

June 2024

EDGEWAYS

Sacred Heart's Parish Magazine

Vol. 35 No. 5

sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk



Friday 7 June

Mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart

Fr Jackson Sebastian, Fr Matthew Donnelly,

Dcn Julian Burling, Canon Gerard Bradley,

Canon David Gibbons

***FREE* but donations are always welcome**

When was the last Catholic coronation?

The Catholic elements in the Coronation

The coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla on 6 May last year in Westminster Abbey, although an Anglican liturgy, contained many Catholic elements, surviving from the pre-Reformation days when England was a Catholic country. These elements included the King's silent prayer, his expression of allegiance first to Almighty God, the priestly robes placed on the King, his anointing with oil (a gesture very familiar to Catholics), and the new king and queen receiving Holy Communion.



For the first time in over 400 years, Catholic prelates were present, including the Papal Nuncio, the Archbishops of Cardiff and Armagh, and the Bishop of Aberdeen. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, was not only present, but he offered a blessing alongside other Christian leaders.

Seventy years ago, it was not permitted for a Catholic to enter a Protestant church, let alone participate in an Anglican coronation service, so there were no official Catholic representatives at Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953.

On the other side of the coin, the King was required by the Coronation Oath Act of 1688 to declare during the ceremony that he is a faithful Protestant and will maintain 'the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law'. This goes back to the accession of William and Mary, who displaced James II.

The last Catholic monarchs

The last Catholic monarch was James Stuart – James II of England and Ireland and James VII of Scotland – who reigned from 1685 to 1688. He was a convert to Catholicism, but his (prompt) coronation in Westminster Abbey would have been an Anglican one. His father, Charles II, converted to Catholicism, but only on his deathbed, so his coronation would also have been an Anglican one.

The last monarch to be crowned in a Catholic ceremony was Elizabeth I, in 1559. Her predecessor, Mary, had returned England to the Catholic faith, and so the coronation was a Catholic one. It was, however, fraught with religious tensions. Elizabeth herself favoured the Protestant cause, and subsequently returned England to Protestantism in what is known as the Elizabethan Settlement.



King Charles III and Queen Camilla on the balcony of Buckingham Palace following their coronation, 6 May 2023. HM Government (OGL 3)

The main problem was the officiating bishop. The (Catholic) Archbishop of Canterbury – Cardinal Pole (pronounced 'Pool') – died 12 hours after Queen Mary, and there was as yet no successor. The Archbishop of York declined to do it, and the Bishop of London was unacceptable to Elizabeth because he had persecuted Protestants. The Bishop of Winchester was under house arrest for an anti-Protestant sermon, and the Bishop of Chichester had also just died. Finally, the very low-ranking Bishop of Carlisle was coerced into performing the crowning.

The order of service was the *Liber Regalis*, first used in Edward II's coronation in 1308. Elizabeth's was the last coronation to include the Catholic Mass. It is unclear if she received Communion, but the various elements of the ceremony were as in previous coronations and the last to be conducted in Latin.

Somewhat ironically, the last king to be crowned as a Catholic was Henry VIII. His coronation in Westminster Abbey on 23 June 1509 was a very grand affair and followed by a very grand banquet in Westminster Hall. Catherine of Aragon was also crowned Queen. This was, again somewhat ironically, the last full joint Coronation until that of James II and Mary of Modena in 1685, nearly two centuries later.

Other Catholic monarchs

There are Catholic monarchs, including the kings of Spain and Belgium, the princes of Monaco and Liechtenstein, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, and, at least in theory, the Pope in Vatican City, but none of them has a coronation as in the United Kingdom. We are the only European country that still crowns kings and queens in this elaborate ceremony, which is over a millennium old.

Canon David

Editor wanted!

To paraphrase Lord Kitchener: 'Your parish needs you' ... to step forward as the new editor of Edgeways!

Following a 27-month hiatus in publication after John Symes, our editor since 2013, moved away in August 2021, Edgeways was relaunched in December 2023. We hope you like it.

For personal reasons, David is now leaving and we urgently seek a new editor. The job needs a person with natural curiosity and a keen interest in parish people and affairs to edit this vibrant and readable monthly magazine.

If you are interested in learning more about the production process and the expected time commitment, please contact David at dthurst52@gmail.com.

June contents

This month's issue of **YOUR** magazine covers some important and enjoyable religious and social events in parish life.

