



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
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19th February 2023

Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 7

Seventh Sunday (A)

**Seventh Week
in Ordinary Time**

Vol I, psalter week 3

The Season of Lent

Vol II, psalter week 4

Next Sunday's Readings

- Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7
- Psalm 50:3-6.12-14.17
- Romans 5:12-19
- Matthew 4:1-11

Upcoming Events

Thursday 23 February

- First of the series of Lent talks, 7.30-8.30pm, Upper Hall

Friday 24 February

- Stations of the Cross after the 6.30pm Mass

Sunday 26 February

- Children's Liturgy during 10am Mass
- Clergy Support Fund, Second Collection

Thursday 2 March

- Music for Lent, 7.15pm, Church (see p. 3)

Friday 3 March

- Friendship Group, Film Afternoon, 2.30pm, Lounge,

Following Jesus

How do we follow Jesus? He Himself gave the answer, '*my servant is he who follows me, and follows me by putting My Word into practise*'.

Therefore, the more we put His Word into practice the more closely we follow Him. The process is gradual but ultimately leads to the perfection in that self-sacrificial love Jesus speaks about in the gospel: 'be perfect'.

To follow Jesus is to practise God's Word; this practice is the guarantee that we remain united with Jesus through life in the path he has shown us, a path that leads to true life. '*I am the way, the truth and the life.*'

If you are a true follower of Christ and you consider that Jesus has established His command as being that of love, then you will love beyond the demands of natural justice.

When you do unto others as you would have them do to you, you're practising the natural justice made explicit by the Old Testament in today's first reading. To improve the quality of your love means to love your enemies and do good to those who hate you - not just your friends. To love like Jesus, '*love one another as I have loved you*', which is divine love perfected in us, begs the question how all of this is possible given our fallen nature with its tendency to self-seeking through indulgence, dominance and pleasure: even observing natural justice is hard enough, but to love my enemies...really?

To put this command into practice we need to employ obedience out of love for Jesus' command, an obedience which derives from a love for Jesus Himself, a love developed through personal prayer, '*if you love me keep my commandments*'. Obedience is the antidote to the ego, the seat of pride - the sin of our first parents. Therefore, the command to love is not an imposition but an imperative which preserves us from being consumed by desires which lead to disordered affection or aversion, lust and hatred. It's in the act of obedience, that we obtain the grace to do it. There's a spiritual truth in the slogan 'just do it'. Obedience presupposes love; true obedience is an act of love. Jesus' command to love our neighbour presupposes that we already possess this love. But do we? And if we don't, how do we obtain it? This is the problem.

To have a love for Jesus, a love that depends on His dwelling in us and us in Him, we need to put His Word into practise. It's purely by this principal act of obedience that we acquire the calibre of love that He requires of us. Which comes first then obedience or love? Jesus makes the first move by giving us the grace of faith to believe in His Word, and then invites us to practise it. He wishes a collaborative approach to the command to love - it's the obedience of our faith which feels so counterintuitive, moving beyond nature, that starts the ball rolling because it initiates a correspondence with God's grace. We are obedient when we decide to comply but He provides the grace to actually do it.

The union of hearts, ours with that of Jesus, which comes about by our obedience to His Word, is what Jesus meant by following Him - this is what it means to be His disciple. If, in your love of neighbour, you employ a sincere intention to do so principally out of obedience to Christ and in order to be a true follower of His, then you are fulfilling His command, and your love will be constant and apply to everyone, even your enemies. *Continue p.2*

THE PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest: Canon John Clark

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

Team members: Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU, Sr Francis SSA

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

Continued from p. 1

Is your heart compromised, hardened or divided, hypersensitive, full of crippling extremes of loathing and desire? Jesus resolves the problems of every compromised heart by inviting us to take up our cross. The cross is nothing more than the way of perfection in love by the gradual purification of our soul through correspondence with His grace. This Lent, let our resolution be that of obedience to the Word of God, principally the Gospel. The Lenten renunciation of selfishness through penance is the principal means to grow in the virtues: forbearance, temperance, courage, kindness, gentleness etc.; all of which have their purpose in the perfection of the love of God (Jesus) and our neighbour - by seeing and serving Jesus in them.

Fr Matthew Donnelly

SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday, 26 Feb, the 2nd collection will be in support of the **Clergy Support Fund**.

JESUIT MISSIONS PARISH APPEAL

On the 11/12 March Paul Coia will be visiting our parish to speak on behalf of Jesuit Missions for their annual appeal. Jesuit Missions is the intl. mission and development office for the Jesuits in Britain. They support Jesuits and their partners who work with poor and marginalised people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. A diverse range of projects, including environmental sustainability, skills, training, women's empowerment, education and anti human-trafficking help to create a more just world. Learn more about their programmes & campaigns, and ways that you can get involved. For more info see <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk>. AMDG

Parish News

ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday, 22 February, is Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence. Masses with distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 10am, 6.30 and 8pm.

