



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

020 8946 0305
wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk
www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk
@SHWimbledon /sacredheartwimbledon

Sacred Heart Wimbledon
Edge Hill
Wimbledon
London SW19 4LU

16th July 2023

Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 26

**Fifteenth Sunday
(A)**

**Fifteenth Week
in Ordinary Time**

Vol III, psalter week 3

Next Sunday's Readings

- Book of Wisdom 12:13.16-19
- Psalm 85:5-6.9-10.15-16
- Romans 8:26-27
- Matthew 13:24-43

Upcoming Events

Sunday 23 July

- World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly

Friday 4 August

- Lectio Divina, every Friday 11am-12noon (zoom, see p.3)
- Friendship Group, 2.30pm, Parish Lounge

Tuesday 26 September

- Induction Mass for Fr David Gibbons, 6.30pm, Church

Seeds

Chapter 13 of the Gospel according to Matthew recounts eight parables told by Jesus, drawn from scenes from everyday life in Palestine at that time ('the parables discourse'). The first, of the sower and the seeds (Mt 13:1-23), this Sunday's familiar Gospel reading, follows the indifference, rejection and sometimes hostility, that Jesus had in places met when preaching 'the word of the kingdom' (of God), particularly from the Pharisees.

A parable has been usefully defined (by the biblical scholar C.H Dodd) as 'a metaphor or a simile drawn from nature or common life, arresting the hearer by its vividness or strangeness, and leaving the mind in sufficient doubt of its application to tease it into active thought'.

The disciples ask Jesus why he talks to the crowd in parables but to them, the disciples, plainly. His reply is that the mysteries of the kingdom are already revealed to the disciples but not to the crowd, who 'look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding'; a crowd who fulfil Isaiah's prophecy that 'the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear that they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart and be converted by me.' So, is speaking in parables intended to prevent them understanding the word? Are they being punished for closing their eyes and ears? Or is Jesus deliberately trying to stimulate their curiosity and attentiveness to what he is saying by speaking in parables? He says at the end of the parable 'Listen, anyone who has ears!'

When we hear or read the parable itself (vv. 4-8) or Jesus' allegorical explanation of it to his disciples (vv. 18-23), linking the types of the soil on which the seed falls to the disposition of the various hearers, we should reflect on how it applies to us, his present disciples. Is our faith superficial?

Is it precarious? Are we prone to distraction by cares of the world (for example excessive career ambition or too much sport or other entertainment) or the lure of riches, and so choked and fruitless? Or do we hear the word, understand it and live lives fruitful for others, producing a hundredfold?

Deacon Julian Burling

THE PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Acting Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Donkor

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

Team members: Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU, Sr Francis SSA

FAREWELL FROM ELEANOR BOWMAN

'Five years ago, I arrived at Sacred Heart, and I have been truly welcomed into this wonderful community. It has been an immense privilege to journey with so many children, young people, families and other parishioners. I thank Canon John and the parish clergy for their trust, confidence and faith in me to deliver new ideas and programmes. Over the years we have established new links and developed community through a variety of activities, such as the travelling nativity for example.

A highlight of my time at Sacred Heart has been delivering the First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes. Being able to journey with so many families during such important moments in their children's sacramental life has been a great joy. I thank you all for your openness towards a family-based model, and I do hope that these programmes have been a time of enrichment, both in your relationships as families and with God. I also thank all those parishioners who gave freely of their time and energy to enable the programmes to run so smoothly.

Our wonderful parish Youth Group has truly shown that the Church of the future is in safe hands. I thank the Group members for all they have given by volunteering in varying ways, for their wonderful ideas towards parish resources, and for their fantastic ability to deliver such moving liturgical moments each year, such as the Stations of the Cross. It has been a real honour to journey with, and get to know,

the young people of our parish. Finally, I thank our parish schools for their welcome and support. It has been fantastic to spend time in these schools, and to build key relationships with our wider parish community.

In conclusion, a huge thank you to all the parishioners who have supported me with kind words, cups of tea and cake, and lots of prayers for the ministry I have strived to deliver at Sacred Heart. It is with a heavy heart, that for personal reasons, I find myself having to leave the parish. Goodbye and thank you to you all! Eleanor Bowman

Parish News

INDUCTION MASS FOR FR DAVID GIBBONS

Fr David Gibbons, our new parish priest, will be inducted into our Church of the Sacred Heart by Bishop Philip Moger on Tuesday 26 September during the 6.30pm Mass. Please reserve this date and let us join together in welcoming our new parish priest.