Five clergy were on the altar for Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart (*front cover*), led by Canon Gerard Bradley, Episcopal Vicar for the Archdiocese's southwestern area. Before that, Canon David led our Corpus Christi procession (*p.5*). Finally, everyone enjoyed a successful Parish Day (*pp.6-7*), organised by Thelma, some of the PPC, and many others.

Canon David looks at Catholic content in royal coronations past and recent (*pp.2-3*). We review Katy's Songbirds summer



concert from 23 May (*p.10*) and there is a preview of the performance on 22 June by the Sacred Heart Chorus and Orchestra, to be conducted by Bob Rathbone (*p.11*).

Our parish youth get a look-in through the Youth 2000 retreat (*p.8*) and we take a peek at the One Hope Project in which Rob Hitchcock plays a musical part (*p.9*). We hear from Catherine Hitchcock on her first two terms as headteacher at Donhead Preparatory School (*pp.12-13*). From the Newman Circle, we have summaries of recent talks by Prof. Paddy Stone (*pp.14-16*) and Fr Dominic Robinson SJ (*p.17*), plus a preview of the next talk on 18 June by Canon David on what his KCHS title means (*p.18*).

We report on two charities: the Jesuit Refugee Service in Wapping (*p.5*) and local charity Medical Life Lines Ukraine (*p.21*). Finally, we hear about the weekly Walk & Talk movement (*p.20*), the return of the parish's environmental group (*p.19*), and the hidden talents of George McLennan and his daughter, Gayle (*p.22*).

As always, do suggest (or even write) relevant articles for future Edgeways – and enjoy reading this month's magazine!

David Hurst

Sunday 2 June Corpus Christi

Canon David led our Procession of the Blessed Sacrament on the Feast of Corpus Christi (*pictured*), officially the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

The feast dates to a 1264 bull by Pope Urban IV, who asked St Thomas Aquinas to write its accompanying liturgical texts.



Go Team JRS! – 'Brothers in Arms, Feet in Action!'

On Sunday 21 April, an amazing team of 26 runners raised over £40,000 for the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) UK by taking part in this year's London Marathon. For the first time, the team included a refugee supported by the charity.

'I was struck by the gratitude of refugees when they learnt how many people were running to support them this year,' said Eileen Cole from JRS UK. 'This effort is vital to enable JRS UK's work with refugees and to help us to continue to fight the Rwanda plan and support those potentially affected by it.'



Brothers Colm and Antony Fahy celebrate crossing the finish line. JRS UK.



The Jesuit Refugee Service UK is based in Wapping. Its mission is to accompany refugees and forced migrants, serving them as companions and advocating their individual causes.

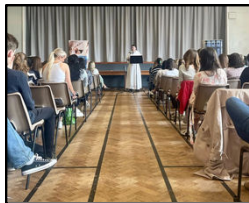
You can donate to JRS UK at www.jrsuk.net/donate or, if you are inspired to take part, you can sign up to join Team JRS UK for next year's marathon at www.jrsuk.net/london-marathon.

Sunday 9 June Feast of the Sacred Heart



Photographs by John Stone

Saturday 11 May Youth 2000 Retreat



All photos are sourced from Youth 2000.

On Saturday 11 May and coordinated by PPC member Max Toone, a full house of 200 young Catholics met for the first Youth 2000 retreat to be held in our parish.

After a powerful opening address by Fr Toby Lees OP (*bottom-centre*), retreatants heard talks and participated in workshops on living fulfilling lives as Catholics.

It was particularly moving to see attendees and Confirmation candidates mingling happily in the sunshine outside the church (*top-left*).

A more detailed report will follow in July's Edgeways with the announcement of the date of the next Youth 2000 retreat early in 2025.

One Hope Project



A recent celebration using One Hope Project's 'Mass of Unity'. *One Hope Project.*

In February's Edgeways, we revealed that our Faith Minister for Young People and their Families, Rob Hitchcock, is an accomplished musician who plays the violin in concerts with the Hertfordshire Philharmonic Orchestra.

Rob also plays music with the One Hope Project, which is a young and vibrant worship collective that has emerged out of the Catholic charismatic renewal in the United Kingdom. They desire to help build God's Kingdom on Earth through impactful music, fresh creativity, and building community with each other and across the Church.

One Hope Project's mission is to encourage fresh, Spirit-filled expressions of worship in the Catholic Church. They do this by cultivating creativity in the Church and helping to grow community among the emerging generation.

They believe that we are creative beings, by the very fact that we are made in the image and likeness of God, the ultimate Creator. They believe each one of us can use our unique gifts to bring fresh ideas to the Church and to the world. Everyone has the ability to be creative and they

would love to provide the opportunity for people to create and share their ideas.