LENT CALENDARS

Our Lenten calendars for families are available at the back of the church this weekend! Please take one for your

home to help support your Lenten journey.

MY DAY BY DAY

The Lenten edition 2023 of *My Day by Day* booklets are now available at the back of the church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to follow the Stations of the Cross in the church, every Wednes-

day and Friday after the 6.30pm Mass during Lent, starting on 24 February.

MANNA SOCIETY COLLECTION

This weekend, the Manna Society will be holding an appeal at all Masses: if you wish to support this good cause, please **only** bring dry goods eg. pasta, sugar, tinned tomatoes, biscuits...

Announcements

CYMFED FLAME

CYMFed Flame Congress for young people, the biggest Catholic youth event in the UK, is returning to London on Saturday 4 March. Sacred Heart has a limited number of places still available for young people in year 9 and above to join them once again for an inspirational day of worship, inspiring music and speakers on the theme 'Rise Up'. To find out more and to sign up please email Eleanor by Wednesday 22 February (leanor@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk)

LENT TALKS

Join us this Lent as we explore the significance and importance of reconciliation in our faith. We will meet each Thursday during Lent from 7.30-8.30pm in the Upper Hall, starting 23 February, and - using the book *The Return of the Prodigal Son* - unpack, reflect & discuss the importance of the story of the Prodigal Son.

R.C.I.A.

Members of our parish R.C.I.A. group will begin their final preparation for full reception into the Catholic Church at Easter with the Rite of Election on Saturday 25 February in Southwark Cathedral.

On three Sundays during Lent they will have a shorter rite consisting of a prayer and blessing: 12 & 26 March at the 12noon Mass, and 19 March at the 5pm Mass.

Please pray for Daniel, Ian, Kirsten, Linda, Sarah and Sam; also Katie, Sophia and Victor who will be confirmed.

ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK LENT RETREAT 2023

'*Renewed in Hope*': Make some space to develop your relationship with God this Lent. Sign up for the Diocesan Lent Retreat '*Renewed in Hope*'. Every week you will receive an email with links to a 20-minute video in which Archbishop John will

introduce the theme and the reading, Chris Chapman will deliver the retreat programme and a witness will speak of the relevance in their daily life. You will also receive materials to use in your own prayer and reflection. All you have to do is sign up at <http://eepurl.com/hVT7Dv> and set aside what space you can for reflection and join us in being Renewed in Hope!

GUIDED PRAYER

The parish is offering a week of guided prayer, also known as a *Retreat in Daily Life*, this Lent from 12-18 March. The week offers the great opportunity to meet a personal guide each day and to share one's prayer. There is commitment to spend some time in prayer each day. A gathering of guides and participants (room for 50 participants because of the limited number of guides) is on Sunday 12 March at 4pm in the Lounge.

Parish Organisations

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Friday 3 March at 2.30 pm in the Lounge, Film: *A Room*

With a View, (1985) starring Helena Bonham Carter and Daniel Day Lewis.

Tea and biscuits, ice creams. All welcome

Social & Cultural

MUSIC FOR LENT 'JOB' BY PETR EBEN

On Thursday 2 March at 7.15pm in the church: A powerful and deeply moving masterpiece by the Czech Catholic composer Petr Eben (1929-2007), inspired by passages from the Book of Job on themes of Faith, Suffering, Penitence and Redemption, played by our organist David Gammie with narration by Dr William Griffiths. Admission free.

ACADEMY CHOIR WIMBLEDON

The Academy Choir Wimbledon will be performing Beethoven's Mass in C on Saturday 25 March at 7pm at St John's Spencer Hill, Wimbledon, SW19 4NZ along

side two masterpieces by Brahms - the *Alto Rhapsody* and *Song of Destiny*. Accompanied by the London Mozart Players and a starry line up of soloists, the concert is conducted by Matthew Best. For tickets visit www.academymychoirwimbledon.co.uk

RICHARD CHALLONER SCHOOL DRAMA PRODUCTION

Richard Challoner School will present their drama production 'Constellations' written by Nick Payne and directed by Tommy Rodger, at the Drama Studio, Richard Challoner School, Manor Drive North, New Malden, KT3 5PE on Wed 1, Thu 2 and

Fri 3 March at 7.30pm.

Ticket Prices: Adult - £6 / Student or child - £3 (buy on the door).

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

The young mother and her father of the Ukrainian family for whom the parish is providing accommodation this year are looking for employment. Olga is qualified in logistics (inventory management). Vitali is a qualified electrician in Ukraine and is very handy in a range of maintenance skills. Do you have connections to help steer family member towards a job of their choosing? Please contact Alain van West vanwest31@gmail.com if you can help.

New to the Parish?

