



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
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10th September 2023

Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 29

**Twenty-Third Sunday
(A)**

**Twenty-Third Week
in Ordinary Time**

Vol III, psalter week 3

Next Sunday's Readings

- Sir 27:30-28:7
- Psalm 102:1-4.9-12
- Romans 14:7-9
- Matthew 18:21-35

Upcoming Events

Sunday 10 September

- Children's Liturgy during the 10m Mass

14, 15 & 16 September

- Musical *Oliver!* (see p.3), 7pm, Upper Hall

Tuesday 26 September

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

Wednesday 27 September

- Newman Circle, Talk (see p.3), 7.30pm, Parish Lounge

Thursday 28 September

- Wimbledon Catenians, Race Night, 7pm, Lounge

Saturday 30 September

- 6.30pm Farewell Mass for Fr Joe, followed by reception Upper Hall

Being reconciled with God

In today's First Reading God, speaking through the prophet Ezekiel, says that the appointed leader must speak out against evil. If he or she fails to do this the wicked man will die for his sin, but the leader who failed to speak out will be held responsible for his death. This is a salutary - and alarming - warning to those of us who are priests, but also to parents, teachers, catechists, and those involved in the police and justice system.

In speaking out against evil, however, we must act and speak with prudence; a harsh condemnation may be counter productive in some situations; we have to find the right way and the right words to convince a wicked person to change. Speaking against evil does not mean being aggressive or offensive.

The Psalm recalls the disobedience of the ancestors; '*Meribah*' means '*strife*' and '*Massah*' means '*testing*'. Instead of complaining we should obey God ('*listen to his voice*').

St Paul in the Second Reading echoes the teaching of Christ that love is the fulfilling of the law, and he lists the very sins about which Jesus speaks in the Gospel. In today's Gospel Christ speaks forthrightly about the effect of unrepented sin on the community of faith. We tend to think of sin - and therefore forgiveness as well - as personal. But every sin badly wounds the whole community, the Church. This is why we call Confession the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for by it we are reconciled not only with God but also with the Church (and, incidentally, with the people we have sinned against).

So, if you have not been to Confession for a while, what is stopping you? Don't forget: the priest is a sinner too and goes to Confession. Consider these words of St Augustine: '*In failing to confess, Lord, I would only hide You from myself, not myself from You.*'

The ultimate sanction against a sinner is exclusion, being treated like a pagan or tax collector. This is, perhaps, rare in the modern church, though it occasionally happens. We would rather persuade the sinner to repent, bearing in mind the First Reading. We want everyone to be with God in eternal bliss in heaven, we don't want anyone to end up in another place.

Fr David

THE PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr David Gibbons

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

Team members: Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU, Sr Francis SSA

SECOND COLLECTION

Today is Education Sunday; the second collection will be in support of Catholic Education Service (CES). The CES acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Cath. education. Cath. schools make up 10% of the schools, academies & colleges in England educating over 800.000 pupils. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The parish would like to continue the support of the Merton Winter Night Shelter run by *Faith in Action*, providing around 15 homeless people with food and secure shelter over 14 weeks from Dec-Mar. Most of last years' clients have been successfully re-housed, some are in employment now. Your help is desperately needed with prayers, but as importantly, time and money. Our parish will be involved 1 day/week for 7 weeks (other days supported by other Christian churches, the Synagogue, Mosque and Hindu temple). For the designated 7 days volunteers are needed for tasks like cooking/serving dinners & breakfasts, sleeping over in the Lower Hall, driving luggage, doing laundry. Even if you could do one of those tasks just once, it would be greatly appreciated (current valid DBS check required). Finance is needed for grocery shopping for food & toiletries etc. There will be a special collection after all Masses on 24 September.

Thank you so much for your generous support of this extremely worthy cause. Contact: Nandita Nelson or Suzie Wallat-Vago at sacredheart-WNS@hotmail.com.

Parish News

INDUCTION MASS

Fr David Gibbons, will be inducted into our Church of the Sacred Heart by Bishop Philip Moger on Tuesday 26 September during the 6.30pm Mass. Let us join together in welcoming Fr David.

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

FAREWELL TO FR JOE

Sadly, we are saying farewell to Fr Joe this month. To celebrate his time at Sacred Heart, everyone is invited to Mass at 6.30pm on Saturday 30 September followed by a 'bring a plate' reception in the Upper Hall.