One Hope Project has a heart for unity and knows that, as Christians, we are called to model unity and exemplify how to work through our differences. They want to walk together, work together, and love one another.

'How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity!'

— Psalm 23

In a culture that can sometimes feel full of cynicism and negativity, they believe encouragement is a powerful tool which enables the light of Christ to shine brightly. They want to be generous with the encouragement of others so that they can build each other up, support one another, and inspire each other to be the best version of themselves.

We look forward to hearing more from Rob about his performances with this inspiring group of young Christian creatives. Until then, their music is available to stream on all platforms at www.onehopeproject.co.uk.

Thursday 23 May Katy's Songbirds Summer Concert

On Thursday 23 May, Katy Lees, Giles Kennedy, and Katy's Songbirds hosted their annual summer concert in the beautiful ambience of Sacred Heart Church, demonstrating the power of singing to lift hearts and give hope.

This event supported two vulnerable people in the community: Siobhan Williams, an extraordinary NHS nurse who has touched the lives of so many and who herself now has Stage 4 pancreatic cancer; and Robin, a man with Down's Syndrome, whose care home is closing, forcing him to relocate away from his social lifelines.

The concert's colourfully varied music – a Songbirds hallmark – was enthusiastically received, ranging from Strauss, Gershwin, and Saint-Saëns to Coldplay, Lloyd Webber, and Rodgers and Hammerstein. The audience enjoyed pre-concert and interval refreshments in the Upper Hall, enhancing the wonderful summery mood of the evening.

Watch this space for more Songbirds performances later in the year!



Donate to support Siobhan:
www.gofundme.com/tf/support-needed-for-nhs-nurse

Sign the petition to support Robin:
www.change.org/p/save-jutland-place



Katy's Songbirds is a choir primarily (but not exclusively) for female voices. We are about transformation: using the power of singing to lift hearts and give hope, and with the belief that, when people come together doing their own small thing with great love, incredible things happen!

Katy's Songbirds meet during term time on Mondays, 7.00–8.30pm, at Sacred Heart Primary School's music room. No auditions or need to read music – all are welcome! Contact Katy Lees at katylees3009@gmail.com.

Saturday 22 June Puccini joins Sacred Heart Chorus

On Saturday 22 June, the Sacred Heart Chorus and Orchestra will perform Giacomo Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and his little-known *Motetto per San Paulino*. In the first half, the wonderful Giles Kennedy is the soloist in Beethoven's majestic 3rd Piano Concerto. Please support this important event in the musical life of the parish; partly so that we can support Faith in Action with a large donation, but also to reward the extremely hard work the chorus put into these events – nothing beats singing to a full church!

Music of the highest standard has been a hallmark of the Sacred Heart since it opened its doors in 1887. Over the past 30 years, as Director of Music, I have conducted some of the greatest choral works, and the concerts have raised over £35,000 for a variety of charitable organisations, including the parish.

The chorus consists of our choir, parishioners (including one of the Deacons), and members of local church choirs and choral societies. At heart, it is a non-auditioned community choir with one aim: to achieve our best. We always have a full orchestra (with many connections with Wimbledon College and Ursuline High School) and have, at times, included purely orchestral pieces.

Of the many highlights over the years, the Mozart Requiem and Hummel Trumpet Concerto in 2006 stands out (with the London Mozart Players and a 15-year-old Christian Barraclough as soloist). 2016 saw the biggest bass drum ever in the church for the Verdi Requiem, and off-stage



Bob Rathbone conducts the chorus and orchestra for Edward Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* in 2018.

trumpets in the choir gallery. For me, the 2018 performance of Edward Elgar's masterpiece, *The Dream of Gerontius*, was deeply moving. The momentary vision of God literally pierced my soul, as it does for Gerontius in St John Henry Newman's poem.

So do come at 7.30pm on Saturday 22 June, when you will hear Ludwig van Beethoven on our marvellous Steinway, glorious melodies that only Puccini could write, and maybe hear a snatch of an opera or two.

See the back cover for ticket prices and booking details.

Bob Rathbone

'Curiosity, Creativity, Compassion' at Donhead Preparatory School

After two terms as headteacher of our parish-based Jesuit preparatory school, Donhead, we invited Catherine Hitchcock to share with us her thoughts and vision...

"I am delighted to share with you, our parishioners, my background and experience in education, as well as my hopes and ambitions for Donhead.

