



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Wimbledon
Edge Hill
Wimbledon
London SW19 4LU

Sunday
22 February 2026

Newsletter

Vol. 12
Issue 7

First Sunday of Lent (Year A) First Week of Lent



Today's Mass

The **Gospel** on the First Sunday of Lent is always the story of Jesus fasting in the desert for 40 days and being tempted by the devil – this year from Matthew (4:1–11). The first temptation – to turn stones into bread – is tempting Jesus to rely on His own power rather than trusting in God to provide. The second temptation is to put God to the test. The third temptation is to idolatry.

As we begin our forty days of penitence and preparation for Easter, are we tempted to rely on ourselves rather than God? Are we tempted to complain if God doesn't arrange things as we would like? Are we tempted not to worship and serve God as fully as we ought?

The **First Reading** (Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7) is Genesis' narrative of the origin of our sin and selfishness. Although we try to be good, do we not sometimes give in to temptation? Our disobedience to God results in a break with our intimate relationship with Him. We acknowledge our sin in the well-known words of **Psalm 51(50)**.

In the **Second Reading** (Romans 5:12–19), St Paul, reminds us that the ultimate result of our sin is the rupture of our relationship with God – that is, death. But he tells us that this situation has been undone by Christ's obedience, by His lack of sin.

Canon David

International Women's Day Collection for Jesuit Refugee Service

To celebrate International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March, Jesuit Refugee Service is hoping to give each refugee woman a small gift. Can you help make this happen?

Please donate any appropriate items such as toiletries, jewellery, scarves, purses, makeup bags and such like, new or used. You can leave any donations in the receptacle at the back of the church. On Sunday, the church remains open until the end of the 8.00pm Mass, so you have time to pop back home and bring any items you may have forgotten to bring.

Parish Pastoral Team

Parish Priest	Canon David Gibbons KCHS
Parish Clergy	Fr Edwin Raj
	Fr Peter Mudu Frank
	Deacon Julian Burling
Team Member	Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU
Faith Minister	Rob Hitchcock

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Burlington Road, KT3 4ND
school@sacredheart.merton.sch.uk
Headteacher: Sarah Norville

Ash Wednesday
18 February

Journey with us through Lent!

Easter Sunday
5 April

7.00pm for 7.30pm Tuesdays 3, 10, and 17 March
Lenten talks: The English Doctors of the Church

Come along to the Lower Hall on the following Tuesdays in Lent as Canon David offers three talks on the English Doctors of the Church. Join for refreshments from 7.00pm, with Canon David's talk beginning at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 3 March St Bede the Venerable
Tuesday 10 March St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury
Tuesday 17 March St John Henry Newman

7.15pm Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, and 25 March
Lenten discussion evenings: *Ambassadors for Christ*

Join us in the Lounge as Nina Beltran, our Parish Lead for Faith Formation, shares videos from *Ambassadors for Christ*, followed by a discussion. Produced by the Archdiocese of Southwark, the *Ambassadors for Christ* video series is a landmark apologetics project designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of your faith, so that you can confidently answer questions and be a joyful witness to the Lord Jesus and His Church. Refreshments will be provided.

7.00pm Fridays in Lent: Stations of the Cross – please see 'This Week'.

This Sunday

**International Women's Day Collection
for Jesuit Refugee Service**

Please see the front cover.

**Café in the Lounge
after the 10.00am Mass**

You are warmly invited to join us for tea, coffee, biscuits, etc.!

Social Club after the 8.00pm Mass

All are welcome to join us in the Lounge for a drink and social gathering!

**Vacancy: St John Fisher
Parish Secretary**

St John Fisher Parish, Merton (Cannon Hill Lane, SW20 9DB), is looking for a new parish secretary (20 hours per week paid job). Experience in Microsoft Office, book-keeping, and administration is essential, along with excellent communication and organisational skills. If you are interested, please email your CV and a covering letter to merton@rcaos.org.uk by Saturday 14 March.

This week

**Fr Edwin is away until Friday, attending
a Diocesan Formation Week.**

James Gallagher RIP

Funeral Mass at 11.00am on Tuesday, followed by cremation at the Putney Vale Crematorium.

**7.30pm Wednesday 25 February
'Faith and Reason'
Wimbledon Newman Circle**

Please note that the video has been changed.

Join the Wimbledon Newman Circle in the Lounge to watch and discuss a video talk by Dr Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman of Wesley House, Cambridge. The video will discuss how faith and reason are partners, not opposing forces, and part of our imperative to search for truth. Everyone is welcome! After the talk, there will be a time for discussion, followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits.

