

St. Erconwald's Parish Magazine



Issue No. 24, Autumn 2015

Contents

Editorial	Pages 3-4
Whereabouts	Page 5
CAFOD	Pages 6-7
From the Parish	Page 8-9
Quiz Night	Pages 10-11
Summer Outing	Page 12
Parish Activities	Page 13
St. Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools	Pages 14-15
Family Trip To Grenada	Page 16-18
Lilt of Irish Laughter	Page 19
A busy start at St. Bernadette	Pages 20-21
A Royal Day Out	Page 22
"In Memoriam"	Page 23

Answers to "Who Am I?" Summer Edition

1. John the Baptist; 2. Peter; 3. Thomas; 4. Peter; 5. Paul; 6. Lazarus; 7. Luke; 8. Pontius Pilate; 9. Judas Iscariot; 10. Zacchaeus; 11. Nicodemus; 12. Moses; 13. David; 14. Samuel; 15. Moses; 16. Jacob; 17. Joseph; 18. Hannah; 19. Esther; 20. Naaman

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Editorial: God's Mercy is For Everyone

MISERICORDIAE
VULTUS



POPE FRANCIS

BULL OF INDUCTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY
JUBILEE OF MERCY

In the Apostolic Exhortation “The Joy of the Gospel”, Pope Francis reminds us that “Such a community [the Church] has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father’s infinite mercy. Let us try a little harder to take the step and to become involved [EG 24]. It is for this reason that on Tuesday 8th December, the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council and continuing until the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday 20th November 2016, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica announcing the Holy Year of Mercy open.

It is interesting to note that this Jubilee, unlike others, is based on a theme rather than an event. The Holy year of Mercy intends to call the Church once again to its missionary priority of being a sign and witness in every aspect of pastoral life.

The Motto “Merciful Like the Father” taken from Luke 6.36, serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure.

The Logo shows an image quite important to the early Church, that of the Son having taken upon his shoulder the lost soul, demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption. It has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love that has the power to change one’s life. A particular feature is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes on humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. The scene is captured within the shape of an almond, calling to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human.



A copy of the booklets “Year of Mercy” and “Pilgrimage Companion for the Year of Mercy” will be given to each family. These booklets can be used for personal, group and parish levels.

The side Chapel will be the Parish Focus for this “Year of Mercy” - with the Reconciliation Room at one end and the Image of the Immaculate Conception [the Mother of Mercy] at the other. Information about events being planned in our Parish, in the Deanery, and in the Diocese will be announced in the weekly newsletter, the website and the noticeboard.



The “Year of Mercy” provides a wonderful opportunity for us at St. Erconwald’s to be renewed in, to celebrate and share the joy of being reconciled to the Father and to one another.

Pope Francis wrote: “In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: ‘Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old’” (MV 25).

Fr. Anthony



My thoughts now turn to the Mother of Mercy. May the sweetness of her countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God’s tenderness. No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh.

[MV 2A]

Whereabouts?



1. Where is the story of Adam and Eve set?

a. The garden of Eden; b. The garden of Gethsemane; c. The hanging gardens of Babylon

2. Where was Paul travelling to when he became a Christian?

a. Cyprus; b. Damascus; c. Ephesus



3. Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus when, aged 12, he became separated from them on the way home from Jerusalem?

a. In school; b. In the shops; c. In the temple

4. Where did Mary, the mother of Jesus, come from?

a. Bethlehem; b. Capernaum; c. Nazareth

5. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, where was the man travelling to when set upon by robbers?

a. Jericho; b. Jerusalem; c. Joppa

6. Where did Jesus appear to Cleopas and an unnamed companion?

a. On the Damascus Road; b. On the Gaza Road; c. On the Emmaus Road

7. Where did Noah's ark come to rest?

a. On Mount Ararat; b. On Mount Everest; c. On Mount Sinai

8. Where did the people of Israel walk through water?

a. The Dead Sea; b. The North Sea; c. The Red Sea.

9. Where did Elijah defeat the prophets of Baal?

A. Mount Carmel; Mount Snowdon; c. Mount Hermon.



10. Where was Moses set afloat in a basket?

a. River Amazon; b. River Nile; c. River Jordan.