Following the completion of a Geography degree at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, I trained as a Geography teacher and worked in two Catholic senior schools: Finchley Catholic Boys and Notre Dame in Southwark. After taking a break to be at home with my own children, I returned to teaching the 3-11 age group in schools.

I am thrilled to have returned to the Donhead community as Headteacher, having previously taught at the school for six years between 2015 and 2021, at such an exciting time in the history of the school as we are due to welcome girls and 3-year-olds on-site from September 2024.

At Donhead, I am deeply inspired by the Jesuit tradition and the Ignatian values that underpin our educational philosophy. The Jesuit Pupil Profile (*see next page*), with its roots in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the spirituality of St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), founder of the Society of Jesus and Jesuit schools, serves as a guiding framework for cultivating a holistic education.

I am committed to helping our students grow not only academically but also spiritually and morally, preparing them to

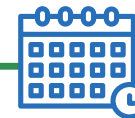
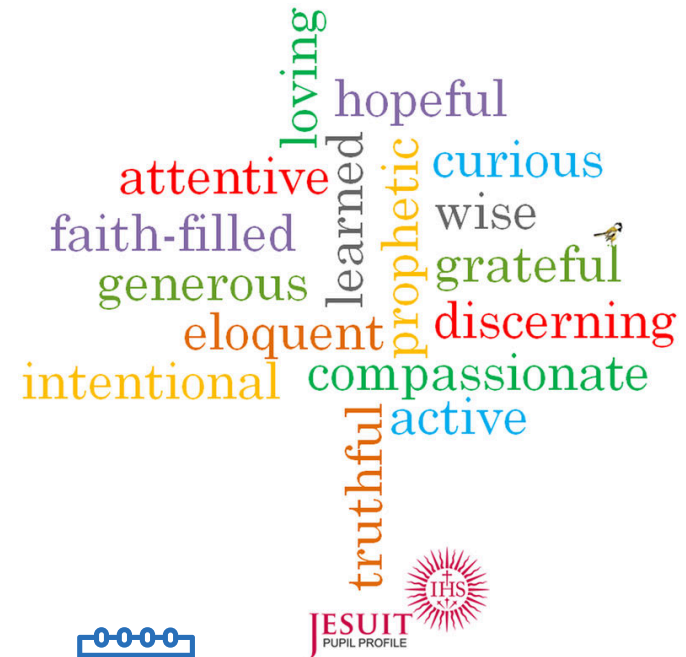


be compassionate and conscientious leaders in the future.

My first two terms so far as Headteacher of Donhead have been incredibly rewarding. Witnessing the students' enthusiasm for learning and their eagerness to embody our core virtues has been a highlight.

As the school moves forward, we will do so with a real focus on embracing technology across the whole curriculum, developing our outdoor learning provision, and launching our bespoke curriculum, entitled 'Care for Our Common Home', which supports us in our character formation as we prepare our children to be stewards of the future and *men and women for others.*"

Semper Magis – Always More!



Join us to hold them to account!
Citizens UK Election Assembly

6.00pm Wednesday 26 June
Methodist Central Hall
pre-registration required

Our parish has been an active participant in Merton Citizens since April 2018, holding decisionmakers at the London Borough of Merton to account for the common good.

Over 2,000 London voters will join us at the Election Assembly on 26 June. The deputy leaders of the Labour and Conservative parties, Angela Rayner and Oliver Dowden, will also be there and will be challenged – if their party is elected on 4 July – to make certain specific pledges on key issues to the electorate.

If you are interested in attending this important live event and witnessing democracy in action, please email David at dthurst52@gmail.com to pre-register.

Caring for people at the end of life: A doctor's perspective

On Wednesday 29 May, Prof. Paddy Stone MA MD MRCP, a parishioner and Emeritus Professor of Palliative Medicine at the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department, University College London, visited the Newman Circle to discuss caring for people at the end of life from a doctor's perspective. Paddy summarises his insightful talk below.

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is the active, holistic care of patients with advanced, progressive illness; the management of pain and other symptoms; and the provision of social, psychological, and spiritual care. The goal is the achievement of the best quality of care for patients and their families. Described as hospice medicine for people approaching the end of life, it is neither about hastening nor postponing death.

Palliative care at hospices: a UK speciality

Many originators of palliative hospice care came from the United Kingdom. In 1967, Dame Cecily Saunders, a nurse, social worker, and doctor, established St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham to look after the dying and provide them with a comfortable and peaceful death. It was the first modern hospice in the world. In 1978, in an effort to improve the care of dying patients in the NHS more widely, the first hospital palliative care team was established at St Thomas' Hospital. In 1987, palliative medicine was recognised as a distinct medical specialism in the UK. In 2015, the Economist Intelligence Unit reported that the UK was ranked first globally for quality of end-of-life care.

