



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
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24th September 2023

Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 31

Twenty-Fifth Sunday
(A)

Twenty-Fifth Week
in Ordinary Time

Vol III, psalter week I

Next Sunday's Readings

- Ezekiel 18:25-28
- Psalm 22:4-9
- Philippians 2:1-11
- Matthew 21:28-32

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 26 September

- Induction Mass for Fr David Gibbons, 6.30pm, Church; followed by reception, Upper Hall

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

Thursday 5 October

- Katy's Songbirds, Jambo Bwana Concert, 8pm, Church (see p.3)

Friday 6 October

- Friendship Group, 2.30pm, Lounge

My thoughts are not your thoughts

The parables of Jesus always offer an insight into human nature in order to highlight the correctives we need to adopt to become aligned with Christ and therefore, pleasing to the Father.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the labourers in the vineyard represent those who were first to hear God's revelation - the people of Israel, and those that come last - the gentiles of the pagan world.

At a deeper level, there is also a spiritual lesson to take away from this gospel; that as human beings we are inclined as individuals to compare ourselves with our peers - the rest of the community; in order to establish a hierarchy or pecking order.

The value hierarchies we adopt are invariably based on natural justice, and therefore our judgements of others, and therefore our relationships, tend to exact some form of transactional-levelling up for the sake of social cohesion and the common good - we call it a sense of fairness in this country.

In an ideal world this utopian view of precise checks and balances works in theory, but in practice, prejudice and personal interest predominate because of the effects of original sin. So the hierarchies produced in society, with the pretence of natural justice and fairness, tend to the dominance of the weak by the strong, and the prevalence of personal interest over the common good.

The prophet speaking on God's behalf in the first reading declares '*My ways are not your ways*'.

The gratuitous payment of one denarius for all of those labourers as contractually agreed with each without distinction in the gospel acts as a corrective to our value hierarchies and personal motivation.

A resentful feeling of unfairness prevails in us because of a sense of personal entitlement derived an overly developed sense of self importance - the ego. With this parable Jesus wishes to highlight this tendency in us; that we consider ourselves more important than others on the basis of 'what I do', which from my perspective should entitle me to greater recognition and, therefore, greater importance.

In this parable Jesus unmasks our acute ability we possess to mask self importance with the pretence of fairness in order to dominate others.

It is said in scripture, that man only sees the outward appearance whereas God looks into the heart. Let us examine our motives to see whether what good we do is for the greater glory of God or whether we do it for appearance sake to garner recognition from a sense of self importance.

Let us adopt the mind of Christ as Paul says: Not comparing myself with others when, *continue p.2*

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 member: Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU

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in fact, there will always be people more or less worthy that I am, but to compare myself with God who sees everything about me and knows the motives and disposition of my heart. *Fr Matthew Donnelly*

FACT

This year's Prisoners' Sunday - the National Day of Prayer and Action for prisoners and their families falls on October 8th. Prisoners' Sunday is an important opportunity for us all to direct our thoughts and prayers to the needs of prisoners, their families and those who work to support them. *Pact* is the national Catholic charity working to support prisoners, people with conviction, and their children and families who may be struggling with stigma, isolation and hardship, as a result. Find out more about *Pact* and about ways to support them at www.prisonadvice.org.uk.

VACANCY - PARISH FAITH MINISTER FOR YOUTH

A replacement for Eleanor Bowman is sought as the Parish Faith Minister for Children, Young Persons and Families. The person appointed will assist the Parish Priest to promote the mission of the Church to the children and young people of the parish, based on the principle of parents as first educators. The post is open to committed and practising Catholics, an enhanced DBS check required, salary: £29,736/year for 35hrs/week.

Please contact wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk for a job description and a person specification. Further information may be obtained from Fr David.

Closing date: 16 October

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. Mass will be followed by a reception in the Upper Hall, and all are welcome.

FAREWELL TO FR JOE

To celebrate Fr Joe's 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 w/e will be for Fr Joe (donations can also be left with Thelma at the Office).

SR FRANCIS SSA

Sr Francis SSA from the Parish Team will be retiring

after 20 years' service with the Sacred Heart Church. We are truly grateful for her commitment and the time she has spent with us and wish her well in her retirement, God's many blessings and the best of health.

ANTIPHON SHEETS

On the table just inside the church you find weekly Antiphon Sheets. At weekday Masses please take one and join in the Entrance and Communion Antiphons. The Entrance Antiphon is said after the Priest genuflects, as he enters the Sanctuary. The Communion Antiphon is said after the bell rings to signify his reception of Holy Communion. The Antiphons are recited at these points in accord with the directions of the *Roman Missal*. The sheet

also contains the Psalm response, and the Alleluia, to assist you in saying them. Please replace the sheets after Mass.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

Help us celebrate nature and the environment by donating home grown flowers and foliage for the Flower Group to decorate the church next weekend. We are asking for no more than 5-7 stems per garden. Flowers/foliage can be delivered to the Baptistry on Thursday 28 & Friday 29 between 9.30am-6.30pm.

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

FR MICHAEL BARNES SJ

We wish to express our deep appreciation and profound gratitude to Fr Michael Barnes SJ for the many years of helping out at our Parish. Fr Michael will now be taking on a new apostolate and will no longer be able to say Sunday Masses at our church. He will, however, still be celebrating Masses for the Donhead School & Wimbledon College. We wish him all the very best!