CAFOD is grateful to the people of St Erconwald's parish for their great and regular generosity and we thought it might be helpful to recap on what

CAFOD is and what it does.

We are GLOBAL NEIGHBOURS

We believe that everyone in the world has the right to live their lives with dignity. That's why we work through the local Catholic Church and other partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to fight poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.

We are ROOTED IN THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

We are the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Guided by the values of compassion, solidarity and hope, we are rooted in the Catholic community. Together, with the help of our volunteers, we put our faith into action to help our sisters and brothers living in extreme poverty to reach their full potential, regardless of religion or culture.

We are HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

No one wants to live on handouts. Our priority is to equip people with skills and opportunities to live with dignity, support their families and give something back to their communities.



We are FACING THE TOUGHEST CHALLENGES

Conflict. Climate change. Inequality. HIV and AIDS. Together, we tackle challenges head on every day, using our passion and expertise to bring about positive change.

We are THERE IN A CRISIS



We support local organisations who can act fast, providing food, water and shelter for people who have lost everything. And we're there in the months and years that follow too, helping people rebuild their lives and prepare for whatever the future holds.

We are SPEAKING OUT FOR JUSTICE

When international bodies and governments make decisions that damage poor communities, we must speak out.

Campaigning works – it can take years of effort or be as simple as signing a petition. Cancelled debt, increased aid for water and sanitation, action on climate change and a clamp down on corruption have all come as a result of taking action together.



We are LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Each year, tens of thousands of young people discover our work at school or in groups – from volunteers, teachers and classmates.

We inspire young people to be the change they want to see in their communities and worldwide.

We are TRUSTED

The amount of money we receive and exactly how we spend it changes each year. But one thing stays the same – our commitment to spending it wisely.

Out of every £1 we spend, 88p goes on vital emergency relief and development work in the world's poorest communities, as well as education and lobbying work in the UK, with only 12p spent on raising more money so that our work can continue.

You can find out more about CAFOD'S work at their website www.cafod.org.uk or contact our parish group [see noticeboard].

We are INSPIRED BY ORDINARY PEOPLE



“We were just doing what we ought to do, remembering that we are all God’s children.” Elspeth Orchard

Elspeth Orchard is just one of the extraordinary Catholic women who helped organise the first Fast Day in 1960 that raised over £6,000. Two years later, CAFOD was born.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day raised £633.76. Thank you for your continued support.



Comings and Goings.....
 [From the Parish and Beyond]
 Please remember in your prayers



We welcome and congratulate Gabriel Kidane; and Nevaeh-Leigh Moses who were baptised here recently and their families.

Anthony Aboagye; Chloe Angell; Katie Angell; Alexandra Correia; Joanna Ismail; John Paul Ismail; Elizabeth Lekstakaj; Deborah Obadiaru; and Mikael Pereira preparing for their First Holy Communion, their families and their catechists.



Jaiden Aaron; Reanne Allen; Candice John-Baptiste; Aoife Cronin; Mario-Tristen Joseph; Joshua Kaad; Helen Leslie; James Nichols; Joseph John O'Reilly; Angelo Pereira; Antony Shanath Rogers; and Nia Thomas preparing for Confirmation, their families and their catechists.

Diane Elaine Dinham; Lee Ping Wong; and Gerald Christopher Guinto in the RCIA programme, their families, sponsors and their catechists.



Congratulations to all the couples in our parish who are celebrating their anniversary of marriage. Congratulations also to Michelle McDonagh and Darren Leslie who were married in our Church on Friday 4th September

Of your charity keep all the sick and housebound in your thoughts and prayers. May the Lord Jesus bless, console and strengthen all the sick, and may Mary, health of the sick, intercede for them.



Our sympathies to the families of those departed: Zelia Maria Remedios; Delphine Da Silva; Mark Featherstone and Seenar Jainu-Deen.

Mass Of Angels



On Saturday, 3rd October we held our 3rd Mass of the Angels. This is a very special Mass to console those who have lost a child as a result of stillbirth, miscarriage or through any other tragic circumstances.