**Friday and Next Sunday's Second
Collection: CAFOD Fast Day**

Please see the insert box.

7.00pm Friday: Stations of the Cross

Join us in the church every Friday in Lent to pray the traditional Lenten devotion of the Via Crucis. If you cannot attend in person, please join us via the livestream at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/livestream.

**Saturday 28 February
First Confessions**

The children on this year's First Holy Communion and their parents will be making their Confessions on Saturday morning. Regular penitents are advised to come on another occasion, to avoid a very long wait. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Will you do something wonderful today? Will you remember the Church with a gift in your will? Copies of ***Your Legacy of Faith*** are available at the back of the church. This leaflet offers information about remembering the Church in your will and guidance on planning a Catholic funeral.

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 at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/safeguarding.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Victoria Wheatley (wimbledonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)
Siobhán Heffron (wimbledonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) • Maria Christopher (wimbledonsg5@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

Friday: **CAFOD** Family Fast Day

1. This Friday, fast with your family.
2. Save the money you would have spent on food.
3. At Mass next Sunday 1 March, place your savings in the CAFOD envelope, and put the envelope in the Second Collection, or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk.

Around the world, despite farmers' best efforts, crops are failing and families are going hungry – but there is hope and there are solutions. In God's eyes, we are one global family, called to be neighbours. Your support this Family Fast Day will mean that more of our neighbours can put food on the table.

New to the parish?

Welcome! Please introduce yourself to a member of the parish team after Mass and register online at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk or by filling out a registration form from the back of the church.

Other notices

7.00pm Friday 13 March
St Patrick's Day Party at
Richard Challoner School

All parishioners are invited to this St Patrick's Day Party at Richard Challoner School (Manor Drive North, KT3 5PE), featuring the 'Ceilidh Tree' band, the world-renowned Céim Óir, and 'The New Mugs' ukulele band. Tickets are £12 including food, with family tickets available. Book your tickets online at richard-challoner-school-pta.sumupstore.com.

Abortion and Assisted Suicide

In the first half of 2026, Parliament will vote to approve or reject both abortion up to birth and assisted suicide. We are now in the last stretch to lobby peers to do something about these horrific proposals before they are returned to the House of Commons. Please write to peers using the online tool at spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation, which helps you generate a letter to send in the post or by email.

Vacancy: Treasurer / Trustee at Love Heals Body, Mind, and Spirit Charity

If you feel that this voluntary vacancy would suit you, please email David at lovehealsbodymindspirit@gmail.com or call him at 0208 542 2476.

More House School, Knightsbridge

More House is a Catholic independent day school for girls, located in Knightsbridge. The school has bursary funds available, up to 50% of fees, to support Catholic families who could not otherwise afford a Catholic independent education. Please contact the Admissions lead, Courtney Fyfe, at registrar@morehousemail.org.uk. All enquiries are treated in confidence.

Forthcoming parish liturgies and events

RSVP NEEDED!

Sunday 1 – Saturday 7 March
Week of Guided Prayer

The parish invites you to this special opportunity to deepen your prayer life, with particular focus on the Word of God.

The opening group meeting will be in the Lounge at 4.00pm on Sunday 1 March. This will be a time to meet your guide, to experience a time of guided prayer, and to arrange a time and place to meet daily.

Your commitment will be to spend time in prayer each day and to meet your guide. A closing meeting will be held in the Lounge on Saturday 7 March.

If you would like to participate, please fill in the form available at the back of the church, to be returned to the Parish Office not later than Tuesday 24 February.

2.30pm Friday 6 March
Friendship Group
Mad Hatters Tea Party

Come and join the Friendship Group in the Lounge for a crazy Mad Hatters tea party! Prize for the best hat. Everyone is welcome!

6.30pm Saturday 14 March
Poetry & Paint

As winter softens and the first signs of spring emerge, join Poets & Prophets for a nourishing evening of creativity and connection in the Lounge. We gather to welcome spring through a gentle poetry, writing, and painting workshop designed to awaken imagination and intuition.

This creative environment invites participants of all levels to explore words, colour, and emotion in a supportive, collaborative space. Art supplies are provided with the ticket price and there will be a bar for drinks and snacks. Book your place at tinyurl.com/yrj58cta.

Diocesan notices

5.00pm Fridays in Lent
The Romero Rosary
at St George's Cathedral

The Archbishop will lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR) at 5.00pm on Fridays 6 and 27 March. On all other Fridays in Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the Rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6.00pm. Let the Rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Learn more at rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary.