ROSARY FOR PEACE

A group of parishioners will be starting to pray the rosary

for peace at 9.30am before the 10am Mass every Saturday. We welcome you to join in!

MANNA SOCIETY COLLECTION

This weekend 23/24 Sept the Manna Society will be holding a collection after all Masses (collection boxes placed in the church porch). If you wish to support this good cause, please (only) bring dry or canned goods eg pasta, sugar, tinned tomatoes, biscuits etc...(no clothes). Thank you for your support!

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

We are in the process of making arrangements for the reception of the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Information about the new programmes will be advertised in the Newsletter.

Parish Organisations

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

You are invited to join the Friendship Group on Friday 6 October at 2.30pm in the

Lounge for the film '*It Happened One Night*' with Clark Gable and Claudette

Colbert. Ice creams, tea and cakes; all welcome!

Social & Cultural

WIMBLEDON NEWMAN CIRCLE

Wednesday 27 September at 7.30pm in the Parish Lounge: Julian Burling, permanent deacon and practising barrister with a lifelong interest in history and music, will speak on 'The History of the Catholic Church in the British Isles', including Roman Britain, Celtic and Roman missions, the establishment of the Church in Anglo-Saxon England, medieval England, the Reformation, penal times, Catholic relief and emancipation, the re-establishment of the Catholic hierarchy, respectability. All welcome!

THE WIMBLEDON CATENIANS

The Wimbledon Catenians invite you to a Race Night on Thursday 28 Sept 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 424111).

OPEN EVENTS

Wimbledon College: Open evening (for admission into Year 7 in September 2024) on Thursday 28 September 5.30-8.30pm; open mornings (for current Year 6 pupils only) Monday 2 - Wednesday 4 Oct at 9am; for info & booking please visit www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/open_events.

CALLIGRAPHERS

Jesuit Missions is looking for volunteers who are calligraphers and who would be willing to share their skills to help create a book of remembrance in honour of JM's deceased supporters. Hundreds of Jesuit Missions supporters have made their work possible throughout the decades. This November, at the Mass for Holy Souls at Farm Street, JM wants to show their gratitude through prayers and in this unique collection. If you are a calligrapher and would like to help create the *Jesuit Missions Book of Remembrance*, please get in touch with jessica@jesuitmissions.org.uk.

KATY'S SONGBIRDS

Katy's Songbirds are back with a *Jambo Bwana Concert*

featuring Fr Joe Donkor, Sacred Heart School Junior Choir and guests on Thursday 5 October at 8pm, Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill. An unforgettable evening of singing, raising money to complete the build of Pope John Paul II School in Ghana. Pre-concert refreshments in the Upper Hall, tickets by donation on the evening; donations via justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Jambo-Bwana.

LANTERN YOUTH CHOIR

Are you 11-16 years old and love singing? Come and join the Lantern Youth Choir led by Jason Ching, fun Saturday morning sessions covering a range of genres from musicals to pop, gospel & classical. Enjoy an hour of socialising after rehearsal 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 this Saturday 23 September at 10.30am-11.45am. Email lac@lanternarts.org to book your place today; Lantern Arts Centre, SW20 8RA, www.lanternarts.org.

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.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The parish would like to continue the support of the Mer-ton 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 required for client-facing activities). 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 cause. Contact: Nandita Nelson or Suzie Wallat-Vago at sacredheartWNS@hotmail.com.

Exploring our Faith

LOVE HEALS BODY MIND AND SPIRIT

You are welcome to come to a 1-day retreat of quiet reflection on Saturday 30 September 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. (www.lovehealsbodymindspirit.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 Matthew Donnelly
8.00am Fr Joseph Donkor
10.00am Fr David Gibbons
12 noon Fr Matthew Donnelly & Deacon Julian Burling
5.00pm Fr Joseph Donkor
8.00pm Fr David Gibbons & Deacon Julian Burling

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat 23 6.30pm Eileen McGuinness RIP
Mon 25 10.00am Frederick Brennan RIP
12noon Funeral Mass for Pamela Hannigan RIP
6.30pm Queen of Peace
Tue 26 10.00am Peggy Tracey RIP
6.30pm Merv Hancock RIP
Wed 27 10.00am Rehana Edun-Noys Thanksgiving
6.30pm Jean Mellow RIP
Thu 28 10.00am Maria Keaveney-Jessiman RIP
6.30pm Eira Smith RIP
Fri 29 10.00am Special Intentions
6.30pm Bernie O'Toole RIP
Sat 30 10.00am Emily Grey & Family

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: Pamela Hannigan, Annie McHugh and Liam Rabbit

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ashley Nicholas, Susan Dale, Anthony Bellamy, Vladimir Pavlinic, Fr Patrick Cooper SJ and Desmond Worth

The sick: Penelope Sewell, 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.



COLLECTIONS

The second collections on the past two weekends raised:
£1,067.10 for The Catholic Education Service (CES)
£361.08 for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday.
Thank you for your generosity.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS THIS WEEK

Mon 25 Sept Feria
Tue 26 Sept Feria
Wed 27 Sept St Vincent de Paul, Priest, Memorial
Thu 28 Sept Feria
Fri 29 Sept Ss Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels, Feast
Sat 30 Sept St Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church, 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: 684 *Tell out my soul*
Kyrie/Gloria: 459/460
Offertory motet: *Dextera Domini*, Vincent Goller
Sanctus: 433
Communion motet: *Teach me O Lord*, Thomas Attwood

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.

