

St. Erconwald's Parish Magazine



Issue No. 53, Pentecost 2026

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Cover Design: Perry and Velvet Touch. Sadly at the beginning of the year Benito Desouza [second from left] passed away. We offer our sympathy to his family and friends.



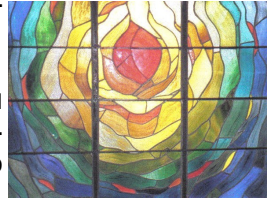
Editorial: Pentecost is our present



Welcome to the Pentecost edition of the magazine. Hope you and your families have been keeping safe and well. We offer a warm welcome to St. Erconwald's Parish to any newly-arrived parishioners.

Have you ever had an experience so incredible that when you tried to explain it to someone else, words failed?

Pentecost was one of those moments for the disciples. We can imagine Luke's struggle to put into words the disciples' experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit for the very first time. How do you describe being filled with God himself? So incredible was the moment that Luke found it difficult to describe what actually happened.



*Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent They saw **what seemed to be tongues of fire**..... [Acts 2:2-4]*

The disciples had no idea what was about to happen, what it would feel like and look like to have this "Spirit" present with them, living in them. They only knew that Jesus had made a promise. All they could do was trust, pray and wait. And when they were "all together in one place" that day happened.

Have you ever thought about what it must have been like to be present on that first Pentecost? It must have been an amazing experience for the disciples! The people who had cowered in fear just a short time before, are now filled with a courage beyond themselves .

But this physical, visible, audible visitation of the Holy Spirit wasn't only for them. What about the people from various lands who heard them speaking in their own tongues? How did they feel? They couldn't talk to one another because of their varied languages but they could understand these strange men speaking to them of God. Wasn't that odd?

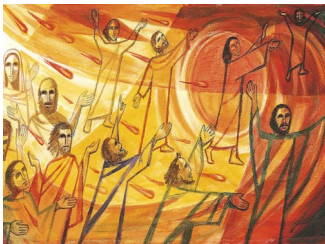


But Pentecost is not just a date that we commemorate. It is not some historical event that lies in the past. Pentecost is our present, is happening right now. Because of Pentecost, the church is equipped for its task of **witness** and **mission**.

As Pentecost was a starting point for the early church. So Pentecost offers us – here at St. Erconwald's - a unique starting point.



Filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples went forth from that experience to preach and teach the Good News to people of many backgrounds. None of these members of the early church had the whole picture or the complete ability to carry Jesus' message to all people. However, their different gifts manifested the same Spirit with the same message of God's unconditional love and together they were able to **witness** and to carry out their **mission** to all people. Strengthened by Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit would always be with them, together they had the courage to go where they were sent, to reach far beyond their comfort zones, to travel to foreign lands.



Each one of us need to be aware of his or her gifts and ask ourselves if we are using them or how we might use them in new ways. These gifts will indicate the role each of us must play in building up the whole Body, the whole community. Each one of us is called and equipped by the Holy Spirit to carry out the great commission with which

Jesus has entrusted each one of us. We each play our own unique role in growing the church, nurturing each other as disciples and serving the community.

So, I ask you to reflect on these two questions: Have we gotten too comfortable in how we exercise our gifts? Might we, like the disciples, be called beyond our own comfort zones?

Thank you for all that you are doing and let us pray that the Holy Spirit guides us as we move forward.

With prayerful best wishes to you and all your families.

God Bless

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fr. Anthony". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.



From the Parish
Comings and Goings
Please remember in your prayers



We welcome and congratulate Traver Clive Tumanguil Cana who was baptised here recently, and his family.



Congratulations and best wishes to...



Eleonora Samori and Nicholas Hodgkinson who were married in Italy on 25th April, 2026; and to Karolina Lewandowska and Nicholas Rodgers who were married in Poland on 14th May, 2026; and to all couples who are celebrating their marriage anniversaries: Reena and Seazar Fernandes, Maria Jacinta Santos Marques and Raj Ramehandani, Sandra and Denis Herson, Irene Veronica and George Harte, Marie and Paul Campbell, Liza Vaz and Augusto Pereira, and Bernadette and John Gordon.

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 and prayers to the families of those departed: Benito DeSouza; Anne Curran; Anne Dack; Daniel Moriarty; Kathleen Gallagher; and Denis Daley.

Of your charity, please remember in your prayers the priests and religious who served our parish. Those in Houses of Care: Birchwood Grange, Brook House and Kenbrook. The relatives and friends of parishioners.



