

November
2024

EDGEWAYS

Sacred Heart Parish Magazine

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sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk



**‘Welcome to our seminarian,
Marlon Oliveira!’**

Sacred Heart Primary School

‘Mission Week’ (pp.12–13)

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

May I indulge you on indulgences?

Indulgences get mentioned a lot at this time of year because of the November indulgence for the Holy Souls.

I am sure that many people think that indulgences were abolished at the time of the Reformation. But no. Indulgences are still very much part of Catholic teaching and practice. Selling them, which upset Martin Luther and others, was prohibited – but not the indulgences themselves. In 1563, the Council of Trent condemned ‘all base gain for securing indulgences’, and Pope Pius V abolished their sale in 1567.

What is an indulgence?

Indulgentiarum Doctrina (1967), an apostolic constitution by Pope Paul VI, provides some definitions that are reflected in the Code of Canon Law ([Can. 992–7](#)):



An indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due sins already forgiven as far as their guilt is concerned, which the follower of Christ with the proper dispositions and under certain determined conditions acquires through the intervention of the Church which, as minister of the Redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the satisfaction won by Christ and the saints.

– *Indulgentiarum Doctrina* (1967), n.1



An indulgence is either partial or plenary insofar as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin. You can always apply an indulgence to the deceased in purgatory as an intercessory prayer, but you cannot apply it to any other living person.

An analogy

Suppose your young son is wildly throwing a ball around in your back garden, despite you telling him to stop. The inevitable happens: he throws his ball over the fence and it breaks a window in the neighbour’s house.

You march him round to apologize and the neighbour kindly forgives him. Although your son is forgiven, there remains the question of punishment. You stop his pocket money for a few weeks, helping to pay for a new windowpane in the neighbour’s house.

When you confess your sins, you are forgiven, and your guilt is removed. Still, the temporal punishment remains – like your son’s punishment remained even after he was forgiven – not because God is vengeful, but as an inevitable consequence of the sin.

This is what an indulgence is designed to address and rectify.

The ‘usual conditions’

To obtain the indulgence – that is, to receive the remission of the punishment you have incurred by your sin – you must, ‘with a contrite heart’, perform the actions required by that indulgence and fulfil three conditions, often called ‘the usual conditions’:

- make a sacramental Confession (so that you are forgiven for the sin);
- receive Holy Communion; and
- pray for the Pope’s intentions.

You may pray for the Pope’s intentions by reciting the Our Father and a Hail Mary, or you may pray any other prayer.

(The Pope’s intention for November 2024 is for anyone who has lost a child: we pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.)



According to tradition, St Francis of Assisi awoke from his sleep one night with a strong impulse to pray in the chapel of Our Lady of the Angels at Portiuncula, outside Assisi. There, Our Lord and Our Lady appeared to Francis, who asked for an indulgence, which the Lord granted. In 1967, Pope Paul VI allowed the **Portiuncula Indulgence** to be obtained through prayer in any parish church on the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels on 2 August.

Where can I get an indulgence?

You can obtain a plenary indulgence at a parish church twice a year:

- on the parish church’s feast day (in our case, the Feast of Sacred Heart, which falls on the Friday after Corpus Christi); and
- on the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels (Portiuncula) on 2 August (*see insert*).

A plenary indulgence for the Holy Souls can be acquired if you pray in a cemetery in November. It can also be acquired by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for at least half an hour; devout reading of the Sacred Scriptures for at least half an hour; praying the Stations of the Cross; and reciting the Rosary in church or with your family.

Works of charity and mercy, abstaining from something pleasing, and trusting in God while making a pious invocation all obtain a partial indulgence.

Why can the Church grant indulgences?

The Church’s power to grant indulgences is part of the Power of the Keys, the same power by which the Church can forgive sins. See Matthew 16:19, 18:18, and 28:18. Christ gave this power to St Peter and his successors.

Canon David

A bountiful November ...

This has been another bountiful month of interesting contributions to **your** monthly magazine, Edgeways!

Fitting for the month of November, Canon David kicks us off with a clear explanation of **indulgences** (I always wondered! *pp.2-3*) before we meet seminarian **Marlon Oliveira** (*pp.6-7*), who will be helping and observing the parish each Sunday until next July.

