

# *St. Erconwald's Parish Magazine*



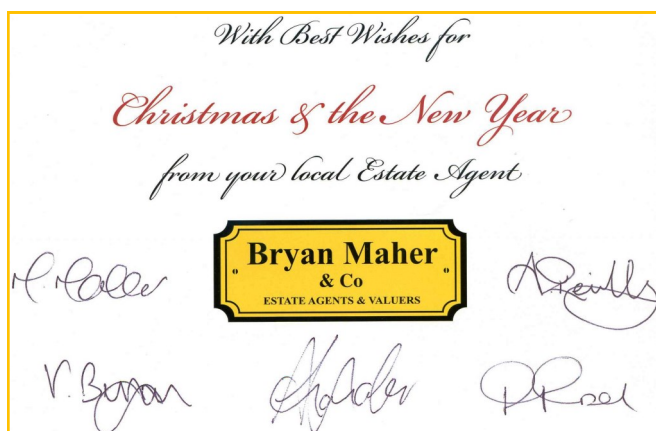
Issue No. 25, Christmas 2015

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### Answers to "Whereabouts" - Autumn Edition

1a. The garden of Eden; 2b. Damascus; 3c. In the temple; 4c. Nazareth; 5a. Jericho; 6c. On the Emmaus Road; 7a. On Mount Ararat; 8c. The Red Sea; 9a. Mount Carmel; 10b. River Nile;



## Editorial: Year of Mercy



On the 8<sup>th</sup> December, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of Mercy, Pope Francis launched the Year of Mercy with the solemn opening of the Holy Door. A very important symbolic act performed by each pilgrim is to pass through the Holy Door. Christ identified Himself as 'the door.' "I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe; he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture." [John 10. 7-9]

To pass through the door is to pass from this world into the presence of God, just as in the old Temple of Jerusalem on the feast of Yom Kippur the High Priest passed through the veil covering the doorway of the Holy of Holies to enter into the presence of God to offer the sacrifice of atonement.

On the day of Atonement, Israel confessed the nation's sins, and asked forgiveness and cleansing. The high priest entered the Most Holy Place of the Temple on this day alone. Recognising this day as the holiest of feast days, Jews neither ate nor drank for twenty-four hours.

One of the details that all three synoptic gospels give us at the death of Jesus is: "And suddenly, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom." (Mt.27:51, Mk.15:38, Lk.23:45) The veil of the sanctuary marked God's presence in the Holy of Holies. No person could go beyond that veil, save the High Priest on Atonement day. Behind this veil dwelt the Spirit of God.

The tearing from top to bottom of the veil means that now everybody is allowed to go into the presence of God and that the function of the Holy of Holies is not needed anymore. Every human being may approach God. God is not remote from humanity, but invites all to his love. St. Paul tells us that at that time: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not holding anyone's fault against them, but entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." (2 Cor.5:19)

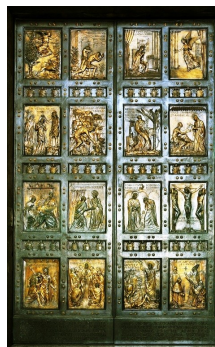




As we celebrate the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wishes that everyone, regardless of their state, be able to make a pilgrimage through a Holy Door. To pass through the door is to confess with firm conviction that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Lord, and the Savior who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation. With great courage, a person freely decides to cross the threshold leaving behind the kingdom of this world so as to enter the new life of grace of the Kingdom of God.

When the door opens, the obstacles of passage to our Lord are removed. During the Holy Year, we hope and pray that the obstacles of personal weakness, temptation, and sin will be removed so that we will have a holy union with our Lord.

During this Christmas Season and the coming year, as we celebrate the Year of Mercy, let us remind ourselves of God's great love for us; that He became one like us to save us from our sin and make us friends with Him and with one another.



Wishing you and your families a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.