Quiz Night

Caroline Horan



The first Quiz Night of the year took place the end of January, earlier than usual but with Easter coming early, we wanted it to take place before Lent began. We had a good turnout for what proved to be a close contest and raised £523.44 towards the Restoration Fund.

As usual, The Blue Oyster provided us with fish & chips. Thanks to Elizabeth and Father Anthony for arranging. To Eileen for managing the bar, and to Patricia for running the raffle.

We had 5 teams taking place and 6 rounds. As it was the week of Burns Night, we had a slight Scottish flavour. For those of you that don't know what Burns Night is, it is the night celebrated on 25th January every year, North and South of the Border, of the life and poetry of Scotland's National Bard, centering around a traditional Burns Supper featuring Haggis, bagpipes, poetry recitals and whiskey toasts, all culminating in the singing of Auld Lang Syne. So our rounds were General Knowledge, North of the Border, It's Christmas, It's A Game of 2 Halves (Sport), Greatest Hits (Music) and the Picture Round.



We had a nail biting finish, with only 1 point between the top 4 teams, with The Quizard of Oz prevailing. The trophy was awarded and medals handed out and a good night was had by all.

Why not come to our next Quiz Night? You don't have to have a team – we'll find you one. My friend, her husband and daughter came and joined with 1 of the tables and ended up being on the winning team and winning a couple of raffle prizes – a good way to spend a Saturday night. In the meantime, test you knowledge with the following.

1. What does Auld Lange Syne mean in English?

| NAME | RD 1 | RD 2 | RD 3 | RD 4 | RD 5 | RD 6 | TOTAL |
|--------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|--------|
| FAITH & REAGAN | 10 | 10 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 66 |
| SEAN & SINEAD | 10 | 10 | 4 1/2 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 59 1/2 |
| DOUGLAS & PENELOPE | 10 | 8 | 6 1/2 | 13 | 10 | 1 | 62 1/2 |
| DAVID & JILL | 10 | 11 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 66 |
| THE QUIZARD OF OZ | 10 | 10 | 4 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 72 |

2. If you are born on Christmas Day, what star sign are you?

3. In American Football, how many points are awarded for a touchdown?

4. Which King was born on 8 January 1935?

1. For Old Time's Sake; 2. Capricorn; 3. 6; 4. The King of Rock n Roll, Elvis Presley

St. Patrick's Celebration

Elizabeth Patten



This year was celebrated on March 15th which also happened to be Mother's Day and the London St. Patrick's Parade, so no pressure. Despite all that was happening we had a great turn out. We had a different menu this year to past celebrations. Attendees had to decide when purchasing their tickets if they wished to have Stew or Bacon and Cabbage for their mains.

Both choices were equally delicious and the take up was a 50/50 result. Dessert was apple crumble, tea brack or fruit cake. The main reason for the change was the lack of space in the kitchen.

We were lucky enough to have live entertainment considering the demand on the day. Thanks, to George Harte and his daughter Caroline, who keep us entertained with music and song, both donated their services free. We were also lucky to have an Irish Dancer [it's a long time since we were able to have a dancer]



Molly, who's grandmother is a parishioner here, kindly dropped in on her way to the London St. Patrick's Day Parade and gave a demonstration of the dances she was to perform at the great advent. Let us not forget Caroline Horan for her recitation, something that has not happened since the days of Cathy O'Sullivan.

Selwyn was our barman for the event, thank you. Irish Coffee was also available or there was a good old cup of tea or coffee.

It was lovely to see so many people in the hall enjoying the entertainment and food, however, one couldn't help but remember all the missing faces, those who had been coming since 2011. Now celebrating with the Lord, the latest to join them our wonderful Kerryman, Dan Moriarty. We still think of them, all characters in their own way. [For those not in the know – being described as a 'character' is one of the biggest compliments an Irish person can receive.]



We ended our celebrations with the traditional Raffle with lots of wonderful prizes to be won. The hampers were collected on the day as were most prizes and the remaining items were displayed in the Church for the winners to collect. The day ended with a few more dances before we all went home, having enjoyed a lovely day.



St. Patrick's Day - 17th March



As is the custom here St. Patrick's Statue was on display on a table on the sanctuary. The statue had been sculpted by Armando Varela some years ago. Both himself and his wife, Marie moved out of Wembley to a retirement Home. As they joined us online at most weekends, I imagine they saw the statue. In front of the table there was a basket of Shamrock. Fr. Anthony celebrated a wonderful Mass, following which he blessed the

Shamrock. The Mass ended with the hymn 'Hail Glorious St. Patrick' being sung and the distribution of the Shamrock. Then it was into the Hall for the rest of the celebrations, where tea/coffee, Irish biscuits and cake was served.



