

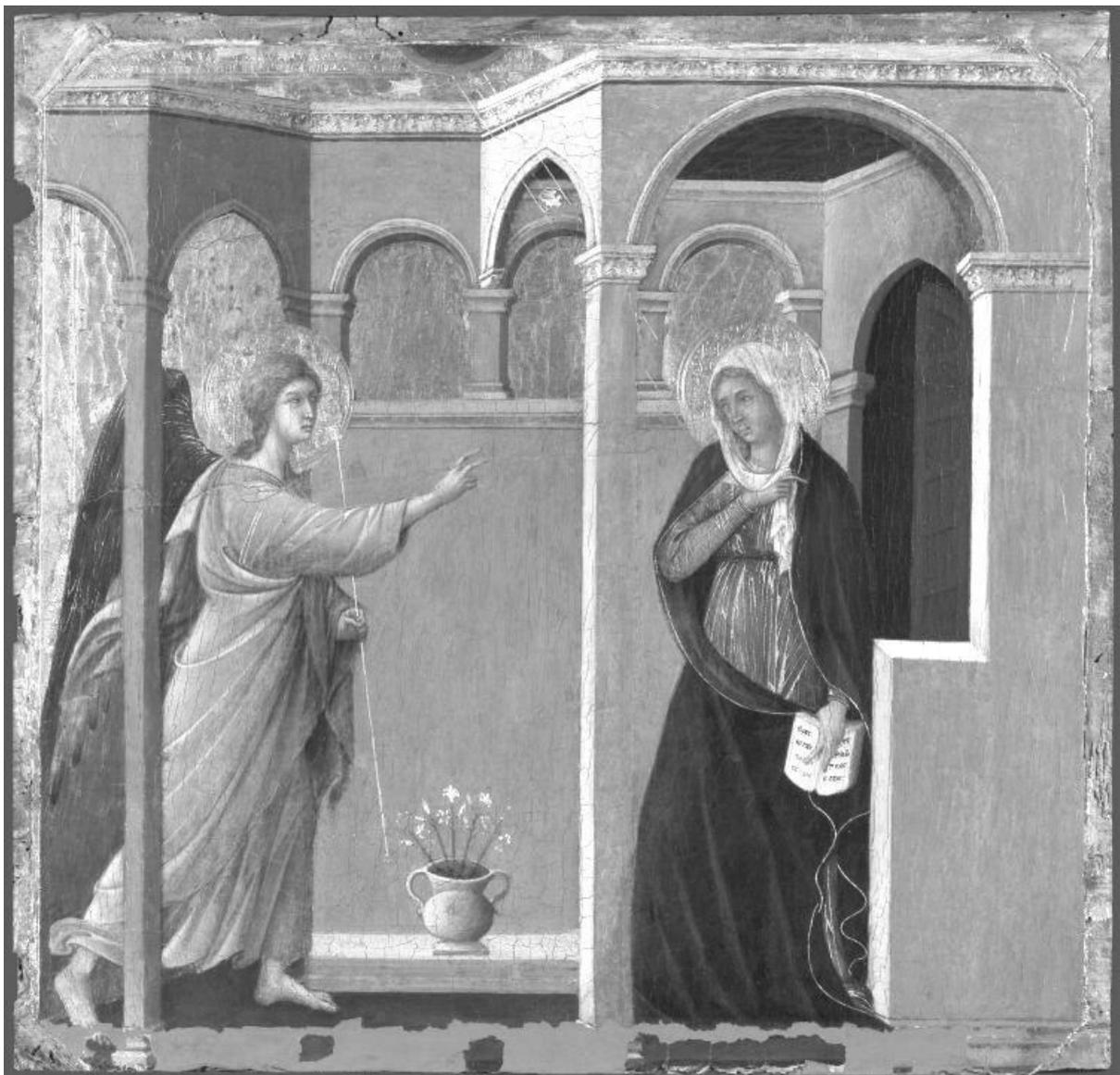
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# Talkabout

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MARCH 2017

St. John Fisher Parish Magazine 



**Cover:** The **Feast of the Annunciation** is celebrated each year on the 25th March and has been one of the most frequent subjects of Christian art. This 14th Century painting by Duccio, in the *National Gallery*, shows the Archangel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she is to bear the son of God and a tiny white dove symbolising the Holy Spirit, descending from Heaven. Mary draws back, with one hand on her heart and in her other hand holds a book inscribed with the prophecy from Isaiah that a virgin shall conceive a son.

## CONTENTS

Welcome to Talkabout .. .. .	<i>Fr David Gummett</i> .. .. .	3
Your Prayers are Requested .. .. .	.. .. .	4
News from the Scouts .. .. .	<i>5th Morden SL's</i> .. .. .	4
Ask the Clergy .. .. .	<i>Fr David Gummett</i> .. .. .	5
Merton Deanery - Formation for Ministry .. .. .	<i>John Golden</i> .. .. .	6
Book Review - <i>The Church Cat</i> .. .. .	<i>Belinda O'Rourke</i> .. .. .	7
Justice & Peace in St John Fisher Parish .. .. .	<i>Justice &amp; Peace Group</i> .. .. .	8
News from the Ursuline High School .. .. .	<i>Ursuline High School</i> .. .. .	9
Wimbledon College Celebrates Its 125th Anniversary .. .. .	<i>Wimbledon College</i> .. .. .	10
The Flying Penguins - Explorer Scouts .. .. .	<i>Tom Carter &amp; Andy Newman</i> .. .. .	11
The Wood of the Cross .. .. .	<i>P.W. McVey</i> .. .. .	12
Friday Fare: Falafel Burgers, Mediterranean Potato Salad & Cookies .. .. .	.. .. .	14
Women's World Day of Prayer .. .. .	<i>Julie Sheahan</i> .. .. .	15
A-Z of Sainly Place Names .. .. .	<i>Julie Sheahan</i> .. .. .	16
2016 Confirmation .. .. .	<i>Sr Catherine</i> .. .. .	17
The Holy Mass of Induction for Fr David .. .. .	<i>Carol Pringle</i> .. .. .	18
St Philomena .. .. .	<i>Laura O'Connell</i> .. .. .	19
Belinda talks to Miss Janine Kenna .. .. .	<i>Belinda O'Rourke</i> .. .. .	20
Catholic People's Weeks - More than a Holiday .. .. .	<i>Beryl Shannon</i> .. .. .	21
St John Fisher Primary School .. .. .	<i>Debbie Thomas &amp; Janine Kenna</i> .. .. .	22
Love Boxes .. .. .	<i>John Golden</i> .. .. .	23
The Forgotten Illness .. .. .	<i>Tony Brook</i> .. .. .	24
Cleaning God's Church .. .. .	<i>Julie Brook</i> .. .. .	24
Children's Page - Mother's Day Card Ideas .. .. .	.. .. .	25
When Jesus came to Bishop Oliver .. .. .	<i>Teresa Pollard</i> .. .. .	26
St John Fisher's Altar Servers .. .. .	<i>(Photo by Nigel Chandler)</i> .. .. .	27
The Nature of God .. .. .	<i>Josette Kisnorbo</i> .. .. .	27
Liturgical Calendar for 2017 - 2018 .. .. .	.. .. .	28
Cycle of Prayer: Lent, Easter & Summer Intentions .. .. .	.. .. .	28
The Pope's Prayer Intentions for 2017 .. .. .	<i>Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network</i> .. .. .	29
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Rota .. .. .	.. .. .	40
Weekend Mass Readers' Rota .. .. .	.. .. .	41
Rota for Collectors of Offertory Collection .. .. .	.. .. .	41
Parish Groups .. .. .	.. .. .	42
Parish Details .. .. .	.. .. .	43

Deadline for articles to be included in the next edition of *Talkabout*  
**must** be with the Editorial Team before

**31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2017**

[talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk)



# WELCOME TO TALKABOUT

## IN THIS HOLY, LENTEN MONTH OF MARCH

“March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war. This is probably because the Roman battle season began in spring.”

“March is the month of expectation,  
The things we do not know.”

**Emily Dickinson (1830-86)**  
from *Top ten things about March*

Lent, is a time of real and serious spiritual warfare, as we deny ourselves, to give to others and pray more and more. On Ash Wednesday, we prayed:

*“Support us Lord, as with this Lenten fast  
we begin our Christian warfare,  
so that in doing battle against the spirit of evil  
we may be armed with the weapon of self-denial.  
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.”*

March kicks off on the 1st with the Feast in England, but Solemnity in Wales, of **St David**, patron of Wales. He is one of the two native-born patrons of these islands in which we live. The other, now of more international fame, is also a March saint: **St Patrick** on the 17th.

Both were bishops and steely, disciplined Spiritual Warriors for the Lord, with warm and tender hearts for the people they served and defended so well, and so joyfully.

We usually keep the 19th as the feast of St Joseph, the workman, artisan, builder / carpenter, who was the **Husband of the Virgin Mary** and the Guardian of our Saviour. Joseph, the man of dreams and the man of decisive action, who protected and provided for his wife and her Son, the Word made Flesh and Blood. He is the Patron of the Universal (Catholic) Church. *(This year his feast is transferred to Monday 20th March).*

The **25th March** (Saturday this year) is a day to keep and remember always: **The Annunciation of the Lord**, when the Word of God became Flesh and Blood within the Body of the Virgin Mary. When Our Lady, said “**Yes**” to God and to becoming the Mother of the Son of God! And there’s more:

Also, according to the ancient Rabbis, the **25th March** *(or its equivalent in the Persian / Jewish Calendar)* was the first day of the Creation of the world. Furthermore, Abraham attempted to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah (present day Temple Mount in Jerusalem) on the 25th March. But God “provided” a Ram at that

time, and Jesus, as the Lamb of God on Calvary much, much later.

According to ancient Christian tradition, Christ was crucified, and indeed sacrificed on Friday 25th March.

### **25th March:**

the day of Creation  
the day of Abraham’s sacrifice;  
the day of the Conception of the Son of God,  
the Annunciation, and,  
the day of His Sacrificial Death  
and our Redemption.

According to this same ancient tradition, Christmas day is computed from the 25th March, and not the other way around.

So, welcome, and happy lent, as the days lengthen into Spring, and the world rises from the sleep and death of Winter.

May the ancient Romano-British Saints, David and Patrick, guide us through the new, real and present “Dark Age” of Faith in which we find ourselves today. May they both light their beacon-fires to enliven and enlighten these Islands once again in the Christian faith that once informed and formed these Isles with the wonder of our Creation, made still more wonderful and awesome in our re-Creation in Jesus Christ, the Word of God, Who was made Flesh and Blood and lived, and still lives among us. He was announced to Mary, and born of her, protected by Joseph, the builder and carpenter. So, may all our families be like the Holy Family of Nazareth united in prayer, penance and love.

**Fr David**



# NEWS FROM THE SCOUTS

This term has seen an exciting change to the 5th Morden Scouts, with Elaine, Richard, Alice and Will stepping up as parents to support the Troop as assistant leaders. Six Cubs have moved up, with 37 Scouts now in the troop.

This term's activities have included the "February Freezer" Camp, which was a great success for all 18 Scouts - camping in freezing conditions for two nights. 14 Scouts also camped this March as part of a night hike. In addition ten members of the Troop took part in the district football competition and four young Scouts cooked an amazing three-course dinner in the district cooking competition, coming in the top half out of 27 teams.

This added to a variety of Wednesday activities ranging from "Democracy Week" to "Conservation on the Common", has provided an enjoyable time for all.

A special thanks to Alex, our Explorer Scout who helps every week. A thank you too to the parents who have helped; we rely on parent helpers volunteering once a term to help our troop flourish.

**5th Morden  
Scout Leaders**

# SCOUTS\*

## PARKING NEAR THE CHURCH

Please remember to be considerate of our neighbours when parking your car for Mass at the weekends. Do not obstruct driveways or park on grass verges.



Please also keep the church entrance clear and refrain from parking by the church wall alongside. In an emergency an ambulance will need to get around the car park.

Thank you.

