



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
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5th November 2023

Newsletter

Vol 9, Issue 37

Thirty-First Sunday (A)

Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time
Vol III, psalter week 3

Readings: Malachi 1:14-2:2.8-10 Psalm 130 1Thessalonians 2:7-9.13 Matthew 23:1-12

Children's Liturgy during the 10.00am Mass

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading: the prophet Malachi rebukes the (Old Testament) priests for straying from the true way of God, and thus misleading the people by their false teaching.

Psalm: a very short psalm, expressing a quiet confidence in God. This is a psalm anyone can pray at any time.

Second Reading: St Paul reminds the Christians in Thessalonica how he evangelised them and how they readily accepted the Gospel as God's message. Would St Paul be able to say the same about our community in Wimbledon?

Gospel: Although the scribes and the Pharisees "*occupy the chair of Moses*" (ie they are legitimate religious leaders) Christ criticises them: they do not practise what they preach, they lay impossible burdens on people, they want to attract attention to themselves (rather than to God), and they want to be given honour as teachers (which is what 'rabbi' meant in that era).

Christ is not forbidding us from addressing priests or our biological father as Father, or our school professionals as Teacher, or a medical person as Doctor (which is Latin for 'teacher'), or men as Mister (which is a variation of 'master'). He is using typical exaggeration (hyperbole) to show how sinful and proud the scribes and Pharisees were, not at all humble before God as they should have been.

Fr David

THIS WEEK

On Tuesday we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of our Cathedral, St George's in Southwark. On Thursday we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of the Pope's Cathedral, St John Lateran in Rome. This handily encapsulates what we mean by the Catholic Church: that the Catholic Church (in the Church Militant here on earth) exists in two places, the local Church (in our case the Archdiocese, presided over by the Archbishop) and the universal Church (presided over by the Bishop of Rome). This was one of the main strands in the Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of 1964.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* §833 states that the Church of Christ exists in the particular church (usually the diocese), which is "*a community of the Christian faithful and sacraments with their bishop ordained in apostolic succession*". Tuesday's Feast

reminds us of this truth, and the Archbishop's apostolic succession is symbolised by his cathedra (his throne in the Cathedral).

The Church also exists in the universal Church; 'Catholic' means 'universal'. "*Particular churches are fully catholic through their communion with one of them, the Church of Rome*" (CCC §834), Thursday's Feast of the Pope's Cathedral – which is St John Lateran and not St Peter's in the Vatican as people often think – reminds us of this truth.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 5 November

- Blessing of the graves at Garth Road Cemeteries, 3.00pm outside the chapel at the Merton & Sutton joint Cemetery

Saturday 18 November

- Farewell Mass for/by Fr Michael Barnes SJ, 6.30pm

Wednesday 29 November

- Newman Circle, 7.30pm Lounge, Talk by Julian Burling (see p.3)

THE PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr David Gibbons, KCHS

Parish Clergy: Fr Matthew Donnelly, Fr Jackson Sebastian and Deacon Julian Burling

Team member: Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

Next Sunday the Archbishop's Appeal diocesan Second Collection will take place in parishes across the Archdiocese of Southwark. This important and mandatory Second Collection will enable the Archdiocese to fund three key areas of ministry: youth and evangelisation, our faith in action, and Clergy care and formation. In 2022 this collection raised £250,000, enabling the Archdiocese to fund 36 innovative projects, in parishes, schools, charities and diocesan commissions. You can read more at www.racos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal.

WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER THIS ADVENT

Following the enthusiastic response from many that attended the week of guided prayer during Lent, the parish is organising another *Week of Guided Prayer* during Advent, from 3 - 9 December:

it is a time to deepen one's prayer life with the help of a personal prayer guide over the course of the week.

Opening group meeting: at 4pm on Sunday 3 December, a time of guided prayer and an opportunity to meet your prayer guide to confirm time & place of your daily meetings. A closing group meeting will take place at 4pm on Saturday 9 December. You will commit to spend some time in prayer each day, to meet your prayer guide and share your experience of your prayer time.

What better way to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas!

Please complete the form at the back of the church (contact details, preferred time slot for meeting your prayer guide); to be returned to the Presbytery by Tuesday 21 November.

Parish Notices

HOLY ROSARY

We continue to meet on Saturdays at 9.30am before the 10.00am Mass when the Rosary is offered for World Peace. Do come and join in this very powerful prayer.