*Wishing you and your families  
a Blessed Christmas  
And a Peaceful New Year*

*Fr. Anthony*

## Prayer for the Year of Mercy

*FATHER, Slow to anger,  
abounding in mercy.*

*You see us and run to us  
when we are far away from you,  
You find your way to us  
when we cannot find our way to you,  
You are always faithful when we are unfaithful.*

*JESUS CHRIST,  
You entered the house of sinners,  
You sat at the table of the poor,  
You mounted the Cross, your throne of mercy.*

*HOLY SPIRIT,  
You pour your healing gifts over our wounds,  
You anoint us to bring good news to the poor,  
You send us out as missionaries of mercy.*

*GOD OF MERCIES,  
Have mercy on us, so that where sin abounds  
your grace may abound all the more,  
and we shall become like you, Merciful.*

*AMEN.*

Let us open the stable door and help change ourselves and the world



One of the key symbols of the Year of Mercy which has just started is a Door. Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's on the 8 December and local doors are being opened in Cathedrals and churches throughout the world. But why the emphasis on doors? A holy door has been used since the fifteenth century as a ritual expression of conversion. Pilgrims and penitents pass through it as a gesture of leaving the past behind and crossing the threshold from sin to grace. But the door finds meaning only when the believer associates the door with Christ. Jesus is the Door!

This theme of the importance of doors was reflected by Cardinal Peter Turkson speaking about the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in the light of Pope Francis' recent encyclical "Laudato Si". The encyclical identifies the possibility of a door to a sustainable future, calling us to question the way in which humanity is closing the door on itself if nothing is achieved by the meetings in Paris.



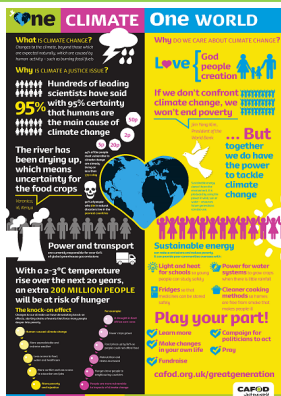
Through the imagery of doors Cardinal Turkson explained the way in which we can use prayer and dialogue to bring about transformative results. The use of the door imagery is continued in regards to the season of advent, allowing for the door to the liturgical year to be opened to the birth of Jesus Christ. Within the encyclical Cardinal Turkson identifies the 5 goals, which he defined as doors to the future of the social and natural world.



Door 1: To recognise that the climate change crisis affects everyone and everything. A prime example of this links back to 2010, when the volcanic ash of Eyjafjallajökull caused complete chaos to the entire world.

**CAFOD**  
just one world





Door 2: Everyone must act. This arguably is the overriding message of *Laudato Si*, that a legally binding commitment is needed on a global scale not just as individual.

Door 3: Everything is connected. There are connections between all of creation, just as God the Creator had intended it. How we treat the earth, reflects how we treat humanity.

Door 4: To be truthful. Cardinal Turkson calls for us to stop pretending that progress can be measured by economics, that “masking problems” helps no one. We need to go beyond our faith in order to challenge public attitudes.

Door 5: Encouragement. As with all global issues, there is room for everyone’s point of view. For these issues to be rectified there must be a dialogue.



In addition to these 5 doors, as Cardinal Turkson imagined it, is education. He encourages us as Catholics and as CAFOD supporters and volunteers to be encouraged to open the door again and again. The issue of climate change is not a short term problem that can be fixed by opening the door only once, but by doing it again and again.

The 6th door is Prayer and Pray. This is the epitome of *Laudato Si*, which in itself is a prayer, allowing for a deeper dialogue with the Creator. *Laudato Si* aims not to condemn development but to adopt a bigger and high vision, balancing humanity with humility.



This article was written with grateful thanks to CAFOD media volunteer Ellen Wright for the account of the meeting.

Let us open the stable door and celebrate the birth of Jesus by caring for His creation.

## Year of Mercy



What a good start to the Year of Mercy. Corporal Works of Mercy play a big part of this special year.