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR

### *All those recently Baptised*

Lily Dormer-Annand  
Macy Andolfi  
Lewis Clark  
Orla Hyatt  
Alexandra Zhi Lan  
Lucas Nicholls  
Louis Henbery  
Lydia Hamilton



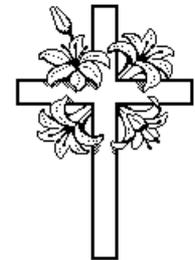
Elisa O'Donnell  
Jack Cassidy



**All those who  
are preparing for  
their First Holy  
Communion**

### *All those recently called home to Heaven*

Michael Mullane  
Marie Nankoo  
Susanna O'Brien  
Gaetana Bonomu  
Tony Buckley  
Susan Maher  
Annette Gillott  
Christopher Scanlan  
Daisy Nimmo  
Ida Britto  
Simon Loftus



*Grant them eternal  
rest, Lord,  
and let perpetual  
light shine on them.*

***" Faith is taking the first step even  
when you don't see the whole  
staircase."***

***Martin Luther King Jr.***

## ASK THE CLERGY: LENT - IS IT BETTER TO GIVE SOMETHING UP OR TO DO SOMETHING EXTRA?

Teresa May is giving up her favourite *Salt 'n' Vinegar Crisps* for Lent. This has raised all sorts of questions in some national newspapers. Question: Isn't it better to do something positive than to do something negative??

Catholic Answer: Do both, and then some more!

**SELF-DENIAL**, mortification, fasting, abstinence from meat, giving up "things", especially "things" that may cause harm, physically, mentally and especially spiritually, has always been part of the Christian Lent. We join Jesus Christ in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights, denying ourselves something to train and discipline our bodies and minds, rather than let our bodily desires dictate to us how we should live, think, and act.

Think about it, for example: if I spend less time eating, drinking, smoking, or watching television, or using the social media, or playing Xbox, I can save time (and money perhaps) for others. I could visit a sick relative or spend time with family or friends. One year I suggested giving up watching "Soap Operas" on TV and a family responded by giving up all TV for Lent. The mother, jokingly, accused me of forcing them to go out and spend more money of Board Games which they played together – and they loved their time together as a family!

**ALMSGIVING**, or, **giving**: That time can be spent with loved ones and those who are in need. The money saved might be given away in alms / charity to those in need in the Syrian Refugees Camps, or to Faith in Action and the Food Banks, CAFOD or to Aid to the Church in Need.

Also, the time saved might be spent in extra prayers: together with the Family, praying the Rosary or reading the Bible / Sacred Scriptures, preparing for Sunday Holy Mass with the Wednesday Word, or going to daily Mass whenever and wherever possible. That is: **PRAYING**: giving (more) time and attention to God.

So, "give up", "give to others", and "give to God". Don't just do one thing, do three things:

**Give up** (fasting, or, self-denial) some food or drink, or indulgence or pleasure, bad habits and things that do harm, bodily, mentally and especially spiritually, to train and discipline our bodies, minds and spirits to do the Will of God;

**Give** (almsgiving) of your time, treasures (money), talents, and / or, attention, to those in need and to charities;

**Give to God** (praying more) Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the Cross, reading/reflecting/praying the Sacred Scriptures (the Bible), (or *Wednesday Word*), go to Holy Mass more often than on Sunday and, please don't forget: frequent Sacramental Confession (at least once a month).

Here are Five pebbles that may be likened to those that the Boy David used to beat the giant Goliath:

1. **Daily**, pray the **Rosary** (in the family);
2. **Daily**, read the **Bible** (in the family);
3. **Daily**, Holy **Mass** and Holy Communion, whenever and wherever possible;
4. **Weekly, fasting** on bread and water, for those who are able to, on **Wednesdays and Fridays**; and,
5. **Monthly**, Sacramental humble **Confession** of our sins - a remedy and healing for the people of the Western World.

**Fasting** subdues the body from our "wants" to our "needs", sharpening the mind and will; **Giving** directs our attention from ourselves to others' needs; **Praying** directs our attention to God.

All three help us "undo" the sin of Adam and Eve when they took the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and wanted to be gods:

"The woman saw that the tree was (1) good to eat (*lust of the flesh*) and was (2) pleasing to the eye (*lust of the eyes*), and that it was (3) desirable for the knowledge that it could give (*pride of life*)."

*Genesis 3:6*

**Fasting** is a remedy for the **lust of the flesh**, [alms]giving is a remedy for the **lust of the eyes**, and **praying** (humbly) to God is a remedy for the **pride of life**.

Therefore, neither giving up nor doing more, but both, and then some more besides: Self-denial, giving, and praying, more and more.

Have a happy and joyous Lent looking for and finding the Lord Himself very close to you.

**Fr David**

*If you have a question on our faith which you'd like answered in Talkabout by a member of our Clergy please e-mail [talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk) or send it to the presbytery for the attention of 'Talkabout'.*



# MERTON DEANERY FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

## **Fr Luuk Jansen OP**

Celebrating Confirmation -  
Challenges for parents today  
*Saturday 11th March,*  
*12 noon - 1.30pm*  
St Teresa's Morden

## **Dr Bridie Stringer & Fr John Mulligan**

Parish Leadership &  
the Role of Parish Pastoral Councils  
*Saturday 29th April,*  
*9.00am - 1.00pm*  
Kairos Centre, Roehampton  
Please book: [sadiesmith3@talktalk.net](mailto:sadiesmith3@talktalk.net)

## **Sr Nuala Gannon**

Understanding our own faith  
*Tuesday 2nd May & Tuesday 9th May,*  
*7.30 - 9.00pm*  
SS Peter & Paul, Mitcham

## **Fr Nicholas King SJ**

The Treasures of Scripture  
*Tuesday 16th May,*  
*7.30 - 9.00pm*  
Sacred Heart, Wimbledon

## **Jenny Baker - CaFE**

Affirming First Communion Catechists  
*Thursday 18th May*  
*7.30 - 9.00pm*  
St John Fisher, Merton

**Short  
reflections  
for busy  
parish  
people**

## **Dr Helen Costigane**

Today's Moral Maze:  
Church teaching & lived reality  
*Tuesday 13th June,*  
*7.30-9.00pm*  
St Teresa's, Morden.

## **Pat Ryan & Rob Mobile**

Confirmation Catechists  
The Elephant in the Room  
*Tuesday 3rd October,*  
*7.30 - 9.30pm*  
Sacred Heart, Wimbledon.

## **David Payne -CaFE**

Empowering catechists  
to pass on the gift  
*Saturday 7th October,*  
*10.00am - 12.30pm*  
St John Fisher, Merton.

## **Jenny Baker -CaFE**

Liturgy for children -  
planting seeds for life  
*Thursday 19th October,*  
*7.30 - 9.00pm*  
SS Peter & Paul, Mitcham.

## **Malcolm Jones**

Readers: Reading or Proclaiming?  
*Saturday 28th October*  
*10am - 12 noon.*  
Christ the King, Wimbledon.

## **Fr David Stewart SJ**

Finding Time for Prayer  
in the Restlessness of Life  
*Tuesday 7th November*  
*7.30 - 9.00pm*  
St Teresa's, Morden

**For more information  
please contact  
[sadiesmith3@talktalk.net](mailto:sadiesmith3@talktalk.net)**



## MERTON DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL

There have been two meetings of the Merton Deanery Pastoral Council recently. Canon John Clark attended one and a second member from this parish, Julie Brook, was welcomed.

There have been some changes in Council membership: Fr John McGrory (long serving Parish Priest at St Joseph's in Colliers Wood) has commenced a one-year sabbatical, Fr Lucas has left SS Peter & Paul, Mitcham and Fr Anthony has been promoted without an additional priest.

Pat Ryan (the recently appointed Youth Minister at Sacred Heart) outlined his immense task. Parish youth range from teens to about 35 years. He is a married Australian, trying to build a ministry and not helped by the current absence of a Chaplain at the Ursuline High School. He is starting by trying an Alpha-style group for those who will be receiving confirmation training this year (a group of 90!).

Christ the King had been opening their Parish Hall on Sunday afternoons to provide daytime shelter for those in the night shelter scheme. However, this has been superseded by a more convenient location recently.

During 2017 the Council will focus on adult catechesis, particularly for those who are themselves catechists. To this end the Dean, Fr John Mulligan, is lining up a number of eminent speakers on different aspects of catechesis to come to the deanery. The first was Fr Denis McBride CSsR on 11<sup>th</sup> February, followed by Fr John Farrell OP on 4<sup>th</sup> March and Fr John Harris OP on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Please see the facing page for details of talks after Easter.

The group are to meet at the Kairos Centre for a morning in April to discuss in depth how to achieve our aim.

We have already carried out a survey of Catechists to discern their needs. Nearly 40 individuals from 4 parishes (including ours) returned a questionnaire and another two parishes sent generalised comments. Some of the results have been collated and the answers will help the group plan future action.

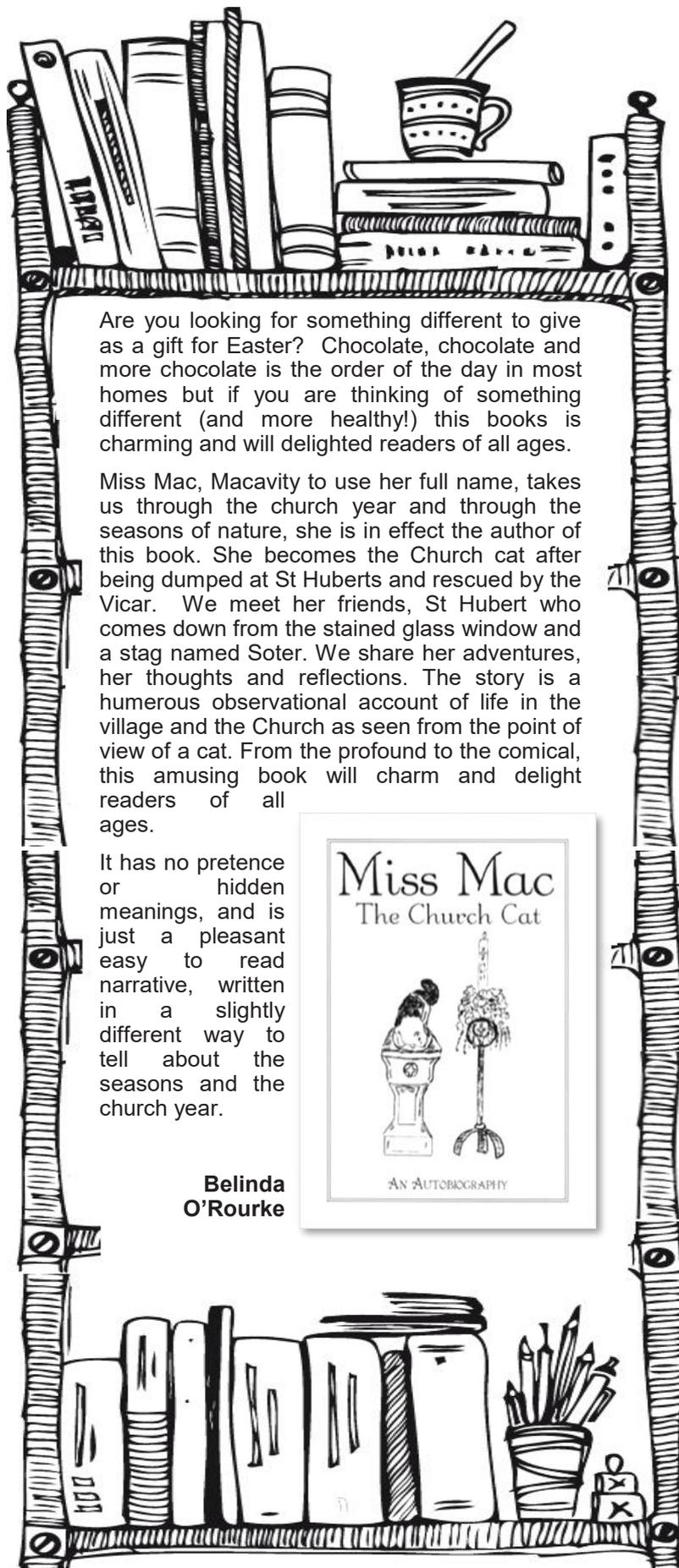
John Golden



## BOOK REVIEW:

"MISS MAC - THE CHURCH CAT"

- BY JOHN CHALONER

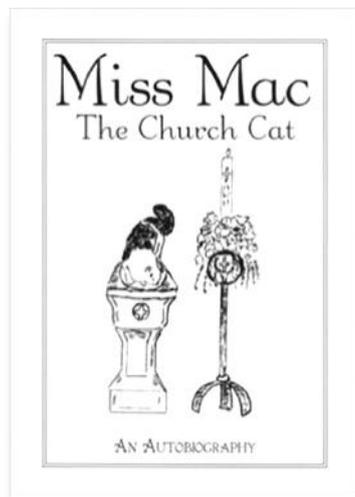


Are you looking for something different to give as a gift for Easter? Chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate is the order of the day in most homes but if you are thinking of something different (and more healthy!) this book is charming and will delight readers of all ages.

