offering this year Bob Rathbone has video-ed a new performance which I played in the closed church last week, and this will come online in five instalments during the coming days - the links will be available on the parish website.

As in most churches, the 14 images that adorn the walls of the Sacred Heart are conceived as aids to prayerful devotion, with a muted, homogeneous palette of colours. Dupré adopts a more direct approach, and invites us to share in every stage of Our Lord’s painful journey with unflinching faith and honesty.

In the opening trial scene he plunges us into the heart of the drama as the angry crowd cries *Barabbas!* and *Let him be crucified!* The grim burden of the Cross is portrayed in dark, foreboding colours, while the three heart-breaking Falls and the agony of the Crucifixion unleash the full power of the organ in music of searing intensity. This contrasts with serene music of ethereal beauty in the three meetings with the women on the road, and then the tenderness of the Descent from the Cross and the final funeral march to the tomb, ending on a note of hope with a distant vision of Paradise...



Compianto sul Cristo Morto by Luca Signorelli

Our shared journey through Lent- Sunday 21st March, 34th day of Lent





Come and join Love to Move

Home Instead Senior Care, in partnership with the British Gymnastics Foundation, run a chair-based gymnastics programme specially designed to get older people moving and functioning better.

The science bit...

Almost every part of this chair-based exercise programme works on bi-lateral asymmetric movement patterns. This benefits all older people including those with dementia and mild cognitive impairment, by enabling the left side and right side of the brain to process information independently, thus improving cognitive function, co-ordination and the ability to carry out activities of daily living more independently... so basically it's great for all!

**Our programme runs every Monday throughout the year at the
Upper Lounge, Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon SW19 4LU
from 10.30am to 12noon**

We serve tea, coffee, cake and biscuits in what is a friendly and encouraging environment. We ask for a contribution of £4 to attend.

**For more information please contact Clare on 02089424137 or
clare.jefferies@homeinstead.co.uk**

www.homeinstead.co.uk/wimbledonandkingston


To us, it's personal.


Love to move

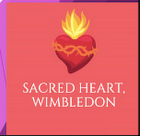


Listening to the choir sing 'My Song is Love Unknown' calms me, lifts me, inspires me - shared by Alison

My Song is Love Unknown is my absolute favourite hymn, a love song about the greatest act of love and sacrifice. Every year Elaine and I look forward to hearing our choir singing it on Good Friday. Listening to it calms me, lifts me, inspires me and it has the most incredible emotional effect on me. It makes me think about how I show people that I love and care about them and also how I treat the 'loveless'.

**'My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take, frail flesh and die?'**

To listen to *My Song is Love Unknown*, performed by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, click this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXsI0>



Our shared journey through Lent- Thursday 25th March, 38th day of Lent

CAFOD's Lenten prayer 2021

Lord of life, Maker of all, transform my heart through my Lenten journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Help me to see the dignity of all my sisters and brothers, made in your image and likeness.

Inspire me to share the fruits of your creation so that your people, all your people, may become artisans of their own destiny.

Amen

Shared by Claire, 10 March, 23rd day of Lent

My loving Jesus - a prayer shared by Margaret

My Loving Jesus,

I look up at your Precious Body Hanging on the cross.
As you were lifted up You gave glory to God the Father.
You forgave each one of the soldiers
and you continue forgiving each one of us every day,
even though you suffer the crucifixion
every single moment of every single day, by me and by all of mankind.

Please Lord help me to really try harder to amend my life.
My loving Jesus, open my eyes and my heart to see you
in the every day challenges and experiences of my life.
Please enfold me in your Most Holy and Sacred Heart Jesus,
so that I may encounter you in my life;
so that I will, with Your Holy Grace, think with Your thoughts,
look with Your eyes, listen with Your ears,
speak and sing with Your voice, reach out with Your hands,
walk where you Lead me,
love and forgive with Your heart, in a world that is longing heart and soul for You Lord,
That each and every heart and soul may be truly lifted up in Glory to You. Amen.



'Jesus meets his mother'- written by a member of the parish youth group in preparation for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.



Jesus meets his afflicted Mother.