Our regular music section includes sincere **thanks for the generosity of audiences** at two concerts that raised funds for Faith in Action's Merton Homelessness Project and Cancer Research UK (*p.8*) – and a **concert on Saturday 16 November** will end with a collection for the parish's Crib Appeal (*p.22*).

We include one of Edgeways' most exciting articles to date as **Cecelia the Steinway** muses on life as our parish grand piano (*p.9*).

We also hear how a former Donhead student now runs an annual festival, **Summer Sessions**, resulting in significant donations to St Raphael's Hospice, Maggie's cancer care centres, and the Royal Marsden Hospital, in memory of his best friend, Luca Buttaci (*pp.20-21*).

Two parishioners, Aodhan and Cathy Breathnach, tell us how, instead of retiring, they made a **bicycle pilgrimage to Rome** (*pp.10-11*). Another former worker, Mike Cairns, invites funding for a **legal appeal** against a wrongful conviction (*p.5*).



Contributors from two of our parish schools have written articles this month. Two Year 6 pupils write about **Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School's Macmillan coffee morning** (*pp.12-13*), while Catherine Craven, a budding journalist from Year 11, presents her **interview with Eoin Kelly**, Headteacher of Ursuline High School (*pp.14-15*).

Finally, many groups in our parish are recruiting **helpers and volunteers** (*pp.16-17*), and we hear how students from Catholic schools in our parish joined the Jesuit provincial to present a **petition for Climate Action** to Number 10 Downing Street ahead of COP29 (*pp.18-19*)...

...which reminds me to invite support for the meeting in the Youth Room at 11.00am on Sunday 17 November to revive the **Parish Environment Group** (*p.23*).

Truly something for everyone this month!

David Hurst

You can read past issues of Edgeways at tinyurl.com/shedgeways.

Can you help? I appeal on a prisoner's behalf ...



'Wandsworth Prison' by Derek Harper via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 2.0)

After retiring as a Chartered Civil and Chartered Structural Engineer, I retrained as a psychotherapist. For 15 years, I worked in prisons including HM Prisons Wandsworth and Pentonville, initially as a volunteer chaplain and later as a psychotherapist.

I met and worked with a lot of inmates and I became increasingly convinced that one inmate – I shall call him John – had been wrongly convicted.

Within the Criminal Justice System, a convicted prisoner can only contend his innocence by applying to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) to gain permission to have his case referred to the Court of Appeal. In 2016 and without assistance, John prepared and submitted an application to the CCRC, which was dismissed.

While working within the prison system, I was not permitted to provide financial assistance to help John appeal his case. Therefore, in 2017, I retired from prison work to be free to do as I wished.

A second application was prepared by a King's Counsel (KC) barrister with a very good track record and was submitted to the CCRC in September 2022. This application is still under consideration.

The cost of legal fees and expert reports, so far, has reached £27,000, some of which has been paid by generous friends. The continued involvement of the KC, with hourly fees of £720, is necessary in the ongoing dialogue with the CCRC.

I have provided funds of about £12,000, but I feel daunted by further substantial costs and I would be most grateful if anyone is willing to make a contribution towards the ongoing costs.

Please reach out to discuss the case or appeal further at cairns.mt@gmail.com, or call me on 07847 666274. Thank you.

Mike Cairns
parishioner since 1983

Seminarian Marlon Oliveira shares his vocation story

Many parishioners will have fond memories of Giovanni Prandini, the last seminarian who spent a year working with our parish back in 2020. Fr Giovanni was ordained in 2021 at St Simon Stock Church in Putney and went on to be assistant priest at the Holy Ghost in Balham. He currently works at St Thomas of Canterbury parish in...err, Canterbury.

Marlon Oliveira is now joining our parish until next July while he trains for the priesthood at Allen Hall (*pictured*), the diocesan seminary in Chelsea.

Aged 34, Marlon was born in Goa, a part of India familiar to many parishioners. During the 16th century, Goa was converted to Christianity by St Francis Xavier SJ, where he was known as 'the Apostle of the Indies', before going on to Borneo and Japan.

The state of Goa is approximately 25% Christian and Marlon is from a Catholic family with one older brother. He went to Don Bosco School and St Xavier College in Goa before studying for a degree in Business Administration and then an MBA at CHRIST, a deemed-to-be-university in Bangalore, Karnataka.

After working in IT in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, Marlon made the leap to the United Kingdom in early 2020 to stay with family in Swindon before moving to Peckham.

