

St. Erconwald's Parish Magazine



Issue No. 44, Christmas 2021

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Editorial: Something New

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the magazine.



Hope you and your families have been keeping safe and well. You are in my thoughts and prayers, especially during the celebration of Mass. I do hope that you are following our services on-line if you are not able to come to Mass just yet. If you are still nervous about returning, we look forward to seeing you again whenever you feel confident enough to come.

As Masses are now public, it is important that we continue to ensure that the Church remains a safe place where people gather to worship. [Full details can be found on the Church's website]. In extraordinary times, it is often helpful to pay attention to the ordinary. While we cannot stop the pandemic, we can always wear a mask [now mandatory for places of worship], sanitise our hands frequently, make space for others. We are also encouraged to continue caring for each other by being attentive to the needs of our neighbor, especially the elderly and vulnerable.

There are two types of Christmas activities: ones that become traditions, that we repeat year after year. Christmas wouldn't feel right without them. Then, there are some Christmas experiments you only attempt once, and then you never want to try them again.



During the Christmas season we celebrate so many things that never happened before. No one dreamed God would become one of us, but He did. No one imagined that a virgin would conceive and bear a son and name him Jesus, but Mary did. No one expected glorious angels and lowly shepherds would come together, but they did. No one could have made up a story about the Messiah in a manger, yet there he lay. At Christmas, God does new things, dimly hinted by the prophets and now wondrous in our eyes. So while we observe all the customs of the season, we should act like God and do something new.





And so, let us open our hearts to him, respond to his invitation, allow the life of our soul to breathe with a fresh grace, the grace that comes with forgiveness and repentance, the grace which enables us to rise from our knees with new heart, new hope and new love.

Thank you for all that you are doing and let us pray that the Holy Spirit guides us as we move forward. Please do feel free to share as best you can the information in this magazine with other members of the parish with whom you have contact. Keep safe.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

Once again, thank you for your support.

With prayerful wishes for you all.

Yours Sincerely

Fr. Anthony

With Best Wishes for
Christmas & the New Year
 from your local Estate Agent



H. Cole *A. Reilly*
V. Bryan *J. Holder* *P. Reed*



We welcome and congratulate those who have been baptised here recently, and their families: Kyler Ignatius Gracias, Eliana Brielle Monzon Mamar, Charlyne Marie Grace Vas, Layryn Geraldine Burke, Dolce Crystal Cook-Rosario, Natalia Svoboda, Nyshara Maria Sanjakanth, and Ciaran Christopher Duffy.

First Holy Communion 2021

As with everything over the past year, the Parish Sacramental preparation programmes have been impacted by the Pandemic and the restrictions placed on social contact and gatherings. Congratulations to the children who made their First Holy Communion on 29th May, feast of the Most Holy Trinity, their families and the catechists: Dolce Cook-Rosario, Luke Gibson, George Lekstakaj, Nicholas Olszewski, Tyra Sanches De Souza, Alexander Terziu and Shona Tohill-Hehir.



Of your charity, please keep all the sick and housebound in your thoughts and prayers. We remember especially those in Kenbrook, Birchwood Grange and Brook House, during this Christmas.

May the Lord Jesus bless, console and strengthen all the sick, and may Mary, health of the sick, intercede for them.

“Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.”

G. K. Chesterton



Summer Masses

As Fr. Anthony went on a well-earned holiday in August, we were pleased to welcome the Consolata Fathers (IMC), Fr. Luis and Fr. Carlo also Fr. Tony Pellergrini and Fr. Agustin (Hospital Chaplain) for supplying over the summer. We also thank Fr. Terry Murray (Quex Road) for celebrating a Funeral Mass for us.



Special Mass for those isolating since March 2020

The first Mass Fr. Anthony celebrated on his return was this Special Mass which was held on Saturday, 28th August, it was by invitation only. We sent invites to all who had been forced to shield since March 2020. We assured them that we would only allow those invited to attend and that the numbers at the Mass would be very low and all possible precautions would be taken.

It was a great success. Those that attended felt safe and happy as they had been missing Mass so much and whilst live stream is great, it is no substitute for being physically present and being able to receive Holy Communion. Please God we will arrange another such Mass again.

