

ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER 18TH JULY 2021

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Priest responsible for pastoral care at St Erconwald's: Fr Bill Muir CJ Tel: 07513594588

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Parish Secondary School

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Mass Intentions and Mass Times: Week starting 18th July

Saturday 17 th July	2.00 pm	First Communion Mass
	6.00 pm	Mass in Italian
Sunday 18 th July	9.15 am	Betty Braganza RIP
	11.15 am	Lucia Saliba RIP
Monday 19 th July	9.30 am	Maurice & Yvonne Dunne RIP
Tuesday 20 th July	9.30 am	Michael Monk RIP
Wednesday 21 st July	7.00 pm	Gerry Webb RIP
Thursday 22 nd July	9.30 am	Liturgy of the Word
Friday 23 rd July	9.30 am	Intentions of Glen & Queency Gonsalves
	11.00 am	Funeral Service for Michael O'Driscoll RIP
Saturday 24 th July	2.00 pm	First Communion Mass
	6.00 pm	Mass in Italian
Sunday 25 th July	9.15 am	Arnaldo Fernandes RIP
	11.15 am	Intentions of Glen & Queency Gonsalves

The Church is open for public Masses and booking is required for Sunday Masses. Please book no later than Thursday evening for the following Sunday.

Please pray for those in the Parish who have asked for our prayers:

Michael Snee, Margaret Hawkes, Anna Sartori, Sheila Day, Nicoletta Lanzisera, Rose Collins, Carmen Galanty, Patrick Russell, Ann Griffin, Ann Lane, Dina Yates, Rose Collins, Manuel and Jackie Faraldo, Eileen Englefield, Andres Gomez, Christian Misuraca, Christopher Clifford and Catherine Browle.

Fr Bill writes: We have now received official guidance from the bishops' conference with regard to services in Catholic churches. On this basis the following points need to be made for parishioners to consider and will operate from 19th July:

- The rate of infection is increasing exponentially and therefore the expectation is that all adults will be expected to wear masks in church to mitigate the spread of infection.
- All people should continue to sanitise their hands on entry to the church.
- The practice of cleaning the benches after each Mass is to continue. You are asked to help with this when you attend one of the Masses
- There will be no need to book places for Sunday Masses. You just turn up and try to take a place that is at least one metre from the person nearest to you.
- Singing is now permitted but because of the rate of infection masks should not be removed even if singing. The choir in the balcony will be exempted from this, as under current guidance, since they are a significant distance from the rest of the congregation.
- Hymn books can be used but they will be split into two groups for use of the two Masses. They will be kept separate on the trolley and therefore each hymn book will only be used once a week at the most.
- The sign of peace will be restored but we will observe a non-contact version – such as nodding or waving to people.
- With the relaxation of the guidance for indoor gatherings I would like to encourage the visiting of the housebound and sick but under strict guidance. **All Eucharistic ministers who wish to take communion to the sick and housebound should attend a briefing session with Fr Bill after the Tuesday morning Mass on 20th July.**
- For the time being I do not propose any changes in the procedure for collections but consideration will need to be given to how we facilitate special collections.
- Given the current rate of infection I do not propose to consider teas and coffees after Masses and will wait until the rate has declined significantly. That will be the time to outline the protocols for the safe conduct of such gatherings.

WE are now in the season of First Communion Masses. Please pray for the children and their families.

I am very grateful for the work of the stewards in ensuring that we are all safe and that social distancing is maintained as far as is possible. Without their generous help the church would not legally be able to open. It is important therefore that we show our appreciation for what they do by complying with their instructions. **It would be very helpful if some of you could help with the cleaning of benches after Mass on Sundays so that it is not left to the generous few.**

**Offertory Collection: 11th July £201; Apostleship of the Sea: £151.50
Total banked: £422.50**

Standing Orders for May totalled £2934

Those who are not able to attend Mass on Sundays can either put their donations through the presbytery letterbox at the side of the house or you can make a donation online.

The Diocese has a scheme at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory>.

In the message section you mention St Erconwald's Walton-on-Thames and the donation will come to the parish.

Alternatively make a bank transfer.

Parish sort code 40 05 20

Account No 01126393

Payable to A&B Diocesan Trust St Erconwalds

Announcements

Sr Maria will be selling cards this Sunday. Please support her enterprise.

CCRS - The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is beginning again in our Diocese this September. The course is designed for teachers in Catholic schools, for Catechists and for anyone who would like to grow in understanding as they live their Catholic faith. The CCRS offers a very flexible and accessible way of learning, it includes some online content and is made up of eight modules: six core and two

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specialist modules. Each module involves ten hours of course time and an assignment. For more information or to register your place please [contact our Formation Adviser](#)

Church Cleaners: Now that things are starting to return to normality we are seeking volunteers to clean the church on a regular basis. This includes the vacuuming of the carpet and clearing of cobwebs etc. If we have sufficient numbers it should not be onerous and a rota could be constructed. Any volunteers should email Susana in the office on the parish email address.

Were you thinking about a gap year but because of COVID have changed your mind?

Just graduated and need a year to get some meaningful work experience that actually makes a difference to the lives of young people?

St John Bosco School Battersea , an inner city school just fifteen minutes from Clapham Junction is looking for a number of Teaching Assistants for the next twelve months (or more). Last year this provided a wonderful opportunity to make a real impact on the lives of a number of young people including those in two special needs units. Why not join this year's team!

