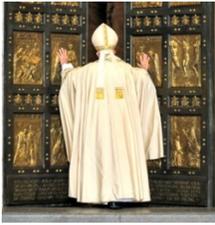


## The Jubilee Year of Mercy

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.

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.



## Mary, Mother of Mercy



'At the foot of the Cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus. This supreme expression of mercy towards those who crucified him shows us the point to which the mercy of God can reach. Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone without exception' (MV24).



## Fasting

**Ash Wednesday [10th February] and Good Friday [25th March]** are days of fasting and abstinence. On these days the Church asks us to abstain completely from eating meat and enter into the mystery of Christ's passion and death by fasting. Each Friday throughout the year, we recall the events of Good Friday by fasting in some way.

## Alms-Giving



### Lent Fast Day: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

"Turn on the Taps" is the theme for this year's campaign. This lent, the government will match pound for pound every donation made to CAFOD. Please visit: [www.cafod.org.uk/lent](http://www.cafod.org.uk/lent)

### St. Laurence's Larder and Open Kitchen [Christ Church, Brondesbury NW6]



supporting single men/woman who are Homeless, Living in B&Bs or Housed Hostels. Offers a twice weekly three course meal [Tuesdays/Thursdays: 11.30am-3.00pm]. Each guest is also offered a take away evening meal. For more information contact: Stephen: [stepspc@mac.com](mailto:stepspc@mac.com)

### Lenten Alms: Caritas Westminster:

Promotes community-based social outreach initiatives. Please visit:  [www.rcdow.org.uk/caritas](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/caritas)

## Works of Mercy

are practices which Christians perform as an act of both penance and charity.



**Corporal Works of Mercy:** to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead.

**Spiritual Works of mercy:** to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences,

**Suggestion:** Either commit to memory the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, or read more fully the teachings of a Saint renowned for mercy. Use these as an inspiration for your own life of mercy.



## The Year of Mercy A Lenten Journey

### An Invitation and Welcome.

A very warm welcome.



We are delighted to offer you this free leaflet which we hope you will find interesting and helpful.

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



St. Erconwald's Church

112 Carlton Avenue East, Middlesex HA9 8NB

Tel.: 020 8904 6031

Email: [wembley3@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wembley3@rcdow.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.erconwald.org.uk>

Parish Priest: Fr. Anthony Psaila

People drift away from the practice of their faith and perhaps attend Church infrequently, for all kinds of reasons.



Teenage years may have marked a turning point because the Mass seemed boring and irrelevant.

Never really started, because was baptised or made your First Holy Communion and then no one in your family came at other times.

May have been hurt by something said or done by someone at church, and may still feel very angry about this.

Some failure or experience in your life made you feel unworthy or ashamed. It may have been that, deep down, you felt that you were doing wrong or that the Church disapproved.

Suffered the trauma of a marriage breakdown, may have married again or are in a new relationship.

Find it difficult to accept the Church's teachings on a number of different issues.



You just gradually stopped coming for no particular reason and that's that.

Whatever the reasons or situation, we would like to invite you to take a fresh look and give it another go. You are a vital part of God's family and would be made very welcome. We hope that this leaflet will be a help to you during this Jubilee Year and especially during this Season of Lent.

The Catholic Church is made up of saints and sinners. We are called to be holy, but are part of a broken family, made up of fragile human beings who are trying to be good and more Christ-like. You and your story can help us to do this. The Church always needs renewal. Your contribution is very valuable as are your God-given gifts, and we are incomplete without them.



## The Lenten Season



Lent is a special time for us Christians. A time of grace, of conversion, of renewal and of healing through prayer, penance and alms giving. During this season we are invited to fasting and abstinence; to works of self-denial; to personal and communal worship, and to reach out to those who are less fortunate than us.

### Prayer

Through prayer we show our need of God, and that we believe in His power. "O God, you are my God, I seek you. My soul thirsts for you..." [Psalm 63.1] When praying we present ourselves before God, who knows our needs and is full of love towards us, and our relationship with Him [and with one another] grows.

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

**Sunday Masses:** Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm; 9.00am and 11.30am [family]

**Stations of the Cross:** Weekdays [except Thursdays and Saturdays] at 9.00am. Friday evening after the 7.00pm Mass.

**Rosary:** Weekdays [except Thursday] after morning Mass.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** This is an opportunity to pray and reflect in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Wednesday after 9.30am Mass. During the exposition we will be following the booklet "Lift Up Your Hearts". There will be Benediction at 11.00am.

**Divine Mercy Prayers:** Monday to Friday 3.00-4.00pm

**Mass with Anointing of the Sick** [This Mass is for everyone especially the sick and elderly]: **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** at 11.00am. Followed by soup and rolls.

**24 Hours for the Lord:** Friday/Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> March

### Sick and Housebound

This Lent we ask you to pray for:

- ⇒ The sick, that they may be able to accept their illness or ageing process and their loss of independence.
- ⇒ Their families, who are the main carers of the sick.
- ⇒ That the Lord may provide more Ministers to take Holy Communion to the sick and house-bound.

## The Sacrament of Mercy

Lent is a time when we examine the way we live, to look beyond the surface and see once more God's presence in the world.



"So many people are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation .... rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent it will be a source of true interior peace." [MV 17.3].

Pope Francis has spoken of the story of a sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. "Thanks to Jesus" he said, "God threw her many sins over his shoulder and remembers them no more. That is because this is true: when God forgives, he forgets."

We are all sinners. But God offers us unconditional love: love that we cannot earn, or buy, only receive. God wants us to be free of whatever weighs us down, whatever mistakes or wrong judgements we have made, whatever holds us back from loving ourselves and others with open and generous hearts.



### Rite of Penance:

Saturday between 4.30pm and 5.00pm.

### Service of Reconciliation:

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March** after the 7.00pm Mass with visiting confessors.

*It will be good if everyone received the Sacrament in this "Year of Mercy"*

    All holy Father,  
    you have shown us your mercy  
    and made us a new creation  
    in the likeness of your Son.  
    Make us living signs of your love  
    for the whole world to see.  
    We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.