Christmas Card & Gift Fair



was held on weekend of 23rd/24th October in the Parish Hall. There was a wide range of items with prices to suit every pocket. Thank you to all who helped with the preparation and to all who visited the Fair. I would also like to thank all who supported the Repository this year. We wish you all a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and many Blessings during 2022.

Service of Reconciliation

This beautiful Service was held on Friday 17th November at 7.00pm. On arrival people were invited to take a Service Leaflet and a small wooden cross. Fr. Anthony asked those attending via live stream to have a crucifix and a candle close by.



The Service started with that lovely hymn "As the Deer Pants". Following examination of conscience and an Act of Perfect Contrition, penitents were asked to kiss the cross to seal their promise and to attend individual confession at a later date. There followed the 'Our Father' and a 'Prayer of Thanksgiving'. Following the uplifting service we all went home with our little cross to remind us of our promise.

Christmas Preparations

On Saturday 18th December we started getting the Church ready for Christmas. Thankfully there was a big turn out and St. Erconwald's was a hive of activity. In the church there were groups setting up the Christmas Tree, others preparing the 'Light of Life' cards that were to be hung on the tree and another group preparing the raffle tickets. Finally, another group vacuumed and sanitized the church.



The Hall was just as busy, gift bags were being prepared for *The Passage*. Bags were made up for the 3 Hostels: The Passage, Newman Street and Montfort House. In all we prepared 50 male gift bags and 36 female gift bags. This was the first time we prepared the bags in this format. St. Joseph's Junior and Senior Schools were old hands at this as they have been preparing the bags in this fashion for years. Mrs. Whelan, Headteacher of St. Joseph's Schools delivered 50 big bags, which the schoolchildren had prepared, to us on Friday evening. This delivery completed the number of bags that Andrew Hollingsworth of the Passage, had requested.

Sincere thanks to the group of people who came on Saturday, especially the young people who were Confirmed last November and their parents; the First Holy Communion children and their parents; to help with the huge task of filling and checking the gift bags. We achieved a lot in a short space of time. The bags looked great. Fr. Anthony and I were truly proud of what you had achieved and the manner in which you undertook the task. There was a great community spirit.



Mini Christmas Raffle



On Sunday 19th December following Mass, the congregation took all the wonderful gifts that had been prepared out to the van where Andrew Hollingsworth loaded them up to take to the hostels. Inside the Church other parishioners were working like beavers cleaning and sanitising the Church. Thank you to both groups. Once everyone had left we held the raffle, Bernie & Tommy Gillen ensured all tick-

ets were complete and all had been put into the raffle drum. Then Fr. Anthony, Caroline Horan (Chair of the Finance Committee), Joseph Psaila and Elizabeth Patten commenced the draw.

1st Prize: 'The Crib' winner Vanitha ticket 35(pink);

2nd Prize: 'Sleeping St. Joseph Statue' winner Stephanie 97 (pink);

3rd Prize: 'Toy Sack' Elliott Lane 30 (green)

4th Prize: Christmas cake Agnes Tiernan 35 (green) various other prizes listed on the notice board.

Please see Elizabeth or Fr. Anthony to collect prizes, we will try to notify as many as possible.

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all the donors.



Bereavement Mass



This very special and important Mass was celebrated on 12th November. It was even more important this year as some of the funerals happened whilst we were under very strict measures due to Covid at the time.

Photograph's of the 13 Parishioners who passed away since November 5th last year, were on display in front of the altar. There was also a special memorial candle for each person and a candle for all the deceased in the four Care Homes in our Parish: Brook House, Kenbrook, Birchwood Grange and Preston Lodge (closed this year), plus an additional candle for all Parishioners who had lost a family member during this period.

At the beginning of Mass Fr. Anthony read out the names of the deceased and invited those present to come forward and light a candle. There followed a very moving and comforting Mass. As well as those who had been able to attend in person, we had a number who joined via live-stream. The Mass was also recorded for those who due to work commitments couldn't attend.

Pre-Covid we would have enjoyed refreshments in the Hall after the Mass but in the interest of safety we didn't this year, we will see what next year brings.

We are at the moment in the process of distributing the pictures and the memorial candles to the bereaved. It was lovely to be able to welcome people to this Mass.





On Remembrance Sunday, 14th November, Fr. Anthony organized a short service and the blessing of the graves. This was a joint service and blessing for St. Joseph's, English Martyrs and St. Erconwald's Parishes. Priest from the three parishes were there, both for the service and the blessing. The short service consisted of an entrance hymn, readings and prayers.