'I gave birth to this child and now he's being put to death. When he was 12 he ran away and I was terrified. I thought I would never see him again, but he was fine - of course he was fine. He was in the temple and he said he was in his father's house. I suppose when they crucify him, he'll go to his father, he'll be with God. But I want him with me. I always knew God had plans for him but he's still so young.'



'Veronica wipes the face of Jesus'- written by a member of the parish youth group in preparation for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.



Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

'I don't remember much - only that when He started walking, with that terrible piece of wood on His back, my head started to spin, like I was on some tortuous adventure that I couldn't leave. I can't bear to imagine how much more pain He was suffering Himself.

The rest of it feels like a blur. He falls, and I reach out. There are gasps, and suddenly I'm looking at the Son of God, and He's staring back. His eyes are warm and compassionate, even through His agony and anguish. I don't even register reaching for my veil; barely even recognise handing it to Him.'



'Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem'- written by a member of the parish youth group in preparation for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.



'After a minute I put the pan that I was scrubbing down on the side and I sobbed for the man who had done such a lot for me, for the man who had saved my brother and for the man who had filled me with such joy on so many an occasion.'



'Jesus dies on the cross'- written by a member of the parish youth group in preparation for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.



'How does he deserve to die in such a wicked and unrighteous way? The others in the crowd have bowed their heads. As he died the ground shook and people were terrified. This was a great man. I stood there under him waiting for the ground to swallow me up but it didn't. We are all standing here in a dark cloud, silent. I think most of us know that what we did here today was evil.' - The Centurion

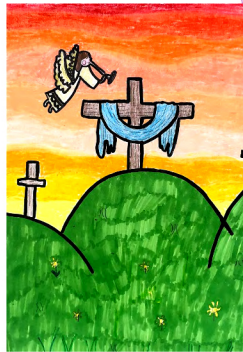


'Father, not my will, but thine be done.'

Thy way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be!
Lead me by thine own hand.
Choose out the path for me;
Smooth let it be or rough,
It will be still the best;
Winding or straight, it leads
Right onward to thy rest.
The kingdom that I seek
Is thine; so let the way
That leads to it be thine,
Else I must surely stray.

I dare not choose my lot;
I would not if I might;
Choose thou for me, my God
So shall I walk aright.
Take thou my cup, and it
With joy or sorrow fill
As best to thee may seem;
Choose thou my good and ill,
Not mine, not mine the choice
In things or great or small;
Be thou my guide, my strength,
My wisdom, and my all.

Poem by Horatius Bonar



Drawing shared by Honor,
one of our altar servers



SACRED HEART

Roll back the stone - by Janet Morley

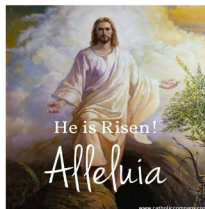
While attending an Easter Retreat at The Friars in Aylesford I was introduced to this prayer - roll back the stone. I find these words inspirational and they fill me with hope.

Roll Back the Stone

When we are despairing;
When the world is full of grief;
When we see no way ahead,
And hope has gone away:
Roll back the stone.

Although we fear change;
Although we are not ready;
Although we'd rather weep
And run away:
Roll back the stone.

Because we're coming with the women;
Because we hope when hope is vain;
Because you call us from the grave
And show the way:
Roll back the stone.



An Easter Prayer

Father, the resurrection of
Your Son has given us new
life and renewed hope.

Help us to live as new people
and rejoice always in his
risen presence.

Give us wisdom to know
what we must do, the will to
do it, the courage to
undertake it in a spirit of
great joy.

Alleluia!



SACRED HEART,
WIMBLEDON

Our shared journey through Lent- Sunday 4th April, Easter Sunday

David meets Dupré

A welcome treat for lovers of serious spiritual music to this year's online Lenten activities was a recital of Marcel Dupré's masterpiece, *Chemin de la Croix* (Stations of the Cross), by our own parish organist, David Gammie.