The collection that weekend will be for Fr Joe.

DEFIBRILLATOR

For the attention of interested parishioners. Now that the parish has a defibrillator, if you would like to know more about how and when to use it, there will be a short 5 minute briefing immediately after each Mass this w/e in the Lounge Entrance Lobby.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

The Flower Group is asking parishioners for donations of home-grown flowers & foliage to decorate the church for the weekend of 30 Sept/1 Oct. More details to follow.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy programme returns this Sunday during the 10am Mass with two groups: The Doves for children in year 2 and under - they must be accompanied by

an adult and will be in the Lower Hall; and the *Eagles* for children in years 3 to < 6 (until the communion programme begins and then it will be years 4 to 6) - they will be accompanied by the catechists and will be in the Lounge.

It is a lively and interesting programme for the children to discuss the gospel; dates of the autumn sessions are as follows:

10 & 24 September

8 & 22 October

5 & 19 November

3, 10 & 17 December.

For further details please visit the parish website.

COOK REQUIRED

The Priests are looking for someone to cook Sunday Lunch in the Presbytery. Please contact Thelma in the Parish Office if you are interested in doing this.

Announcements

SIGNING OF SCHOOL FORMS

Please note that the signing of School Forms will **only** take place on Friday 29 September at 6.30-8pm in the Upper Hall. No forms will be signed after this date.

COMMUNION/ CONFIRMATION - NOTICE

Please be assured that we are in the process of making arrangements for the reception of the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The information about the new

programmes will be advertised in the Newsletter.

SPECIAL MASS

The Archdiocese of Southwark & *LoudFence* warmly invite you to a Service of Acknowledgement, Reflection & Prayer for those who have been harmed by Abuse and for those who work with or support those that have been harmed, on Wednesday 27 September at 6.30pm, St George's Cathedral, SE1 7HY. After the service, in partnership with *LoudFence*, everyone is

invited to tie a ribbon to the tree of reflection as a sign of solidarity, care, hope to survivors and as a memorial for those that have been lost by abuse.

PEACE SERVICE

A Peace Service will be held on Thursday 21 September 7.15pm followed by a talk at 8pm, during the Pax Christi's World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel & UN Intl. Day of Peace, at St John Fisher Church, 207 Cannon Hill Lane, SW20 9DS.

Parish Organisations

MEMORY LANE CLUB

This popular club for people with dementia and their carers is open every

Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Parish Lounge with tea, coffee & cake along with lots of chat, laughter

and different activities. For more information please ring Jenny on 07906 856 183.

Social & Cultural

EDGE HILL PLAYERS - OLIVER!

The multi award-winning Edge Hill Players are back with their stunning new production of Lionel Bart's *Oliver!*

This is the rags to riches story based on one of Charles Dickens' most beloved novels. Performances take place on Thursday 14, Friday 15 and Saturday 16 September, all at 7pm in the Upper Hall. Tickets available from www.edgehillplayers.com or 07742 230 493.

WIMBLEDON NEWMAN CIRCLE

Wednesday 27 September at 7.30pm in the Parish Lounge: talk on *'The History of the Catholic Church in England'*, speaker Julian Burling, Deacon & Barrister; all are welcome.

THE WIMBLEDON CATENIANS

The Wimbledon Catenians invite you to a Race Night

on Thursday 28 September from 7pm in the Lounge, races start at 7.30pm. Please RSVP to the contacts below. The profits from the evening will go to Sands (sands.org.uk - a Neonatal Charity supporting bereaved families) and to the Sacred Heart Church. Ticket is £25, payable on the night. (Tom Conlon: tomconlon.uk@gmail.com 07837 778 247; Des O'Brien des@boxofcolours.com 07736 424 111).

OPEN EVENTS

Ursuline High School: Open Evening: Wednesday 27 September, 6.30-8.30pm for Year 5 & 6 students and parent/carers

Open Mornings: Monday 2 - Friday 6 October 9am or 11am for Year 6 students and parent/carers. 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, sign up www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk/sixth-form/admissions/open-events; bookings open, limited availability, ticketed entry only.