Many parishioners were present and for once it was not raining nor was it too cold. Parishioners greeted one another as many had not met since the start of the Pandemic and lockdown. Many parishioners brought candles and flowers with them which they lit when the priests had blessed the graves and sprinkled them with Holy Water. Thank you Fr. Anthony for organizing this service, it was much appreciated by all who attended.



The Art of Dying Well

Prayer for the Dying



The Art of Dying Well is a web site of the Church in England and Wales that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues surrounding death and dying. For more information visit: www.artofdyingwell.org

Our sympathies to the families of those departed: Margaret Mary Tighe, Colleen D'Cruz, Sheila Anne Wheaton, Paul Martin O'Brien, Michael Heyden, Geraldina Mazzaschi, Winifred Aileen Bommer, Antonio Hernandez-Gonzales, Mary [Meta] Connolly, Clare Ahern, Katherine Fitzpatrick, Michael Horan, and Joe Bland.



For our First Holy Communion programme this year we have twelve children who will make their First Communion on Saturday 11th June 2022.

This years' First Holy Communion Programme commenced in October with a parents introductory meeting and a class for the children where they discussed how God created the world, what a special world we live in and what makes the children special in Gods' world. This was followed by the "Mass of Commitment".

In the next classes the children discussed the meaning of "The word of God" and how that can help us to live as God wanted us to do in our everyday lives. This was followed by a "Link Mass" reflecting on the "Liturgy of the Word".

The importance of friendship was the theme for the next lesson with the children agreeing that friends are hugely important and allow us to further follow the word of God by being a good friend and helping others. Leading to the Christmas Family Mass on Christmas Eve.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our traditional Nativity at the Family Mass on Christmas Eve but a number of the children read the Penitential Rite, the first reading and the Responsorial Psalm.

The children are completing work in the lessons for the banners which will be displayed in the Church showing the topics they have covered in their lessons; they are also doing some wonderful writing on the themes of the lessons as well as adding colourful and creative drawings and montages in their scrapbooks at home following their lessons; these will be a lovely reminder of their lessons when the programme is completed.

Do have a look at the wonderful work the children have created which is displayed on the banners in the Church.

Please keep the children, their parents and carers in your prayers: Kianna Bakker, Sophia Boyne, Kyran Cadogan, Hayden Charles Osman, Simone Conibert, Kian Fernandes, Rodrigo Fernandes Da Veiga, Jonathan Harah, Jessica Ismail, Avelina Li Yuin Leong, Maya Logo, and Tianna Rodrigues



After a gap of two years because of the Pandemic we were very happy to have our Confirmation programme this year. We had eleven candidates: Anthony Aboagye, Tiara Amaratunga, A'Vhan Blake-Groves, Kenisha Gunasekara, Elizabeth Lekstakaj, Nelson Moloi, Gracie Ng, Deborah Obadiaru, Jayden Ranasinghe, Elise Rosario-Richards and Mya-Louise Seaton.

The course of preparation was more condensed this year. It started on the 22nd September with a parents and candidates meeting, and ended on the 23rd November. There were 6 one hour sessions held on Tuesday evenings, with the Mass of Enrolment and Mass of Election held on 9th and 23rd October respectively. During the final session before Confirmation we held a Reconciliation Service for both candidates and parents. We were very appreciative to have Holly Cook, the Outreach Manager of SPEC to come and help us in sessions two and five.

Because of the Pandemic we did not have the usual weekend retreat, but, on 30th October, we did have a Day of Reflection at SPEC in Pinner. Set in 7 acres of land, with beautiful gardens, a chapel and a purpose-built round building with bedrooms, meeting rooms, kitchen and dining room.

The theme of the Day was "Who is the Holy Spirit" and "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit" run by Zuzana and Niamh. The day started with ice breaker games. The atmosphere immediately warmed up and the candidates started to co-ordinate and help each other. The discussion session was most thought provoking. There was active exchange of views on whether religion is the force of God in the world, the role of education and religion, on morality, the effect of social media, the truth and faith of different religions, on the common good, and the importance of prayer. It was quite enlightening to hear the candidates' views. The day finished with a visit to the chapel, we watched a video on Eucharistic Miracles and a session of *Lectio Divina*.