During 2015 you have given very generously to St. Laurence's Larder. However it was not expected that this would continue in the same volume during Advent, as we traditionally support The Passage at this time. However, your generosity must be commended as this much needed food was still donated despite the arrival of the Advent "Giving Tree".

This year once again we supported The Passage. Andrew Hollingsworth came to speak at our Masses on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent to tell us about their work and to inform us that The Passage were one of the groups to benefit through the Government's scheme "The Big Give", whereby people donating on-line would have their donation matched, until the allotted funds are exhausted.



Once again you donated both on-line and by giving wrapped presents. By the time Andrew came back to collect parcels after the 11.30am Mass on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, there was a mountain of gifts under the tree. You can see from the photograph the wonderful response to

the appeal from the parish and from St. Joseph's Junior and Infant Schools [which are attended by many of the children in the Parish]. To find out more about The Passage go to [www.passage.org.uk](http://www.passage.org.uk)

A cheque has also been forwarded on behalf of the Parish to Sr. Mary to help in her work in Haiti.

Subsequent to the Grand Christmas Draw; the winner of the Christmas Food Hamper and her family kindly donated their prize to the St. Laurence's Larder and the winner of the Toy Sack donated her prize to a family in the Parish.







From the Parish  
Comings and Goings  
Please remember in your prayers



We welcome and congratulate those who have been baptised here recently, and their families: Alvaro Qiang Sheng Leong; Tianna Rodrigues; Ava White and Alexis White.

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



### Sick and Housebound

On 4th December, in what is now a regular event, Fr Anthony and Fr David celebrated Mass with the Anointing of the Sick which is followed by Home-made Soup and rolls in the Parish Hall.



During Advent Fr. Anthony visited the sick of the Parish. He celebrated Mass with Anointing in Brook House, Kenbrook and Birchwood Grange. Father also Anointed those in Preston Lodge and individuals in their own homes.

These parishioners always look forward to Fathers' visits. Of your charity keep all the sick and housebound in your thoughts and prayers during the Christmas Season. May the Lord Jesus bless, console and strengthen all the sick, and may Mary, health of the sick, intercede for them.



Our ability to attend Mass is a great privilege, which we should never take for granted.

## Mass For Those Bereaved



Our annual Mass for all who suffered a bereavement during the year, took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm.

A personal invitation was sent to the families of the deceased. Thank you to Brook House, Birchwood Grange and Kenbrook for their help in forwarding the invites to the families of those who had resided

with them.

As usual Fr. Anthony put a great deal of thought and time into making this a special Mass. There was a wonderful display, with the names and photographs of our dearly departed. Those present had an opportunity to light a candle for their loved ones whilst Fr. Anthony read out the names of the deceased. The Mass was a source of great comfort and strength, a reminder that death is not the end but the beginning.

Prayer cards were distributed after the Mass and everyone was invited into the hall for refreshments. This gave people a chance to talk to one another, finding comfort in knowing that they were not alone in their loss.



Our sympathies to the families of those departed: Benedicta Michele Fernandes; Mary Ward and Eugenio Maffini.

## Race Night

St. Erconwald's Church  
RACE NIGHT



Saturday 21st November 2015

8.30pm

"The Windermere"  
Windermere Road



The Race Night was held in The Windermere on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015. We sold horses prior to the race night and Fr. Anthony patiently canvassed the shops and businesses in Preston Road looking for sponsors for the races. There were a few raised eyebrows when he was spotted frequenting Paddy Power! Rest assured he has not taken up gambling. Noel, the licensee of The Windermere, arranged the race-night package and sponsored the evening and kindly provided the food for the evening.