We don't always acknowledge the deaths of these little souls, as it is not the done thing in our society, but the pain of loss remains. The loss of a life that might have been, a loss which stays with people throughout life.

Fr. Anthony prepared and celebrated a very touching, kind and sympathetic Mass, which gave comfort to those attending. After the welcome and introduction, Father invited those present to come forward to light a candle in memory of their loved one. Father kindly shared with those at the Mass a personal account of how such a loss had affected his own family. After the Mass "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" prayer cards were distributed, as a memento of the occasion. All were then invited to the Hall for light refreshments.

Please God we will celebrate this special Mass again next year. If you do know someone who has suffered a miscarriage or stillbirth please do let them know about this very special Mass.

The Wembley Royal British Legion, the smallest branch in the country, say "thank you" to St. Erconwald's Church for their marvelous donation of £56.51p to their 2014 Poppy Appeal which helped them raise £67,850, one of the highest collections in the country. Please support the 2015 appeal.



Dementia Carers Support Group meet every second Monday between 11am - 1pm. [see church newsletter/website for dates]. Do you care for someone who is living with Dementia (incl. Alzheimer's)?

COME AND BE SUPPORTED. For further information please contact Frank Arrojo on 07867 903917 (email frankj.arrojo@gmail.com).



On Saturday, 10th October we held our annual Quiz Night. We were very pleased with the large turnout and were delighted to be joined by members of the Forest United Football club and the manager from Brook House and not least by our parishioners, their families and friends.

Our Quiz Master this year was the excellent, Caroline Horan, who also set the questions and prepared all the papers. Caroline was joined after the interval by James Nichols, Quiz Master Trainee! Well done to both of them. The questions were set just right, not too hard but annoyingly easy, judging by the “I knew that” “OH NO” “Ahhh”.

We had eight teams competing, as in previous years each team was asked to pick a name for their team. It is always very interesting to see the names people choose: Rogues Gallery, Misguided, Winos, Gardena, Green Forest, The Sunshine Gang, The Young Ones and The Brookhouse Scots. The competition was quite close and people were pleased to have an interval for some refreshments, whilst Fr. Anthony went to collect the food. Thanks to the staff of the Blue Oyster this was ready and waiting for Father. As we have come to expect from The Blue Oyster the food was excellent and service was given with a smile.

TEAM	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	TOTAL
THE WINOS	8	9	22 ⁰⁰	0 ^{1/2}	12	8 ^{1/2}	69.5
ROGUES GALLERY	11	7	22 ⁰⁰	11	8	10	69
THE SUNSHINE GANG	7	7	21 ⁰⁰	9	6	9	62.5
MISGUIDED	7	6	10	13	8 ^{1/2}	12	64.5
GREEN FOREST	8	9	9 ^{1/2}	20	8	9	63.5
THE YOUNG ONES	5	3	20 ⁰⁰	0 ^{1/2}	8	9	62.5
GARDENA	8	4	10	11	18	9	64
THE BROOKHOUSE SCOTS	10	16 ⁰⁰	11	11	10	9 ^{1/2}	65.5

Before long everyone was tucking into delicious hot food. There was a lovely atmosphere in the hall as people chatted and enjoyed their meal. After the break we continued with the quiz, the scoring was very close. However, we are pleased to announce the winners of the **St. Erconwald's Quiz 2015** by 1 point were The Winos.



Of course the evening did not end there, guess what happened next! Yes we had a raffle.

The feedback we received from those who attended was that they had an enjoyable evening, meeting and chatting with others and exercising their brains.

Finally, we would like to thank Caroline for making the evening possible, James assistant quiz master, Chris for the sound system, Eileen and Iris in the bar, Patricia for coordinating the raffle, Tom for setting up the hall, Chris and Aileen, Fr. Anthony for collecting the food and special thanks to the Blue Oyster for the wonderful food. Last but by no means least thanks to all who attended the Quiz. £600 was raised towards the Parish Hall Building Fund. Thank you for your continued support.

See you next year!