He told me: 'I found it easier to settle in London than in Chennai.' Clearly, Marlon is comfortable living in bustling cities!



'Allen Hall Roman Catholic seminary'
by David Hawgood via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 2.0)

While part of Our Lady of Sorrows parish in Peckham, Marlon found 'community and a like-minded tribe' at St George's Cathedral in Southwark. He took part in 'Prayer and Pub' meetings [*now, there's an idea!*], was a volunteer sacristan, and regularly helped with the youth group.

'Although I was not actively looking, it found me!'

Marlon had thoughts of becoming a priest from a young age, and he even attended a vocations camp at the age of 12 – but says that he hated it! When I asked him why he wanted to become a Catholic priest, he replied, with alarming honesty, that he is 'still finding out' but he experienced a relentless feeling to try it out: 'Although I was not actively looking, it found me!'



A recent visit of seminarians from Allen Hall to Notting Hill Carmelite Monastery. Marlon kneels in the front row, furthest left. Source: Allen Hall.

Also, many people asked Marlon if he had ever thought of becoming a priest. He therefore approached the diocesan vocations director and was accepted. After 18 months of discernment, which included a psychological examination and passing a rigorous selection conference, he felt ready to apply.

He was accepted and enrolled for a year 'in the footsteps of the saints and martyrs' at the Royal English College of St Alban. This is an English seminary in Valladolid, northwest Spain, which was established in 1589 by Fr Robert Persons SJ.

Earlier this year, Marlon returned to England and is now one of 61 seminarians at Allen Hall who are in formation for ministry as Catholic priests. His studies include 'pastoral exposure' and, hence, he is spending one day each week helping with catechesis classes for First Holy Communion and at Masses.

Asking Marlon for his initial thoughts about life in our parish, he replied that it is a vibrant parish and he feels welcomed and enriched by being part of this community.

All of us at Edgeways wish Marlon well in his training and discernment. Do make Marlon welcome when you meet him!

A very special 'Thank you!' from Ola and Bob Rathbone...

We wanted to offer a special thank you to our parishioners and visitors who have really helped us to make a difference to others through our concerts.

The Sacred Heart Chorus and Orchestra's summer concert in June raised funds for Faith in Action's Merton Homelessness Project. Canon David also kindly earmarked the next day's collections after Masses in support of the concert. We were jointly able to give Faith in Action a total of £3,500 – a fantastic outcome.

In turn, the Sacred Heart Concert Fund helped to stage and manage the Two Piano Concert given by Tschong-Hie Kong and Alexis Affonso on Saturday 5 October. The large audience was treated to an unforgettable virtuoso performance; in particular, Igor Stravinsky's revolutionary *The Rite of Spring* (1913) in its final *Sacrificial Dance*. After costs, proceeds to Cancer Research UK amounted to £600 – another resounding success.

Thank you again to all those who took part in these concerts, who worked behind the scenes to make them a success, and to those who came and lent their support in person.



Next month, we have the opportunity to come together again and enjoy some wonderful music and song with Katy's Songbirds' Christmas Celebration on Tuesday 17 December (*see below and back cover*), raising money for Rose's Gift and the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. See you there!

Ola and Bob Rathbone

'When people come together, incredible things happen!'

(Katy's Songbirds' motto)



6.30pm for 7.45pm Tuesday 17 December

Katy's Songbirds' Christmas Celebration in the Upper Hall

An evening of traditional carols and festive songs with a raffle and bar
Mulled wine, mince pies, and the bar from 6.30pm

Meet our parish grand piano, Cecelia the Steinway!

'My, what a night that was – that *astounding* two-piano concert on Saturday 5 October. Snuggling up to Yoshi the Yamaha (we all have names, you know, just like you...) and performing with him quite took my breath away. He is such a dear – a touch over-enthusiastic perhaps, but he's young, and really very sweet. And to be played again by my dear friends Tschong-Hie and Alexis: they certainly know how to bring out the best sounds in me. It was a real pity Yoshi could only stay the one night; it was quite a wrench when they came to collect him. I do hope I will see him again one day!



'Ah, dear, John Stone, you photograph me so well!'

'It has been a wonderful year all in all – did you hear me at the summer concert back in June? When was the last time I performed with a symphony orchestra? Let me think...it must have been years ago, with the BBC at Maida Vale. Then the concert in October, and now I am looking forward hugely to accompanying James Marshall and his beautiful violin on Saturday 16 November with his young pianist friend. Ah, Brahms and Beethoven! I can't wait.