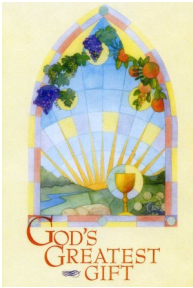
We were pleased to see a good turnout from the parish. As it happens, for some of them The Windermere is actually their local. Caroline and Elizabeth became bookies for the evening [honestly, what some people do for the church] taking the bets and paying out the winners. They were delighted to hear that they did not need to do any of the calculations, as Charlie, who brought the race package, guided them in all the pay outs, etc.

The owners of the winning horses received £25 and a Paddy Power voucher. Happily, some subsequently went on to win on the Paddy Power voucher. Half-way through the evening Noel provided us with some lovely sandwiches, which were very much appreciated by all. After the final race we had a free raffle for all those in attendance.

A very good evening was had by all and £935.00 was raised towards the Parish Hall Extension Fund. We would like to thank Noel and Roisin of the Windermere for hosting and sponsoring the evening. Thanks also to our other sponsors of the races Bryan Maher, Paddy Power, Blue Oyster, All Seasons, Arch PaperLinks Ltd and Ruston's Pharmacy. Special thanks to Fr. Anthony for all his work. Last but not least thank you to all who attended the evening.



## First Holy Communion 2015/16



This year we have nine children preparing for their First Holy Communion, which will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2016. This might seem a long way ahead, but the preparation time slips by very quickly!

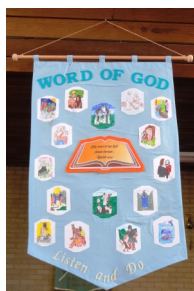
The nine children in the programme this year are working diligently at the communion classes with their catechists (and on the homework, which is essential to the programme.

The children have already covered a number of topics in their classes. Some of the work they have completed is on display on banners in the Church so everyone can see the topics the children are covering in their preparation.

On Sunday 13th December there was a special mass for the children where they did some of the readings and presented the offertory gifts to Fr Anthony. After the service, Fr. Anthony presented the children with Bibles and a special Christmas gift from him.



Please remember in your prayers Chloe Angell, Katie Angell, Alexandra Correia, Joanna Ismail, John Paul Ismail, Elizabeth Lekstakaj, Deborah Obadiaru, and Michael Pereira who are preparing for their First Holy Communion, their families and their catechists: Bernie Gilen and Bernie O'Reilly





## The Sacrament of Confirmation – 2015/2016



The course of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year started on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, preceded by a Parents' Meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October. We have 13 candidates, the biggest group for many years: Jaiden Aaron, Reanne Allen, Candice John-Baptiste, Aoife Cronin, Mario-Tristen Joseph, Joshua Kaad, Helen Leslie, Caneho Moloi and

James Nichols.

Fr Anthony uses different resources to make up the programme, which consists of power point presentations, music, questions and answers, scripture reading and activities. Each session begins with an opening prayer which was compiled by the candidates, and finishes with a closing prayer. Candidates are encouraged to take part in discussions, and put forward questions and queries.

The programme consists of 4 parts: The Period of Invitation concluding with the Mass of Enrolment; the Period of Formation concluding with a Day of Reflection at the end of which there will be the Mass of Election. The Period of Reflection includes the Weekend Retreat at Wlasingham House on Colney Island, which leads into the receiving of the Sacrament of Confirmation on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 by Bishop John Sherrington. The Period of Mission takes place after Confirmation.



Our candidates have demonstrated their interest and knowledge during the sessions and we are confident that they will become an active part of our parish community.



Please keep in your prayers the candidates and their families and the catechists, Nancy Chu and Rosemary Bradshaw.

## Parish Hall

We would like to wish all our regular parish hall users a very happy, peaceful and joyous Christmas and best wishes for 2016.



Brent Dementia Carers Support Group meets every second Monday between 11am - 1pm. [see church newsletter/website for dates].

All That I Am: a group for those with specialised learning needs to come 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](mailto:christinedavis@btinternet.com). Do come and join us and help us be all that we can be.

Geraldine's Group meets on alternative Mondays 1.30 - 2.30pm. This group enjoys a wide range of activities such as creative writing, singing, board games, etc.