The candidates really enjoyed the day. They appreciated the time to reflect on the meaning of Confirmation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the opportunity to bond with each other, and the importance of helping the under privileged people in society.



The Mass of Confirmation took place on Saturday 20th November, feast of Christ the King. Bishop John Sherrington was the main celebrant. The candidates took part in the welcome and thank you speeches, the readings and bidding prayers, in bringing the Chrism oil and the Book of the Gospels to the altar. They were presented with the certificates by Bishop John after Mass. Although we did not have refreshment this year, the candidates were presented with a bag of gifts. Parents, sponsors, families and parishioners all joined in to celebrate this important occasion with our young people.



On the last session on 23rd November after a reflection on "To Build a Better World"; Pentecost and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we had some pizzas and soft drinks from Dominos. The candidates and parents mingled and chatted. A nice round up to the programme.

Here is a summary of the thoughts and feelings of the candidates about the Sacrament of Confirmation and the preparation programme:

- ◆ One of my best choices as I feel closer to God
- ◆ The Holy Spirit is now with me, my faith in God is renewed
- ◆ I have a deeper understanding about my faith. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are now with me and I can build a better relationship with God and I have the strength to do things which I couldn't do before.
- ◆ The preparation and the Anointing with Oil made me understand the true meaning of the Sacrament.
- ◆ I feel I am being welcomed into the community.
- ◆ I feel like being a new person spiritually, joyful, enlightened and enriched by the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ I am now fully a part of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ I have become an adult in my faith and I felt special when Bishop John anointed me and told me that I am one with God.



We would like to wish our newly confirmed continued progress on the journey of faith.

Christmas Bible Quiz



1. A prophet foretold the birth of Jesus, but what was his name?

a. Enoch, b. Hosea, c. Obadiah, d. Isaiah.

2. In which gospel do we learn about the birth of Jesus?

a. Mark, b. Luke, c. Matthew, d. John.

3. Before the birth of Jesus, Mary was visited by an Angel who spoke of her miraculous pregnancy. What was his name?

a. Raphael, b. Gabriel, c. Azrael, d. Uriel.

4. Mary and Joseph were forced to travel before Jesus' birth to take part in the Roman Census. Where did they travel to?

a. Galilee, b. Babel, c. Bethlehem, d. Jerusalem.

5. Where exactly was Jesus born?

a. A manger, b. An inn, c. A temple, d. A barn.



6. According to Luke, on the night of Jesus' birth, by whom was he visited?

a. The Magi, b. Caesar Augustus, c. Shepherds, d. The Innkeeper.

7. The Magi brought three gifts for the baby Jesus. These were Gold, Frankincense and what other?

a. Myrrh, b. Posca, c. Bdelium, d. Sandalwood.



8. Mary, Joseph and Jesus were forced to flee. Where did they find sanctuary?

a. Samaria, b. Nazareth, c. Egypt, d. Greece.



ICING

A GINGERBREAD man went to the doctor's complaining of a sore knee. "A sore knee?" the doctor said. "Have you tried icing it?"

WAIT AND SEE

Last Christmas I bought my friend a lie detector as a gift.

"Oh... I love it?" she said.

"We'll see," I said.

HOOKED

How did the, bauble know that she was addicted to Christmas?

She'd been hooked on Christmas trees all her life.



NON-EXISTENT

An honest politician, a kind lawyer and Santa Claus were talking when they all noticed a €10 note on the floor. Who picked it up?

Santa, of course, the other two don't exist!



COST

Mick: How much did Santa's sleigh cost?

Bill: I don't know.

Mick: Nothing. It was on the house.

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?

The elf-abet!



1. d; 2. b; 3. b; 4. c; 5. a; 6. c; 7. a; 8. c.

Answers to Christmas Bible Quiz



With the COP having now ended, CAFOD wanted to thank you for all you've done this year to raise your voices, demand action and help to reclaim our common home. The outcomes of COP26 were mixed and Government leaders will be taking forward the work to achieve the reduction in damage to our climate.

Whilst there is an undoubted need for action by countries there is also a need for each of us to recognise our personal responsibility and to ask what we can do. CAFOD works in many of the most directly affected countries and your support is vital to its work but you can also help in your own life style choices.

This responsibility has been highlighted by Pope Francis in his encyclical letter *Laudato Si* and he has asked us to have a *Laudato Si* Action platform in each parish (see

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>). This is like saying we all need to commit to the Live Simply award way of life.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award> (to which we as a parish are already committed).