'You have worked out who I am, haven't you? Cecelia, your piano, of course! I feel so lucky to live here at Sacred Heart, where I am truly cherished. Much as I enjoy the big parties, it has become my mission in life to sing with you every Sunday. And, when I hear the little voices alongside me, I must say I do feel I am already in heaven. Let the children come and sing with me in the choir every Sunday at Mass!

'I am cared for very well here, for the most part. I have a special heatproof mat underneath to stop my innards getting too warm when the underfloor heating is on, and not just a humidifier but also a dehumidifier to make sure my wooden diaphragm (my soundboard) is neither too damp nor too dry. That would play havoc with my tuning.

'An occasional flick with a duster wouldn't go amiss, though, if you don't mind my saying. Anyway, I do hope I can always be part of your music and prayers. That's the important thing. Let's keep celebrating and making beautiful music together.'

Cecelia the Steinway
c/o Giles Kennedy

Watch out for December Edgeways when David Gammie will tell us about the restoration of our amazing church organ, called...you will just have to guess!

'Retirement? Nah... let's cycle to Rome instead!'

Who knows why someone goes on a pilgrimage? It is always a mixture of reasons – fulfilling a promise, curiosity to see different places, a desire to prove you are still capable, wanting to connect with something meaningful.

It was for a mix of reasons that we loaded up our bicycles on Saturday 31 August and rode up to St George's Cathedral in Southwark for a blessing and a stamp on our Pilgrim Passports (we're holding our completed passports on the next page!). We were heading for the Via Francigena, the ancient pilgrim's road from Canterbury to Rome.



Two days later, we were in Canterbury Cathedral, meeting our travelling companions, listening to Evensong, and getting another blessing. Then it was off to Dover, over to Calais, through the flatlands of Picardy, through Champagne, up into the hills of Franche-Comté, over the Jura mountains, down into Switzerland, around Lake Geneva, two days climbing over the Alps by the Great St Bernard Pass, down the Aosta Valley into Italy, across the plain of the Po River, up across the Apennines, and finally a week travelling through beautiful Tuscany, all by way of many churches, roadside shrines, and cathedrals, until an exhilarating arrival in Rome on the last day of September.

A journey never to be forgotten – at least until our sore bums recover!

To learn more about the Via Francigena, contact us at asbreathnach@yahoo.co.uk, or visit any of the following websites:

- britishpilgrimage.org
- pilgrimstorome.org.uk

Aodhan and Cathy Breathnach



'Mission Week' at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School



This year, we have been exploring the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and discovering ways to live out God's Word in our daily lives. As part of this journey, each class across the school is taking part in a dedicated Mission Week, putting these principles of Catholic Social Teaching into action.

On Friday 27 September, St Andrew Kim Class (Year 6) hosted a Macmillan coffee morning, a nationwide fundraiser supporting cancer research and care for those affected by cancer. Despite the wintry weather outside, Year 6 warmly welcomed parents, serving a delightful spread of baked goods and refreshments to those who generously contributed to this important cause. Together, they brought smiles to attendees' faces, embodying principles of Catholic Social Teaching such as the common good, human dignity, and participation.

Welcoming parents, carers, and the wider community, each of us wore a big, cheerful smile, spreading a sense of peace to everyone. Guests were seated at tables we had decorated thoughtfully, creating a calm and welcoming atmosphere in the school hall. Throughout the morning, we took turns attending to each guest, serving them with care – a wonderful way to show solidarity in action.

As the morning went on, we served an array of treats, from crunchy cookies to delicious cakes, which everyone seemed to enjoy! Midway through the event, we paused our serving duties and gathered at the back of the hall. Led by Mrs Rodger, we sang for our guests like an ethereal choir, filling the hall with music that touched their hearts and showed our dedication. The warm applause that followed was a lovely reminder of their appreciation before we resumed our roles as host.

As the event came to an end, our school co-heads stepped up to deliver a closing speech, expressing heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. They shared how the volunteers' efforts had been essential to making the fundraiser a success – a true example of the power of working together for the common good. We concluded with a prayer, blessing our audience, and wrapped up a memorable Macmillan coffee morning.

What an amazing fundraising event, filled with participation – everyone coming together, and each person playing their part!