A lot of work goes into these celebrations so, **Thank you** to all who made our St. Patrick's Day Celebration so special this year. Those who helped set up and clear the Hall. Those who prepared the food, served the food and washed up afterwards, sold raffle tickets. Thanks also to Tom who made up the sprigs of Shamrock for distribution after the Mass. May God and St. Patrick bless you all.

The Church would not function without the assistance and participation of a whole range of people who work behind the scenes. It may appear that we have loads of help but honestly, we need a lot more help. Please offer your talents to help build up this family in St. Erconwald's. Thank you.



First Reconciliation

Bernie Gillen



On Saturday 14th March, the First Holy Communion children took another step on the path to their First Holy Communion itself by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

As well as learning what happens during the Sacrament and how to make an Act of Contrition, the children spent time discussing and thinking about good and not so good choices, what it really means to be sorry, as well as the things they wanted to tell Fr. Anthony they were sorry for.

Fr. Anthony and the catechists had talked to the children to explain that when they made their confession, anything they had told the priest was taken from them and forgiven; they were reconciled with God.

On the day the children were all well prepared, though a little nervous about remembering what they should do or say. Having made their Reconciliations, the children were delighted to have received another Sacrament. The parents were also given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



On Sunday, the children and their parents, attended the 10.00am "Link Mass", where the theme was Reconciliation. They read the readings and brought the gifts to the altar during the Offertory Procession.

After Mass, Fr. Anthony presented them with their First Reconciliation Certificate and a hand-made plaque of the Good Shepherd to help them remember the Sacrament as well as a reminder that this was their first, but by no means the last, reconciliation with God.

At the First Holy Communion class after receiving their Reconciliation, the children and the parents discussed how they had felt before and after their First Reconciliation:

"I felt quite nervous until I received my Reconciliation. Afterwards I felt very happy... I felt Jesus with me."



I was scared before I came to Church and stopped being scared when I received my Reconciliation.

Relieved when I finished talking to Father.

I was happy because I told Father what I did wrong. I was a bit frightened in the morning because I did not know what was going to happen.

I felt happier when I told Father and made my reconciliation. I was anxious before talking to Father because it was my first experience.

Please continue to keep our children Jazlyn, Thoren, Valanka, Julian and Frank and their families and the catechists in your prayers as they continue their preparation for First Holy Communion.

Reconciliation Service with Absolution

Christopher Dunn

Taking the theme 'We Dare To Ask' from 2026 Lenten faith-sharing resource from the Diocese of Westminster, we gathered for this service on the evening of Friday 27th March.



Many parishioners came for this important service during Lent and we were pleased to see a number of visitors joining us too.

The Examination of Conscience was based on the Stations of the Cross. Using each step that Jesus took on the way to the Cross, we were asked to reflect on our own difficulties and frustrations, sorrows and disappointments where perhaps we have not responded in the way we should have or had the patience or understanding with others that is expected of us.



After a time of reflection and as a sign of repentance, we placed Easter baskets on the table at the altar. These were then later used as part of the Easter garden decorations.

Thank you to Fr Anthony for arranging this service for us. I always admire Fr Anthony's creativity and thoughtfulness in putting these services together.

Mass with Anointing of the Sick

Claudette Roby



On Tuesday 10th March we gathered at 11.00am for Mass with Anointing of the Sick. The theme for this Mass was *'The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing another's pain'* and we were pleased to welcome Fr Tony once again, who conducted the service with Fr Anthony.

It is always lovely to see the Church so busy. We have the opportunity to see people that we do not see at our regular weekend Masses and we also welcome people from other parishes who join us at St Erconwald's for this special Mass as we gather to pray for healing for those of us who are sick or infirm.

One of the seven sacraments, this Mass provides us all with spiritual strength, healing and comfort via the laying on of hands and the blessed oil to the forehead and palms. The oil also signifies the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is a visible sign of God's compassion for us.



After Mass, we all gathered in the Church Hall for soup and bread rolls - which we all look forward to! The soups were wonderful and many conversations were had! As always, many thanks to those who prepared the soups, and to Elizabeth and her team for organising this gathering in the hall.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK - [for those who have asked to be remembered]

We keep in our thoughts and prayers: Theresa Lowman, Sandra Warren, Magdalene Davis, Angela Tora, Claudette Roby, Sue McGovern, Cathy Singer, Martin Geary, Susan Bradley, Radwan Naffa, and Yves Remedios.



We remember also those in Kenbrook, Birchwood Grange and Brook House.