At Diocesan level Cardinal Vincent has called for the Diocese to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 (see <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42707>) and the plan supporting this includes the decision to divest entirely by the end of 2021 from electrical utility and fossil fuel companies that have not taken any steps to manage their businesses in line with the Paris Accord (that is, to limit temperature rises to well below 2C above pre-industrial times). The plan also looks at investments and not investing in fossil fuels. As individuals many of us are members of pension funds and perhaps we can consider writing to the trustees and asking for them to divest (as many religious orders have already done).





So take a moment or two to think about what you as an individual might do. CAFOD have compiled a list of easy, cheap and practical ways that you can protect the environment and cut your carbon-footprint. Most of us are already aware of the benefits of recycling, using public transport and eating less meat, but the more we can do, the

closer we will be to achieving our net-zero emissions target. The call to us is to help bring about these changes on climate change not only by supporting the actions of our country, the diocese and our parish but also by supporting CAFOD and looking at our own life styles and actions. In order to reach net zero emissions, we will all need to make bold and positive lifestyle changes that reduce our own carbon footprint. This could include:

- ◆ Switching to renewable energy
- ◆ Committing to eat less meat
- ◆ Reducing the amount we consume and using re-useable items

There is more information about the CAFOD Climate Change Campaign at

www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Our-Common-Home together with some other ideas for what you as an individual can do at

www.cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Trash-for-cash and a website to help with this www.recyclingforgoodcasues.org/

So take action, make a difference and help look after our planet and pray for CAFOD which next year celebrates 60 years of committed work.



In the spirit of integral ecology, hope for the Earth and the Poor.

CAFOD
Just one world

Christmas Greetings from CAFOD Westminster



In the Easter edition of the Parish magazine I mentioned that the Dementia Carers Support Group was meeting virtually online, using Zoom. Whilst these past couple of years have not been easy, I am grateful that we have had the technology to be able to meet in this way.

The technology has worked really well, with the group meeting 34 times over the past year with a total attendance of 140 carers.

The feedback I receive from carers is that they really welcome the ability to speak with others who understand what they are going through. Also in between meetings I speak with the same and other carers, who have welcomed the opportunity to seek advice and let off steam so to speak.

At the same time the stories I hear from carers — some of whom are new and I have not actually met in person — keep me informed of what is going on both locally and nationally.

What you may not know is that I am also involved in various campaigns and initiatives at a national level, to try and improve the lives of people affected by dementia. For example, in the 13 dementia research projects I am currently involved in I not only represent my own personal story in caring for my late mum but also all the other carers stories I have had the privilege to get to know over the years.

Until we are able to meet in person, meetings of the group will continue to be conducted virtually online on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

In the meantime if you know of anyone who is supporting a husband, wife, mother, father or someone else with dementia, please feel free to share my contact details with them. I know how tough supporting someone at this festive period can be, especially if they are no longer able to comprehend the Christmas festivities.



Wishing you and your families and friends a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

Frank (Mobile 07867 903917; email frankj.arrojo@gmail.com)

PS. To find out more information about this and the Sudbury group, and to access the Online Library, click on the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g90u6Fxx2LYlgRX98pPnQLWHcXqJfPMbe/view>

The Time to Act is Now!

“Your Brent”

Held in November, as world leaders met in Glasgow for the COP26 Climate Conference, the two-week long programme of activities and events aimed to raise awareness of the threats posed by climate change and inspire action locally.



The Brent Climate Festival took the themes Presidents and Prime Ministers talked about in Scotland, From insulating our homes to reducing the rubbish we produce, and made it local.

Another message from the Climate Festival was 'Together, we can make a difference'. Climate change affects every single one of us, and we need to take action as a community.

Many of the changes we must make will not only protect our planet, they can also save money, improve air quality and help with Feeling healthier.



The council also premiered the exclusive 'Climate Change and my Religion' photography exhibition detailing what local religious and community leaders had to say about the importance of the environment to their beliefs and what pledges they are taking to reduce their carbon footprint.

Check out the 'Climate Change and my Religion Exhibition':

www.brent.gov.uk/climatechangeandmyreligion



After the disruption over the last two academic years it has been lovely to take part in some of our usual school activities.