Miss Mac, Macavity to use her full name, takes us through the church year and through the seasons of nature, she is in effect the author of this book. She becomes the Church cat after being dumped at St Huberts and rescued by the Vicar. We meet her friends, St Hubert who comes down from the stained glass window and a stag named Soter. We share her adventures, her thoughts and reflections. The story is a humorous observational account of life in the village and the Church as seen from the point of view of a cat. From the profound to the comical, this amusing book will charm and delight readers of all ages.

It has no pretence or hidden meanings, and is just a pleasant easy to read narrative, written in a slightly different way to tell about the seasons and the church year.

Belinda O'Rourke





# JUSTICE & PEACE IN ST JOHN FISHER PARISH

[www.sjf-justiceandpeace.org.uk](http://www.sjf-justiceandpeace.org.uk)

[sjf.justiceandpeace@gmail.com](mailto:sjf.justiceandpeace@gmail.com)



## CHARITY OF THE YEAR:

### MERTON AGAINST TRAFFICKING (MAT)

This year the Justice and Peace Group has chosen Merton Against Trafficking (MAT) as our Charity of the Year. Many people think that trafficking is something that happens somewhere else. We need to recognise that it happens here on our own doorstep.

Human trafficking is modern day slavery. It includes people who have been forced into marriage and low paid labour, asylum seekers, and women or children trafficked into the sex industry, as well as children sold by their parents (e.g. for benefit fraud or begging) or people sold for illegal organ donating.

In UK law, a trafficked person is defined as someone who has been transferred into, within or from the UK, with the intention of subjecting him/her to a form of exploitation. Trafficking occurs when there is an intention to exploit, whether or not the exploitation actually occurs. People who are trafficked have little choice in what happens to them and usually suffer abuse due to the threats and use of violence against them and/or their family.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing international crime and the second largest source of illegal income worldwide – second only to the drugs trade. We know that people are trafficked into and across the UK and many end up being forced to work or live in London – including the London Borough of Merton.

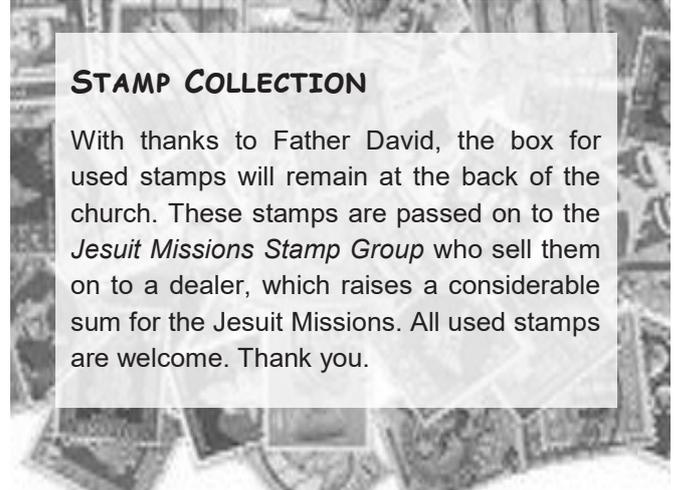
## HOPE FOR JUSTICE

Another group working to combat Trafficking locally is *Hope for Justice*, an amazing charity working to abolish the horrendous crime of modern day slavery. It's approach is threefold. Firstly *Hope for Justice* employ specialist investigators to RESCUE victims from their situation of exploitation. Secondly it helps victims on their journey of RESTORATION, overcoming their trauma and rebuilding their lives. Thirdly *Hope for Justice* work tirelessly to REFORM the current system, training people to spot the signs of human trafficking and working with companies to eliminate modern slavery from their supply chains.

*Hope for Justice* rely heavily on their local abolition groups (yes, there's one in Morden!) to pray, fundraise



and spread the word. Please do get in touch if you would like to get involved and join us in the fight to "speak up for those that have no voice."



### STAMP COLLECTION

With thanks to Father David, the box for used stamps will remain at the back of the church. These stamps are passed on to the *Jesuit Missions Stamp Group* who sell them on to a dealer, which raises a considerable sum for the Jesuit Missions. All used stamps are welcome. Thank you.

## FOOD COLLECTION

Food Collection is now established the first weekend of every month. We take the collection to Christian Care, Faith in Action drop in for the Homeless and Wimbledon Foodbank in turn. You can always check the current collection on our website.



## Food Collection

You can also check the date of our next meeting there. We welcome new members.

## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

**ended on Sunday 12 March**

but don't stop supporting Fairtrade! Make sure any chocolate you buy for Easter is Fairtrade.

Have you tried Fairtrade dried fruit?  
Excellent for Simnel Cakes!

Visit our website at  
[www.sjf-justiceandpeace.org.uk/jp16/fairtrade](http://www.sjf-justiceandpeace.org.uk/jp16/fairtrade)  
for many more ways of supporting Cafod and Fairtrade.



# NEWS FROM THE URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL

## **CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF EXCELLENT EDUCATION, AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS**

We were extremely grateful to Baroness Margaret McDonagh for hosting an incredible reception at the House of Lords to celebrate 125 years of excellent Catholic Education for girls at the Ursuline High School. The event was held to thank the very many people whose hard work has made the Ursuline the outstanding school it is today; Ursuline Sisters, priests and the Diocese, previous Headteachers, Governors, senior leaders, Local Authority Councillors and leaders, our local MPs Stephen Hammond and Siobhain McDonagh and members of the Parents' Association. Guests heard speeches from Baroness McDonagh, Ms Waters and students leaders about the incredible importance of such excellent education for girls today.

## **OXBRIDGE GRADUATE NETWORKING EVENING**

*"We feel that this has been so helpful to being to understand what our daughter needs to do. It is very daunting to think of her applying to these Universities and prior to this evening we felt lost as to what to do to support her." (parent)*

On 22nd February we held an Oxbridge Graduate Networking Evening for Year 12 Oxbridge programme students and their parents/carers. At this event, students were given the opportunity to take part in a hot seating event with graduates from Oxford and Cambridge, quizzing them with a wide range of questions about the application process and

university life. We were particularly delighted to welcome back old girls Abigail Johnson (Cambridge, Archaeology and Anthropology) and Emily Horton (Cambridge, Archaeology and Anthropology). In addition to this we held a talk for parents where we discussed the current environment for Oxbridge and Russell group universities, the application process and how students can best be supported in preparation for an academically competitive environment.

Many thanks for our Oxbridge graduate visitors to the school for giving up their time to talk to our students, and also to the staff at the event.

## **ALUMNAE EVENT - 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

We will be hosting an Alumnae Event on Thursday 13th July, 7.00 - 9.00pm. If you are a former student or know someone who is, who may be interested to learn more, please register your interest and email [alumnae@uhsw.com](mailto:alumnae@uhsw.com)

This will be a **ticketed event only** – so please register your interest so we can keep you informed.

We look forward to hearing from you!



**Wimbledon College and the Ursuline High School  
present their joint production of**

# EVITA

**March 23rd & 24th, 7.30pm at Epsom Playhouse**

**£10 (adults) and £7 (under 18) from Epsom Playhouse Box Office  
020 8742 555 and 01372 742 227 or visit [www.epsomplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.epsomplayhouse.co.uk)**

# WIMBLEDON COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday 18th January, Wimbledon College celebrated its 125th anniversary with a special Founders' Day Mass at Westminster Cathedral.

Over 1,300 pupils and staff from the Jesuit secondary school set out from its Edge Hill site, in Wimbledon, at around midday. Different year groups made their way by coach, train or tube, with all staff and pupils then converging in the Cathedral Piazza before taking their places for the Mass which began at 2pm.

It was quite a feat of logistics and timing, and a far cry from the first ever day of Wimbledon College, founded by the Jesuits in 1892. On that day, only two pupils were expected: a pair of brothers with the surname Lloyd. Thomas arrived as expected, but his brother, William, had fallen ill. Thus the history books show that Wimbledon College began its history with a rather inauspicious 50% attendance rate!

Head Master, Mr. Adrian Laing, opened the Mass with a warm welcome to all boys, staff, governors and guests. Among them were a good number of priests from the Jesuit community, all of whom had links with the College, be it as Head Master, chaplain or teacher or indeed as pupils. Several had been both pupil and staff member. Though Mr Laing is the first member of the laity to lead the school, he continues to pursue the original vision of its founders: to develop young men of integrity who put others first; and to do all things for the greater glory of God.

Boys of the school, aged 11-18, enjoyed the rare opportunity to wonder at the awesome scale of

Westminster Cathedral and its magnificent sculptures, mosaics and marble-work. Father Dermot Preston SJ (Society of Jesus) presided and delivered the homily. In it he used the example of Nelson Mandela as someone with a huge spirit and gave credit for the way that, over the past 125 years, Wimbledon College had sought to nurture a person's spirit as well as their intellect, gifts, virtues and talents, thereby forming that person's true character.

Head Boy, Tareeq Jalloh and other current pupils were involved as readers, servers and in the College's excellent choir. The Mass was concluded with the choir and congregation giving a rousing rendition of the College's traditional closing hymn, 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky'.

The 125th anniversary Mass was a fine way for present staff and pupils to pay respect to the history of Wimbledon College, while continuing the best parts of that tradition through the present and on into the future with, to borrow the words of the Head Master, 'Christ very firmly at the centre of it all'.

Mr Laing said "It was a wonderful occasion for the whole school to come together, something we cannot do easily given our size, to thank God for the life of the College. The boys were outstanding, both at the Mass itself and during the journeys to and from the Cathedral. The sight of the whole school filling Westminster Cathedral will remain with me as I am sure it will for the staff and pupils"

Wimbledon College is marking its anniversary with a number of events throughout this year and has also published a book about the history of the College, *Wimbledon College: The First 125 Years*. Information about the anniversary and how to obtain the history is available on the College's website:

[www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/125](http://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/125)

Wimbledon College now has a twitter account where you can follow recent news and information about the College and former pupils. **[@Wimb\_Coll]**



# THE FLYING PENGUINS EXPLORER SCOUTS

The Flying Penguin's Explorer Scout Unit (FPSEU) has had a busy end to 2016 and busy start to 2017. We now number 21 explorers, two network scouts (explorers who have hit 18 but do not want to leave!) and two warranted leaders, Andy Newman and Tom Carter. We meet on a Tuesday evening in the Parish Hall from 7.45 till 9.30pm.

Our winter 2016 program included a variety of skills and up-cycling activities in which the explorers had a go at leather work (thanks to Duncan Hold of the 23rd Mitcham group for help with that), glass etching, lantern making, bottle top art, to name but a few activities. Eoin Ford received his Jack Petchy award and the explorers took part in the National Remembrance day parade in Wimbledon. In December 2016 we took the FPs to the Hampton Court Palace ice skating rink. Excellent weather, a remarkably uncrowded rink and a fantastic backdrop of the Palace lit up in colourful lights made the night a memorable one. In January the FPs took part in the annual winter paintballing event, a scout/explorer linking activity. This was a great hit (both metaphorically and literally). Burns night was celebrated with games, quizzes and a Burns supper comprising homemade Haggis pizzas and IronBru...which went down remarkably well! The meal was prefaced by a rendition of the "Address to the Haggis" recited with great gusto by the explorers. Chinese New Year saw the explorer's sample delicacies including chicken paws in black bean sauce....which did not go down quite so well! Our pedal car team is limbering up for the start of 2017 British Pedal Car championships later in March, with six weekends of highly competitive endurance racing in locations all around the country. We hope to improve upon our 8th place (out of >40 teams) last year. A good number of our explorers are now signed up and ready to head off to the Brecon Beacons for a weekend of hiking in the Welsh mountains at the end of March. We shall be camping, so are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather.

A major effort this term is to support and train our explorers for Scouting and Duke of Edinburgh award activities. Many of our explorers are now actively involved in a variety of volunteering roles both within and outside of scouting. We currently have 6 explorers training for their platinum scouts/bronze D of E practise and award hikes that are being held this month. They have already planned, practise cooked and finalised their meals for the trip, and are learning navigation and route planning. Our Queen Scout Award/Gold D of E team (2 explorers and 4 network scouts) will be starting their formal canoe training this month, with their actual hike planned for late August on the Great Glen canoe trail, coast-to-coast across Scotland. Wild camping on the shores of loch ness, it should be an awesome experience.

Finally we would like to express our thanks for the support of the Parish council and for the use of the facilities at St John Fisher parish hall. Without this support we would not be able to provide the young adults of the parish with opportunities for self-development, skills training and fun.