Blue Oyster Fish Bar
190 Preston Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8PA
Tel: 020 8904 6122

All That I Am

A group for those with specialised learning needs comes together on a monthly basis. We meet on the last Saturday of the month from 11.00am to 1.00pm. If you would like more information, please contact Christine Davies on 07940582421 or email: christinedavis@btinternet.com Do come and join us and help us be all that we can be.

ESOL English – Library

Wednesday 11.15am – 3.15pm a local school in conjunction with the Community Library is hiring the Hall to teach pupils' parents English.

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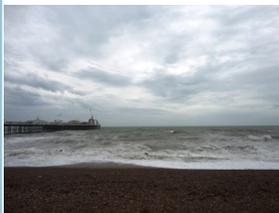
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Summer Outing 2015



Wednesday, 26th August was selected as the date for our Annual Summer outing, later than usual due to other commitments. Fortunately, for some of us it meant being able to go for the first time. Unfortunately, it was the wettest day of the summer. He gives with one hand and takes with the other!

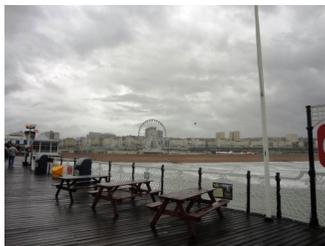
Well two coaches of brave souls from St. Erconwald's set off for the coastal town of Brighton dressed for the weather [definitely not shorts and T shirts]. The further south we went the more we felt like turning back. In fact, when we reached our destination the driver asked what time we would like to return, some smart person shouted in an hour.

What to do in Brighton on a wet day was the challenge! Well as it turned out our people found plenty to do. Some took a tour guide of the town, visited the Toy Museum, the SeaLife Centre, others went to a Church Service, Cinema, Shopping Centre, or to the Amusement Arcade on the Pier. There were also various places to eat. Some mad souls were seen collecting pebbles from the beach and of course one could blow the cobwebs away with a good brisk walk along the pier. Anyway there was plenty to do.



The decision to leave Brighton at 5pm earlier in the day may have been a bit premature, because as we all boarded the coaches, guess what happened? Yes the sun decided to put his hat on! Why did we say we would leave an hour earlier? [To get stuck in traffic?]

When all is said and done, everyone enjoyed the day out and for some people these trips are their holiday.



Recruitment Drive



We held our Recruitment drive on the 5th/6th September. People were invited to the Hall for refreshments and were asked to consider volunteering for some of our ministries. Thank you to all those who went to the Hall and especially those who volunteered. We gained a much needed Children's Choir, some new Church cleaners, helpers for the Repository, Social Committee and the Sacramental Programmes.

Cake Sales

A big thank you to all those who donated and purchased cakes, on 26th/27th September and 24th/25th October.

In December, we will not hold our usual cake sale; instead we will have a limited number of Christmas Cakes on sale. If, you would like to bake or donate a Christmas Cake traditional to your culture, please do. It will add to our celebration of Christmas here in St. Erconwald's. Christmas traditions from many nations to one destination.



Christmas Card Fair



Our 2nd Christmas Card Fair was held on 17th/18th October in the Church Hall. We were very pleased with the turn out. Thank you to all who came to view the wide selection of religious goods. It would be impossible to display them all in the Repository, especially the big cribs (which sold out).

There is a small selection of goods on display in the Repository and we will try to extend the amount of items from mid-November.

Presently, for the month of November we have a selection of items such as candles, battery candles, solar lamps and other items suitable for the cemeteries.

Many thanks to Elizabeth and to all who help in the running of the Repository.

Recent Events

The children have returned from their summer holidays and settled in back to school. We have had a very busy first few weeks.

British Values

We have been exploring the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. They have had school council elections, formulated class mottos and coats of arms to give them an understanding about these areas.

Mathematics Workshops

Parents of pupils in Year 2 and Year 4 participated in mathematics workshops delivered by the staff. The aim of this project is to improve parental knowledge about their child's mathematical knowledge and understanding, as well as providing an opportunity for parents to experience fun mathematical activities with their child. These parental workshops will continue throughout the term.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 25th September we had a wonderful coffee morning, to raise money for Macmillan.