Structure and Services

There are about 200 hospices in the UK, which generally receive funding of between 25% and 40% from the NHS, with the balance funded by local fundraising. As far as patients are concerned, hospice services operate as a seamless extension of their NHS care. No payment is required by service users.



Hospices provide in-patient care for patients with complex symptoms or for family reasons, often for a reversible problem for a short period of time. However, about 50% of patients are admitted to hospices for terminal care. Staff from hospices also provide home care services. NHS hospitals have palliative care teams to complement in-patient treatment provided by other consultants.

There are two national charities that focus on supporting palliative care: MacMillan Cancer Support, which specifically focuses on cancer care (not just palliative care); and Marie Curie, which focuses on care of the dying and terminally ill. Marie Curie run nine hospices across the UK and Marie Curie nurses provide night-sitting services for patients dying at home. Marie Curie also supports palliative care research.



DID YOU KNOW?

MacMillan Cancer Support, originally named the Society for the Prevention and Relief of Cancer, was founded by Douglas Macmillan in 1911 after the death of his father from cancer.

Marie Curie was a 19th-century Polish and naturalised French physicist and chemist, who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity and won two Nobel prizes.

Effectiveness

Research shows that early palliative care can result in improved pain and symptom control, improved quality of life, increased carer satisfaction, and decreased carer depression. Palliative care can also

reduce health service costs and unplanned hospital admissions.

Access

Palliative care is effective but it is not universally accessible. Of those dying in the UK annually, 80% are estimated to need some form of palliative care, but only 50% of those patients get access to specialist palliative care services and 25% receive no access to any palliative care.

Taking a global perspective, 57 million people die each year in need of palliative care but only 14% have access to it. It is a major problem that globally, many millions of people die each year with easily treatable cancer pain due to the unavailability of opiates like morphine.

Assisted dying

Assisted dying is a relatively new umbrella term for euthanasia and assisted suicide. Euthanasia is the administration of a lethal drug to a patient to end their life either with (voluntary euthanasia) or without (involuntary euthanasia) explicit consent. Assisted suicide is when a lethal medicine is prescribed by a health care professional but self-administered.

For some time, most opinion polls have shown that the majority of the UK population favours legalising assisted dying. In a recent public opinion poll by Dignity in Dying, 75% of respondents said that they would support making it lawful for someone to seek assisted dying in the UK. This issue is highly likely to come before parliament again within the next five years or so.

Support for assisted dying among doctors is much lower. In a BMA members' poll, only 40% of those surveyed were in favour of the BMA supporting a change in the

law. Responses from doctors varied: those who work most closely with people at the end of life – namely, GPs, geriatricians, palliative care doctors, and oncologists – were among those most opposed to recommending a change in the law.

Perhaps some of the disparity between the views of the public and the views of professionals who work closely with dying patients may be some misunderstanding among the public about what assisted dying actually is. One survey asked the public: ‘What do you understand by the term assisted dying?’ Only 43% correctly identified it as the administration of lethal drugs to patients to end their own lives. This should immediately cast doubt on the figure of 75% who are in favour of assisted dying. 42% of respondents thought that assisted dying meant allowing people to stop treatment if they wanted – which is already legal. Even more worryingly, 10% thought that assisted dying just meant receiving palliative care.

Current UK law

A common motivation for campaigning for assisted dying is a genuine fear that people will be subjected, against their wishes, to burdensome treatments at the end of their life, such as drips, feeding tubes, ventilators or intensive care. In fact, the law already provides patients with the right to stop medical treatments. Moreover, patients can ensure that their wishes are respected even if they lose mental capacity by completing an Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment or by appointing Lasting Powers of Attorney (that is, people who can make legally-binding decisions about their health on their behalf). So, no change in the law is necessary for patients to be sure that they will not be subjected to burdensome treatments against their wishes at the end of their lives.

International experiences

There are some worrying trends among those jurisdictions in which some form of assisted dying has been legalised. Rates of assisted dying have increased relentlessly: 3.3% of all deaths in Canada and 5.4% of all deaths in the Netherlands are now recorded as assisted deaths. There is also evidence that eligibility criteria tend to be relaxed after legislation. These changes have predominantly occurred through the courts on the basis of equality of access. The changes have widened access to those with mental health issues, children, those not terminally ill, and those with self-defined suffering.