Our next Mission Week, led by Year 2 during Advent, will focus on collecting items to create Christmas presents for pupils in Africa, sharing the joy of the season across the globe.

Leanne Lobb and Nerain Mahadevan
Year 6 pupils at Sacred Heart

Your Edgeways' editor was invited to the Macmillan coffee morning as a school governor and I can honestly say that I have never been killed with so much attention, kindness...and cupcakes. Delicious!



A headteacher's most important job: to 'inspire'

WRITTEN BY OUR FIRST YOUTH JOURNALIST

Since becoming Headteacher of Ursuline High School just over a year ago, Mr Eoin Kelly has continued to lead the school with the same infectious enthusiasm that he has displayed as Deputy Headteacher for the past few years.

He was more than happy to talk to me about how he began his teaching journey, as well as a bit about his interests outside of school and how they tie into his plans for the school's future.

Given how evidently he enjoys his job, I was surprised to hear that Mr Kelly initially avoided the idea of becoming a teacher. He told me that he came from a large family of teachers and had no interest in following in their footsteps.

Instead, Mr Kelly studied Geography and urban planning at university in Belfast. For a while, Mr Kelly worked as a planner at various sites, one of which is what brought him to this area – the rebuilding of the No. 1 Court at Wimbledon!

Shortly afterwards, he received an opportunity to work as a supply teacher, and 'knew' immediately that teaching was for him.

After gaining his PGCE, he took his first formal teaching post at Cardinal Vaughn Memorial School, where he taught Geography and PE for a few years before applying for the job of Head of Year 8 at the Ursuline.



When asked about his route to becoming a headteacher, Mr Kelly told me that something important which helped him was taking all opportunities that came along.

Mr Kelly was also motivated by how he enjoys his job, telling me that 'it is a great privilege' to have and that he 'doesn't take any day of it for granted'. He also explained how he likes the school's ethos, *Serviam* ('I will serve'), and said that his 'purpose as headteacher is to ensure that all students can go out into the world living out *Serviam*.'



Outside school, Mr Kelly is a keen sportsman and likes to cycle, run, and partake in Gaelic sports. He particularly enjoys Gaelic football and has plans to start a club at the Ursuline as he is 'passionate about sport' and feels that girls' involvement in sports, in particular, must be encouraged by schools, quoting the statistic that nationally, two-thirds of female students drop out of sports after leaving school.

To some of you, Mr Kelly might be a familiar face as he has been a parishioner at the Sacred Heart since 2002. Fr Gerard Mitchell SJ baptised both his children. As the Ursuline is a parish school, Mr Kelly works to ensure that students can connect with their community and are guided by the school to 'explore and celebrate their faith'.

Catherine Craven
Year 11 pupil at Ursuline High School

Thank you, Catherine, from the editor!

As a contributor since 2013, and now as Editor-in-Chief(!), of your 35-year-old parish magazine, Edgeways, I have long had the ambition to invite articles by older students at each of our secondary schools. Indeed, before she retired as Headteacher of Ursuline High School, Julia Waters first complimented us on the content of the magazine, but went on to challenge the then-editor, John Symes, and me to have more articles by women. I replied simply: 'If you provide them, Julia, we will publish them!'

So, on behalf of all our readers, thank you, Catherine, for bravely stepping forward to be our first youth journalist. I am sure we will greatly appreciate your contributions to come, as much as I am sure that all our readers appreciate your inaugural and excellent interview with Mr Kelly.

Sunday 13 October Parish Volunteering

Volunteering at the Sacred Heart is not only a way to give back, but also a chance to build connections and strengthen your faith. From altar-serving at Mass and organising community events to supporting outreach programmes and youth activities, there is a role suitable for everyone.

On Sunday 13 October, at and after all Masses, information was provided about volunteering opportunities with the chance to meet representatives from the many and diverse groups in our parish.

As mandated by Pope Francis, lay volunteers are essential to the success of the Church's mission. Your involvement can make a lasting impact on both the parish and the wider community.



Whether you can commit a few hours a week or just occasionally, your contribution is valued. Sincere thanks to those who have already stepped forward after the invitation!

An invitation: Learn how your parish works!