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

KATY'S SONGBIRDS: LONG COVID - HELP RAISE AWARENESS

Katy's Songbirds & Friends invite you to a Prosecco Afternoon Tea in support of Kim Elston and her family and to help raise awareness of the effects of Long Covid on Saturday 29 April 3-5pm Upper Hall, Sacred Heart Church; £25 p/p (adults only and children Year 6+) Includes performances by Katy's Songbirds and Edge Hill Players, bar and raffle (cash & credit card). For individual and group tickets please scan the QR code or email Maria at ksongbirds656@gmail.com



MERTON HOME TUTORING SERVICE

Volunteers needed to teach English to adults wanting English tuition who cannot get to classes and need to learn at home, or in a community setting close home. Support and training will be provided; please contact info@mhts.org.uk if you can offer help.

Exploring our Faith

SOLID FOUNDATIONS COURSE

A 7-lesson course, Part I/III of the *Solid Foundations Course*, an introduction into spiritual life, will be offered by the School of Mary during Lent at St. Mary of the Angels in Bayswater on Tuesday evenings 6-8pm, starting on 21 February. The suggested contribution is £12 per lesson. Contact: hildateng@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.schoolofmary.org.

LOVE HEALS BODY MIND AND SPIRIT

You are welcome to a one-day retreat of quiet reflection on Saturday 25 February, 11am-4.30pm at Our Lady of Assumption & St Gregory, W1F 9JR.

Rosary, Holy Mass (celebrant priest: Fr Mark Elliott Smith), lunch (please bring your own - tea & coffee available), scripture based talk, Christian Meditation, Blessed Adoration with Divine Mercy, healing prayers (<https://www.lovehealsbodymindspirit.com/>)

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Sycamore is an online course exploring our Catholic faith and suitable for individuals and couples alike. It runs throughout Lent, with weekly 1-hour sessions on Tuesday evenings from 8-9pm starting on 28 February. For more details/to register, please visit the *Growing in*

Faith Together - Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (rcaos.org.uk).

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOP

Do you know how to read and meditate the Bible? Would you like to know God in an intimate way? Have you ever wondered about the plans that God has for your life? Come and experience *Prayer and Life Workshops*, a new evangelisation based on the Bible and the practice of 15 methods of prayer, from the simplest, to the depths of contemplation. Opening/introductory session: Tue 28 Feb, 7.15pm, St Boniface Church Parish Cafe. Contacts: Roxanne 07969 097496,

SAFEGUARDING

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

CELEBRANTS FOR THIS SUNDAY

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat 18 6.30pm Tony McCall RIP
Mon 20 10.00am Neil Calvert RIP
6.30pm Victor Dudka Ints.
Tue 21 10.00am Benny & Charles Ints.
6.30pm Christian Elson Ints.
Wed 22 10.00am Noel D'Costa RIP
6.30pm Holy Souls
8.00pm Caji Botelho RIP
Thu 23 10.00am Nathan Fennally Ints.
6.30pm Fr Michael Beattie SJ RIP
Fri 24 10.00am Teresa Philpott RIP
12noon Funeral of Christopher O'Brien
6.30pm Patrick Joseph Diver RIP
Sat 25 10.00am Key Saechang Paul RIP

HOSPITAL CONTACTS

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

St George's Hospital: ask for Cath. Chaplain at reception

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

Kingston Hospital: Fr Tony Oleh (020 8546 7711)

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: Sr Ita Conlan (Sisters of Christ), Jacinto Cordeiro, Nancy Drapper, Mireille Taylor, Christopher O'Brien and Nick Carew Hunt

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Briget Maher, Agnes Almeida, Eileen Hernandez, William Maher and Paula Diggle

The sick: We would like to bring the list of prayers for the sick of our parish up to date and kindly ask parishioners to notify the Parish Office if they want to have names mentioned in the newsletter & bidding prayers. Thank you.

Bridget Sydenham, Peter Boyle, Anne McHale, David Fry, Paul Stromborg, Mike Greene, Teresa Escalona, Donal Weir, Giovanni Baldacchino, Kim Carr, Patricia Small, Luca Buttaci, David Steele, Shanu Mathew, Maureen May, Ryan Lyndsey, Samar Staussi, Emily Grey and Andrew Tan

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



FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS THIS WEEK

Tue 21 Feb St Peter Damien, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

- The End of Ordinary Time before Lent -

Wed 22 Feb Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence
(The Chair of St Peter the Apostle)

Thu 23 Feb Collect of St Polycarp

Sat 25 Feb Collect of St Ethelbert

EXPOSITION

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

RECONCILIATION

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

MUSIC AT THE 12 NOON MASS

Entry hymn: 602 Praise my soul the King of heaven
Offertory motet: Exultate justi, *Ludovico Viadana*
Sanctus/Benedictus: Missal tones
Communion motet: Ave verum, *Barry Turner*
Post-communion hymn: 74 Be thou my vision

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

PARISH SERVICES

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

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

Parish Pastoral Council: ppc@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

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

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

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