Spirituality Commission
Lenten Reflections

Each day in Lent, the Archdiocesan Spirituality Commission will be sending a reflection to help you draw closer to the Lord Jesus. The email will arrive in your inbox each morning, featuring thoughts, Scripture, and prayer. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/rcaoslent26.

Front cover: *The Temptation of Christ in the Wilderness*
by Sebastiano Ricci (1659–1734)

Celebrants this Sunday

6.30pm (Sat)	Fr Peter Mudu Frank
8.00am	Fr Edwin Raj
10.00am	Canon David Gibbons & Dcn Julian Burling
12 noon	Fr Peter Mudu Frank
5.00pm	Fr Edwin Raj
8.00pm	Canon David Gibbons & Dcn Julian Burling

We remember in our prayers

Those who have died recently

Sheila Morrissey • Annette King • James Gallagher
Francis Saldanha • Teresa Escalona
Charles Dominic Burton • Josef Soffer • Patricia Jenkins

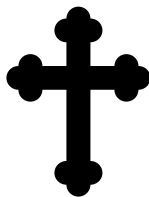
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Noel D'Costa • Teresa Blackhall
Maria Moniz • Olindo Rosato • Alice Kehoe

Those who are sick

Finley Kennedy • Samar Staussi • Maria Tinker • Emily Grey
Electa Almeida • Karolina Masica • Mark Capra
Angela White • Peter Gent • Margaret Brauer
Karoline Wilhelm-Brown • Valeria Kucharsky
Debbie Gargan • Patricia Codd • Hilary Brazier
Ethan Costa Peruzzo • Peter Hayes • Mary Fripp
Sadie Smith • Warlita Villejo • Ryan Lewis • Joseph Lewis
Peter Boyle • Susan McGuinn • Teresa Williams
Patricia Byrne • Francis O'Farrell • Anthony Murphy
Aimee Jones • Marina Francescotti • Jacqueline Dagnall

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. For data protection reasons, individuals must explicitly agree for their names to be mentioned in our newsletter.



Exposition

Wednesdays and Fridays
10.30am – 12 noon and
5.25pm – 6.25pm

First Mondays and Fridays
of the month
7.00pm – 8.00pm

Reconciliation

Mondays to Saturdays
6.00pm – 6.20pm

Saturdays
10.30am – 11.30am

7.00pm Fridays in Lent:
Stations of the Cross

Hospital contacts

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

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

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

Kingston: Fr Tony Oleh (020 8546 7711)

Your generosity helps to fund our parish's wide range of liturgical, spiritual, and cultural activities.

To donate, scan the QR code or visit
sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/donate.
Thank you.



Weekday Mass Intentions

Saturday 21 February

10.00am	Mireille (RIP)
11.30am	Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem
6.30pm	Mary De Maria (RIP)

Monday 23 February

10.00am	Teresa Blackhall (RIP)
6.30pm	Noel D'Costa (RIP)

Tuesday 24 February

10.00am	Lucy Harthill (RIP)
11.00am	Funeral Mass of James Gallagher (RIP)
6.30pm	Maria (Thanksgiving and Good Health)

Wednesday 25 February

10.00am	Maria MacDonald (RIP)
6.30pm	Sarah Phillips (RIP)

Thursday 26 February

10.00am	Briege Connolly (RIP)
6.30pm	Wimbledon Catenians

Friday 27 February

10.00am	Philomena McAnee (RIP)
6.30pm	Roddy Connolly (RIP)

Saturday 28 February

10.00am	John Redwood (RIP)
6.30pm	Miriam O'Callaghan (RIP)

Music at the 12 noon Mass

Entry hymn: (392) Lord, who throughout these forty days

Offertory motet: *Nolo mortem peccatoris* (T. Morley)

Communion motet: Call to remembrance, O Lord (R. Farrant)

Communion hymn: (60) Attend and keep this happy fast

Music at the 5.00pm Mass

Scan the QR code or visit
sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/5pm



Parish services and contacts

Parish Office

020 8946 0305
wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk
9.00am – 4.00pm
Monday – Friday

Executive Assistant

Thelma D'Costa

Caretaker

Leo Nicolaou

Please contact the Parish Office for all enquiries, hall bookings, baptisms, first Sacraments, marriages, and funerals. Please email any notices for the weekly newsletter to wimbledonnewsletter@rcaos.org.uk by Tuesday evening.

Please remember always to register your car when using the church car park (except Sundays) via a registration tablet at the church entrance, presbytery reception, or hall entrances.

The **Sacred Heart SVP Conference** meets to help those living locally in need. All enquiries are dealt with confidentially. Please leave your contact details with the Parish Office or email presidentA190704@svp.org.uk.