Other difficulties include defining what constitutes a terminal illness and the unreliability of prognostic estimates. A change in the law could dangerously pressure patients to accept an assisted death in order to ‘not become a burden’ to their families or as a result of financial or other societal pressures. In one study conducted in Oregon (USA), 59% of patients seeking an assisted death reported that one of their reasons for doing so was ‘feeling a burden on family, caregivers or friends’.

Conclusions

Concluding my talk to the Newman Circle, I reiterated that palliative care is a valuable British speciality which can offer improved pain and symptom control for terminally ill patients. However, although the UK is among the best in the world at care-of-the-dying, there are still shortages in services and barriers to accessing care. Prof. Stone considered that, although well-intentioned, attempts to change the law in the UK to allow ‘assisted dying’ would be misguided and would have unintended and potentially dangerous consequences.

Responding to *Laudate Deum*

On Tuesday 16 April, Fr Dominic Robinson SJ visited the Newman Circle to discuss Pope Francis’ Laudate Deum, which follows his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si’. We invited Fr Dominic to summarise his excellent talk.

“Praise God’ is the title of this letter,” says Pope Francis in *Laudato Si’*, “for when human beings claim to take God’s place, they become their own worst enemies.”

Much is made these days of divisions in our Church and society: conservative or progressive; John Paul II and Benedict XVI as opposed to Francis; and the mutual exclusivity of a focus on doctrine or social justice. But *Laudate Deum*, released in autumn 2023 as a follow-up to the groundbreaking *Laudato Si’* (2015), is in an unbroken trajectory of Church teaching – which is at root not political, nor from the perspective first of society, but theological and philosophical. We can trace this from John Paul II’s *Redemptor Hominis* (1979) to Benedict XVI’s *Deus Caritas Est* (2005) and *Caritas in Veritate* (2009).

In *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (1987), John Paul II stressed the concept of authentic ‘development’ in the light of the Gospel, which promotes human flourishing. This demands that we support and promote structures for ‘the common good’ in society. Rather than conceiving society in economic terms or in terms of human productivity, the Christian is called to promote human society as the ‘new creation in Christ’, and to live in harmony with the rest of the created order.

So *Laudato Si’* forcefully rejects the notion that our being created in God’s image involves dominion over the earth. The

human being is not the master of the universe, but part of a “universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect”.

In *Laudate Deum*, Francis turns to practicalities. He begins by criticising the technological paradigm: not all increases in technical capability represent true progress. The development of technology has not been accompanied by a corresponding development of human responsibility, values and conscience. We have some superficial mechanisms and have not developed the ethics, culture or spirituality capable of setting limits and teaching self-restraint in our technological use.

Above all, human persons are part of nature. Because of our ability to reason, we are capable of looking at the planet not from *without*, but from *within*. While we can enrich and shape our environments, we can also destroy them. This is what society must condemn.

For all the failures of governments, we are all called to make the world more beautiful. There are no lasting changes without cultural changes and no cultural changes without personal changes.

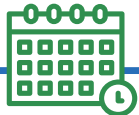
How might we respond to *Laudate Deum*?

- Consider your effects on the environment, especially in what you eat and how you travel.
- Read *Laudato Si’* and *Laudate Deum*, and reflect on your call to be in communion with the whole of Creation.

The history of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem



Canon David Gibbons KCHS



You're invited: join us for the next Newman Circle meeting!

Subject: The History of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Speaker: Canon David Gibbons KCHS, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart

Time: 7.30pm Tuesday 18 June
Venue: Parish Lounge

Have you ever wondered what the letters 'KCHS' at the end of Canon David's name actually stand for?

The answer is 'Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem', one of two equestrian orders recognised by the Catholic Church.

Ecclesiastical knights are, in effect, chaplains to the Order itself, which dates back to 1099 but was refounded in 1868 by Pius IX. In 1888, Leo XIII extended the order to include women (Dames) as well as men (Knights).

The Order's main function is to support the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, largely through financial assistance and pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

We are well aware of the tragic events in the Holy Land since 7 October 2023. How did these events affect Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities in the Holy Land?

How many Christians still live there? How have they been affected? Are they helping the Jewish and Muslim communities – and if so, how?

What has the Patriarchate of Jerusalem done to promote good relations between Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities? How can we help?

There are many other issues to consider. Please come to the meeting in the Parish Lounge at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18 June.

A greener parish awaits!