Performed on the church's mighty Walker organ and filmed and edited by musical director Bob Rathbone, the recital has been uploaded in five parts to the Sacred Heart Organ channel on YouTube (no, I didn't know we had one either). Link details are below.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Dupré's death. In his informative – indeed, essential – introductory video (also available on YouTube), David explains that this recital provides “a more thoughtful interpretation – I hope – than the rather anxious recording that I recorded on my own in the church last year in the early days of the big lockdown.”

He explains the symbolic musical themes that recur throughout the work (The Cross, Suffering, Redemption, Grief, Consolation...), and also includes excerpts from the poems from Paul Claudel's *Le Chemin de la Croix*, which accompanied the first performance of Dupré's work in 1931, as they do in many modern performances.

“I say poems,” says David, “but they're partly poems, partly prayers. Claudel offers an individual, challenging, thought-provoking interpretation of each scene, and some of it's very beautiful, but like so much French poetry, a lot of it is simply untranslatable and to my ears, it just doesn't sound right.”

As David goes through each station in

Right: Marcel Dupré (1886–1971) and below, David Gammie performs at the Sacred Heart organ



turn in his talk and as a whole packs in a lot of information, viewers may find the best way to watch the recital is to have the Introductory talk open in one window, watch the relevant segment of the talk and pause it, then open the accompanying music video as listed below in a new window, close that window when it finishes and return to the introduction to listen to the next segment, open that in a new window, and so on.

YouTube links to David's recital:

- [Introductory talk](#)
- [Prologue \(Stations 1–3\)](#)
- [Via Dolorosa I \(Stations 4–6\)](#)
- [Via Dolorosa II \(Stations 7–9\)](#)
- [Calvary \(Stations 10–12\)](#)
- [Epilogue \(Stations 13 & 14\)](#)

John Symes

Moya's Easter 2021 candle



The theme on the candle this year is St Joseph – 2021 is the year dedicated to St Joseph by Pope Francis.

On the cross side of the candle is Joseph the loving foster-father with Jesus; Risen Jesus holding a scroll with the words “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”; and the cross.

On the other side: the flight into Egypt; the Holy Family; St Joseph with Jesus working as the Carpenter – (Joseph has made a model boat for Jesus who is looking at the cross shape formed by the mast...)

The decoration around the base of the candle is grapes and foliage on a yellow ground. This could represent the bread and wine at the Eucharistic celebration.

Moya Hogarth



The candle *in situ* in the church at Easter Sunday Mass



Old masters look at Easter

Lent is a time of abstinence and fasting, but the National Gallery's JO WALTON gave parishioners a real feast for the eyes with The Easter Story Through Art, a talk organised on Zoom by Anne Waldron. Here are just some of the many pictures she highlighted (it even included Fabergé Easter eggs)



The Entry into Jerusalem (c 1303–06) by Giotto di Bondone, an early pioneer of the Renaissance style



The Purification of the Temple, El Greco: No 'gentle Jesus' here



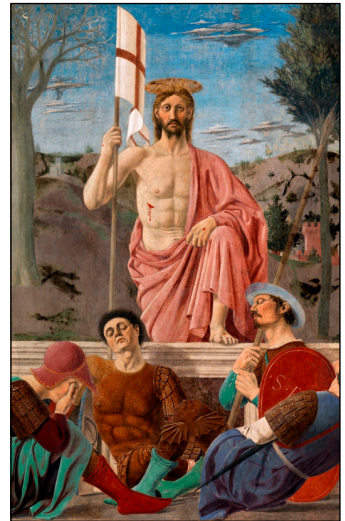
*Left: The hauntingly atmospheric Christ before the High Priest, Gerrit van Honthorst (c 1617).
Above: Giotto di Bondone's famous The Kiss of Judas (c 1303–06)*



A woman's perspective: The first known depiction of *The Last Supper* by a female artist, Sister Plautilla Nelli, a self-taught nun (1560s)



The Crucifixion (1457-59), by Andrea Mantegna, originally a panel on the high altar of San Zeno Pala, Verona, now in The Louvre



The Resurrection (1463-65), Piero della Francesca. Christ rises triumphantly over the sleeping soldiers

Online gallery tours

Many of the galleries whose collections hold the works included in Jo's talk offer "virtual tours":

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/>

<https://www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection>

<https://www.accademia.org/>



Left, *Christ and Doubting Thomas* (1476-83).