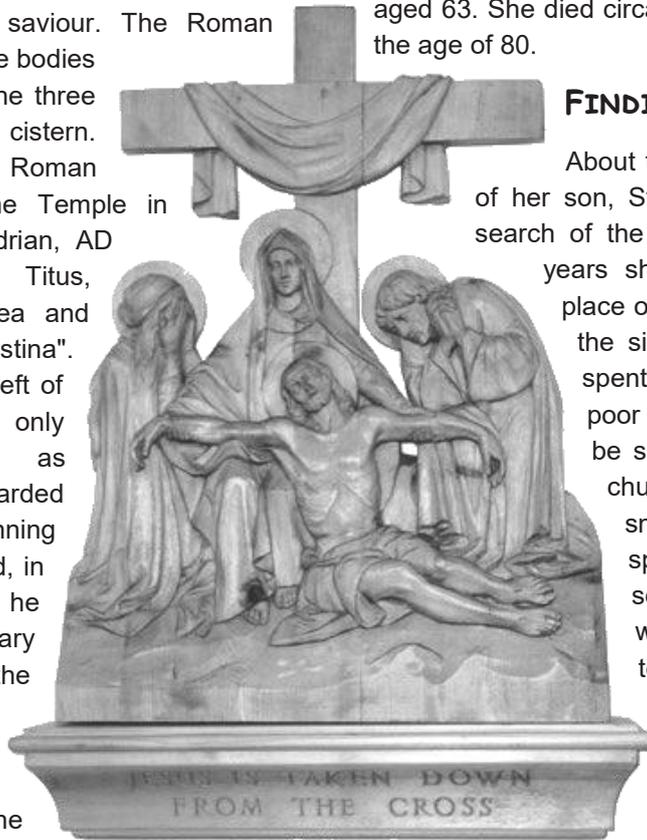
**Tom Carter (ESL)**  
**Andy Newman (AESL)**



# THE WOOD OF THE CROSS

## THE DEATH OF JESUS

At three o' clock on a Friday afternoon, Our Blessed Lord hanging on a cross, between two thieves, gave us a mother, forgave His enemies, looked to heaven and said "It is accomplished". He then bowed His head and died. At that moment, the world erupted and the universe went dark. "How dare they treat our creator so", it seemed to say. Joseph of Arimathea, went to Pilate and requested that he might take Jesus to be buried. On being given permission, he and John, took the body down from the cross and gave it to Mary, our mother. With great sadness the little party laid the body of Jesus in a tomb and went back to Jerusalem to mourn the loss of their saviour. The Roman soldiers, having disposed of the bodies of the two thieves, removed the three crosses and threw them into a cistern. About forty years later, the Roman Emperor Titus, destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. The Emperor Hadrian, AD 117-138, who followed Titus, abolished the name of Judea and renamed the area "Syria Palaestina". He also destroyed what was left of the Temple. Hadrian not only regarded Judaism as insurrectionary he regarded Christianity, which was beginning to become a force in the world, in the same light. Consequently he levelled the top of Mount Calvary and erected a temple to the pagan goddess Venus. He also cleared the area where the tomb of Jesus was located, and built a temple to the pagan god Jupiter Capitolinus.



*Station of the Cross from St Pius X Church, Norbiton*

## THE EMPEROR CONSTANTINE

Constantine seized power in the year 312AD attacking Rome via the Milvian Bridge. He claimed that on the day before the battle he had a vision of the Christian cross and the words "In hoc signo vinces" which means "In this sign, (you shall) conquer". On the 28th Oct. the legions of Constantine and Maxentius the Roman Emperor, clashed in the battle of Milvian Bridge on the river Tiber. After a long hard fight the forces of Maxentius were defeated and Maxentius drowned. On the 29th October he entered the city of

Rome triumphantly to become the leader of the Roman Empire. Constantine later declared that Christians could exercise their religion freely without fear of prosecution. This was known as the Edict of Milan.

## SAINT HELENA

Saint Helena was born in Bithynia (Turkey), she was married to Roman Emperor Constantius and had a son Constantine 1, also known as Constantine the Great. He was the first Roman emperor to become a Christian. According to an early church historian Eusebius, Saint Helena converted at the same time, aged 63. She died circa 328 in Nicomedia (Turkey), at the age of 80.

## FINDING THE TRUE CROSS

About the year 324, with the authority of her son, St. Helena went to Palestine in search of the sacred sites. In the next few years she built churches marking the place of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and the site of the Ascension. She also spent much time and money on the poor and the oppressed. She could be seen continually frequenting the churches, especially those of the smaller cities, adorning them with splendid offerings. She was often seen in simple attire mingling with the crowd of worshippers, testifying her devotion to God.

Work on excavation still continued in Jerusalem. About 326 AD the temple of Jupiter was demolished and the remains of the tomb which was thought to be that of Jesus discovered. A shrine

was built over the tomb which today stands in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The Emperor Constantine wrote to the Bishop of Jerusalem, requesting that he make a search for The Cross on Mount Calvary. The Temple of Venus was demolished, exposing the site of the Crucifixion. Three crosses were found in a cistern. Also found in the cistern was the Titulus which is the wood plaque (I N R I) which Pilate had fixed to the cross. It is interesting to note that if the cistern had not been covered by Hadrian, about 300 years previously, the crosses

would have rotted away in the weather. One thing puzzled the searchers, which was the True Cross?

## IDENTIFICATION OF THE TRUE CROSS

There are several accounts as to how the actual Cross on which Jesus was crucified was identified. According to a book called "The Acts of Judas Cyriacus" the crosses were laid, one at a time, on the coffin of a dead youth. The first two had no effect, but the third one instantly brought the young man back to life. Another account by Rufinus, a priest, historian and theologian, tells us how a woman, dying from a terminal disease, was taken to the crosses. After she had touched the third cross she was cured, thereby identifying the True Cross. Saint Ambrose preached that when St. Helena found the true cross, "She worshipped not the wood, but the King, Him who hung on the wood. She burned with an earnest desire of touching the guarantee of immortality".

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TRUE CROSS?

After the cross was identified, one large piece was placed in a church in Jerusalem. Incidentally, many years later in 615 AD this piece was stolen by Chosroes, a king of the Persians. After much prayer and fasting and a battle to recover it, the Emperor Heraclius (Emperor of the Byzantine Empire) defeated Chosroes and brought the Holy Cross back to Jerusalem, This was in the year 629 AD, fourteen years after it was stolen. A second piece was taken to Constantinople by Helena along with the nails and the Titulus. The nails were placed in churches around Europe. One of the nails was placed in the iron Crown of Lombardy. The Spear which pierced Our Lord's side was sent to the Vatican in Rome. However fragments soon began to turn up in many other places. Cyril of Jerusalem said, in 348 AD, "The whole earth is full of relics of the Cross of Christ". Even more pieces were found by Crusaders during the Middle Ages when they plundered conquered cities. Eventually, we arrived at the situation when people were buying their own individual pieces of Cross and fixing them into gold crucifixes. Many churches and monasteries acquired pieces which they kept inside

reliquaries decorated with gold and jewels. However, some historians believe that dishonest knights brought back chunks of ordinary wood from the Crusades and sold them to churches, claiming that they had come from the true Cross.

Most modern churches have a small relic kept in a precious metal and glass box. On Good Friday, at the end of the main service, many of the congregation will venerate this relic of The True Cross by kissing it.

*(Note from Fr. David: We have a relic of the Holy Cross here at St John Fisher)*



*Constantine and St Helena (Orthodox Icon)*

## FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also called Holy Cross Day, is a liturgical feast celebrated on September 14th. It was instigated to honour the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. In the Eastern churches the feast dates back to the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (the site of Christ's tomb) in Jerusalem in 335 AD. The Feast was adopted by the Roman Church in 629AD. In the Roman Catholic observance of the Feast, red vestments are worn. If the feast falls on a Sunday, its mass readings are used instead of those which would

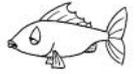
have been used. Until 1969 the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday following Sept. 14th were Ember days, (Fast days). This is now left to the episcopal conferences of Bishops to take into account local customs. My computer tells me that in 1963 the feast was to be called "The Triumph of the Cross", however I see that the Southwark Catholic Directory still uses the name "The Exaltation of the Holy Cross". And finally, when we celebrate Good Friday, let us remember the words of St. Francis of Assisi

"We adore Thee, O Christ,  
and we praise Thee.  
Because by Thy Holy Cross  
Thou hast redeemed the world".

**P.W. McVey**



## FRIDAY FARE



### FALAFEL BURGERS

*A healthy burger that's filling and easy to make too!*

#### Ingredients (Serves 4)

- 400g can chickpea, rinsed and drained
- garlic clove, chopped
- handful of parsley
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- ½ tsp harissa paste or chilli powder
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 2 tbsp sunflower oil
- 1 small red onion, chopped

#### Method

1. Pat the chickpeas dry with kitchen paper. Tip into a food processor along with the onion, garlic, parsley, spices, flour and a little salt. Blend until fairly smooth, then shape into four patties with your hands.
2. Heat the oil in a non-stick frying pan, add the burgers, then quickly fry for 3 minutes on each side until lightly golden.
3. Serve with toasted pitta bread, tomato salsa and green salad. Delicious!

### MEDITERRANEAN POTATO SALAD

*Tasty Italian salad.*

#### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tsp oregano (fresh or dried)
- 200g cherry tomatoes
- 100g roasted red pepper, from a jar, sliced
- 300g new potatoes, halved if large
- 25g black olive, slice
- Handful torn basil leaves

#### Method

1. Heat the oil in a saucepan, add the onion and cook for 5-10 minutes until soft.
2. Add the garlic and oregano and cook for 1 minute.

3. Add the tomatoes and peppers, season well and simmer gently for 10 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, cook the potatoes in a pan of boiling salted water for 10-15 minutes until tender. Drain well, mix with the sauce and serve warm, sprinkled with olives and basil.

### APPLE CINNAMON OATMEAL COOKIES

#### Ingredients (Makes about 20 cookies)

- 170g old-fashioned whole rolled oats
- 125g plain flour
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 60g unsalted butter, melted & slightly cooled
- 90g unsweetened applesauce
- 150g dark or light brown sugar
- 150g granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- ½ large apple, finely diced



#### Method

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.
2. Whisk the oats, flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon together in a large bowl.
3. Whisk the butter, applesauce, brown sugar, and white sugar together until combined. Then whisk in the egg and vanilla. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and whisk until just combined. Fold in the apples and walnuts. The cookie dough will be thick and sticky.
4. Scoop cookie dough into balls (about 2 Tbsp of dough each) and place 8cm apart on the cookie sheet. Slightly flatten the balls out as the cookies won't spread much unless you help out first!
5. Bake for 14-15 minutes or until lightly browned and set on the edges.
6. Enjoy!



# AM I BEING UNFAIR TO YOU? WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2017



## AM I BEING UNFAIR TO YOU?

This was the theme of the Women's World Day of Prayer on 3rd March, written by Christian Women of the Philippines and prayed throughout the world in 170 countries and at some 6000 services. Here in Merton women (and men) from some twenty Churches gathered to pray together. St John Fisher was well represented with a Filipino reader and a number of parishioners.

The theme was illustrated by a colourful picture showing on one side lush vegetation, beautiful beaches and plentiful harvests and on the other grey, high-rise buildings, loneliness and scraps of food, illustrating the imbalance of life.

Four Filipino women told their stories, a woman who had suffered unfair labour practices in Manila, another who had been exploited working abroad, a sugar farm worker who despite having three jobs could not afford running water at home and a widow still suffering from the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

After confessing that we make excuses not to help the poor and homeless, to protect the earth and to fight for justice, we listened to the story of the labourers in the vineyard (Matthew 20: 1-16). This was followed by meditation and discussion on the questions: Where do you see God calling you into actions of justice? Who are the "last" ones in your community? and How are you responding to God's call today?

The woman in the picture seemed to be hiding her right eye from the scenes of destruction and poverty. Nonetheless the women of the Philippines shared what little they have with us, giving us each a small bag of rice.

Finally we pledged to share our lives with brothers and sisters, to offer our hands to plant, nurture and harvest and to be instruments of fairness, justice and joy.

It was a very challenging service, but at the same time uplifting. It was a pleasure to be joined by the Mayor of Merton, Brenda Fraser and our MP Stephen Hammond.