After an active parish Environment Group had been established, Canon John and the Parish Council made environmental action a priority. In summer 2019, we applied to join the CAFOD Live Simply scheme.

Underpinning everything was the important message from Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, to learn to love the created world as a gift and then to better care for it.

A hall full of parishioners took part in a Lenten workshop on *Laudato Si'* and parishioners generated ideas for how, as individuals and as a parish working together, we might live more sustainably.

The parish then took practical steps to reduce environmental impact:

- we changed our waste disposal contractor;
- we started recycling food waste;
- we increased our overall recycling rate from a standing start to 60%;
- we cut our carbon emissions by six tonnes a year;
- the parish flower group reduced 'flower miles' by buying local or seasonal flowers where possible, and using only biodegradable foam for arrangements; and
- led by the indefatigable Marion Noble, we planted a wild flower garden and new apple trees.

In May 2021, after the Family Mass, the parish was honoured to receive the 'Live Simply' award from the Director of CAFOD. The plaque is displayed in the church entrance.



Starting this September, parishioner John Paul de Quay will lead a series of sessions with a talk introducing care of creation and its importance, an imagination activity looking at what the parish could do, creating artworks of the parish in the future, and open discussions on reforming the Environment Group with a focus on ecology.

Watch out for the date of a meeting to discuss reforming the parish's Environment Group in July's Edgeways!

Walk & Talk Wimbledon Common

Walk & Talk is a free community walk that meets at 10.30am every Saturday by the Wimbledon War Memorial. Started in lockdown by local resident Andy Yates to encourage outdoor community activity, it has grown in popularity and now has groups meeting weekly across the UK.

Walk & Talk recently celebrated its first birthday. Prominent locals met at the Rose & Crown beer garden – some only after the walk! – including councillors, election candidates, and local MP Stephen Hammond. The group was joined by Medical Life Lines Ukraine, who brought along one of their ambulances to be sent to Ukraine (see next page).



To join Walk & Talk, there is no need to register, no charge, and no pressure for what is a gentle walk on our beautiful common. Every week, a different speaker discusses a topic at intervals during the walk, usually relating to nature and the history of the Common and its environs.

One memorable walk in March ended at Christ Church on Cope Hill for coffee and a history talk and – not to be outdone by the Anglicans – your Edgeways editor followed soon after with a well-attended walk across the Common to the Sacred Heart, also for a short history talk followed by coffee in the parish lounge!



The photo is sourced from the Walk and Talk Movement's website.



Walk & Talk is supported by the Wimbledon Society, Friends and Conservators of Wimbledon Common, Friends of Cannizaro Park, the Wimbledon Village Business Association, and the Wimbledon United Residents Associations. All are welcome to join! Visit walkandtalkmovement.org/locations/wimbledon-common.

Medical Life Lines Ukraine



Medical Life Lines Ukraine (MLLU) is an extraordinary charity that was founded by Aliya Aralbayeva, a Ukrainian who lives in Wimbledon Village, the day after Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

Since its foundation, the charity has delivered 52 fully-equipped ambulances to war-torn areas of Ukraine.

MLLU acquires ambulances that are equipped and in good working order but that have been financially written off by NHS trusts in the UK. The ambulances then cross the Polish border and arrive in Ukraine filled with medical and practical aid including dressings, defibrillators, generators, clothes, blankets, toys for displaced children, and even dog food for rescue dogs. All items have been requested by doctors on the ground.

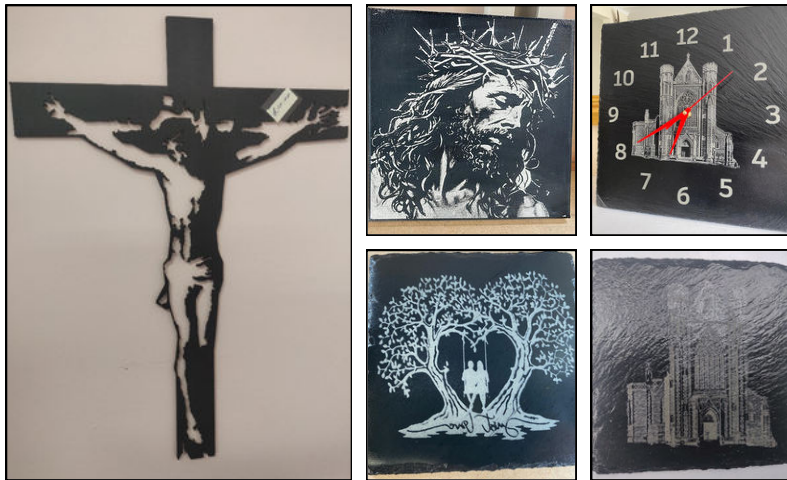
After delivering supplies, the ambulances are left at hospitals as so many have been lost to enemy action. The volunteer ambulance drivers then fly back to the UK.