Andrea del Verrocchio

Parish youth group takes a fresh, forceful approach to the Passion



Conceived over three Zoom meetings and with just two rehearsals, the Sacred Heart Youth Group's enactment of The Stations of the Cross in the church on Good Friday was memorable in its directness. Director WENDY TANSEY goes behind the scenes. All photos by JOHN STONE



"I find no case against this man": Pilate washes his hand of the whole affair

From an initial idea from Canon John we asked the young people of the parish to choose a character from the Passion narrative or from elsewhere in the Gospels and imagine what it was like to be a witness to the journey of the Stations of the Cross. You might say the Method meets Ignatian prayer technique!

The Youth Group members were then asked to ask themselves four questions:

1. Who am I? (i.e. who are you portraying?)
2. Why am I there (i.e. what is your



“It is you who say it”: Jesus on trial



connection to Jesus?)

3. What am I watching?

4. What effect is this having on me?

After some discussion on the original Zoom meeting they chose their characters and the result is all their own words and work.

We put it together over three Zooms and two rehearsals in the church in





Holy Week and Katy Lees added the musical links on the night!

Adam Carrier-Sippy made us a wonderful cross that fits very neatly into a single stage weight, all put together in the Wimbledon College workshops.

The actors ranged from year 7 to year 13 at secondary school and, as one spectator observed afterwards, "This is the future of the Church."

Having spent time in the last few weeks with Eleanor and these young people I can only say that the Church will be in good hands. †



Mary of the Seven Devils

Parishioner ROSANNE GOMEZ imagines how Mary of Magdala would recall her vital role in the Easter story

I was born and grew up in a small town called Magdala but it was not good enough for me. I wanted to go out and see the world, especially the big city of Jerusalem.

I found work and in time I became quite wealthy and could afford a life of ease and luxury even in the big city. Some who were envious of me called me 'Seven Devils Mary' saying I must be possessed by evil spirits. Yet in spite of all I had, there seemed to be something missing.

Then one day I heard the sound of a great crowd in the street. They were following a young man who was seated on a humble donkey. People were throwing down palm branches before Him, singing His praises.

He seemed so kind and gentle and radiated a kind of love which I had never experienced before. So I followed the crowd to listen to His teachings. I was told His name was Jesus. His words set my spirit free.

Later I heard that Jesus and His disciples were gathered at an inn for supper so I took a box of precious spikenard and went to where they were at table. He looked at me with so much love and compassion: I poured the perfumed oil over His head and feet. There was one who said it was a waste: it could have been sold and the money used to feed the poor. But Jesus said, "The poor you always have with you but Me you have not always."

Sadly what He said came true very quickly. He was taken prisoner, tortured and crucified. My heart was wrung with sorrow watching Him die on the cross. My friend Mary of Clophas and I stood by His mother, trying to comfort her.

Joseph of Arimathea gave the tomb he



Noli me tangere ('Touch me not') by Titian: Mary mistakes the Risen Christ for a gardener

had had made for his own death so that Jesus could be laid in it. Jesus had said He would rise again in three days so Pilate, the governor, sent soldiers to seal the tomb. My friends and I still wanted to be close to Him so we sat there keeping watch.

On the third day I found to my distress that the tomb was open and Jesus' body was not there.

As I stood there in tears a man came up to me and asked why I was weeping. I thought he was the gardener so I said, "They have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him". The man said simply, "Mary!" Then I knew it was Jesus, risen as He had said.

He told me to go and tell the disciples the good news, which is what I did with joy in my heart.

Parish Easter bunnies out in force to deliver sweet treats

Parishioners and their families forced to stay at home were not forgotten this Easter, with LOUISE COOPER and BEN SMITH again marshalling a troop of donors and volunteers to deliver baskets of treats



Fr John joins the parish's own Easter bunnies, ready for deliveries to begin



A rare peek inside the Easter Bunny's warehouse

It was an exciting Holy Week, preparing nearly 70 Easter gifts for friends of the Sacred Heart Church, many of whom are still not able to get out and get to Mass

Teams of volunteers were organised to collect donations from several local and very generous supermarkets of buns, chocolate bunnies and other goodies,

Gardening bunnies donated plants, little bunnies made cards, big bunnies packed the treats, and a transport bunny



Right: An Easter treat assembly line



co-ordinator led volunteer bunny drivers!