Bright Sock Day

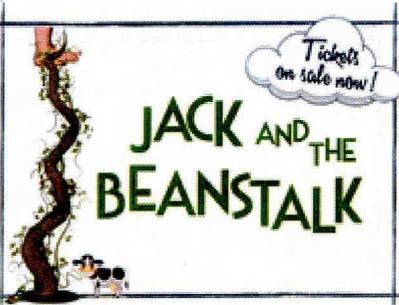
On 'CAFOD Harvest Fast Day', Friday 2nd October the School Council organised a charity 'Bright Sock Day'. Both schools raised £422.60 which was donated to CAFOD.

We have lots of other exciting events planned for the remainder of the term including a carnival theme for Black History month, Citizenship Week and anti-bullying day as well as our usual variety of healthy school events. Watch this space!



Jack and the Beanstalk Your Local Family Pantomime

The Theatre at Claremont in Kenton: 7th-10th January 2016



Our pantomime is a firm favourite with the local community priding itself on the perfect blend of traditional family entertainment, high energy and, of course, value for money! We have frequently been nominated for the National Operatic and Dramatic Association's award for London's best pantomime, and we expect Jack and the Beanstalk to be no exception.

The Chameleon Amateur Dramatic Society.

Meet on Monday & Thursday in the Parish Hall, from 7pm -10pm, presently rehearsing for their Christmas Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. See website www.thechameleons.co.uk



Living and supporting dad with Dementia and Alzheimer's – Our family trip to Grenada, West Indies

Carol Allen



I would like to share my experience of my first summer supporting and living with my father who has vascular dementia and Alzheimer's disease. My dad is called Denton Mackie, he is 84 years old and was first diagnosed with Dementia and Alzheimer's in February this year.

I first suspected my dad was suffering from memory problems during winter 2013. My dad has always been a very active and jovial person. My mother passed away eight years ago and since then he has lived in his home in Wembley on his own very independently. He cooked his signature fried fish for our first African Caribbean Day in 2013 and it was one of the first dishes to finish.

He prided himself on his housekeeping and gardening for his close neighbours, always the first with a cheerful word and relaxed, 'typically West Indian' outlook on seemingly bleak situations. He used to go out each day to shop or just a walk.



I reckon the isolation of living alone each day, lack of weekly routines and his pre-existing medical conditions further exacerbated the progression of the dementia.

The winter of 2013 was the first time he did not leave the house for several days, claiming that there was no point because it was so cold and asking me to do the shopping for him, all usual decisions for an elderly person living on their own during the colder months.



During 2014 dad started not taking interest in social interaction with family and friends, putting it down to 'not wanting to bother' with the fuss around occasions. Then simplifying his meals by saying that as he's on his own he just wanted a 'small bellyful'.



His meal tastes changed as well, with just wanting to eat West Indian food typical of what he would eat before he came to England in 1959. Getting dressed for special occasions was a challenge, although I enjoyed helping him to dress smartly in his suits and using the time to reminisce on earlier days

with mum. Further concern grew when he started forgetting to take his tablets, paying bills, conversations and missed routine appointments.

I suggested going to the doctors just to raise the concerns and find out whether everything was OK. After an anxious wait, dementia was diagnosed. Dad was swiftly placed on medication to delay the condition.

As the diagnoses was new I assumed we were dealing with the early stages and genuinely thought that it would be years before the disease really 'kicked in'. I was wrong, within weeks dad had a couple of falls, stopped eating regularly and stopped taking his tablets. By May of this year we both agreed that dad would move in with my family. Dennis and I worked out a plan to care for him and made adjustments to day to day living.



Adjusting to living with dementia has been a challenge with dad constantly requesting to 'go home to Grenada'. The yearning became overwhelming by July so we decided to take dad home with our children Reece and Reanne who were travelling to Grenada for the first time. It's been years since I last visited. Dad wanted to show the grandchildren where he grew up and the culture that dominated his formative years before travelling to England with other West Indians to find work. He last visited in 2004 and was looking forward to reconnecting with the old country.



Grenada, 'Home' is known as the beautiful "Island of Spice" because of the production of nutmeg, mace, cinnamon and cocoa crops of which it is one of the world's largest exporters.