At the gathering after a recent Walk & Talk (pictured), volunteers from the charity brought along one of their ambulances shortly before driving it all the way to Ukraine filled with supplies. We met and spoke with the volunteer team, which was humbling.



Donate or volunteer to MLLU:
www.medicallifelines.org.uk

Looking for a suitable gift for that special occasion? Look no further than GG Laser Creations!



Our valued caretaker, George McLennan, and his daughter, Gayle, have teamed up to produce attractive laser engravings from any source image, photograph or design applied to surfaces such as slate, wood, glass, acrylic or canvas. The source image can be religious or secular and results in customised items such as mirrors, clock faces, placemats, coasters, mugs, hip flasks, cup warmers, and even smaller items like keyrings and bookmarks.

In addition, using dye-cutting methods and working in wood, George and Gayle

produce a range of attractive and useful household items such as wall hangings (see especially their Crucifixion, *pictured*), CD holders, tool boxes, and odds and ends sorters. All amazing stuff!

For more details and prices, which are very reasonable, contact George at gglasercreations@gmail.com.

If you, or anyone you know, has a **HIDDEN TALENT** that wants promoting, then please contact the editor (dthurst52@gmail.com), and this could feature in a future Edgeways!

Sun 9 Jun	After Family Mass	Café in the Lounge
Sat 15 Jun	12.00pm – 3.00pm	Ursuline Preparatory School Summer Fair
Sun 16 Jun	After Family Mass	Café in the Lounge
Sat 22 Jun	12.00pm – 3.00pm	Donhead Preparatory School Summer Fair
Sat 22 Jun	7.30pm	Sacred Heart Chorus and Orchestra Concert
Sun 23 Jun	9.00am	Continental breakfast in the Lower Hall
Tue 25 Jun	2.00pm	Ursuline Preparatory School Thanksgiving Mass
Wed 26 Jun	6.00pm	Citizens UK 'Election Assembly'
Sun 30 Jun	After Family Mass	Café in the Lounge
Sat 6 Jul	10.00am – 5.30pm	'A Day with Mary' at St Mary of the Crays, Crayford
Sat 13 Jul	12.00pm – 3.00pm	Sacred Heart Primary School Summer Fair
Sun 17 – Sat 24 Aug		Legion of Mary: Peregrinatio Pro Christo
Fri 23 – Fri 30 Aug		Catholic Association Lourdes Pilgrimage
Thu 12 – Sat 14 Sep		'Kiss Me Kate' by the Edge Hill Players
Sat 26 Oct	9.30am – 4.30pm	'Building a Better Marriage'

Ursuline Preparatory School

The school warmly invites past pupils, parents, and staff to participate in special events commemorating the school's legacy as it prepares to close its doors on Thursday 11 July. The Summer Fair will take place from 12.00pm to 3.00pm on Saturday 15 June and there will be a Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Bishop Philip Moger in the church at 2.00pm on Tuesday 25 June.

If you are interested in attending the Summer Fair, please register in advance at headteachersoffice@ursulineprepr.org.

Baptisms and deaths

We welcome into the family of the Church the following who have recently been baptised: (infants) Keira Lily Masojada, Vinigo Airoh Martiniano, Graycen Martin Myburg, Roman Jody Myburg, and (adult) Alcina Angelica Pasini.

We offer our sympathies to the family and friends of Charles Peterpillai Thurugnanendran, Linda Burgess, Beata Maria Rothwell, Camilla Cervi, and Edward Brendan Granahan.

AND FINALLY...

Sacred Heart Chorus and Orchestra
Summer Concert 22 June, 8pm

Beethoven *Piano Concerto No 3 in C Minor*

Soloist Giles Kennedy

Puccini

Messa di Gloria

Mottetto per San Paulino

Soloists John Upperton *tenor*

Nick Marsden *bass*

Conducted by Robert Rathbone

Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon, SW19 8LU

Tickets £20, £15 concessions

Discounts available until 31st May

£15 and £10 concs

available from

www.sacredheartmusic.co.uk or scan the QR code.

PROFITS TO 'FAITH IN ACTION (MERTON)'