It has been amazing to be a little cog in this huge and enthusiastic wheel of the parish community! There really will be a mammoth celebration of thanksgiving when restrictions are lifted – watch this space!

Louise Cooper



Younger bunnies got in on the act too

LIFE goes on during lockdown

CHRISTINE DAVIS, of the Wimbledon & District Friends of LIFE, reports on how the charity has met the challenges posed by Covid-19 restrictions to continue its vital work over the past year

In common with all other charities, LIFE has had to put on hold some of its normal activities since March 2020.

During the first lockdown, our charity shops were closed, and, as there was no possibility of school talks, all paid education staff lost their jobs. Fundraising was difficult. Last year's 10 Bridges Walk was cancelled. We hope it may be able to take place in the autumn of this year.

During this time, the Hounslow Care Centre, the one our Friends of LIFE group supports, could not be open for face-to-face counselling, but acted as a centre for pregnant women and mums in need to collect food parcels.

In July, our charity shops reopened, the nearest being in Gerard's Cross. Christine delivered a lot of baby clothes to Hounslow in August. She was welcomed by Karen Newman, the overall manager of Link 3, who oversees the running of the LIFE houses in our Southern area, as well as the Hounslow Centre. From there, Christine drove to Gerard's Cross with a load of items for the shop. It was good to meet the dedicated staff, and see the small, but well-organised shop.

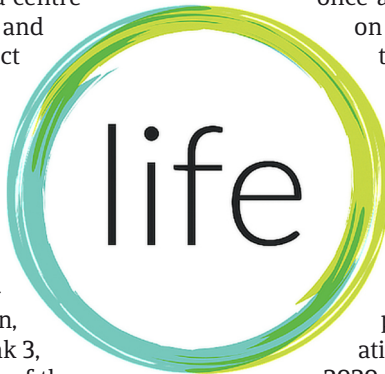
In December, our group received a donation of £100 from the sisters of St Anne in Lansdowne Road. The sisters send us a cheque every Christmas, and we thank them for their generosity, especially in these difficult times.

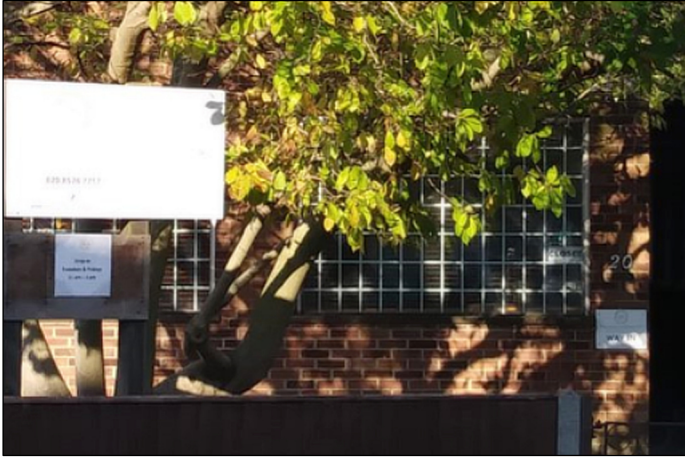
Karen Newman decided to keep in touch with us through Zoom meetings. We met in October, and again in January. Therese and Christine attended both times. The last meeting was particularly informative. We learnt that the London Community Response Fund donates £5,000 to the Care Centre every year, enabling Karen to buy clients cot beds or prams where needed. With the help of referrals from health visitors and Home Start, Karen had seen 18 new mothers.

In the present situation, the shops were once again closed and the staff on furlough. Care Centres too. Karen said that when the lockdown lifts, she would ideally like to have the services of a 'man with a van', as the centre has so many items for the charity shop.