Tuesday Tea/Coffee Morning Club: this Club meets after the 9.30am Mass. Just come along after Mass, follow the crowd, all welcome.

Computer Club: computer lessons for beginners led by Mr. Ray Patel. Times for the January 2016 session to be confirmed.

The Chameleons, an amateur dramatic group, meet on Mondays & Thursday 8pm - 10pm. Contact Helen or Rachel at [www.thechameleons.co.uk](http://www.thechameleons.co.uk).



ASOL: led by Suzanne Morpurgo. English lessons for parents of pupils attending Preston Park Primary School.

### Christmas Cake Sale

We had a wonderful selection of Christmas Cakes on sale on the 20<sup>th</sup> December after the 9.00am. and 11.30am masses. A total of £120.00 was raised. Many thanks to all who baked the cakes for the Christmas Sale and for all the cake sales throughout the year and to those who purchased them.



## Preston Road Nursery



*The children teachers and parents at Preston Road nursery celebrated concert on 11th December 2015 by having sing along Christmas carols and role played the Nativity.*

*We take children from 10months to 5years. We except nursery vouchers and free meg places are offered to 2 and 3 years old. We are open for 51 weeks in year.*

*We at Preston Road nursery  
would like to wish everyone a  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*



Who said that?

Can you identify who said the following words?



1. Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work myself?

a. Esther; b. Martha; c. Mary

2. I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

a. John Mark; b. Simon Peter; c. Judas Iscariot

3. Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?

a. Shepherds; b. Wise men; c. Soldiers

4. Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor.

a. Zacchaeus; b. Matthew; c. Nicodemus

5. Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven were bowing down to me.

a. David; b. Isaiah; c. Joseph

6. How can this be, since I am a virgin?

a. Elizabeth; b. Mary; c. Hannah

7. Here am I; send me!

a. Isaiah; b. Paul; c. Jeremiah

8. Pick me up and throw me into the sea.

a. Peter; b. Jonah; c. Joel



9. Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word ...

a. Caesar; b. Judas; c. Herod

10. I baptise you with water for repentance ..

a. Jesus; b. John the Baptist; c. Philip



## The Lilt of Irish Laughter

### Quick-Thinking



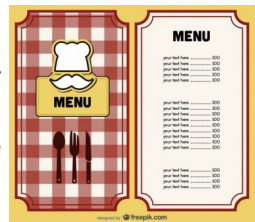
A Lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "Hmmmm .... That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a £20 bill in it. Now there are twenty £1 coins."

The boy quickly replied, "That's right, lady. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."

### What's on the Menu?

Little Johnny: "Mammy, can I have a dog for Christmas?"

Mammy: "No, you can have turkey like everyone else."



### What the Wife Says

Overheard at a Christmas party:

"My wife has the bad habit of talking to herself."

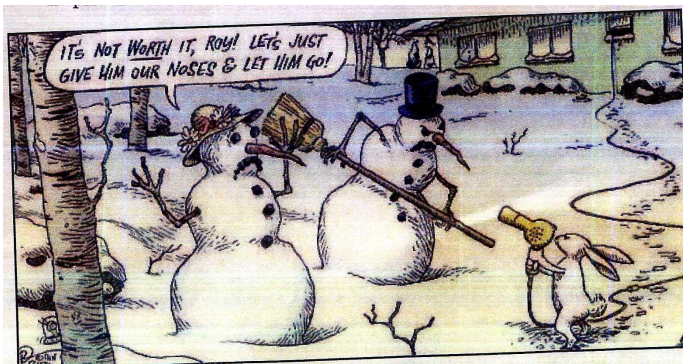
"Well so has mine, only she thinks I'm listening."



### The Name Game

What do you get if you eat the Christmas decorations?

Tinselitis!