The role is for 32.5 hours per week and provides a fantastic opportunity to gain some valuable work experience in a hard working but fun environment. Please contact Miss Carrington CCarrington@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk
Initial Closing date for applications is noon on Friday 9 July 2021 with interviews taking place w/c Monday 12 July 2021. Please contact if you need to apply late

see: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/death-by-appointment-a-rational-guide-to-the-assisted-suicide-debate/>

Car Wash - Sunday 8 August

This year's confirmation candidates would like to once again invite all members of the parish to have their cars washed on **Sunday 8 August**.

Our young people will wash cars during the 9.15am and 11.15am masses at St Erconwald's with all donations and monies raised going towards a worthy cause.

Many thanks for your continued support as our young people are close to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Calling all Confirmation Catechists:

Our Diocesan Youth Adviser, Lizzie, is hosting another round of Deanery Confirmation Catechist meetings this week, and is delighted to be able to tell you that your local secondary school chaplains have been invited, which will give you a chance to get to know them better. We will also be looking at the theme 'Known and Loved'. If you are not already a member of your local network, please contact Lizzie directly lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

Diocesan Youth Service – 40th Anniversary Celebration – 4 September 2021 - Arundel Cathedral -

We are delighted to be able to celebrate our Youth Service, which has impacted many people in the last four decades and we want to invite anyone who has ever attended an event hosted by the service to come along and join the festivities. Whether it was a Maryvale Retreat, a World Youth Day Pilgrimage, Youthgather, Lourdes Redshirts, or you are a member of our new online community BeCome, or one of our other virtual networks, everyone will be welcome to give thanks for all that has been done and to pray for the success of the Youth Service in the future. Reminisce with old friends, and meet new friends in person (not just on a screen!). A thanksgiving Mass will be said by Bishop Richard, followed by a chance to chat over refreshments. Please click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Forthcoming Feast Days

19th July St John Plessington (c.1637-1679)

John Plessington was born at Dimples Hall, near Garstang, Lancashire, the son of Robert Plessington and Alice Rawstone, into a family at odds with the authorities for both their religious and political beliefs. Educated by Jesuits at Scarisbrick Hall, at Saint Omer's in France, and then at the College of Saint Alban at Valladolid, Spain, he was ordained in Segovia on 25 March 1662. He returned to England in 1663 ministering to Catholics in the areas of Holywell and Cheshire, often hiding under the name William Scarisbrick. He was also tutor at Puddington Hall near Chester. Upon arrest in Chester during the Popish Plot scare caused by Titus Oates, he was imprisoned for two months, and then hanged, drawn and quartered for the crime of being a Catholic priest. His speech from the scaffold at Gallow's Hill in Boughton, Cheshire was printed and distributed: He said: "I know it will be said that a priest ordained by authority derived from the See of Rome is, by the Law of the Nation, to die as a Traitor, but if that be so what must become of all the Clergymen of the Church of England, for the first Church of England Bishops had their Ordination from those of the Church of Rome, or not at all, as appears by their own writers so that Ordination comes derivatively from those now living." He was beatified in 1929 by Pope Pius XI, and canonized as one of the Forty Martyrs on 25 October 1970 by Pope Paul VI.

Thursday Saint Mary Magdalen - *Feast*

Mary of Magdala was healed of "seven devils" by Jesus. She ministered to him in Galilee and was present at his crucifixion. She was in the group of women who were the first to discover the empty tomb, and it was to her that the risen Jesus first appeared.

The Western tradition is that Mary Magdalene is also "the woman who was a sinner" and the sister of Martha and Lazarus of Bethany. There is no evidence either way, and the tradition is tenuous enough for even such authorities as St Ambrose to hold, with the East, that they are three different people. It seems, therefore, that although the Western tradition is to be respected and is a real inspiration, it may not necessarily be historical. (Indeed, in 2021 Mary of Bethany was formally recognised as separate, being included in the same feast as Martha and Lazarus, a week after Mary of Magdala).

This kind of ambiguity is inevitable in a religion such as Christianity, which is founded on definite historical events rather than myths which can be adjusted into logicity. We need not worry about it too much: if it had been harmful to us to celebrate the tradition of heroic penitence, the Holy Spirit would not have allowed it.

Even without the extra tradition, Mary Magdalene is a unique and important character in the story of the Resurrection, chosen by Christ as one of the first witnesses of the event that changed the world.

Friday Saint Bridget of Sweden, Patroness of Europe - *Feast*

She was married to a nobleman and had eight children. At the age of 30 she was summoned to the court of the King of Sweden, where she served as lady-in-waiting to the queen. She tried without much success to moderate the riotous and indecent life of the royal court.

After a pilgrimage to the shrine of St James at Compostela in Spain, Bridget and her husband Ulf decided to spend the rest of their lives in monasteries. Ulf died in 1344, but Bridget went on to found a double monastery (for men and women in separate but adjacent institutions) as the start of a new monastic order.

In 1350 she travelled to Rome for the Holy Year, and spent the rest of her life there caring for the poor and the sick, denouncing the excesses of the aristocracy, and robustly telling the Pope to return to Rome from Avignon.

She had many mystical visions, which alarmed her because she feared that they might be the work of the Devil; but a learned Cistercian monk reassured her, and she subsequently dictated and published the revelations she received, which were partially devotional and partly prophetic.