Parish Pastoral Council meetings
First Thursday of each month
8.00pm in the Lounge



If you are interested in learning more about parish life or if you are not sure what involvement may work for you, you are warmly invited to observe one of our Parish Pastoral Council meetings. These take place in the Lounge at 8.00pm on the first Thursday of each month and include updates and plans for many different parish activities – and there is usually coffee and cake!

For more information on the work of the Parish Pastoral Council or on joining it, please contact Ruth Naylor (pictured), Chair of the PPC, at ppc@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk.

Below, we present a selection of groups looking for new helpers and members, and their contact details for more information and to volunteer. Other groups will be advertised in next month's Edgeways...

- Memory Lane Club** We meet at 10.30am each Wednesday in the Lounge to support people living with dementia and their carers, and are looking for new leaders. Please contact Jenny Cairns at edgehillmemorylaneclub@gmail.com.
- Finance Committee** We meet for an evening each month to advise the parish priest on financial matters, and are looking for a new member. Please contact Chris Woodward at wimbledoncof@rcaos.org.uk.
- Altar servers** We serve at Masses each Sunday, and are recruiting children who have made their First Holy Communion. Please contact the Parish Office.
- Readers at Mass** We would like new readers at Sunday Masses to proclaim the Word of the Lord. Please contact Tara Philpott at tara.philpott@outlook.com.
- Guild of St Martha's Church Cleaners** We clean the church after the 10.00am Mass on weekdays, and are looking for new members. Please contact Anne Remedios at anneremedios@outlook.com.
- Children's liturgy** We are looking for new helpers to assist our liturgy for children during the 10.00am Mass every other Sunday in term-time. Please contact Elizabeth Bottriell at elizabethbottriell@hotmail.com.
- Youth faith formation** We are looking for helpers to help form our parish's young people in their faith. Training is provided, and a DBS check is required. Please contact Rob Hitchcock at wimbledonpfm@rcaos.org.uk.
- Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)** We are recruiting new members willing to respond to local people in need. Please contact Chris Woodward at presidenta190704@svp.org.uk.
- Winter Night Shelter** We provide overnight stays for six weeks in the Lower Hall for rough sleepers. We are looking for new volunteers for hosting, catering, and the overnight supervision of our guests. There is a particular need for men willing to cover overnight supervision. Please contact Nandita Nelson at sacredheartwns@rcaos.org.uk.

Would you like to write for Edgeways?



Do you have an article that you think would be a great addition to YOUR parish magazine? We're always open to contributions! Contact the editor at dthurst52@gmail.com.

Monday 7 October: Jesuit provincial and local students demand climate action at 10 Downing Street



More than 600 people signed a petition urging Prime Minister Keir Starmer to demand serious climate action at COP29, the United Nations Climate Change Conference which is being held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November.

The petition was organised by Jesuit Missions, the international development office and mission of the Jesuits in Britain. The charity is headquartered at Edge Hill.

The petition implores Mr Starmer to promote three key environmental initiatives at COP26:

1. an effective United Nations Loss and Damage Fund;
2. the cancellation of climate debts; and
3. a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.

On Monday 7 October, Fr Peter Gallagher SJ, Provincial of the Jesuits in Britain, delivered a box containing the postcards and the names from the online campaign to Number 10 Downing Street. Many parishioners will remember Fr Peter from his time with us in Wimbledon.

He was joined by students from four London schools – St Catherine's Catholic School, Bexleyheath, St Ignatius College, Enfield, Ursuline High School, and Wimbledon College.

The petition noted that 'the world needs the UK to help deal with climate change' and formed part of Jesuit Missions' Season of Creation Campaign for 2024, which encourages supporters to think about how they can act to protect the natural world.

This theme was discussed during a climate education session involving Jesuit Missions' staff, Fr Peter, and the pupils and chaplains from the schools before the visit to Downing Street.

Issues such as rising sea levels and the impact this has on migration, questions around the future of electric cars, and how to put pressure effectively on political and business leaders were brought to the table.

Fr Peter said: 'The Jesuits believe that God has created everything and that he loves everything. If Creation is being mistreated or allowed to be neglected, then [we] ought to be doing something about that. Quite a few Jesuits live in parts of the world that are already badly affected by the ecological crisis and we, who are lucky enough to live somewhere less immediately affected, try to support our brethren there.'

He also referenced the teachings of Pope Francis, in particular his encyclical on caring for our common home, *Laudato si'* (2015).

