

April 2025

EDGEWAYS

Sacred Heart Parish Magazine

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***Hosanna to the King!
The Solemn Entrance at the
12 noon Mass on Palm Sunday***

- Jesus' resurrected body (pp.2–3)
- Responding to 'Called to Bear Fruit' (pp.6–8)
- Pope Francis on the Sacred Heart (pp.10–13)

***FREE* but donations are always welcome**

Jesus' resurrected body – and our own

When we speak of Jesus' Resurrection, we need to be clear about three distinctions.

Firstly, unlike Lazarus, Jesus did not return to normal biological life only to die again at a later date: 'Death has no power over him any more' (Romans 6: 9).

Secondly, the risen Jesus is not a ghost or spirit. In other words, He does not belong to the realm of the dead, but to the realm of the living.

Thirdly, the encounters of the disciples and St Paul (on the road to Damascus) were not mystical experiences, like those experienced by St Catherine of Siena, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, St Faustina Kowalska, or indeed by St Paul elsewhere, as he describes in 2 Corinthians 12. Rather, the disciples and St Paul were convinced that they had met a living person.

The disciples recognised Jesus, so His resurrected body was in some ways the same: He ate fish, for example, and St Thomas was invited to touch him. But equally, His body was different in some ways: He could enter closed rooms, and he could disappear (for example, after his explanation to the disciples at Emmaus).

Most significantly, it was a glorified body, as described in Apocalypse 1:12-16. In his *Summa Theologiae* (III, 54), St Thomas Aquinas cites St Gregory saying that 'Christ's body is shown to be of the same nature, but of different glory, after the Resurrection'.

That is to say, a glorified body is still a body, but it is not subject to the normal processes of corruption and decay. It is, we might say, not subject to the usual laws and forces of physics and chemistry.



Christ's resurrected body is composed of the same flesh and blood as our bodies, but His body has become perfect.

To assert this is not contrary to science, as some people think. Miracles, resurrection, and a glorified body do not violate the laws of physics, but they are outside normal physical happenings: the definition of a miracle is something that happens outside the natural way of things.

The reality of the resurrected body is a fundamental truth of Christianity. In 675 AD, the Eleventh Synod of Toledo held that Christ experienced 'a real death in the flesh'. Christ's Resurrection completed His work of redemption, and so it was not just an important event for Jesus Christ. His Resurrection is of cosmic importance: it was a historical episode, but one which transcends history. The Resurrection was not the same kind of historical happening as Christ's birth or death; it is something new, a new type of event, ushering in a new era and new possibilities.

His glorified body is a model of the glorified bodies of the saints and those judged worthy of admission into heaven. As St John puts it: 'Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is' (1 John 3:2). The Resurrection of Christ thus gives us hope, whatever misfortunes we may experience in this life.

As the Creed says, we believe in the resurrection of the body, not just of the soul. We believe that after death, we will rise again with our own bodies – so we shall be able to recognise each other and

have memories of our earthly life, for example – but in glorified bodies, made perfect by Christ's victory over death.

After the General Resurrection, our transformed bodies will no longer suffer or die, and so we shall enjoy immortality. The only question is whether individuals will be counted among the just and enjoy eternal happiness in heaven, or shall be judged among the wicked and go elsewhere for eternal misery.

And so we sing in the Response to Psalm 117 on Easter Day: 'This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.'

Canon David



Canon David is pleased to report that, after over eleven years since the Society of Jesus left the parish, the property – including the church, presbytery, offices, halls, and grounds – has been transferred from the Jesuits to the Archdiocese. In civil charity law, this means that the land and buildings are now owned by the Archdiocesan trustees. In Canon Law, it means that the parish now controls them. The Parish Finance Committee has now commissioned an inspection, especially of the church, to see what repairs, &c., are needed.

'Welcome, Mrs Sarah Norville!'

The parish is pleased to report that the Governors have appointed Mrs Sarah Norville as the new Headteacher of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, with effect from September 2025. Sarah has been a Headteacher for 18 years, including at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Wimbledon. The governors are confident that Mrs Norville will build on the good work of Mrs Lorraine Dolan-Walsh.



Happy Mother's Day!

It may be Easter when you're reading this month's Edgeways, but before we get there, the fourth Sunday of Lent was **Mothering Sunday**, which always reminds me of my favourite Jewish line: 'As God could not be everywhere, he invented mothers!' Thank you, mothers!

As Easter at last looms after a long winter, Canon David explains the meaning and relevance of **Jesus' resurrected body**. (pp.2-3) We offer a taste of Canon David's Lenten talks with an excerpt on the **scriptural foundations of the Mass**. (p.16)

One group has invited us to share with readers their recently-submitted findings for **Called to Bear Fruit** as they help to shape the future of the Archdiocese of Southwark. (pp.6-8) Like you, I look forward to learning about the next actions invited for the laity.