**Julie Sheahan**



## A-Z OF SAINTLY PLACE NAMES

**O** is for ... some more saints to be discovered around the British Isles

Several of my ancestors were born in **St Olave's**. St Olave's Church, Southwark was a church in Southwark which is believed to be mentioned in the Domesday Book. It was located on Tooley Street which is named after the church, i.e. 't'olous'. The church was dedicated to Olav Haraldsson, an early King of Norway, who attempted to convert his people to Christianity and was martyred in 1030.

The church was very much a Docklands church, but as the industrial expansion of the area led to population decline, so the church became less used. In 1926 it was declared redundant and the nave was demolished, leaving a forlorn tower, removed in 1928, when its capping turret was relocated to Tanner Street Park, Southwark, where it was converted into a drinking fountain. This still stands in the Park and in 1998 was designated by English Heritage as a Grade II listed structure.

The site of the church was sold and redeveloped with an Art Deco office building. This still stands on Lower Tooley Street and is now called St Olaf's House; it bears a plaque giving information on the demolished St Olave's Church and its patron saint

Fortunately, a decision was made at the same time to establish a new district and parish in the north-eastern portion of the old parish of Mitcham, to which the dedication of St. Olave was transferred. The Parish Priest of this Church is Reverend Robert Wright, known to many parishioners as he is a trustee of Christian Care, Merton.



**P** is for **St Paul's Cray** in Kent, which although modern in appearance has an ancient history. Romans camped along the banks of the River Cray, which gives the area its name, and even earlier settlements are suggested by the mysterious dene holes, caverns shaped in the chalk, which have been found on either side of the valley.



*St Barnabas' Church, St Paul's Cray*

The river Cray rises in the Priory gardens and flows north through St. Mary Cray, St. Paul's Cray and on to join the Darent north of Dartford. The name appears to mean clear and fast flowing stream although "the river that often floods" is another possibility.

Historically South Cray was an important settlement, the only one locally apart from Bromley to have a medieval market. St Paul's Cray was smaller but both were industrialised by the early 19th century, the fast flowing stream in a wooded valley being an ideal site for paper production. For the first few years after the opening of the railway the main traffic was goods serving the local mills, the station being sited on the borders of St. Mary and St. Paul's Cray.

The name St Paul's Cray has no direct connection with St Paul the Apostle; it is an abbreviation of St Paulinus Cray. Paulinus was an early Christian missionary, and a close contemporary of Augustine who subsequently became Archbishop of York and Bishop of Rochester.

Most famous recently for its rubbish heap, which we gather is now to be removed, it is hoped that St Paul's Cray may return to a more attractive place to live. Residents hope the site could eventually be used as a park or a nature reserve because of its proximity to the River Cray. "It's beautiful round the back of there. Behind that dump it is actually a beautiful spot."

**Julie Sheahan**

# CONFIRMATION 2016



## THANK YOU SO MUCH...

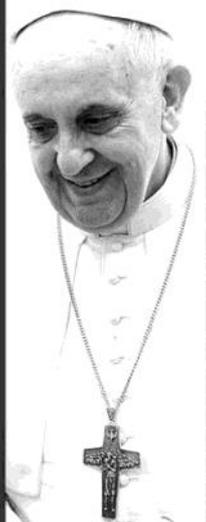
...to all the 2106 St John Fisher Confirmation Candidates and their friends and families who raised £810.00 for the Christian CARE Association on their Sponsored walk. It was a great effort.



2017 marks Christian CARE's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday and, as we have done every summer since 1969, we will be taking a coachload of children aged 6-11 to Littlehampton for the day on Saturday 1 July. From our base camp near the *Longest Bench in the UK*, seen in the photograph, we will sally forth to the beach and to the funfair. Your generous gift will help to give the children, some of whom will never have seen the sea before, a very special day out.

Gillian Thirk  
Chair

**DEAR YOUNG  
PEOPLE,  
DO NOT BURY YOUR  
TALENTS,  
THE GIFTS THAT  
GOD  
HAS GIVEN YOU!  
DO NOT BE AFRAID  
TO DREAM OF  
GREAT  
THINGS!**  
POPE FRANCIS



The young people worked very hard to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in November 2016.

Our sponsored walk last year was for *Christian Care* and the Confirmation Candidates raised over £800 for this very good cause.

Sister Catherine

# THE HOLY MASS OF INDUCTION FOR FATHER DAVID

On Wednesday 7th December Father David was formally inducted as Parish Priest by Bishop Paul Hendricks – this ceremony is the occasion when a new Parish Priest is formally presented to the Parish in a liturgical context. It is celebrated to remind priest and people of their responsibility together before God to serve Him and His Church and by their holiness and the example of their lives, individually and as a community, to promote the mission of Our Blessed Lord.

Father David was supported by Bishop Howard, many of his fellow Merton Deanery priests and deacons along with clergy from St Mary the Virgin and St James Martin Way. Four of his siblings and their families were with him and one of his brothers played guitar with the folk choir whose numbers were enhanced by our beautiful, talented, St John Fisher Primary School Choir. Many parishioners were able to attend along with parishioners from Father David's previous parish at St Joseph's, Roehampton, who were transported with the use of at least three mini buses! The local MP for Mitcham and Morden Siobhain McDonagh was also able to join us for this joyful occasion.

As it was the octave of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception many of Our Lady's special hymns were chosen to be sung throughout. As the congregation was gathering these commenced with "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" followed by "Spirit of the Living Lord" and "As I kneel before You" - the very impressive procession (our altar servers also did Father David proud) then entered to "Holy Virgin by God's Decree".



The Mass proceeded with the prayers and readings for the Feast with the Choir singing the Psalm. Bishop Paul's Homily emphasised the importance and significance of the occasion after which came to the actual ceremony of induction with Bishop Paul requesting the Dean to read the Letter of Appointment from Archbishop Peter. Fr David then knelt before Bishop Paul and with his right hand on the Book of the Gospels made his Profession of Faith which they both signed. The response to the promises made by both Father David and the parishioners was "I or We will by the help of God". This part of the service concluded with Bishop Paul leading Father David to the Presidential Chair and presenting him with his document of appointment and the keys of the Church upon which there was an individual exchange of welcome "In the Name of Jesus the Lord" between Fr David, the congregation, the representatives of other Christian Communities and religious groups present and the representatives of the Local Authorities and other Civic Bodies present. Mass then continued with more beautiful hymns lead by all the parish choirs.

This very prayerful special Mass over we were all invited to the Parish Hall where Sr Catherine and her great team of helpers had, as always on these occasions prepared, a delicious buffet and "Welcome" cake (Father David had one of his very own baked to meet his special dietary needs!)

**Carol Pringle**

*[Photos ~ John Golden]*

## ST PHILOMENA

As part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation each Candidate researched their saint and a booklet of the saints was made and presented at the Offertory of the Mass last November. Laura chose St Philomena.

*Born:* 291 AD *Died:* 304 AD *Canonised:* 1837

*Patron:* Children of Mary; Youth; Desperate causes; Impossible causes and Forgotten causes

St Philomena was a Greek princess whose parents were pagan rulers. But they turned Christian in order to have a child. When Philomena had reached the age of thirteen, the Emperor of Rome threatened to declare a war on their State. Hoping to make peace, her father went to Rome to see the Emperor, when the emperor saw Philomena he instantly fell in love with her. So he made an agreement with her father and mother that if they give Philomena to him so he can marry her then the war will end. Philomena's parents agreed but Philomena did not. Her parents begged her but she refused. Even Diocletian the Roman emperor tried to persuade her but she said she has devoted her life to God and no one else.



In a rage Diocletian chained her in the dungeons for her to die but miraculously she survived 40 long days, on the 37th day Mary appeared to her with baby Jesus and she said that she would remain three more days in the dungeon and then, on the fortieth day of her imprisonment she would leave the place of sorrow. Philomena was overjoyed, but then Mary warned her that she will face cruel torture.

Mary continued to speak words of comfort to young Philomena and she told her that she will send down her (Mary's) guardian angel, archangel Gabriel to look after her and keep her company.

Mary was right, three days later she was tied to a pillar and whipped. In agony she returned to her cell where 2 angels awaited her, they cleansed her cuts until she was back to normal. On seeing she had recovered Diocletian was astonished and outraged, so he tied a iron anchor around her neck and threw her into the River Tiber to drown but once again the angels saved Philomena. They cut the rope attaching her to the anchor and brought her back to land without getting a single drop of water on her. Many people who were present at this miracle changed to Christian if they were not one already.

Even more enraged than ever he commanded that she should be dragged through Rome as a sorceress and shot with arrows. But every arrow either missed, did not leave the bow, broke or turned around and shot the archer.

Diocletian was fearful so the wicked Emperor ordered the child-martyr to be quickly beheaded. So at three o'clock on that Friday afternoon, August 10th, Philomena's soul rose glorious and triumphant into Heaven!!!

*Facts:*

Philomena made her communion when she was only 5 years of age and she made her confirmation when she was 11.

Her shrine is in Mugnano, Italy.

**Laura O'Connell**

**BELINDA TALKS TO...**  
**MISS JANINE KENNA**  
**HEADTEACHER OF**  
**ST JOHN FISHER PRIMARY SCHOOL**



I would like to thank Miss Kenna for her time in talking to me this week. Being the Head Teacher of a thriving Parish school demands enormous commitments on your time so I am grateful for the opportunity to chat about her Headship so far, and some thoughts for the future.

Miss Kenna became Head in September 2015 following the retirement of Mrs Ursula O'Byrne, but she joined the school at Easter 2007 taking up the post of Deputy Head. So now half way through her second year as Head how is Miss Kenna finding her new role?

Let's start with a potted history of Miss Kenna's life. A local girl coming from Worcester Park, where her mum and dad still live. She went to school at Holy Cross Prep on the Coombe Estate and then to Tiffin Girls in Kingston. At Durham University she took a 4 year BA in Education studying Classics, Theology and Anthropology and undertaking a lot of her teaching practice in Middlesbrough, an area which has its own challenges and provided excellent experience.

So onto her first teaching role which was in Hackbridge Primary where she worked for her first two years, (under a somewhat fearsome Headteacher) followed by Morden Primary for 3 years and then to Haslemere on the Phipps Bridge Estate in Mitcham. Career progression called and Miss Kenna took on a role within the school improvement team in Lewisham leading on literacy and delivering the new literacy strategy as a Literacy Consultant, providing and delivering packages for two years and then on to Merton in a similar role in 2002.

A significant family event in 2003 was the birth of Miss Kenna's son. Now in secondary school local to home in Thames Ditton. Clearly she is a very proud mum.

Since Miss Kenna joined St John Fisher in 2007 there have been a number of developments. Firstly, the improvements and extensions to the existing school buildings; including the impressive school entrance transformed from its former rather 'poky' hallway, to and light and airy welcoming space for parents and visitors. There have also been some staff changes over the last couple of years. 2016 saw the launch of the 50-year anniversary celebrations, with a street party and a farewell event for Canon Acton. As part of the farewell celebrations, the Canon provided the school with its new school motto, of which the Pupils, Staff and Governors are very proud. "Together we grow in God's Love; Learning to be the best we can be". This motto was gifted to the school by Canon Acton upon his retirement and, coming at the 50-year anniversary celebration, it brought a perfect communion of the life of the School, Church and Parish. Miss Kenna also talked about the wonderful black and white 1960's dinner dance organised by the very hard working Parents Teachers and Friends Association, whose "pair of Chairs" are doing a wonderful job.

And so to the future. Facing the future means meeting the challenges in Education today. Changes to funding provision will bring undoubted financial challenges for all schools. The increasing need for parents and carers to have affordable access to extended day provision; for both Nursery and school age pupils, as well as having the necessary facilities and staffing or business partners to meet these needs are also a factor for consideration. Whilst a school is a place of learning and education, care and spiritual development, today it is also a business and Miss Kenna knows she will have to meet those challenges in the coming months and years. Working together with other schools in the Deanery means that experiences and expertise can be shared and developed.

So, when Miss Kenna is out of school – what does she like doing? She is a lover of outdoor pursuits – if it involves fresh air then it is certainly bound to be a hit in

Miss Kenna's books! She is a committed runner and finds running a great opportunity to work through her own thought processes, and develop ideas without the inevitable interruptions of the school environment. She is down for the London Marathon this April, if her feet are up to it! Another big love is her collection of Minions! A collection significant enough to surround both screens on the all-important Head Teacher's desk. The envy of many pupils I have no doubt.