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

Lent and Easter 2026

Shrove Tuesday



We welcomed the season of Lent in our traditional way, with pancakes served in the Parish Hall on Shrove Tuesday. As usual we had a good turnout. Thank you to Karen Stiell and Bernie Gillen for cooking the pancakes and organising the Hall.

Ash Wednesday

We had a big turnout again the next day in Church. Ash Wednesday packs had been prepared for those who were to take Ashes to sick and housebound relatives or neighbours. The pack contained an Ash Wednesday Service Sheet, a packet of Ash and a bottle of Holy Water. Thank you to all who took ashes to the sick. We also managed to distribute Ashes in Kenbrook and Brook House.



As part of our Lenten programme Stations of the Cross were prayed before each weekday Mass and on Friday evening followed by Mass. On Wednesdays there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a reflection on the theme: "We Dare to Ask".

The Triduum

On Wednesday, after the funeral Mass for Daniel Moriarty RIP, we prepared the Church and set up the Altar of Repose in the Hall for the celebration of the Triduum. The name given to the three days consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Vigil on Holy Saturday each of these Services lead us on to the next one, so it is important to attend each one.



Holy Thursday



As in previous years yet again we were surprised with the numbers who attended Maundy Thursday [the celebration of the Lord's Last Supper with the washing of feet]. Though the Hall was set up for the Altar of Repose we were able to use it for the extra people, and there was a very large crowd in the Hall when the Blessed Sacrament was taken in solemn procession by Fr. Anthony and the Altar Server's and placed in the Altar of Repose.

There was Watching till 10.00pm, our chance to be like the Apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane. In the quietness we experienced like them how easy it would be to shut your eyes for a few minutes!

Good Friday

Fr. Anthony, to help those who are unable to be in crowds, once again, offered two extra services in addition to the main Service at 3.00pm. During the 9.45am **Family Service**, crosses were distributed to the children and even to some of God's older children! We were also most pleased to welcome some of the residents from Brook House. A special "Thank You" to **John Gilfillan**



Manager of Brook House and his Staff for arranging to bring four of the residents in Wheelchairs to the Good Friday Service and joining in the Walk of Witness - and the numerous Masses throughout the year. After the Service we gathered with our brothers and sisters from the other Christian Churches in Wembley and together we went on our Good Friday Silent Walk of Witness.



The **Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3.00pm** saw a full Church and a full Hall where the Service was live streamed. The Cross was taken in for the Veneration of the Cross and Communion was distributed by a Minister of the Eucharist to those in the Hall.

Following the large attendance at the earlier Service, it is hard to believe that there would be another big attendance at the 6.30pm **Evening Service** but there was.

Holy Saturday

Preparations began on Saturday morning when we gathered together for *The Morning Prayer of the Church*. Following the prayer volunteers set about getting the Church ready for the most important Mass for the year – the Easter Vigil.

Setting up the Easter Garden and other displays, decorating the Church with flowers and candles, dressing the altar, preparing the procession candles, the fire from which the Easter Candle would be lit, the Easter Packs for the Sick and Housebound and finally folding raffle tickets for the draw on Sunday morning.



Easter Vigil



We started the Vigil outside the Church, gathering together for the Blessing of the Fire and the lighting of the Pascal Candle, which was taken in procession into the Church by Fr. Anthony and the Altar Servers, whilst organist, Sean Jay led in the singing of “The Light of Christ”. Once the Altar Servers carrying the flame from the Pascal Candle had lit everyone’s candle, the Easter Proclamation [Exultet] was sung.

An extended Liturgy of the Word followed. Each reading was introduced by Fr. Anthony and was followed by a prayer.

This was followed by the Liturgy of Baptism with the blessing of water, and the renewal of Baptismal Promises. All present, including those in the Hall were blessed with Holy Water. The Sacrament of Confirmation was then conferred on Elliott and Elison.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist followed. During Communion Elliot and Elision made their First Holy Communion.



As the Congregation left following the final hymn “Thine Be the Glory” they were offered prayer cards and mini eggs.

Easter Sunday



Following the 11.30am Mass we had our Easter Raffle. Most prizes were collected on the day with the remaining collected during the week. Thank you to all who donated prizes and congratulations to the winners. The money raised went towards to cost of the new Church blinds. Which have now been installed, just in time for the strong summer sun.

Thank You

Firstly, we thank **Fr. Anthony** for all the wonderful Masses and Services over the Easter and for all his hard work and thought he puts into these services. **Organist Sean Jay and the Choir** who led us in the Triduum. Also, to **Assis** for organising the Hall ensuring the live stream was operating and liaising with the **Stewards** in the Church, who all ensured everything ran smoothly in the Hall and the Church.