In October 2024, Pope Francis published his fourth encyclical, entitled **Dilexit nos** and dedicated to our parish eponym, the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A parish group read the encyclical earlier this year, and Matteo Baccaglini now offers us a long-read summary of the encyclical and the group's reflections. (pp.10-13)

James Bush tells us how pupils at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School have embraced 2025 as a year of pilgrimage with '**Peter the Pilgrim Bear**'! (pp.14-15)

Kicking off a series looking at the impressive range of uniformed groups in our parish, Niharika Parkash-Mair enthusiastically shares her positive experiences in the **28th Wimbledon (Sacred Heart) Guides** and explains how Guiding can shape girls into 'dreamers, innovators, and leaders'. (pp.18-19)



In parish news, following much discussion at the **Parish Pastoral Council** (p.5), we introduce the context for the parish's new **Be Well Hub** initiative (p.17).

We also congratulate parishioner **Anne Remedios** on her recognition as a Merton Champion (p.9), look back at the **Edgeways archives** (pp.20-21), and present a full diary of **outings, retreats, and concerts!** (pp.22-24)

Finally, after eleven years, the **legal ownership of the parish** has at last been settled (p.3), meaning that we can assess what needs to be improved and how this can be paid for. Watch this space!

David Hurst

*We wish all readers of Edgeways
a very happy and holy Easter!*

STOP THE PRESS: 'Can I just say that it was a pleasure reading Edgeways this evening? The content is great but the design is also alluring and interesting – well done.' – from one happy reader!

Production credits: David Hurst (*Editor*), Matteo Baccaglini (*design and layout*), Wimbledon Print Company (*printing and finishing: cut, fold, and staple*)

Front cover photograph: John Stone

Updates from the Parish Pastoral Council

Comprising the Parish Pastoral Team and elected volunteer parishioners, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets monthly to support the Parish Priest and his team in their pastoral work by discussing and encouraging a wide range of aspects related to parish life.

We report a summary of the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 4 April, which you can read in full online at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/ppc (under 'Parish Pastoral Council Documents').

Updates from the Parish Pastoral Team

Canon David and Rob Hitchcock updated the PPC with the following items:

- a new organiser has been appointed to lead the Memory Lane Club, subject to the necessary safeguarding approvals;
- Rob would like more volunteers to develop the new POD youth group;
- the Parish Lead for Formation is still vacant; and
- following the success of the Sycamore Lenten evenings, Rob would like to learn of any other themes which would interest parishioners.

PPC Constitution

Canon David requested that the PPC's constitution be revised to reflect a greater focus on pastoral care, evangelisation, and catechesis, and to fix certain inaccuracies where the existing constitution no longer reflects typical practice. It was agreed that Canon David would lead the revisions, with pending membership recruitment paused until then.

'Be Well Hub'

The parish is looking to develop a Be Well Hub, which will provide a safe space for parishioners to turn to when their mental health is low or they wish to feel better connected with other parishioners and their local community.

The PPC agreed to find resources and funding to develop the Hub, beginning with appointing someone to shape and launch it (see page 17). The PPC noted how the Hub could support the parish's pastoral work and mission more broadly.

Other matters

David Hurst updated the PPC with news and upcoming events from Merton Citizens, including Be Well Hubs.

With the completion of the transfer of the parish premises and land from the Society of Jesus to the Diocese, an architect is conducting a quinquennial inspection. Depending on the repairs and improvements identified, a new fundraising appeal may be required.

The PPC commissioned a workstream to revise the parish organisations booklet and manage its distribution. A 'Wheel of Opportunity' with all the groups is being developed.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is looking for parishioners willing to help its prayer garden initiative, for which it is identifying funding routes and possible improvements. Please contact James at jbush@sacredheart.merton.sch.uk.

You can get in touch with the PPC at ppc@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk.

One group's responses to 'Called to Bear Fruit'

'Called to Bear Fruit' is the Archdiocese of Southwark's process of renewal. The initiative hopes to inspire and equip parishes to become communities that form disciples, evangelise, and inspire witness to the Catholic faith. You can learn more at rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit.

Earlier this year, Archbishop John invited parishes to meet in small groups to discuss six themes, responding to the Archdiocese with a summary of their reflections by early April.

In this article, we report a summary of the responses of one of the groups in our parish who took up Archbishop John's invitation.



Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 2025. Photographs by John Stone.



How is our parish doing?

Our parish's Mass attendance count (see the table) shows that we have been growing since Mass attendance shrunk during lockdown.

Many younger parishioners are taking on roles: we have many young altar servers, choristers, and readers; our primary school choir sings at the 10.00am Mass once termly; and Rob Hitchcock is developing other roles for young people. In ten years' time, we expect our parish to be still thriving.

Our parish finances are also strong, with £411,000 in parish offertory collections in 2024. We also raise significant sums in second collections.