From the moment we arrived Dad was convinced the climate was certainly hotter than it ever has been. The smells and the food really stimulated his senses. It was interesting to hear his conversations with relatives, it was like there was no dementia, with relatives stating that he looked so well. Dad really got a lot out of the trip, a great one for all things nature, he reminisced with family members and old friends about happy times during boyhood. We stayed with relatives in the mountain region of the island. Dad showed his grandchildren native trees and their uses, the village where he grew up and even the mango trees he used to steal from.



The tropical sun gives you extraordinary energy levels and although I was on holiday it was nothing to get up at dawn everyday wash clothes and cook both breakfast and dinner by 10am. The rest of the day was spent on the beach, relaxing on the veranda, eating and chatting with neighbours. Most evenings were spent getting to know relatives and learning about the country and sampling new dishes. I learnt to cook my dad's favourite dishes and now cook corn-meal porridge with 'spice' (cinnamon) everyday.



We visited a rum factory, the national waterfalls, the cocoa factory and the even smaller tranquil island of Carriacou for a short break.

Since returning in September I have cherished the time in Grenada with family as I realise my future supporting dad will be a whole team effort. I have since given up full time work to care for him and now attend St. Erconwald's Dementia Support Group which I find extremely informative and supportive. There is still much to learn and I plan to start taking dad out a lot more around London to visit friends and sightseeing as he has never enjoyed London, even though he's lived here for over fifty years. So, to the future and I ask for your prayers as we continue to take one day at a time with Denton by God's grace.



The Lilt of Irish Laughter

MISSING THE POINT



Mick and Seamus were going camping. They pitched their tent under the stars and went to sleep. Sometime in the middle of the night Mick woke Seamus up and said: "Seamus, look up at the stars, and tell me what you see." Seamus, being a bit of an amateur philosopher replied: "I see millions and millions of stars." Mick said: "And what do you deduce from that?" Seamus replied: "Well, if there are millions of stars, and if even a few of those have planets, it's quite likely there are some planets like Earth out there. And if there are a few planets like Earth out there, there might also be life." And Mick said: "Seamus, you're some eegit, it means that somebody stole our tent."

KEEP

Have you heard about the man who went to the hardware store to get some screws? "How long do you want them?" Asked the shopkeeper.

"Well, actually, I was hoping to keep them," he replied.



SMILE



Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?" "Outstanding," Fred replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques: visualization, association, etc. It was great." "That's great! And what was the name of the clinic?" Fred went

blank. He thought and thought, but couldn't remember. Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?" You mean a rose?" "Yes, that's it!" Fred turned to his wife. "Rose, what was the name of that memory clinic?"

A busy start to the new year at St Bernadette's



We have had a very calm but busy start to the academic year at St Bernadette's. We have said goodbye to last year's Y6 children who have gone onto their new Secondary Schools (mainly St Gregory's, Salvatorian and Sacred Heart) and we have welcomed 60 new children into our Reception classes, along with many new families. We hope that they are all going to be very happy and do well here.

Our Y5 and Y6 children were privileged to travel to Saracens RFC to have their picture taken with the **Rugby World Cup** (The Webb Ellis Trophy) and they played on the pitch and met the players. It was a very inspirational visit!

We are having brand **new accommodation being built for our Y4 pupils** to replace the old huts that were temporary 35 years ago! These will be up and running by half-term and will be an excellent learning environment for our pupils.

At the end of September we held our first **lesson observations** of the year in Maths and I was delighted by the exceptionally high standards on display from all involved; teachers, learning supports and children. These confirmed our status as an 'outstanding' school. Our children are a pleasure to teach and always show excellent behaviour and have a thirst for learning. I am very proud to be their Headteacher. However do not just take my word for it, come and see our school on a visit that is held every Monday afternoon at 1.30pm. Just telephone the office on 0208204 8902 and arrange a convenient date for a tour and bring your child along with you if you wish. **If you put our school down as first choice on your application form then history shows that your child will be given a place if they are a practising Catholic.**



Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. [Nelson Mandela]



We have a very exciting few months ahead as we prepare to become an **Academy in January 2016**. This is a tremendous opportunity for the school to really lead the way in an ever-changing educational environment. We will be closely linked with St Gregory's High School in Kenton and we will be setting up our own 'learning trust' which is aimed as a support mechanism for other schools in the areas of special education needs (SEN), behaviour and leadership. We will be working alongside the Diocese and the Local Authority as we seek to raise standards further.