HOLY SOULS IN NOVEMBER

If you would like to have your deceased family members remembered in the Masses during November, write their names on a paper and put them into the Holy Souls envelopes provided at the back of the church. They will be placed in a box at the altar during Masses this month. Any donations enclosed will go towards Masses for the Holy Souls during the year.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

The annual Blessing of Graves at the Garth Road Cemeteries is this Sunday.

There will be a short service at 3.00pm outside the chapel at the Merton and Sutton joint Cemetery, followed by the Blessing of individual graves. The Clergy will then go the North East Surrey Crematorium for further prayers there.

NEW FAITH MINISTER

We are pleased to announce the appointment of a new Faith Minister, who will take charge of catechetical and youth work in the parish. He is Robert Hitchcock, who is currently performing the same role at Hitchin parish in the Westminster Archdiocese. He will be starting his post at the beginning of January 2024.

FIRST CONFESSION/ HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

There will be a meeting for parents (both parents if possi-

ble) and children registered for this year's course on Friday 10 November at 7.30pm in the Upper Hall. You will be able to meet the new Faith Minister then. Parents are asked to make every effort to attend this meeting.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Due to our inability to find a coordinator for the Christmas Lunch, the decision sadly has been reached not to have the Christmas Lunch this year!

CHURCH MAIN ENTRANCE

In cold weather please use the side doors at the main Entrance, not the central doors. In this way we can keep the heat in (and save on heating bills) and keep the cold out. Thanks for your co-operation.

Other Notices

SPECIAL MASS

Catholic Women Praying Together: You are invited to a special Mass on Wednesday 15 November at 2.00pm Mass at St George's Cathedral, London, SE1 7HY; theme: *'Affirming the Church's teaching on marriage and family'*. All are welcome! Preacher: Rev Canon Michael

Branch, Dean of St George's. Mass followed by tea & light refreshments in the Amigo Hall (more information at www.catholicwomenprayingtogether.com).

FAREWELL MASS

You are cordially invited to a Farewell Mass celebrated by Fr Michael Barnes SJ on 18 November at 6.30pm,

followed by refreshments in Lounge. Please bring a plate and come along to bid Fr Michael farewell!

PARK METERS EDGE HILL

Please note that the parking meters have been removed on Edge Hill road and parking is now by mobile payment only.

Parish Organisations

MEMORY LANE CLUB

This popular club for people with dementia and their carers is open every Wednesday, 10.30am-12.30pm, in the Parish Lounge with tea, coffee & cake along with lots of chat, laughter, snooker

and different activities; contact: Jenny 07906856183.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY

Catechesis proposed by *Communion and Liberation* local community every Friday at 7.30pm in the Lounge. The

meetings are simple (no requirement of membership). The usual structure involves reflection on a spiritual text and sharing on how it makes sense in one's own life. For more info, please email soc.wimbledon@gmail.com.

Social & Cultural

SYRIAN MEAL

Join *Churches Together in West Wimbledon* (CTWW) on Thursday 16 November at 7.00pm for a Syrian Meal, followed by 'scriptural reasoning' on how different faiths view the concept of home. Venue: Morden Salvation Army, 21 Crown Lane, SM4 5BY. Reserve free space via Eventbrite or contact Cathy Dickenson (CMMD@duck.com).

SELF DEFENCE COURSE

PC Suzanne D'Cruze, the Faith Engagement Officer for our area has offered to organise free self-defence courses for parishioners (aged 18-60) using the services of a Police Fitness Instructor. The course(s) - minimum of 25 participants to make organisation of a course worthwhile - could be tailored to our needs. If you are interested please let Thelma D'Costa know (thelma@sacredheartwimbldon.org.uk) the number of

people, by gender and age who would like to be included and if they would prefer mixed or single sessions.

IRISH IN BRITAIN

'Look Back to Look Forward' - Irish in Britain's exhibition to portray the Irish community's resilience, diversity and contribution to modern Britain will be at the Irish Cultural Centre, London W6 9DT, until this Sunday 5 November. For more details, please visit www.irishinbritain.org.