We were given a report on the housing situation in the last quarter of 2020. The houses were all full, with two clients waiting to be housed. Engagement with the community, such as the Food Bank and the Hygiene Bank has been good. There were 30 clients, and all had support workers. A client who recently arrived at Aylesbury House went into labour the following day at just under 30 weeks' pregnant. Baby and mother were both well but still in hospital, with support workers visiting them regularly.

Finally, I should mention the consultation on DIY abortion pills. This comes from





LIFE's Hounslow care centre

the Department of Health and Social Care. You will no doubt be aware that during the

be ended after the lockdown.

pandemic, there has been a temporary measure in place, enabling women to obtain abortion pills through the post, after just a telephone call, instead of a face-to face appointment. It is now proposed to make this method permanent. Some of us have responded to the consultation, pointing out the many dangers of these 'pills-by-post' and asking for this temporary measure to

Christine Davis

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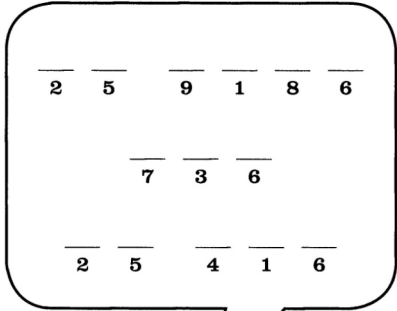
Thomas has doubts!

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

The disciples were astounded and then overjoyed when the risen Christ appeared among them in a locked room, saying: "Peace be with you." But at first, Thomas would not believe that Jesus was alive. What did he say when Jesus showed him his wounds?

Use the code to find Thomas' words

1 = O 2 = M 3 = N 4 = G 5 = Y
 6 = D 7 = A 8 = R 9 = L





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The Good Shepherd

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

What is a good shepherd ready to do?

Use the code to find out!



6 3 1,2

9 5 8 1

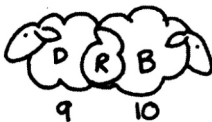
7,8 3,4 2

6 3,4 7 4

7 5 9,10

7,8 3,4 2

2 7,8 4 4 5,6



CHUCKLES

Q: What did the fisherman say to the magician?

A: *Pick a cod – any cod!*

Q: Why wouldn't the prawn share his treasure?!

A: *Because he was a little shellfish!*

Q: What do you call a fly with no wings?

A: *A walk!*

Q: Why do sharks swim in salt water?

A: *Because pepper water makes them sneeze!*

Q: Why are elephants so wrinkled?

A: *Because they take too long to iron!*



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Jesus is the true vine

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Find the words of Jesus using the grid below

4B 1D 2D 4C 4D 3C

1B 2A 1A 3C 1E 4B 3D 3C 2B 3D 2C

2D 3A 2E 1D 4C 4D 3C 2A 4B 1C

4C 4D 3C 3B 3E 3D 3C 2C 2A 3C 4A 1C 3C 2A



1	2	3	4	
U	R	Y	S	A
T	A	V	I	B
S	D	E	T	C
A	M	N	H	D
V	F	I	Y	E



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Pope Francis on the Feast of Divine Mercy

An extract from the homily delivered by Pope Francis on the Feast of Divine Mercy 2020 at the Church of Santo Spirito in Sassia, Rome



On this feast of Divine Mercy, the most beautiful message comes from Thomas, the disciple who arrived late; he was the only one missing. But the Lord waited for Thomas. Mercy does not abandon those who stay behind.

Now, while we are looking forward to a slow and arduous recovery from the pandemic, there is a danger that we will forget those who are left behind. The risk is that we may then be struck by an even worse virus, that of selfish indifference. A virus spread by the thought that life is better if it is better for me, and that everything will be fine if it is fine for me.

It begins there and ends up selecting one person over another, discarding the poor, and sacrificing those left behind on the altar of progress. The present pandemic, however, reminds us that there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious.

May we be profoundly shaken by what is happening all around us: the time has come to eliminate inequalities, to heal the injustice that is undermining the health of the entire human family!

Let us learn from the early Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles. It received mercy and lived with mercy: “All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need” (Acts 2:44-45). This is not some ideology: it is Christianity.

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY – APRIL 11, 2021