Refreshments will be served after Mass in the Upper Hall, and all are welcome.

CHURCH CAR PARK

Parishioners are advised that the entrance to the car park will be temporarily widened to allow for heavy

contractors' vehicles to enter and leave the Wimbledon College site. Vehicle movements will be during weekdays up to mid-Autumn and will be supervised by marshals. Drivers are requested to take particular care when entering the car park and respond to directions from the marshals.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

To register for the First Holy Communion Programme 2023/24 please take a form from the table at the back of the church and when completed place it in the box provided. Last day for applications is Monday 17 July.

NEWSLETTER

Please note that next weekend's (22/23 July) Newsletter is the last one before the summer break.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

As part of the Flower Group's efforts to be more sustainable, we would like to celebrate nature and the environment by using garden flowers and greenery, grown by members of the parish, to use in the church on the weekend of 30 Sept/1 Oct. The Flower Group invites parishioners to donate home grown flowers & greenery to decorate the church for this celebration. More info available in September.

Announcements

ANNUAL MARRIAGE MASS - LAST CHANCE

Are you celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or any later wedding anniversary this year? If so, you are invited to join in celebrating a Mass for married couples at 3pm on Saturday 23 September at St George's Cathedral (chief celebrant Bishop Paul Hendricks). You can apply for a written personal invitation

to the Mass from Archbishop John Wilson (invitation also covers a small number of family guests). To book & for details please email mflsw@rcaos.org.uk by 31 July.

GRIEF IN LOSS, HOPE IN CHRIST

A weekend for those who have been bereaved: this weekend takes place away from the pressures of day-to-day life and can help one begin to come to terms with

bereavement. It is a time for quiet, prayer, talking and acceptance. Due to the special nature of this weekend retreat, held at Aylesford Priory, places are ordinarily limited and subject to a telephone call to determine if it is right for you. 6-8 October (cost £230 single, £210 shared). For details phone 01622 717272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk.

Parish Organisations

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Friday 4 August, 2.30pm, in the Parish Lounge: Your Objects of Interest. Please

bring something along.

Friday 1 September, 2.30pm, in the Parish Lounge: Poetry Afternoon with Wendy

Tansey and friends.

Tea and cakes as always. Everyone welcome!

Social & Cultural

OPEN EVENTS

Ursuline High School: you are invited to join one of their Main School and Sixth Form events to hear from their Headteacher, take a tour of the school and meet many staff and existing students: Open Evening: Wednesday 27 September, 6.30-8.30pm for Year 5 and 6 students and parent/carers (year 4 and 5 in the academic year 22/23)

Open Mornings: Monday 2 - Friday 6 October 9am or 11am for Year 6 students and parent/carers (Year 7 entry in September 2024).

Sign up www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk/admissions/open-events-2. Bookings

open until 18 September, limited availability, ticketed entry only.

Sixth Form: Thursday 12 October, 5.30-7.30pm for Year 11 students and parent/carer (Year 12 entry September 2024), sign up www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk/sixth-form/admissions/open-events; bookings open from early September, limited availability, ticketed entry only.

NOT ALL RIGHT ON THE NIGHT!

Simon Potter has directed 66 plays at Wimbledon College over 50 years. Many had problems! His Friendship Group talk 'Disasters in Luvviedom' has led to the

hilarious 'Not All Right On The Night!' (Amazon £6.99 book, £2.99 Kindle), www.simonpotterauthor.com; all proceeds to Book Aid International (the charity that gives books to children).

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS

The Martyrs' Walk on Sunday 23 July; meet at 2pm at the churchyard of St Giles-in-the-Fields, WC2H 8LG (by kind permission of the Rector). The walk will take you to Tyburn Convent, honouring the memory of the martyrs of the 16th century and will finish with benediction and tea at Tyburn. For more info please visit www.catholichistorywalks.com.

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.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS

On Sunday 23 July, the Church celebrates the 3rd World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly, established by Pope Francis: the observance is celebrated each year on the 4th Sunday of July, coinciding with the feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary's parents and Jesus' grandparents, Ss Joachim and Anne. According to Vatican News, the theme was chosen to be in tune with that of World Youth Day in Lisbon ('His mercy is from age to age', Lk 1:50): 'Mary arose and went with haste', taken from Luke's Gospel when Mary immediately goes to meet her elderly cousin Elizabeth after the Angel's annunciation. Thus, it is a theme that highlights the importance of dialogue between generations, which is fundamental for perceiving and contemplating God's merciful action on behalf of human beings. Pope Francis' message in full, please visit <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20230531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>

'Heavenly Father, we pray for grandparents, all elderly people, ever grateful for their love and commitment: bless them in every way possible.'