As part of our Academy conversion we will be opening our own **Nursery in September 2016**. If you have a child who will be 3 years old next September and 4 during the following academic year then we would invite you to give us your child's details so that we can offer them a place in preparation for their entry into school life.



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School is a large and successful community and we would like you as a parishioner of St Erconwald's Parish to be a part of it. If you require any more information then please contact the school office on 0208204 8902.

*To educate a man in mind and not in morals
is to educate a menace to society.*

Theodore Roosevelt



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Did you see President Xi of China go into Buckingham palace for a State Banquet with the Queen? Have you ever wondered what the Palace is like and what is involved in a State Banquet?

I had the opportunity to answer these questions this summer when I visited Buckingham Palace.

Every summer the Palace opens its doors to visitors and gives them the chance to see inside what is one of the most famous and magnificent buildings in London. The official London residence of Britain's sovereigns since 1837. The tour focuses on the State rooms.

Entry to the Palace was through the Grand Entrance, used by those who come to the Palace at the invitation of The Queen. From there it is up a magnificent staircase to the Green Drawing Room, then the Throne Room, onwards along the picture gallery with priceless works of art and then many other notable rooms including the Music Room where guests are presented to The Queen, on the occasion of a State visit and the White Drawing Room, which serves as a royal reception room for The Queen and members of the Royal Family to gather before official occasions.

At the heart of the State rooms is the Ballroom which is where the Queen carries out investitures and where State Banquets take place. For the summer opening this year it was laid out as if for a banquet. Supporting displays told the story of the planning and preparation which precedes such events and the work that goes into making sure that every detail is addressed.

The tour ends in the garden of the Palace where you can sit on the terrace in the Garden Cafe and enjoy a cup of tea. As well as the cafe there is the Garden Shop where you can purchase a souvenir of your visit from a wide variety of merchandise.

I thoroughly enjoyed the visit and the chance to see inside the Palace and learn something about what goes on behind the scenes. Information about tours can be found at www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit/the-state-rooms-buckingham-palace. Pay a visit and enjoy being royal for a day.



Death

[In memory of my granddad Maurice whom I wasn't luck enough to know; and my great granddad Carmelo, whom I was very fond of and who passed away, aged 92, on 15th January 2013].

The clock is ticking, time is running out
Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide
The flower is slowly wilting,
the dry petals gently floating to the dry, cracked ground
The darkness slowly ebbing its way across your blurred view,
a dark hand slowly smothering your rasping breath
For the last time tonight you close your eyes....

The pain tearing at my heart, ripping me apart
The screams of agony echoing through the ebony night
The shimmering moonlight shining onto my pale face,
twisted in agony
The beads of sweat shimmering like stars across my ashen face
Tears pouring down like turrets of rain
Splashing onto the newly dug soil
Again and again I ask myself why you had to leave me,
Endless thoughts swirling round and round
like a never ending whirlpool
Why, why, why

Julian Dalli



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Charity No. 233699

PARISH PRIEST

Father Anthony Psaila

PARISH OFFICE:

See the weekly newsletter or visit: <http://www.erconwald.org.uk>

PARISH HALL LETS:

Elizabeth Patten: wembley3@rcdow.org.uk

CHILD PROTECTION/VULNERABLE ADULTS

Lesley Gaynor and Margaret Nichols

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm; 9am and 11.30am

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 4.30 - 5.00pm

HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION: Wednesday 10.00-11.00am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday, Tuesday ,Wednesday: 9.30am; Friday: 9.30am and 7.00pm.

ALL YOURS

A young man rang the police and said there was a lion in his back garden. "What should I do?" he asked.

"WELL, if it's not claimed in three months," he was told, "you can keep it."