Finally, and probably above all, Miss Kenna was very insistent on my thanking the committed team of staff

working in all roles across the school, you the parents and the wonderful PTFA for all their support, encouragement, hard work and energy. And of course, the fantastic pupils who, even on the most challenging of days, never fail to make her smile. The triangle of parents, pupils and staff, when pulling the same direction is a winning formula and clearly provides St John Fisher School with the happy and flourishing parish school we can see today.

**Belinda O'Rourke**

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## CATHOLIC PEOPLE'S WEEKS - MORE THAN A HOLIDAY

*Catholic People's Weeks (CPW) is a charity that has been around for 70 years, providing 'holidays that make a difference' to its members. Here is what someone who discovered CPW last year said about it:*

*"We heard about CPW from one of our parish friends. We thought CPW sounded amazing and would be just the type of event we would want to be involved in.*

*It did not disappoint us one bit, from the first minute of arrival we were made to feel most welcome and part of a larger family (we even had help with our luggage). Everyone spoke to our children making them feel instantly at ease.*

*As for the week itself we all had a wonderful time truly, the programme was full and intense but very well put together and so satisfying. On more than one occasion we were totally filled with the Holy Spirit. More importantly though as parents we were amazed by the attitude, love and warmth of all the helpers who were so good with the little ones. They loved being with the helpers and getting involved with everything.*

*We would recommend CPW to all families, it was an amazing week."*

A CPW Week (or long weekend, or day event) is a chance to become, for a short time, part of a small community of God's people, learning, having fun and praying together.

CPW is a lay organisation, which has around 800 adult members mostly from the UK. Events are centred on a theme, with talks, activities and workshops. Some Weeks are 18+, others are all-age events with a parallel children's programme. There is plenty of free time, and a social programme in the

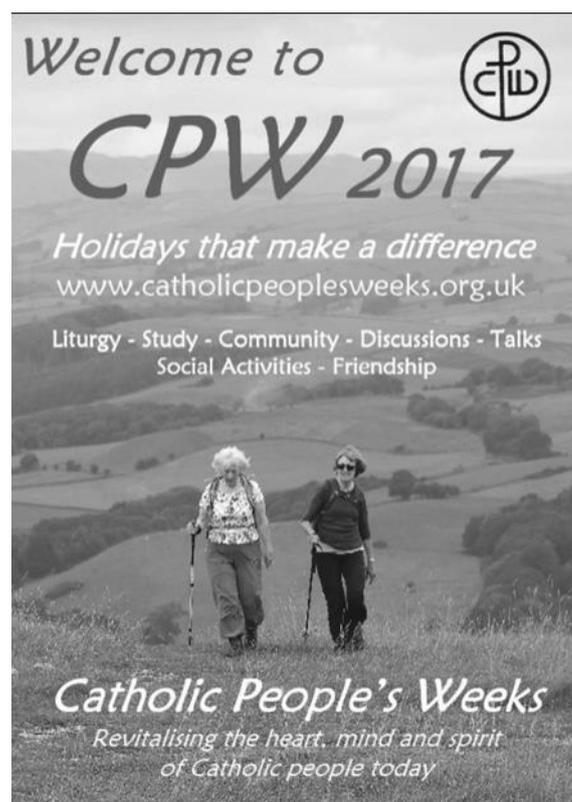
evenings. Liturgies are lively and inclusive. All CPW events take place in locations that offer lots of local interest.

Although a CPW 'Week' does offer a holiday, it offers far more than this. It aims to revitalise mind, body and spirit. For more information visit the CPW website at [www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org.uk](http://www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org.uk)

or contact Lizzy Allerton at CPW for a copy of the latest brochure on **0161 773 2410** or email Lizzy at [secretary@catholicpeoplesweeks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@catholicpeoplesweeks.org.uk)

or speak to me!

**Beryl Shannon**





*I started at St John Fisher Primary in September 1966 when it first opened, the photo I think was taken in the first year with Mr Peter Rogers as Headteacher. I remember walking down the corridor to my class and being told to look at a book, I chose "I want to be a ballet dancer". I was in Mrs Geeland's class and that started my happy years at the school! I still keep in touch with Sr Vianney and wrote to her when she went to teach in the missions in South Africa.*

*My lovely mum, Maureen Elliott started as a dinner lady when I was 9 and continued working there for over 30 years, finishing her career as the admin officer. My daughter, who also went there, loved having Nana in the office! I made lots of friends and still keep in touch with a couple of them, one being Mrs Savage in the Nursery. It was a lovely school and I have many a fond memory.*

**Debbie Thomas (née Elliott)**

## NEWS FROM ST JOHN FISHER PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a busy Spring Term thus far with outings to The Monument (Year 2), Houses of Parliament (Year 5) and National Gallery (Year 3), our School Council Elections in January, National Safer Internet Day on 7th February, Ash Wednesday Mass celebrated in school by Canon Acton and 'Art Fortnight' including *Where the Wild Things Are* dance workshops for Years 1 to 6.

### RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD

Having previously achieved the Level One UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) in 2010, it is our aim this year for the school to be reaccruited and to work towards achieving Level Two status.

The award recognises a school's ability to put the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of its planning, practices, policies and ethos. Pupils will become familiar with their rights through the articles of the CRC and will be encouraged to think about the responsibility that they have to protect the rights of all of those around them, in the school community and beyond. By giving the children the opportunity to make informed decisions it is hoped that they will develop into confident, active and empowered citizens in later life.



We know, first hand, that the award can have a very positive impact on behaviour, self-esteem and engagement in learning as the children become more involved in the decision making processes at school. Along with the Gospel values, it will enhance their moral understanding whilst making them more aware of those children globally, whose basic rights are not met.

## NEW WEBSITE

Another exciting development for the beginning of 2017, was the long awaited launch of our new school website. We are delighted with the look of the new site which can be accessed at

[www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk](http://www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk)

## RE INSPECTION

On Monday 30 January the RE inspectors from the Education Commission visited our school to carry out our Section 48 (RE) inspection. The day was certainly a busy one and the inspectors left with a full and detailed picture of the religious life of our school, in all aspects. I am incredibly proud of how well our pupils spoke up when talked to by the visitors. Whilst we are not able to discuss the overall findings until the report itself is published, a big 'well done' for continuing to be such a supportive school and Parish community is certainly to be shared by all!

## PTFA AGM

A reminder that the St John Fisher PTFA would like to cordially invite all Parents, Teachers and Friends to our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 28th March at 7.30pm in the School Hall. Refreshments will be available from 7pm. All are most welcome!

**Miss Janine Kenna**  
Headteacher

## LOVE BOXES

The members of the *Over 60s Club* were full of admiration for the St John Fisher School children's efforts before Christmas in filling 158 'Love Boxes'. These boxes were filled with small luxuries but, especially, were topped off with greetings cards; these cards were, apparently, very well received.

Residents at Kelston Court and Manor House, attendees at the Eastway Centre, some housebound parishioners, as well as the Thursday Club at Church, were the recipients of the children's largesse. I'm sure I can echo their thanks to Saint John Fisher School, the pupils and staff.

**John Golden**  
Chairman of the Parish Advisory Council

## THE FORGOTTEN ILLNESS...



**The Forgotten Illness** was a name coined by a supporter of the national charity *Rethink Mental Illness*. Perhaps not so much forgotten as swept under the carpet? Those with mental health problems are often misunderstood, unskilled at self-help, and vulnerable. *Rethink* helps such people and has outposts nationwide, including the *Merton & Sutton Carers & Users Support Group*, operating at that wonderful centre, *The Wimbledon Guild*. One service it provides is **The Wednesday Group**, a weekly drop-in open from 5 to 8 pm.

Over five years ago, because I had a relative with mental illness, I began going there most Wednesdays as a volunteer. I found a community totally relaxed and informal - but not unstructured. The "opening hours" are strictly observed, smokers go outside, alcohol doesn't feature. A social work professional is there to welcome, advise and reassure. Snacks and cooked meals are available at cost price. Those who wish can enjoy quizzes, scrabble, cards, bingo once a month, but best of all, friendship and conversation. There is no pressure: those who just want a quiet place to sit can do so in another room: the members accept that others have difficulties, and support each other without criticism: they come from all strata of society.

Parishioners from local Catholic churches are involved, as volunteers or as users - and one, an exemplary man, as both! He successfully organises outings, holidays and fundraising. Some volunteers converse with the users and befriend them. Others do invaluable work in the kitchen (often assisted by one of the users): they buy the food, cook it on site, and take home what isn't eaten. Some users also help with committee work: two provided designs or photographs for the group's Christmas cards. People can be directed to specialist advisers for help with e.g. accommodation or applying for benefits. We have benefactors, among whom we must thank the members of Holy Trinity Church in Wimbledon Broadway who were especially generous for some years.

I have found great humanity in the Wednesday group. I went there thinking I might help; now I go because I enjoy the atmosphere and companionship. If you would like to hear more, please contact me on 8286 0463 or email [arbrook@brookhq.co.uk](mailto:arbrook@brookhq.co.uk).

**Tony Brook**

## CLEANING GOD'S CHURCH

*'I was glad when they said to me,  
'Let us go to the house of the Lord'. (Psalm 122)*

God's home was once in Nazareth  
A Holy hidden place,  
Where Mary used to sweep and clean  
And fill it full of grace.

Our church is home to Jesus:  
Let's keep it bright and clean,  
Adore the Blessed Sacrament  
And honour Heaven's Queen.



Let's say a little prayer of praise  
While cleaning all the glass  
And polishing the benches  
And buffing up the brass.

Let's pray for England as we clean  
The carpet round the Sanctuary,  
And offer up the roughest work  
For Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Let's pray for all God's children  
As we sweep the dirt away,  
And wash off all the finger marks  
Where sticky fingers play.



Let's clean our church and make it shine,  
Let's make our welcome clear  
For Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
And all who worship here.

**Julie Brook**



***We have four dedicated groups of people that come to clean the church on a rota basis. The cleaning is performed after the 9.00 am Mass on Wednesday. Please, more help is needed for these groups. If you can spare an hour a month we would be most grateful.'***



# CHILDREN'S PAGE ... MUMS LOOK AWAY NOW!

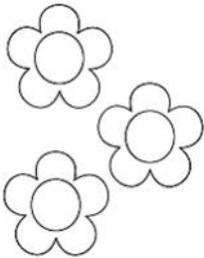
## MOTHERING SUNDAY - HANDMADE CARD IDEAS

*I will try my best in every way  
To be extra sweet on Mother's Day  
But if you become upset with me,  
Please relax and have some tea!*



### TEA POT POEM

Decorate a tea pot with hearts, flowers or your own design and write the poem on the front and staple a tea bag to the card.



*Pick a flower  
And I will do  
A very special  
Job for you!*

### COUPON FLOWERPOT OR VASE

Think of some things that you can do to show your mum that you love her on Mother's Day. (e.g. Help with dishes, Tidy up my toys, Give you a hug). Copy the poem on the outside of the flowerpot or vase. Then write each job on a cut-out flower shape, attach a lolly stick or straw to the back and then slide your flowers inside the pot or vase.



*My Mother  
is the Sweetest*

### CUP CAKE CARD

Colour and decorate a cup cake - with paper hearts, sequins, beads or anything else that sparkles!

### HANDBAG CARD

Colour both sides of a piece of card (e.g. bold strips for the outside and small flowers for the lining/inside) With the lining face up, fold up the bottom third of the card and draw a handbag shape on the half that is folded over and a handle on the single layer of paper.

Cut out the shape and then cut out along the arc just below the handle (leave the bottom intact) to form the handbag's closure flap.

Finish decorating the outside of the card - add stickers, rhinestones or buttons. Then inside you can pop a letter or something sweet for your mum.

### HANDPRINT BUTTERFLY POEM

Create a simple, colourful handprint butterfly to make a beautiful piece of artwork.

*This isn't just a butterfly, as you can plainly see  
I made it with my hand, which is part of me.  
It comes with lots of love especially to say:  
I hope you have a very  
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!*

### FINGERPRINT POEM

Decorate some paper with lots of your unique colourful paint fingerprints and then cut out a heart shape. Add the heart and poem to the front of your Mother's Day card.

*My dirty little fingerprints  
I've left on every wall  
And on the drawers and table tops,  
I've really marked them all!  
But here are some that wont rub off,  
I'm giving them to you  
Because I'm thankful for a mum  
that's just like YOU!*

## WHEN JESUS CAME TO BISHOP OLIVER

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme is the bishop in charge of the diocese of Maiduguri in Borno State in Northeastern Nigeria. It is a mainly Christian area of the country with 125,000 Catholics under his guidance in 2009. However after a surge in violence from the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram the number has been reduced to between 50-60 thousand. Many fled to other safer parts of Nigeria for fear of their lives and the kidnapping of girls and young women. Since 2010 Boko Haram has been attacking schools and hundreds of students have been killed by 2014.