Exploring our Faith

A DAY WITH MARY

You are invited to a *Day with Mary*, a day of instruction, devotion and intercession, this Saturday 22 July, at St Anselm's, Tooting Bec SW17 8BS, 11am-5.30pm; celebrant & preacher: Fr Alfred Ebalu; sermons on Our Lady by Fr Peter Littleton; Exposition & Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Meditations on the Passion of Our Lord, Silent Prayers.

LOVE HEALS BODY MIND AND SPIRIT

You are welcome to come to a 1-day retreat of quiet reflection on Saturday 29 July from 11am-4.30pm, at the Catholic Church of our Lady of Assumption & St Gregory, Piccadilly, W1F

9JR; Holy Rosary, Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Celebrant Priest: Fr Mark Elliott); lunch break (please bring your own lunch, tea & coffee available); talk based on Scripture, Catholic Christian Meditation, Blessed Adoration - Divine Mercy, Individual Healing Prayers. For more information, please visit www.lovehealsbodymindspirit.com.

ENROL NOW: CCRS

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) provides parish leaders with knowledge and understanding of theology and the Catholic faith. Learn in person, by distance learning or online; for more detailed information visit brs-ccrs.org.uk.

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION

You are invited to join the Pilgrimage of Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life, to Walsingham on Saturday 5 August, led by Archbishop Kevin McDonald. For details, please see the poster on the noticeboard, or visit www.prolifepilgrimage.org. Please join in the 'great prayer for life' asked for by Pope Saint John Paul II.

LECTIO DIVINA GROUP

We meet every Friday 11-12pm by zoom and prepare the three readings for the following Sunday. Why not join us for a taster? For more information please call 07981 941 516.

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 Michael Barnes SJ
12 noon Fr Joseph Donkor & Deacon Julian Burling
5.00pm Fr Matthew Donnelly
8.00pm Fr Joseph Donkor & Deacon Julian Burling

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat 15 6.30pm Michael & Noelle Meehan RIP
Mon 17 10.00am Holy Souls
12.30pm Funeral of Cailean Taylor
6.30pm Mary Gamble RIP
Tue 18 10.00am Bertha D'Costa RIP
6.30pm Thanksgiving Mass
Wed 19 10.00am Marie-Louise Ngateme RIP
6.30pm Berta Palha RIP
Thu 20 10.00am Mathias Achuo Che RIP
6.30pm Maria Keaveney-Jessiman RIP
Fri 21 10.00pm Crescencia Nga Che Birthday Ints.
2.30pm Funeral of Patrick Lauson
6.30pm Frank & Celine Greene (Wedding Ints.)
Sat 22 10.00am Sheena Wilson RIP

HOSPITAL CONTACTS

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

St George's Hospital: Fr Peter Littleton (020 8725 3069 or 020 8672 1255)

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

Kingston Hospital: Fr Tony Oleh (020 8546 7711)

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: 365 *Light of our darkness*
Kyrie/Gloria: 459/460
Offertory motet: *Ave Maria*, Igor Stravinsky
Communion motet: *Ecce panis angelorum*, Trad. Portuguese
Post-communion hymn: 365 *I, the Lord of sea and sky*

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 confidentiality. Leave contact details with the parish office or email presidentA190704@svp.org.uk.

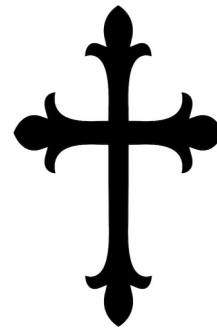
WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: Beryl Elliott, Maria Nora Devlin, John O'Neill, Patrick Lauson

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frank Quinn, Brian Helene, Margaret Monteith, Margaret Tyrrell, Felicia Rathbone and Edgar Xuereb

The sick: Hui Lee Ng, Edwar Wassef, Nicky Steiner, Alexia Graham, Natalie Williams, Karolina Masica, David Fry, Paul Stromborg, Mike Greene, Teresa Escalona, Donal Weir, Giovanni Baldacchino, Kim Carr, 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.



COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection for *Stella Maris* raised £520. Thank you for your support.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS THIS WEEK

Thu 20 July St Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
Fri 21 July St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Sat 22 July St Mary Magdalene, Feast

For donations, please scan the QR Code with your phone; your donation will help fund the wide range of liturgical, spiritual and cultural activities which run in the parish. Thank you.