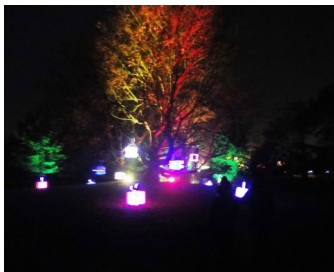




The stage is set with scenery of marvellous trees and exquisite buildings. Cue the music, cue the lights ... it's Christmas at Kew. And it's absolutely magical.

Christmas at Kew is an extraordinary nighttime spectacle of light and music in the magnificent setting of Kew Gardens. It all starts as twilight falls, when a one mile long glittering trail is lit up for visitors to follow as it winds its way through Kew Gardens.

One walks through a wild garden with flowers and trees never seen before. They are flowers and trees imagined by the artist and created through the use of light bulbs in various shapes and sizes. One passes by the giant figure of the Holly King where stroytellers bring to life fantastic tales of the Holly King and his court with juggling, fire breathing and stilt walking. One even walks through the tunnel of lights.



This was Christmas at Kew 2014. The light trail and shows were created by a number of artists and experts who combined their creativity and skills to great effect and the result was stunning.

Along the trail one could make a wish for the year to come and hang it on the wishing tree. Of course, Christmas is not complete without a mistletoe moment - under a real mistletoe or under Britain's largest mistletoe sculpture made of stainless steel.

The little ones could meet Santa and the snowflake elves at Santa's Grotto and towards the end of the trail they could enjoy family rides and an adventure playground.

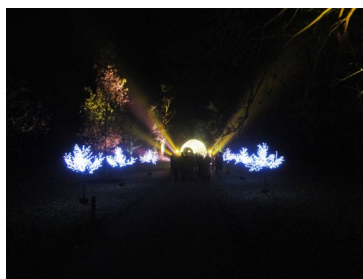






Apart from the illuminated walkways, there were also two light shows, one on each side of the Palm House. The show on the pond side of the Palm House was mesmerising. The lights and the dancing fountains were set to the tune of Carol of the Bells and it was with great effort and the promise of more fabulous sights that I managed to walk away to carry on the rest of the trail. I really could have stayed there and watched and listened all night.

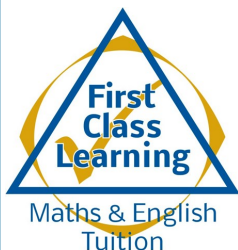
On the other side of the Palm House the show was dazzling, with pyrotechnics thrown into the mix. Here it was flames that danced with the lights to music from the Nutcracker.



All along the trail visitors were tempted to indulge themselves with mulled wine or spiced cider, with freshly roasted chestnuts or with marshmallows that they could toast over the fire.

What else can one say? Looking forward to Christmas at Kew 2015.

**Wembley Study Centre:** After school Maths and English Tuition SATS, GCSE and A Level.



Contact Divya [Tel: 020 8958 8363](tel:02089588363);  
mobile: 07515 630 371

Email: [wembleypark@firstclasslearning.co.uk](mailto:wembleypark@firstclasslearning.co.uk)  
[www.firstclasslearning.co.uk](http://www.firstclasslearning.co.uk)



### Black History Month



We had a range of events to celebrate 'Black History' month in October. We had a carnival theme with a mask and research competition, which culminated in a grand carnival parade.

### Anti-Bullying Week



The children participated in activities during 'Anti Bullying Week', including classroom lessons, class pledges and assemblies. The week ended with 'Blue Friday' when pupils wore blue items of clothing to raise awareness of this important issue. We also released our 'Blue Balloons' with our class pledges attached to symbolise our promises about how we should treat each other.



### Theatre Groups

The children enjoyed watching a performance of 'Pinocchio'. They also enjoyed a pantomime this year provided by the Schools Association.





### St Cecilia's concert at the Convent

Our pupils in the school choir performed at the Saint Cecilia's Concert at the Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College.



### Hinduism Workshops

Pupils enjoyed participating in a Hinduism workshop in November which developed their knowledge about another faith.