Anti-Bullying Week



The children participated in activities during 'Anti-Bullying Week'. The theme for this year was 'One Kind Word'. The week ended with 'Blue Friday' where pupils wore blue items of clothing to raise awareness of this important issue. We also released our 'Confetti Canons' to symbolise our class pledges and promises about how we should treat each other.

Theatre Groups

The children watched a live performance of 'The Wind in the Willows'.



Odd Sock Day

Children celebrated Odd Sock Day where we thought about how unique and special we all are created in God's image.

Harvest Collection

The School Prayer Leaders collected food for the Brent Foodbank as part of our Harvest celebrations.



Road Safety Week

The children had a focus week on road safety and had 'Bright Day' to remind them of the importance of being seen by drivers on the way to and from school.

N.H.S Charity Fundraiser

The elected School Council organised a charity collection to support and show their gratitude for the NHS workers. They raised a magnificent £569.16p.



Saint Joseph's Parish Collection

To support the parish Advent collection for the Catholic Children's Society our families donated food and other useful items.



Helping the Hungry and Thirsty: Giving Trees



The Infant and Junior schools have been collecting donations on behalf of Saint Erconwald's Parish for their 'Giving Trees' supporting the Passage. The staff of Saint Joseph's also made donations to Crisis at Christmas instead

of exchanging Christmas cards.

Dressing the Christmas tree

As part of our Christmas traditions in school every child in the school made a decoration to hang on the tree.



Nativity and Carol Concert

Year 1 enjoyed performing their nativity concert and Year 3 took part in a Carol service supported by the rest of the school.

Santa Visit

The whole school were surprised by a visit from Santa on our Christmas party day!



We have been focusing on the Gospel of Luke this year in our RE lessons. Our assemblies in school and display boards demonstrate the preparation during Advent for the birth of Jesus.

We wish Saint Erconwald's entire Parish a very happy Christmas and New Year. From Mandy Whelan and all the Governors, Staff and Pupils at Saint Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools, Wembley



The Nursery held their Christmas Party in the Church Hall on Friday, 3 December 2021. Parents were invited to join their children for some fun and party food. The children were delighted when Santa arrived with gifts for everyone, sadly Rudolph was absent, as he was having a rest after hauling Santa and his gifts to Preston Road.

A good time was had by one and all. Thank you to all who participated, it was lovely to see all the parents in a relaxed environment.

The Nursery closes on Christmas Eve at 1pm and reopens on Tuesday, 4th January 2022.



We would like to wish all our children & their parents a Very Happy Christmas & Best Wishes for 2022.



The biggest ever Christmas pudding in the world was made in Aughton, Lancashire, England in 1992. It weighed over three tonnes!



Riddles

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

Chess nuts boasting in an open Foyer!

Who is Santa's favourite singer?

Elf-is Presley!



What did one Christmas tree say to another?

Lighten up!

What kind of music do elves like to listen to?

Wrap!

What's the best Christmas present?

A broken. drum. You can't beat it!

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card?

Stick with me and we'll go places.



First Class Learning



Wembley Study Centre meets Thursday 3.30pm – 5.00pm for after-school Maths & English classes.

Contact Divya. tel: 020 8958 8363;

mobile: 07515 630371.

Email: wembleypark@firstclasslearning.co.uk

www.firstclasslearning.co.uk

We have had a very busy and successful term here at St Bernadette's. This has come after a very traumatic summer holiday during which we had the devastating news that 3 members of one of our families were killed in a car crash in Romania. The Haluta family were travelling home to celebrate the Christening of their third child Miruna (3 months old). Tragically the crash took the lives of Ionella (mum), Miruna and Darius who was in Y2. Miraculously Florin (dad) and Matei who is in our Nursery survived but are still badly injured. Please remember them in your prayers this Christmas time. I am proud of the way that our community came together to grieve with and to support the extended family who are still in our school. We have planted a tree for the family in our Prayer Garden and we pray that Matei will return here as a pupil at some stage.



The term began with our fun run which the children had been training for over the summer and on their return to school. It was a lovely occasion and it showed how much our exercise programme has had on the children's fitness and overall wellbeing and they really enjoyed it. We have launched a project for the Borough called Fit4Life Harrow which is aimed at reducing the extremely high levels of childhood obesity and tooth decay within our Borough. All schools have signed up to the project and their children are benefitting from it. We still have a long way to go but we have to be successful to give these children more opportunities in their young lives by being healthy in body and in mind.