MERTON CITIZENS LISTENS

With mayoral & general elections due in 2024, parishioners are invited to 'Coffee & Chat' to share issues of concern and help to shape local priorities in the Borough of Merton. Join local Citizens' organizer, Vitoria Russo and David Hurst in the Parish Lounge from 10.45am on Sunday 17 September and have your voice heard ... or, to learn more, email Vitoria at vitoria.russo-gaino@citizens.org.uk

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.

LANTERN YOUTH CHOIR

Are you 11-16 years old and love singing? Come and join the Lantern Youth Choir!

Led by Jason Ching, these vibrant and fun Saturday morning sessions cover a range of genres from your favourite musicals to pop, gospel and classical. Throughout each term enjoy an hour of socialising after rehearsal (with exclusive use of Lantern facilities) and multiple performance opportunities. Join the choir and develop your vocal technique alongside musicianship skills. Singers with changing voices are very welcome. Autumn term starts Saturday 23 September at 10.30am-11.45am (plus our youth club hour afterwards). Email lac@lanternarts.org to book your place today; Lantern Arts Centre, SW20 8RA, www.lanternarts.org.

VACANCY

Marymount Intl. School London, Kingston KT2 7PE, is seeking a School Transport Driver for a 9-seater vehicle to take over an existing route in the Kew/Richmond area on a term-time only basis starting asap. For more details, please see: <https://www.marymountlondon.com>.

Exploring our Faith

COMMUNION & LIBERATION

On Thursday 14 September at 7.30pm Fr Javier Prades, Rector of San Damaso Ecclesiastical University, will be presenting the book *'The Religious Sense'* in Westminster Cathedral Hall. The encounter will be an introduction to Fr Giussani's book and announcement of the work CL will be doing throughout the year in the School of Community meetings. No booking is required and for more info

please email secretary.cl@gmail.com.

A DAY WITH MARY

You are invited to a *Day with Mary*, a day of instruction, devotion and intercession, on Saturday 23 September, at Our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham, SE15, 9.45am-5.15pm; celebrant & preacher: Fr Stephen Morrison O.Praem; sermons on Our Lady by Frs Pius Collins O.Praem and Stephen Morrison; Exposition & Procession of the

Blessed Sacrament, Meditations on the Passion of Our Lord, Silent Prayers.

A Day with Mary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: 9-18 March 2024; the pilgrimage will include visits to all major religious sites - incl Haifa, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Mount Tabor Bethlehem, Jerusalem; for more detailed information & booking forms please visit adaywithmary.com or contact gill@tangney-tours.com.

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 David Gibbons
8.00am Fr Matthew Donnelly
10.00am Fr Joseph Donkor & Deacon Julian Burling
12 noon Fr David Gibbons
5.00pm Fr Matthew Donnelly & Deacon Julian Burling
8.00pm Fr Joseph Donkor

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat 9 6.30pm Dr Anton Joseph RIP
Mon 11 10.00am Michael and Ann Vaughey Ints.
6.30pm William O'Neil RIP
Tue 12 10.00am Francis De Lima Ints.
6.30pm Joan Hollywood RIP
Wed 13 10.00am Thelma D'Costa Birthday Ints.
6.30pm Anna Masica Simamenka Blessing
Thu 14 10.00am Superior General
6.30pm Maria Keaveney Jessiman RIP
Fri 15 10.00am Michael Murphy RIP
6.30pm Pat Flynn RIP
Sat 16 10.00am Laurence and Phylis Murphy 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)

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: Joan Wilson, Edwin Jones and Pamela Hannigan

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Joseph Faria, Lucy Dantas, Catherine Sturgess, Margaretha Taylor, Alfred Mullings, Roy Haslehurst and Joan Patricia Broderick
The sick: Hui Lee Ng, 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.

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.



FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS THIS WEEK

Mon 11 Sept St Ambrose Barlow, Priest and Martyr
Tue 12 Sept The Most Holy Name of Mary, Feast
Wed 13 Sept St Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Thu 14 Sept The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast
Fri 15 Sept Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial
Sat 16 Sept Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs, Memorial

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: 161 *Father, Lord of all creation*

K/G: 459/460

Offertory motet: *Geistliches Lied*, Johannes Brahms

S: 433

Communion motet: *Teach me O Lord*, William Byrd

Post-communion hymn: 179 *For the healing of the nations*

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.

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.