### Giving Trees

The Infant and Junior schools have been collecting donations on behalf of both parishes for their 'Giving Trees'. We have had as usual a very good response from our families and would like to thank them for their generosity.



### Advent Mass

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> December pupils and staff attended the Advent Mass at Westminster Cathedral with Cardinal Vincent Nichols.





A school is a great place to work at Christmas time as we prepare the children for the joyous occasion of the birth of Jesus.

We begin at the end of November with our Advent services when the children all gather to celebrate the beginning of the build up to Christmas. The focus is on preparing and being ready, looking after others and being charitable. We introduce the Advent wreath which then becomes the focus for all of our communal worship sessions in the hall.

The build-up involves a great community event when we hold our Christmas Bazaar. It is an exciting afternoon when we arrange for a special visitor who lands on the roof with his reindeer and then spends the afternoon in his specially prepared grotto giving out presents to the children.



The teachers spend December getting the productions ready for our main celebration. In the Infants this year we are performing 'A Child is born' which will be shown to parents, carers and grandparents. This is followed by our Junior classes Carol Services.

As you can see we are surrounded by shepherds, angels, various animals from the crib scene and of course Mary, Joseph and Jesus! If anyone has a donkey they could lend us for next year we will use it!

Each class has its own charity to support during the year and each Christmas we support 'Text Santa' by wearing our Christmas jumpers or by working in local shops to raise funds.





Our choir travel to Westminster Cathedral for a carol service organised by the Catholic Children's Society and celebrated by the Cardinal. This is a very happy occasion and is famous because of the annual appearance of a 'live' donkey and sheep! The children really enjoy this and their singing is beautiful. We then join with the other Catholic Schools in Harrow for the annual carol concert at Harrow Boys' School which is held in their speech room. This is a tremendous opportunity for our pupils to be inspired in such an historic place—the Prime Ministers of the future!

No Christmas is complete without a pantomime and we have one every year. This year we will be treated to Pinocchio which will be great fun and is always enjoyed by all - especially the teachers!

Our Term always ends with a whole school assembly which is a very special occasion. We reflect on the Term and celebrate the successes and acknowledge the not so good parts. Our prayers are then offered as a whole community and then the oldest and the youngest pupil take the baby Jesus and place him in the crib, which ends our school Term.



I would like to thank Fr Anthony and all the parishioners of St Erconwald's Church for their continued help and support. I am very proud that children come to St Bernadette's from your Parish and we would welcome you as visitors to any of our school events. I wish you all a very peaceful and holy Christmas!

Let us hope that the New Year is a good one for all of us, especially as the school converts to Academy status and will have a formal link with St Gregory's High School from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. This will allow us to really progress and for us to continue to raise our standards, offering a high standard of education for all of our pupils in a loving, caring and secure environment.

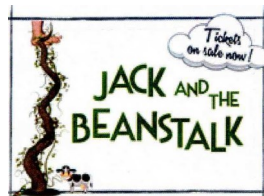


Saturday, 19th December 2015 was a very busy day. We met in the church at 10 a.m. with a long to do list to prepare for the evening. Thank you to all who came along to help.

Following on from all the hard work we had the Christmas Celebration. The evening started at 7pm, people were given a chance to greet one another, have a catch up chat some after an absence of six months or longer and settle in. That's the adults; the children were another matter altogether. They were in party mode from the moment they set their tiny toes in the hall. On seeing the little blue chairs, set out for the pantomime, they immediately claimed the area as their own. It was wonderful to see the young members of our parish playing, running and making friends. It gives us hope for the future of our community. Well, enough waffle! Finally, the mulled wine, fruit punch and mince pies with cream, custard or plain (sorry Fr. Anthony ... no ice-cream) were served.

Amazingly, you tend to forget how little ones keep you on your toes. Whilst distributing a tray of mince pies with custard, I temporarily left the tray on a table to deal with a health & safety issue. On turning back I was just in time to retrieve the tray from a little tot, who obviously thought it was self-service or that I was taking too long with the job!