Tackling climate change is a key issue for Jesuit Missions and forms part of several of its projects across the world. For example, in Madagascar, Jesuit Missions works with the Centre Arrupe in Antananarivo to educate young people in the country about the impact of climate change and how to address it.

In South Sudan, it supports a programme that teaches predominantly female farmers techniques to cope with extreme weather patterns.

Jesuit Missions' Advocacy and Campaigns Officer, Richard Solly, said it is vital to remember these communities, who are disproportionately impacted when it comes to environmental damage.



Speaking about plans to send a delegation from Madagascar to COP29, he said: 'It's really important that people from the Global South get to say what's important to them, and what the effects of climate change are on them, to the people making the decisions in these big conference centres. Their voices need to be heard.'

To find out more about Jesuit Missions, please visit jesuitmissions.org.uk.

This article was adapted from [the original](#) on the website of the Jesuits in Britain.

Sunday 8 September 'Summer Sessions'

In Year 2 at Donhead Preparatory School, I met my best friend, Luca Buttaci.

We immediately hit it off, became firm friends, and spent almost all our time together over the following four years – in the classroom, on the rugby pitch, and socially.

Despite going to different secondary schools, we remained as close as ever and introduced each other to the new friends we made. We recognised that bringing people together felt great and decided to create a social event where many schools across the area could come together for an evening.



It was nerve-racking but successful and we went on to set up our own company called '7Eleven Events'. We hosted parties in local halls which were attended by hundreds of teenagers.

As we grew up, our parties did too, and we launched 'SugarSugar Events' – ticketed parties in bars and nightclubs across South London. We loved every minute and both agreed that, one day, we'd love to host a huge music festival!

In April 2022, while a fresher at Leeds University, Luca was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Our world was turned upside down. He was treated at the Royal Marsden Hospital and he and his family were supported by the charities Maggie's and St Raphael's Hospice.

While he was undergoing his treatment in the summer of 2022, we decided that there was no time like the present to make our festival happen, but now with the aim of raising money for the charities that were helping Luca through his diagnosis.

Thus, we launched the first of many Wimbledon Summer Sessions. With the help of our incredible community, so many people came together to see a lineup of talented musicians and DJs, and enjoy everything you'd expect from a festival – (sunshine?!), cold beer, cocktails, food-trucks serving delicious food from

around the world, sporting activities, kids' activities, face-painting, raffles, auctions, and an incredible community vibe.

The event, now in its third year, took place this year on Saturday 7 September at Donhead Playing Fields – and the weather was great! Hosted by radio DJ Niall Gray, the day was a tremendous success, attracting over 700 'festival-goers' from the local community and raising more than £6,000 for three wonderful charities: St Raphael's Hospice, Maggie's cancer care centres, and the Royal Marsden Hospital.

I look forward to growing this event year after year while continuing to honour my best friend's legacy along the way.

Jayden Hutchings
Old Donhead



Jayden (left) with Luca (right)

FREE CONCERT

SACRED HEART CHURCH EDGE HILL

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER
7.45PM

James Marshall – Violin

Richard Zhang – Piano

Dvorak – *Four Romantic Pieces*

Brahms – *Sonata for Piano & Violin Op.78 in G Major*

Beethoven – *Kreutzer Sonata*



Retiring collection for the Crib Appeal

SACRED HEART ECOLOGY GROUP RETURNS

17th NOV 11am



The Parish Environment Group is returning! Come along to the Youth Room at 11.00am on Sunday 17 November to look at how our parish won CAFOD's LiveSimply award in 2019 and discuss practical ways in which we can follow Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'* (2015).



For more information, please email David at dthurst52@gmail.com.



TUES 17 DEC 2024 7.45PM

**Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill,
Wimbledon, SW19 4LU**

**MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES
6.30PM UPPER HALL**

RAFFLE AND BAR



Invite you to their

Christmas Celebration

**AN EVENING OF TRADITIONAL CAROLS
& FESTIVE SONGS**

**Katy Lees, Katy's Songbirds, Giles Kennedy
Robert Rathbone, Jason Ching, Tom Lees
Ursuline & Lantern Arts Youth Choir
Sacred Heart Choir
Putney & Wimbledon Brass Band
Edge Hill Players
Dessert Lounge Singers**

When people come together, incredible things happen

Tickets £10 by emailing ksongbirds656@gmail.com or on the door
Children under 14 free