Reflection on Lent and Easter Vigil

Elison and Elliot Pereira



This past Lent was a meaningful time for us as we prepared to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. It encouraged us to slow down, pray more intentionally, and reflect more deeply on our faith. More than giving things up, it became a time of growing closer to God and understanding what it means to live a life rooted in faith.

Throughout Lent, we became more aware of the importance of prayer, patience, and gratitude. The support and guidance we received helped us to better understand the significance of the Sacraments and reminded us that faith is something we actively choose and nurture.

Holy Saturday brought a quiet sense of anticipation as we prepared for the Easter Vigil. The celebration itself was unforgettable, especially the powerful symbolism of light overcoming darkness through the Paschal candle. Receiving our sacraments during this joyful and sacred moment made it even more special.

This journey from Lent to Easter has strengthened our faith and deepened our understanding of God's presence in our lives. We are grateful for the support we received and are inspired to continue growing in faith as active members of the Church community.



New Blinds

The new blinds are now installed, just in time for the bright summer days. They cost £5,582.88. The money raised by the Easter Raffle £247.00 went towards the purchase of the blinds. We would also like to thank the donor who also contributed towards the blinds. A big thank also to all who have been so generous in donating to the Building Restoration Fund. It is very much appreciated.



Good Friday Walk of Witness.

Basil Soloman

[Secretary of Churches Together in Wembley]



Churches Together in Wembley are an ecumenical group of 7 churches, namely, Church of the Annunciation (Church of England), Church of the Ascension (Church of England), Park Lane Methodist Church, St Augustine (Church of England), St Erconwald's (Roman Catholic), St Michael's Tokyngton (Church of England) and Wembley

Park URC.

I first joined the group in the late 1990's when our minister Revd Roger Lee asked me to attend a meeting as the Lay representative for the Park Lane Methodist church. Several years later I became the Secretary. Each year we meet to arrange the Good Friday Walk of Witness. The Walk



starts at 10.45am on Good Friday outside St Erconwald's church. We walk in silence carrying our crosses and giving out leaflets to let the public know who we are and what we are doing. The leading large cross is a re-enactment of Jesus carrying his cross. We proceed up Preston road to the junction of Preston Road and the Avenue, where we stop for a brief moment for a Prayer by one of the ministers. We then cross the road, walk down Preston Road to the Preston Green where we have our worship. Each church read a passage of scripture and a prayer. A hymn is sung after each prayer.



The number of people on the Walk have grown over the years. The 2026 Good Friday Walk was attended by 220 people. We look forward to increase that number next year.

A word of thanks to the **Wembley Churches Together** Ministers of all the Churches, Readers, Stewards, First Aiders, Safe Guarding Officer & Musician Singer for once again enabling the Walk of Witness to take place.

Special thanks to **Cllr. Daniel Kennelly**, for organising with the Council to have the Green cleaned prior to the Service.



We have just entered into our Summer Term after a very busy and enjoyable Spring Term.



We celebrated the **season of Easter with our Y3 assembly and our Chaplain's Stations of the Cross** which were both very spiritual and special events preparing us perfectly for the Easter season. Our Pupil Chaplains perform a vital role for us as they lead us with our prayer

life and are wonderful role models for the other children in the school.

Now as we begin the new term we have just had our celebration for **St Bernadette's feastday** which was a lovely occasion which we celebrated in school, remembering this very special young lady who is our reason for existing as a school. Her story is very interesting and well worth researching if it is new to you.



During the Easter holidays we have also joined **HCPT on their annual pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter**. We took 10 children from our school and 3 members of staff and we joined thousands of others on the pilgrimage as we celebrated the life of St Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes. We have prayed for all of the community of St Erconwald's at the Grotto.



In March we welcomed **our visitors from our link school in Spain - Colegio Miramadrid**. They brought over 20 children with teachers and they stayed in pairs with host families from our school and they had a fantastic time; immersing themselves in our culture and experiencing the wonders that our great city of London provides. It was lovely to see the awe and wonder that this exchange programme offers children from another country in ours in such worrying and difficult global times. It just shows us every year that children are children, no matter

where they are from and that the language barrier is easily overcome as close friendships are formed - an example to us all!



A reminder for you all that from last year our school and all Harrow Primary schools are **smart device free zones**. I still need your support as we encourage the Government to introduce a full ban on social media for under 16s. To help, please sign-up to www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk who will provide you with information that can only help our children to grow up in a happier environment. Of course the internet is vital but they must use it properly and safely. It will make our young people far healthier both mentally and physically if they spend less time on screens. Thank-you in advance for your support.