A spokesman for Boko Haram said they would continue these attacks if the government did not stop interfering in traditional Islamic education. They want to establish an Islamic caliphate where Western style modern education would be forbidden as they see it luring away people from following Islamic teaching as a way of life. They claim women should be married and that this can begin as early as 9 years of age. As a result of these attacks 10,000 children have not been able to attend school in North Eastern Nigeria.

Boko Haram became known world wide in 2014 when members kidnapped almost 300 girls (aged 16 to 18) on the night of 14/15 April from the Government Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State. This school had been closed for four weeks for security reasons but was opened so girls from several villages could attend to sit their final physics exams. Boko Haram broke into the school pretending to be guards and took the girls away in trucks to possibly Sambisa Forrest where they are known to have fortified camps. Over the next few months 57 of the girls managed to escape. According to Human Rights, in the first three months of 2015 Boko Haram have killed 1000 people across Nigeria and since 2009 at least 6000 have died due to their evil violence. At this time they pledged allegiance to ISIS.

At times like this it might seem God is silent but prayers are always answered sometimes in extraordinary ways. In April 2015, while Bishop Oliver was praying the rosary before the Blessed Sacrament, where he had perpetual adoration, Jesus appeared in front of him. In his outstretched hands He held a sword. He presented it to the bishop but when he reached out to take it, it turned into a rosary in his hands. Jesus said three times "Boko Haram is gone".

The bishop said he did not need a prophet to tell him what this meant. He said "it was clear that with the rosary we would be able to expel Boko Haram". He was not inclined to tell anyone about his vision but "felt the Holy Spirit was pushing him to do so". He started by telling the priests of his diocese. Then on 17-19 April 2015 he attended a congress in Madrid organised by Spanish Catholic Sisters group hazteoir.org and Citizen Go, an on-line petition, to gather ideas on how to preserve the Christian presence in nations where they are most persecuted. Here Bishop Oliver told the participants of his vision.

Bishop Oliver declares himself as "very simple, a servant of the Lord". He regards his vision as not a personal message to him but to the suffering people of his diocese. Many had fled from the terror of Boko Haram but some are now returning because of the combined armed forces of Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon who are liberating their homes. It is fair to say that many countries lent their moral support at this time including China who used their satellite to help locate the hidden camps of Boko Haram.

But it was God working through Bishop Oliver who had completed a 'consolation tour' to all the communities in his diocese promoting forgiveness and continued faith. He believes he was asked by Jesus to spread devotion to the rosary in order to aid them to forgive and keep the faith in spite of their suffering. He said he had a strong devotion to Christ's mother. "I



never joke with Mamma Mary. I know she is here with us".

The bishops of Nigeria have put their country in Mary's hands and have consecrated it to her twice in recent years. Bishop Oliver maintains that his diocese will recover completely and grow thanks to Mary's intercession. "It may take a few months or years, but Boko Haram is gone". He told Catholic News Agency that "prayer, particularly the prayer of the rosary, is what will deliver us from the claws of this demon, the demon of terrorism. And of course it is working".

We now know how these prayers are being answered. Some girls were released to return to Chibok and just

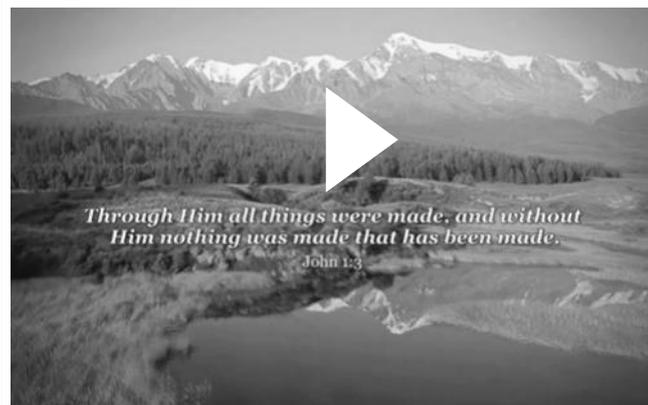
before Christmas 2016 many of the girls were released to join their families. To add to this Boko Haram has lost territory when at their height they had spread into neighbouring countries of Chad and Cameroon. So let us not forget the power of prayer and know that God is always there for us and his mother to intercede on our behalf. Let us join with Bishop Oliver and say the rosary for peace in the world and for Christians who are persecuted in many countries of the world.

**Teresa Pollard**

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## ST JOHN FISHER ALTAR SERVERS

### FEAST OF ST STEPHEN (MONDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2016)



## THE NATURE OF GOD

[www.andiesisle.com/thenatureofgod.html](http://www.andiesisle.com/thenatureofgod.html)

I hope you will take take the opportunity to follow this link. Forget about everything for a few minutes and watch this short video (preferably in full screen mode) - reflect on the beauty of creation, as brought to us by Andie in Arizona. It will relax your mind, body, and soul!

**Josette Kisnorbo**

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR 2017-18

## Calendar of Feasts and Fasts:

The Annunciation of the Lord	Mon.	25th Mar. 2017
<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>9th April</b>
Maundy Thursday	Thu.	13th April
Good Friday **	Fri.	14th April
Holy Saturday	Sat.	15th April
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>16th April</b>
Saint George, Protector of England	Sat.	24th April
<b>The Ascension of Our Lord *</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>28th May</b>
<b>The Feast of Pentecost, Whit Sunday</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>4th June</b>
<b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>11th June</b>
<b>The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ *</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>18th June</b>
St John Fisher & St Thomas More	Thu.	22nd June
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Fri.	23rd June
The Nativity of John the Baptist	Sat.	24th June
<b>Saints Peter and Paul, apostles</b>	<b>Thu.</b>	<b>29th June</b>
<b>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>6th August</b>
<b>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	<b>Tue.</b>	<b>15th Aug.</b>
<b>All Saints</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>1st Nov.</b>
<b>First Sunday of Advent (Sunday Cycle: B)</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>3rd Dec.</b>
<b>The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>25th Dec.</b>
<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>31st Dec.</b>
<b>The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>1st Jan. 2018</b>
<b>The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ *</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>7th Jan.</b>
The Baptism of Our Lord	Mon.	8th Jan.
The Presentation of Our Lord (Candlemas)		2nd Feb.
Ash Wednesday **	Wed.	14th Feb.
Saint Patrick	Sat.	17th Mar.
Saint Joseph	Mon.	19th Mar.
<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>25th Mar.</b>
Maundy Thursday	Thu.	29th Mar.
Good Friday **	Fri.	30th Mar.
Holy Saturday	Sat.	31st Mar.
Easter Sunday	Sun.	1st April

**Bold entries** above denote Holydays of Obligation (and every Sunday also).

\* In 2006, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales transferred the celebration of three Holy Days of Obligation which are Solemnities of the Lord to Sundays: the Epiphany, the Ascension of the Lord and Corpus Christi.

\*\* Days of Fasting and Abstinence.

## CYCLE OF PRAYER

In the Cycle of Prayer, the liturgical year has been divided into six periods. Please pray for the intentions stated in the Cycle, not only on a particular day, and not only at Mass, but throughout the current period, especially in your own private prayers.

<b>Lent</b>	Candidates for the Sacraments <i>especially on the Sundays of Lent</i> The Needy and Hungry of the World Penitents and Wanderers
<b>Easter</b>	New Members of the Church Vocations <i>especially on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations (26 March)</i> Human Work <i>especially on St Joseph the Worker (1 May)</i> The Right Use of the Media <i>especially on World Communications Day (Ascension of the Lord)</i> The Church <i>especially on Pentecost Sunday</i>
<b>Ordinary Time: Summer</b>	A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews Those who suffer Persecution, Oppression, and Denial of Human Rights <i>especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas More (22 June)</i> Europe <i>especially of the feasts of St Benedict (11 July), St Bridget of Sweden (23 July), St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (9 August) who with St Cyril and St Methodius (14 February), and St Catherine of Siena (29 April) are Patrons of Europe</i> Human Life <i>especially on the Day for Life (18 June)</i> Seafarers <i>especially on Sea Sunday (9 July)</i>



[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/calendar/](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/calendar/)



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Website: [www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk](http://www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk)

## THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2017



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

*The intentions are keys to live our faith in daily life, joining action to our prayers. Each intention presents to us a challenge that gives purpose to the month.*

### APRIL

#### Young People.

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

### MAY

#### Christians in Africa.

That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice and peace.

### JUNE

#### National Leaders.

That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

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*Mahatma Gandhi*

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Daughters of  
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0750 3213848 (mobile)

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*We are based in the Scout hut in Bow lane, Morden  
which is next to Hatfield Primary School*



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Call Theo on 07504 109641 or email [theo@justcalltheo.com](mailto:theo@justcalltheo.com) I'll sort it out for you, saving you time, money and stress!

[www.JustCallTheo.com](http://www.JustCallTheo.com)

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INSTRUCTOR**



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or  
**07894 883629**

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WOULD YOU READ FOR  
THOSE UNABLE TO?**

Are you willing to join the team of volunteer newsreaders and take your turn in recording the local news - that is recorded and circulated to visually impaired and blind residents in Merton each month.

If you are willing either to read or else to help technically please contact

**MERTON  
TALKING  
NEWSPAPER**

by phone

**020 8544 0551**

or by email

[mertontalkingnewspaper@hotmail.com](mailto:mertontalkingnewspaper@hotmail.com)





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## ST JOHN FISHER PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

**Thursdays (term time only)**  
**9.30 - 11.30 am in the Parish Hall**

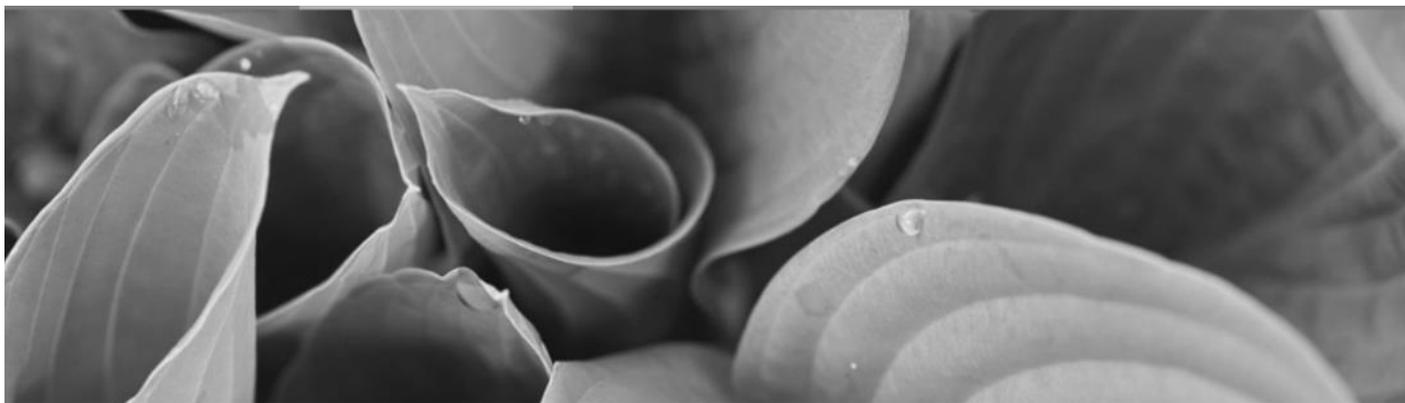


The Parent and Toddler Group invite pre-school children and their parents to come along and create new friendships within our church community.

£3 admission (includes refreshments and a new craft activity each week). Admission is limited to 30 children to ensure a fun and safe environment.