Soon it was time to welcome The Chameleons to the stage to entertain us with a brief taste of their January Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk". A loud and very colourfully dressed dame, catchy songs, heinous villains and classic panto humour all made for a very pleasant show to the delight of young and old. Daisy the cow seemed very popular with the children, who soon got into the spirit with their booing and cheering. Their loud efforts to stop Jack from handing over Daisy in return for a few beans were however futile, and the Dame was positively cross both at Jack for being so foolish and at the audience for not being able to scream some sense into Jack. We were left in suspense and invited to attend the panto at "The Theatre, Claremont High School, Kenton."



Santa arrived just at the right time, as the Chameleons were finishing. Do you think Daisy told him? Before we knew it, Santa's bell could be heard and suddenly he walked into the hall much to the children's delight. Barely had he sat down when he was surrounded by children. They couldn't get close enough to him. Eventually they all received a gift from Santa. Before long seven or eight boys, were racing their new cars along "their space" and girls were playing with teddies or dolls. It resembled Christmas morning in many a home after Santa's visit and at the end of it Santa appeared visibly tried by his ordeal.



Amidst all this excitement poor Fr. Anthony struggled to announce the winners of the Grand Christmas Draw. There were 42 prizes in total. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Bethlehem Crib: Manican Maman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Food Hamper: Katy Hannon (donated to St. Laurence's Larder), 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £100: Joe Mannion, 4<sup>th</sup> Prize - £75 M&S voucher: The Patten Family, 5<sup>th</sup> Prize - Children's Sack: Margaret Bradley (donated to a family).

The winners who were present in the hall claimed their prizes then, with some winners looking somewhat bewildered by their new acquisition. A case in point was the winner of the Union Jack-clad pooch soft-toy, especially when Fido burst into a hearty rendition of God Save the Queen. A list of the remaining prizes is on the notice board. Thank you to all the donors and congratulations to all the winners.

We had a fantastic Christmas Celebration. Thanks to Santa for visiting us, The Chameleons, Fr. Anthony & Joan, to everyone who came to prepare the church and hall and to all who helped serve and prepare the food. A special thanks to Barbara Hope, Bernie Gillen and Caroline Horan who gave up their Saturday. Thank you to Patricia for selling the raffle tickets. A most sincere thanks to all who attended - I hope you enjoyed the evening.



Have a wonderful Christmas.



## *THANK YOU*

We would like to thank all those who have helped with the running of the Parish during the last year:

Altar Servers	Parish Council
Altar Cloths & Linen Group	Finance Committee
Church Cleaners	Collectors & Counters
Catechists	Growing in Faith
Choir/Music	APF
Eucharistic Ministers	CAFOD
Readers	Repository
Sacristans	Tea/Coffee
Prayer Group	Social Committee
Flower Group	Display Boards

In addition

**Safeguarding Services:** Lesley Gaynor and Margaret Nichols

**Gift Aid:** Caroline Horan

**Accounts:** Penny Donetti

**Members of the Following Committees:** Afro/Caribbean, Asian and St. Patrick's Day [New members always welcome]

A special thanks to Joan Vella [new altar cloths]; Joseph Psaila, Brendan Sullivan, Patricia O'Reilly; Andrew (AMD Plumbing), Don Coyle, Ian Hopkins and Tom Boyle for general maintenance and Church refurbishment.

Thank You to these establishments who were very supportive of St. Erconwald's Church throughout the year:

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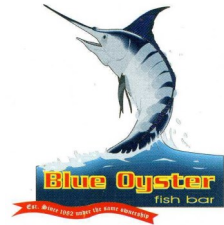
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## **PARISH PRIEST**

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](mailto: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.

Q Why is Santa so good at karate?

A Because he has a black belt!

Q What kind of bug hates Christmas?

A A humbug.