On Monday 11th May our Y6 children will take their **annual exams (SATs)**. They will have papers for English (Grammar, spelling and reading) and in Maths (arithmetic and reasoning). After this they will be fully focused on their **transition to Y7 in their new Secondary school**. This is an important time for them so please remember them in your prayers.

On Friday 5th June we will hold our **annual Grandparent's Day**. This is one of the highlights of our school calendar. We have 2 assemblies; one for our Infant children and their families at 9.00am and a second for the Junior families at 10.15am. Grandparents will be welcomed into our classrooms and can relax with tea/coffee and cakes. **If you are a grandparent you are very welcome to join us** as we seek to celebrate these very important and special people in our children's lives.

The end of this term is always very busy with events such as **Sportsday, St Bernadette's Got Talent, our Y6 Shows** and our end of term assemblies to name just a few. We will be holding our Y6 shows on **Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th July at 6.00pm**. These are always of a very high quality and you are welcome to come along and join in the fun. Let us know if you are coming and we will reserve tickets for you.



All contact information and dates are available on our website; www.st-bernadette.co.uk



Sadly after 25 years of headship, 20 of them at St Bernadette's, **I will be leaving St Bernadette's at the end of this term.** I am taking up a new post working for our Academy Trust. I have absolutely loved my job and I will really miss working with so many wonderful teachers, support staff, parents, Governors and most importantly the children. Every day is different and there have been many challenges and successes, during which I have been very lucky to work with

such a fabulous community, who have always been very appreciative and supportive. The school will go from strength to strength as I leave it in the very capable hands of my Deputy-Head, Mrs Cahillane, who will take over writing these articles in the Autumn Term.

Thank-you to Fr Anthony and all of the St Erconwald's parishioners who have and will always be a very important part of the St Bernadette's community and my life. I will miss you all.

The Ambry – Donated by the Wheaton Family



Hopefully you have noticed the new Ambry [cabinet for the Holy Oils] located next to the tabernacle, perhaps you wondered what it was. Inside the lit **Ambry** there are the **three Holy Oils**.

Oil of Catechumens – Used to **strengthen and anoint candidates - adults and infants - preparing for baptism.**

Oil of the Sick – Used to **anoint the sick and dying.**

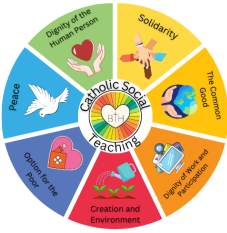
Oil of Chrism – A consecrated mixture of olive oil and balsam fragrance. Used to **anoint infants at their Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and Consecration of Religious places and objects.**



These oils were blessed by Archbishop Richard during the Chrism Mass - in our Diocese, celebrated on the Tuesday of Holy Week. Priests from around the Diocese gather together to celebrate this Mass, during which the priests also renew the promises they made at their Ordination.

*By this Sacred Oil may we be renewed,
and our lost glory restored by the Spirit's power.*

Creation and Environment



In the first pages of the Bible we read how God created the sun and the stars, the water and earth, and every creature. We believe Christ is the redeemer of all creation. In 2015, Pope Francis brought together decades of Church teaching in the encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. In this deeply influential letter, Pope Francis invites everyone on the planet to consider how our actions are affecting the earth and the poorest people. Everything is interconnected, and all of creation praises God. It is our Christian vocation to care for creation.

The dignity of work and participation

The dignity of work has been a key principle of Catholic social teaching from the very beginning.

What can I do?

One way in which you could support CAFOD's work is by signing its recently launched petition in relation to the Global Debt Crisis details which are at <https://cafod.org.uk/news/campaigning-news/voices-from-the-church-call-for-action-on-the-debt-crisis>, and as always your support, prayers and donations are appreciated.

The Lent Family Fast Day raised: £409.00. *Thank you* for your continued generosity

Further information at

<https://cafod.org.uk/about-us>

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/catholic-social-teaching>

<https://cafod.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do>



Mary's Meals



Gerard McMahon from Mary's Meals would like to thank all the parishioners who took part in the Foreign Currency initiative which was held in October. The sum of £591.16 was raised. Thanks to your generosity *Mary's Meals* will be able to feed 30 children, one good meal every school day for a year. Thank you for your support, please continue to pray for the work of *Mary's Meals*.