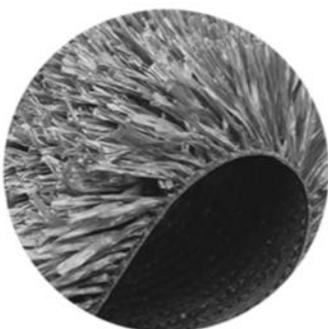
**Any questions?**  
Please contact Carly at  
**carlyjaynepollard@gmail.com**





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**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION ROTA  
FROM 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>6.00pm Vigil Mass</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>25-26 Mar</b>	Tony Walsh Jose Geremia	David Cullen	Deacon Aileen Douglas	Deacon Felicity Berry, Bernadette Brydges Evelyn Chiejina, Victor Villalobo	Peter Gunn Della Deen
<b>1-2 April</b>	Ann Powell Jane Gracias	Christine Norman	Deacon Delia D'Aguiar	Deacon John Golden, Neville Desmier Carmala Rajasooriyer, Tony Brook	Margaret Birch Breda Conway
<b>8-9 April</b>	Deacon Richard Croke	Deacon	Deacon Francis de Lima	Deacon Talissa Pothunna, Rosaline Adenyin Miriam Davis, Neville Desmier	Deacon Peter Gunn
<b>EASTER 15-16 April</b>	<b>8.00pm Vigil Mass</b> Clergy	Kevin McCullagh	Deacon Ursula O'Byrne	Deacon Michael O'Brien, Menalus Burt Talissa Pothunna, Malcolm Stevenage	Della Deen Ann Vaz
<b>22-23 April</b>	Magdalen Spooner Tony Walsh	David Cullen	Deacon Catherine Dooley	Deacon Felicity Berry, Bernadette Brydges Evelyn Chiejina, Christian Faundez	Margaret Birch Breda Conway
<b>29-30 April</b>	Deacon Jose Geremia	Christine Norman	Deacon Aileen Douglas	Deacon John Golden, Neville Desmier Carmala Rajasooriyer, Tony Brook	Peter Gunn Ann Vaz
<b>6-7 May</b>	Ann Powell Jane Gracias	Kevin McCullagh	Deacon Delia D'Aguiar	Deacon Talissa Pothunna, Malcolm Stevenage Miriam Davis, Neville Desmier	Della Deen Margaret Birch
<b>13-14 May</b>	Deacon Richard Croke	Deacon	Deacon Francis de Lima	Deacon Michael O'Brien, Menalus Burt Talissa Pothunna, Malcolm Stevenage	Deacon Breda Conway
<b>20-21 May</b>	Magdalen Spooner Tony Walsh	David Cullen	Deacon Ursula O'Byrne	Deacon Felicity Berry, Bernadette Brydges Evelyn Chiejina, Christian Faundez	Peter Gunn Ann Vaz
<b>27-28 May</b>	Jose Geremia Ann Powell	Christine Norman	Deacon Catherine Dooley	Deacon John Golden, Neville Desmier Carmala Rajasooriyer, Tony Brook	Della Deen Margaret Birch
<b>3-4 June</b>	Jane Gracias Richard Croke	Kevin McCullagh	Deacon Aileen Douglas	Deacon Talissa Pothunna, Rosaline Adenyin Miriam Davis, Neville Desmier	Breda Conway Peter Gunn
<b>10-11 June</b>	Deacon Magdalen Spooner	Deacon	Deacon Delia D'Aguiar	Deacon Michael O'Brien, Menalus Burt Talissa Pothunna, Rosaline Adenyin	Deacon Ann Vaz
<b>17-18 June</b>	Tony Walsh Jose Geremia	David Cullen	Deacon Francis de Lima	Deacon Felicity Berry, Bernadette Brydges Evelyn Chiejina, Christian Faundez	Della Deen Margaret Birch
<b>24-15 June</b>	Ann Powell Jane Gracias	Christine Norman	Deacon Ursula O'Byrne	Deacon John Golden, Neville Desmier Carmala Rajasooriyer, Tony Brook	Breda Conway Peter Gunn

**If you cannot fulfil your commitment as shown on the rota, please arrange for someone to cover for you.**  
Please check the rota at the back of the church to find your name and when you are needed as a minister.  
Please could ministers hold back and make sure that the correct minister is going up.

## WEEKEND MASS READERS' ROTA

Saturday 6.00 pm (Vigil Mass)				Sunday 8.00am			
Salomé Humanes	-	22nd April	3rd June	Devina Paul	-	30th April	11th June
Tony Walsh	-	29th April	10th June	Manda Bell	26th Mar	7th May	18th June
Peter Gunn	25th Mar	6th May	17th June	Graham Bennett	2nd April	14th May	25th June
Teresa Pollard	1st April	13th May	24th June	Anne Booth	9th April	21st May	
Paul Spooner	8th April	20th May		Barbara Desmier	16th April	28th May	
Jane Gracias	15th April	27th May		Barbara Morgan	23rd April	4th June	
Sunday 11.00 am				Sunday 6.30pm			
Thomas Davis	-	-	4th June	Mark Eaden	-	30th April	11th June
Carol Pringle	26th Mar	-	11th June	Liz Pierson	26th Mar	7th May	18th June
Christine Davis	2nd April	7th May	18th June	Ann Vaz	2nd April	14th May	25th June
Mark Lobo	9th April	14th May	25th June	Julie Sheahan	9th April	21st May	
Robert Sierra	16th April	21st May		Tracey Eaden	16th April	28th May	
John Golden	23rd April	28th May		Sophie Poole	23rd April	4th June	

**Please arrange to swap with another Reader if you cannot read on the day allocated. Thank you.**

***If you would like to read at Sunday Mass, please speak to a member of the Clergy***

## ROTA FOR COUNTERS OF OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sean Breda Dick	John G. Tony S. Sandy Mark	Rita Gavin Shirley Yvette	Neville Barbara Rosie Ciaran	Angela Patricia Peter Fay	Louise Maura Tim
19 March	26 March	2 April	9 April	16 April	30 April
7 May	14 May	21 May	28 May	4 June	11 June
18 June	25 June	2 July	9 July	16 July	23 July

### Notes

- If you know that you won't be able to make it one Sunday please try to organise a replacement and tell John Golden (020) 8540 5775 or jeg245@talktalk.net. If you can't organise a replacement tell the person at the head of your team list. He or she may decide to continue without you that week.
- If you would like to join the group please contact Father David.
- The rota is administered by John Golden - please tell him if you need any permanent change.
- The dates from 2nd July are subject to confirmation closer to the month.

## PARISH GROUPS

	Who for?	When?	Where?	Run by?	Contact Details?
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Parishioners (post-First Holy Communion)			Robert Roy	srhroy@sky.com
<b>Choir</b> 11am Mass	Church Choir	Practice: Tuesday 3.00-4.30pm	Church Choir Loft	Kevin Deegan	kevin.deegan@blueyonder.co.uk
<b>Crusaders</b>	Post-First Holy Communion Young People	First Tuesday each month 4.00-5.00pm	Day Chapel	Sister Catherine	020 8542 6484
<b>Folk Group</b> 9.30am Mass	Singers and Musicians		Family Mass	Mary Farrell	mary@tarmon.co.uk
<b>Guild of Our Lady</b>	Post-Confirmation Young People	Monday evening	Day Chapel	Sister Catherine	020 8542 6484
<b>Justice &amp; Peace Group</b>	Parishioners	Once a month	Venue varies	J&P Team	sjf.justiceandpeace@gmail.com
<b>Over 60s Club</b>	Parishioners	Thursday 1.00-3.00pm	Parish Hall	Sister Catherine	020 8542 6484
<b>RCIA</b>	Anyone wishing to learn more about Catholicism	Tuesday 8pm	257 Cannon Hill Lane	Sister Catherine	020 8542 6484
<b>Readers</b>	Please speak to the Clergy if you would like to read	Mass	Church	Clergy	207 Cannon Hill Lane
<b>SVP</b> (St Vincent de Paul Society)	Needy parishioners	Help available as needed	By arrangement	SVP Team	Sean Deane 020 8715 7972
<b>Talkabout</b>	Parishioners	Editorial Team meet quarterly	Venue varies	Editorial Team	talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk
<b>Teams of Our Lady</b>	Parish Families	Each Team meets monthly	Homes of members	Davide Buttaci	davide011974@gmail.com
<b>Toddler Group</b>	Children (birth - 4 yrs)	Thursday Term Time 9.30-11.30am	Parish Hall	Carly Pollard	carlyjaynepollard@gmail.com
<b>Youth Group</b>	Parish children (Year 6 & above)	Friday 7.30– 9.00pm	Parish Hall	<b>VACANCY</b>	** The Youth Group is <b>closed</b> as new leaders are needed
<b>UNIFORM GROUPS</b>		<i>Uniform Groups Coordinator:</i>		Jaki O'Neill- Ford	jakioneillford@yahoo.co.uk
<b>Rainbows</b>	Girls (5 - 7 yrs)	Friday 4.30-5.30pm	Parish Hall	Sue Green <i>Rainbow Leader</i>	020 8544 1167
<b>Brownies</b>	Girls (6 - 9 yrs)	Monday 5.30-7.00pm	Parish Hall	Leanne Kennett <i>Brown Owl</i>	LKennett75@virginmedia.com 07957 470 943
<b>Guides</b>	Girls (10 - 14 yrs)	Tuesday 6.15-7.45pm	Parish Hall	Sandy Brown <i>Guide Leader</i>	san.brown8@hotmail.co.uk.
<b>Beavers</b>	Boys & Girls (6 - 8 yrs)	Friday 5.45pm	Parish Hall	Marcia Butacci <i>Asst. Beaver Leader</i>	mmissse@hotmail.com
<b>Cubs</b>	Boys & Girls (8 - 10½ yrs)	Wednesday 6.00-7.30pm	Parish Hall	John Line <i>Cub Scout Leader</i>	07906 844749
<b>Scouts</b>	Boys & Girls (10½ - 14 yrs)	Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm	Parish Hall	Elaine O'Keefe <i>Asst. Scout Leader</i>	elaineokeeffe@hotmail.com 07886 474 669
<b>Explorers</b>	Boys & Girls (14 - 19 yrs)	Tuesday 7.45-9.30pm	Parish Hall	Tom Carter & Andy Newman <i>ESLs</i>	dtjambo@yahoo.co.uk

# PARISH DETAILS

## ST JOHN FISHER PARISH



**Parish Priest**  
Fr David Gummert



**Assistant Priest**  
Fr Matthias Kizito



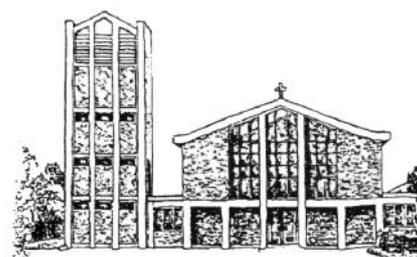
**Deacon**  
Fred Carter



**Deacon**  
Tom Kavanagh



**Sr Catherine**  
Mulcahy OLSH



**Address:** The Presbytery  
207 Cannon Hill Lane  
Merton Park  
London SW20 9DB

**Telephone:** 020 8542 6355

**E-mail:** sjf.merton@gmail.com  
talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk

**Website:** www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk

**Parish Business:** 7.00 pm Mondays

**Baptism:** 3:00 pm First Sunday of the month by prior arrangement

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 am  
5:30 - 5:50 pm

**Mass Times:**

Weekdays: 9:00 am

First Fridays: 8:00 pm

Holydays: 6:00 pm (Vigil), 9:00 am & 7.30 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am & 6:00 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:00 am  
9:30 am (Family Mass)  
11:00 am (Sung Mass)  
6:30 pm

**Repository:** Open after the 9.30am Mass on Sundays, until 11am, and after the 6.00pm Vigil Mass on the first Saturday of the month All occasion cards, Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation items available.

## ST JOHN FISHER PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL - 2017

**Fr. David**  
• President

**Fr Matthias**  
• Ex-Officio

**Deacon Fred**  
• Ex-Officio

**Deacon Tom**  
• Ex-Officio  
• Apostolate

**Sr Catherine**  
• Liturgy  
• Adult Formation  
• Evangelisation  
• Over 60s Club

**John Golden**  
• Chairman

**Davide Buttaci**  
• Vice Chairman  
• Teams of Our Lady

**Peter Gunn**  
• Secretary

**Peter Nash**  
• Justice & Peace

**Carly Pollard**  
• Parents & Toddlers

**Ursula O'Byrne**  
• Parish Safeguarding



**Sean Deane**  
• St. Vincent de Paul

**Jaki O'Neill-Ford**  
• Uniform Groups

**Marcellina Chiejina**  
• Elected Member

**Michael Manion**  
• Elected Member

**Eoin O'Connell**  
• Elected Member

**Barbara Owen**  
• Elected Member





# firstholychommunion.co.uk

Communion

Boys Suits

Christening

Confirmation

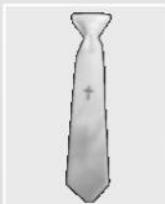
## Our Promise

We Will Not Sell The Same Dress To Another Child At The Same Mass

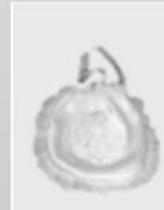
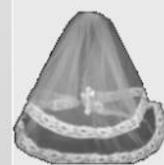


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