HISTORY BEHIND CATHOLIC RELICS

With unprecedented access to holy sites across the world, *Mysteries of the Faith* explores the secrets of Christianity's most legendary treasures. From the Crown of Thorns to the iconic Holy Grail, these cherished relics have inspired millions for centuries. Now, for the first time, global audiences can witness the hidden power and evolving mystique of these sacred objects in a

documentary launched on 1 November, to view the trailer follow the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCdZ1aAtt5I>

NEWMAN CIRCLE

The next Wimbledon Newman Circle meeting will be on Wednesday 29 November at 7.30pm in the Parish Lounge. The meeting will be a repeat of Julian Burling's talk 'The History of the Church in the British Isles.' A number of parishioners were unable to attend the meeting in September and requested Julian to give the talk again. It was an excellent talk & is well worth attending. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Christ the King Church, Wimbledon Park on Saturday 18 November, 11am-3pm: all of the usual fabulous stalls, including Tree of Promises, books, new gifts, bottles, grand draw, toys and chocolate tombolas, cakes, mulled wine & refreshments.

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.

VACANCY CCA

New Executive Manager for Christian Care Association (CCA) required: Are you someone with an awareness of and a real concern about the deep poverty that exists in Merton which is often thought to be a wealthy London borough? Are you a leader, able to organise and coordinate a team of volunteers and to oversee a varied range of activities and manage them for the wellbeing of families in need? If so, please get in touch as Christian CARE Association (CCA) needs an Executive Manager to oversee the day to day running of CCA. This will be its first paid employee and in the first instance a one-year contract is on offer, at the rate of £24/h for a 21-hour week spread over 3-5 days. Closing date 23 November 2023. Full details available on CCA website <https://christiancaremerton.org.uk> or from Pat Spencer, the Hon. Secretary at pat.spencer@christiancaremerton.org.uk.

Exploring our Faith

A DAY WITH MARY

You are invited to a *Day with Mary*, a day of instruction, devotion and intercession, on Saturday 25 November, at St John Fisher Church, Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 10.00am-5.30pm; celebrant & preacher: Fr Graham Stokes; sermons on Our Lady by Frs Axcel Soriano and Graham Stokes; Exposition & Procession of

the Blessed Sacrament, Meditations on the Passion of Our Lord, Silent Prayers. (www adaywithmary.org) to find out more about upcoming dates.

THE HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

Each month the Pope offers a specific prayer intention, inviting men and women of good will to pray with him for a particular cause. Recent

intentions have included prayers for the Synod, for people living on the margins, and for World Youth Day. For November, Pope Francis asks the faithful to 'Pray to the Lord that He will bless me,' saying, 'Your prayer gives me strength and helps me to discern and to accompany the Church, listening to the Holy Spirit.'

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

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who have died recently: John Jinks, Tom Pilkington, Sylvia May, Malgorzata Zalewska-Ura, Stephen Eaton and Richard Kirkland

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Cosgrave, Sr Dorothy Wilcock, John Hanrahan, Daniel Gould and Wassini Tappuni

The sick: Sandrine D'Unienville John Wall, Zachary Roberts, Audra Wamsteker, Penelope Sewell, Hui Lee Ng, 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.



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)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday 5 November

10.00am Wassim Tappuni RIP

Monday 6 November FERIA

10.00am Mavis Meyer and Maisie Griffiths RIP

6.30pm Edrien Sagucio RIP

Tuesday 7 November The Dedication of the Cathedral

Church of St George

10.00am Virginia Moore RIP

6.30pm Winifred Hogan RIP

Wednesday 8 November FERIA

10.00am Maria Keaveney-Jessiman RIP

6.30pm Fr Beattie RIP

Thursday 9 November The Dedication of the Lateran

Basilica

10.00am Brendan Clarke RIP

6.30pm Timothy McBride RIP

Friday 10 November FERIA

10.00am New Superior General of the DHM Ints.

6.30pm Bebot Pagayon RIP

Saturday 11 November St Martin de Tours, Bishop

10.00am Viji Pillay Birthday Ints.

6.30pm John Grenahan RIP

MUSIC AT THE 12 NOON MASS

Solemn Latin Mass

K/S/B/A Plainsong Mass XI: *Orbis factor*

Offertory motet: *Ave Maria*, Carl Rütti

Communion motet: *Jesu dulcis memoria*, Tomás Luis de Victoria

COLLECTIONS

JRS, Jesuit Refugee Service, would like to thank parishioners for their donations towards their collection last week.

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon Ps 87:3

First Reading Wisdom 6:12-16

Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-8

Second Reading I Th 4:13-18

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 24:42-44

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

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.