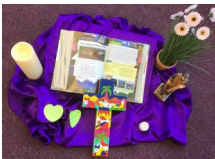


Spring term has been full of exciting events. The children, led by our Prayer Leaders, have continued to play an active role in growing the Catholic life of the school. The spring term is always a very special term as it is the term with our patron saint's special feast day, as well as the term in which Lent occurs and we prepare for Easter.

Monthly Values: We have continued to introduce a monthly value and to send home a value sheet with a shared family task. Over the spring term we have reflected on the following values in assembly and in class and home focused activities: January- Commitment, February – Understanding, March - Freedom April – Empathy.

Whole School and Year Group Masses: This term children in KS2 have been having Masses celebrated in their classrooms with their families and staff. This is a really special opportunity for Mass and we are very grateful to Father Joseph, Father Tebin and Father Jose for coming to celebrate class Masses with our children and families.

Lenten Class Liturgies: Each class invited parents to share a really special opportunity. This was to attend one of their child's class liturgies across Lent. This is a special class liturgy organised and led by the children.



Reconciliation: Children in Year 4, 5 and 6 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Saint Joseph's Church as part of their reparation during Lent.

Mother's Day Cake Sale: The Prayer Leader's decided to hold a very special Mother's Day Cake sale on Friday 13th March. They raised a magnificent £85.60 which they are donating to their CAFOD Easter appeal.

Stewardship of God's World: The School Council's focus this term has been on recycling. They invited us to all take part in the Great Big School Clean which ran from the 16th March until the 27th March. They encouraged our whole school community to reduce, reuse and recycle. They completed litter picking each week and worked hard to ensure that we look after God's World by caring for all of our resources and creation.



Catholic Life and School Mission Day- Saint Joseph's Day: We



had a wonderful Mission Day on March 19th. The children went on a pilgrimage to the Prayer Room and hung their Lenten promise leaves on our Lenten Tree. In the afternoon we went to a special Feast Day Mass where Father Jose Mathew celebrated Mass and reminded us all about being caring and loving like Saint Joseph. Many thanks to Father Joseph for sending cakes for all of the children.

CAFOD Lenten Collection: As a school we supported CAFOD as our spring term charity. As part of our fund raising, we all took part in CAFOD's 'Big Lent Walk' on Tuesday 31st March. Children brought in £1 to donate to CAFOD. They then carried out an awareness raising walk around the playground. The Prayer Leaders collected a wonderful £378.23 from both the walk and the cake sale which we will be sending to CAFOD.

Stations of the Cross: All classes visited our outdoor Stations of the Cross in our Prayer Garden during Holy Week. This gave everyone an opportunity for prayer and reflection.

Easter Liturgy: Year 5 led a wonderful Easter Liturgy in the final



week of the term. It was a very moving and reverent re-telling of the Easter story. They led us through the Easter story and prompted us to pray and reflect on how this is all still relevant to the words, actions and choices that we make every day.

Thank you to the pupils and staff for working so hard to share this with the pupils and wider school community.

Easter Hat Parade: The children enjoyed a fabulous Easter Hat Parade at the end of term. As always, their creativity was amazing.

Saint Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools Currently have some vacancies in some year groups. Please call or email the school office to arrange a school visit.

admin@sjinf.brent.sch.uk 02089036032 Infant School

admin@sjjr.brent.sch.uk 02089023438 Junior School

We look forward to continuing to work together to develop the Catholic Life and Mission of our school

Religious Articles Fair



The weekend of the 21st/22nd February we welcomed the *Bethlehem Nativity Group* – a missionary group from the Holy Land - to the Parish. Christian's in Bethlehem produce handmade Olive wood and Mother of Pearl religious goods, the sale of which provides a source of income, in most cases their only source of income. Nicholas, who organises the transportation and visits of the religious articles from the Holy Land to all the Churches in the UK, made an appeal at all the Masses that weekend.

As Nicholas explained the sale of these goods provide a much needed source of income for Christians in the Holy Land - who currently only account for 1% of the population. Sadly, first due to Covid and then the conflicts in the Middle East, sales were not possible mainly due to travel restrictions, with the result that the overall income for these families fell by 90% [no Government help available there]. Many had to close their workshops and some even sold their tools without which they would never be able to carve again. Some had to go abroad to make a living. Which is a pity for the Bethlehem Olive Wood traditional craft dates back to the 4th Century, when the Monks based at the Nativity Church taught the locals the art. These skills were later passed on from generation to generation.



We were pleased that after Mass, Parishioners took the opportunity to visit the Parish Hall and see the wide display of goods. After the event, Nicholas contacted us to thank us for hosting the event and for raising the sum of £5,863.50, thanks to parishioners purchases.