We held our annual geography and foreign languages week in September which was great fun. The classes were allocated different countries which was their main focus for the week. They were immersed in the country's culture and presented their findings at an assembly at the end of the week. It is very important for them to celebrate other cultures apart from the country of their birth, as we seek to create active citizens for the future who can advocate and lead change. We have since been inspired in this area by the work of the young people to influence the decision makers at Cop26.





We have also been doing great work with 2 local football clubs; Wealdstone FC and Barnet FC by setting up community projects with both of them. Wealdstone FC have sent us in 3 first team players to coach our children for 6 weeks, recently, which the children loved - Barnet FC are offering free tickets to their matches and have allocated 14 Harrow Schools with first team players who come in to our schools. These projects really benefit all of our young people in a lot of Harrow schools, making their learning fun and working with professional footballers to inspire them. We have written a series of lesson plans that are delivered free of charge in our schools all of which have a football focus linked into Maths and English.

Our Y6 children have completed their annual residential trip to the Gordon Brown Outdoor Education Centre in Hampshire in October. We have a lovely year group and they were great ambassadors for our school. It was a lot of fun that they embraced and they learned a lot of new skills for life such as climbing, camp fire making and cooking, looking after animals, looking after themselves, making new friends, learning how to tidy a dormitory and make a bed! A life changing week!



On 5th November we had our annual All Saints' Trust Academy Day at St Gregory's High School. This is always a great day as the whole Trust comes together with staff to celebrate the work that we do in our schools (5 local schools). The Trust is flourishing and it is important to take some time out together to reflect on what we do for our children and why. Our speaker was Sr Judith Russi who talked to us about our Mission as a Catholic school and what we must be achieving. It was an inspirational day that has given us spiritual nourishment to carry on and carry out our Mission.



Our Christmas performances are well underway and we will be performing an Infant Nativity play and Junior Carol Service for the parents. Schools are lovely places to be at this time of year and the awe and wonder of so many young faces is a joy to behold and reminds us why we do this job. T1 love the Christmas story and are very reverent, but they also really enjoy Santa's visit and they take great pleasure in telling that I am on his naughty list!!

I wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas and I hope that 2022 is an easier year for all of us. Please come and visit us in the New Year. I have my next tour on Monday 10th January at 1.15pm please phone the office on 020 8204 8902 to arrange the visit. Take care.



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THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to our wonderful Stewards and Cleaners, who have kept the Church open and made parishioners and visitors feel safe in our church during this difficult time.

A special thanks to:

Penny Donetti: Finances and Yearly Accounts

Elizabeth Patten: Repository

Confirmation Catechists: Nancy Chu and Rose Yip Heung Win

Holy Communion Catechists: Bernie O'Reilly and Bernie Gillen

“The Larder” deliveries: Eva and Pat O’Connell and Sr. Philomena

Flowers: Barbara Hope and Vene Tomusange

General Maintenance and Church refurbishment: Joseph Psaila, Godwin Fernandes, Brendan Sullivan, Patricia O’Reilly; David Pearson; Andrew (AMD Plumbing), Don Coyle, Ian Hopkins and Tom Boyle

All who helped prepare the gift bags for “The Passage”. Those who delivered all the Lenten and Easter Packs [which were much appreciated by the recipients]. Those who helped clean the Church after all the Masses. Those who kept in touch with parishioners.

To these establishments who were very supportive of St. Erconwald’s Church: G. Saville & Son Ltd; Nordicpress Ltd, Truprint Media, B.L. Joshi, Clean Scene, Arch PaperLinks Ltd, Blue Oyster, Bryan Maher & Co., and “The Chameleons”.

A huge thank you to everyone who has continued supporting the Parish during the pandemic.

We pray that you keep well and that your faith remains strong.

St. Erconwald's Catholic Church
112 Carlton Avenue East, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8NB
Tel: 020 8904 6031

E-mail: wembley3@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.erconwald.org.uk
Microsite: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/wembleyprestonroad/sterconwald>

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Via Dona [the company who supply our card readers].

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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

CHILD PROTECTION/VULNERABLE ADULTS

Interim: Fr. Anthony

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm; 10.00am

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 4.30 - 5.00pm

HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION:

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9.30am.