If anyone has missed the carvings display, can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk

The Olive Tree:

The olive tree is native to the Holy Land where it has been cultivated since ancient times. The olive tree is chosen for more than its appearance. The olive tree is so special to our world because it is directly connected to our Christian faith as Jesus prayed under an olive tree on his way to Jerusalem after the last supper and before his Crucifixion on a Cross made of the olive wood taken from the olive trees near the garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem.



Sudbury & Wembley Dementia Carers Support Groups

Services available in Brent for people affected by dementia.



In the 2017 Summer edition of the Parish Magazine I wrote about the services available for people affected by dementia in Brent. A lot has happened since then and not surprisingly some things have changed.

Even so there are still too many people who either don't know such support exists, how to access it, and/or understand their value. Therefore, what follows below is a concise list of what's available.

As always if you have any questions relating to this please feel free to approach me at any time. My contact details follow at the end of the article.

GP (General Practitioner). The GP of the person you support plays a critical role, as it's only through them can you access certain services. It's key to create a good relationship with the GP, however easy or difficult it is. For example, access to both the Brent Memory Service and Brent Admiral Nurse Service is via a referral from the GP.

NHS Brent Memory Service. If you're concerned about yourself or a loved one you should first approach the GP. If the GP considers further assessment is required they will submit a referral to the Brent Memory Service. Remember if a person is suspected of having dementia it's very difficult to access other dementia services without a confirmed diagnosis

NHS Brent Admiral Nurse Service. After a gap of more than 12 years they're back! Admiral nurses are specialist dementia nurses. They provide support to families where there are complex challenges. To access the service you need to go ask your GP for a referral, as they're based at the Brent Memory Service.

If you reach a "Crisis point" – and cannot wait to be referred to the Brent Admiral Nurse Service – contact the NHS Central NW London Out of Hours Crisis Team on tel. 0800 0234 650 (email cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net). They're open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Remember if it's an emergency dial 999.

Brent Carers Centre (www.brentcarerscentre.org.uk) is a local charity that provides a range of services to support both family carers and the people they support. This includes advice on accessing support from Brent Adult Social Services, benefits and money advice, respite activities, etc. For more details tel. 020 3802 7070 (email email@brentcarerscentre.org).



Brent Council Adult Social Services have a legal duty to assess the needs of both the person with dementia and their family. Please note it's always best to go via Brent Carers Centre, who can contact them on your behalf. [<https://www.brent.gov.uk/adult-social-care> tel.: 020 8937 4300]



Community Action on Dementia Brent (<https://cad-brent.org.uk/>) are a community group of volunteers who work to create a dementia friendly borough. They provide a range of opportunities to get involved and socialise with other people affected by dementia, including Community Cafés. For more details tel. 07848 743000 (email info@cad-brent.org.uk).

Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Support Line 0333 150 3456 (<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/dementia-support-line>). National helpline that offers advice and support for people affected by dementia.



Admiral Nurse Dementia Helpline 0800 888 6678 (or email helpline@dementiauk.org). National helpline – like the Alzheimer's Society – that offers advice and support for people affected by dementia. This is different to the Brent Admiral Nurse service.

Culture Dementia UK (www.culturedementiauk.org; tel. 0800 014 8682) provide support for people with dementia and their families and friends among the African/Caribbean community.



Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitudes of others even when the signs are unfavourable; you may be taken for a fool but this is the price of charity.

[“The Little Beatitudes” Joseph Folliet, d.1972]



Sudbury & Wembley Dementia Carers Support Groups. Specifi-



Sudbury & Wembley
Dementia Carers Support Groups

cally for family members and friends who support loved ones with dementia. Opportunity to meet with other current and former carers, to talk openly about your experiences, learn more about dementia, pick up tips and ideas, and get advice in a confidential and safe environment (without any fear of discrimination and judgment). The Groups meet monthly, and for more details speak to Frank (contact details below) and/or look at the Poster in the Church.

Please note this is not an exhaustive list of what's available in Brent – as other local charities offer specific services to their communities – but it's a good start.

If you would like any further advice and/or just a chat about your situation please feel free to contact me Frank Arrojo (tel. 07867 903917; email: frankj.arrojo@gmail.com).

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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].

<https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=268>

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PARISH PRIEST: Father Anthony Psaila

PARISH OFFICE:

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

GIFT AID: Marie Needham

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SAFEGUARDING REPS:

Rose Yip wembley3sg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Maria Rogers wembley3sg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm; Sunday: 10.00am and 11.30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 4.30 - 5.00pm

HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION: Wednesday 10.00-11.00am