How missionary is our parish?

Following the 'Some Definite Service' diocesan initiative, three parishioners take active responsibility for catechesis, formation, and evangelisation.

Our weekly newsletter encourages new parishioners to register and make themselves known to the Parish Pastoral Team. The Parish Pastoral Council also hosts well-attended welcome teas; the next one is scheduled for Sunday 8 June.

Our parish looks outwards through its extensive participation in ecumenical and community groups, such as Churches Together in West Wimbledon and Merton Citizens. Many social and recreational groups based in our parish act as a community hub, such as the Memory Lane Club for those living with dementia and their carers and Edge Hill Players.



Kiss Me Kate, September 2024. Photograph by John Stone.



Canon John's retirement party, May 2023

What is our parish formation like?

Our weekly Lenten programmes – Canon David's talk on the Mass and Rob's Sycamore discussion groups – are evidence of our parish's strong offering for adult formation. Many regular prayer groups are also active in our parish; they are advertised regularly.

For teenagers, the weekly POD youth group is small but growing. The young adult house provides a focal point for socialising students and young professionals in our parish, with post-Mass meet-ups, dance groups, and the monthly 'Prayer and a Pint' group.

We receive candidates from other parishes to our sacramental preparation programmes, which can cause our parish to be perceived as 'poaching'.

Year	Baptisms	First Holy Communions	Confirmations	Marriages	Sunday Mass attendance
2019	109	144	62	40	1,647
2021	84	107	83	25	924
2022	101	135	103	26	1,205
2023	106	114	82	25	1,195
2024	72	113	76	22	1,337

How are we taught to pray?

We have six Sunday Masses and two Masses on weekdays. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered on Wednesday and Friday morning and evenings, with additional evening hours on the first Mondays and Fridays of the month. Confession is available before all weekday evening Masses and on Saturday mornings.

Volunteers at Mass welcome congregants. We have separate choirs at the 10.00am, 12 noon, and 5.00pm Masses.



Sacred Heart Chorus and Orchestra Concert, June 2019

How do we serve those in need in our community?

For the elderly and those searching for community, the monthly Friendship Group is vibrant. For those living with dementia and their carers, there is the weekly Memory Lane Club. The Winter Night Shelter welcomes homeless guests, and the St Vincent de Paul Society supports those in financial need. The parish offers free counselling services to those who request it.

The 'Be Well Hub' will help to extend our mental health services in the community (see [page 17](#)).

We are always oversubscribed when we ask for volunteers via the newsletter and Edgeways: 27 people signed up to support the Winter Night Shelter over seven nights, and we have many Sunday catechists. We are currently seeking more Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.



Fr Michael Barnes SJ's farewell Mass, November 2023



Youth 2000 'The London Retreat', January 2024

Wanted! A part-time, live-out carer is sought for a charming elderly lady with dementia in SW20. For further details, please call 07957 657879. Thank you!

Sacred Heart parishioner is recognised as a Merton Champion

The Wimbledon Foundation – the charitable arm of the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) and the Championships – has launched a striking photography exhibition to celebrate remarkable people from the boroughs of Merton and Wandsworth.

Champions of Merton and Wandsworth is a collection of ten portraits by photographer Ben Queenborough, celebrating ten everyday heroes from the local community.

One of the portraits features Anne Remedios, a familiar Sacred Heart parishioner. Anne, who practises yoga every day, facilitates the weekly Yoga Group that meets in the Lounge. She also organises the Guild of St Martha's Church Cleaners, which cleans our church every week (which is not an easy job!).

In the wider community, Anne helps to run Merton Goan Senior Citizens Association (MGSCA), a community group offering food, friendship, and exercise to local residents in Merton and Wandsworth. MGSCA is supported by the Wimbledon Foundation's Get Set, Get Active Fund.

All of us at *Edgeways* would like to congratulate Anne for her well-deserved recognition and thank her for all she does and continues to do for our parish and wider community.

Champions of Merton and Wandsworth will be on public display in the Piazza, Wimbledon town centre, from Tuesdays 6 to 20 May.



Source: Ben Queenborough / Wimbledon Foundation

'I joined MGSCA after my husband died. My focus is on organising the weekly Wednesday sessions, which help our members to lead vibrant and physically active lives. Through eating lunch together and a programme of outings, singing, and dancing, we enable members to make friends and enjoy socialising together.'

— Anne Remedios

Dilexit nos ('He loved us'): Pope Francis' encyclical on the Sacred Heart

In October 2024, Pope Francis published his fourth encyclical, entitled *Dilexit nos* ('He loved us') and dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

It would have been very amiss for our parish, dedicated as it is to the Sacred Heart, not to have marked the occasion. Thus, at the start of the year, a group of parishioners and friends gathered weekly via Zoom to discuss the encyclical and its relevance to our lives of faith, our parish community, and the wider world.

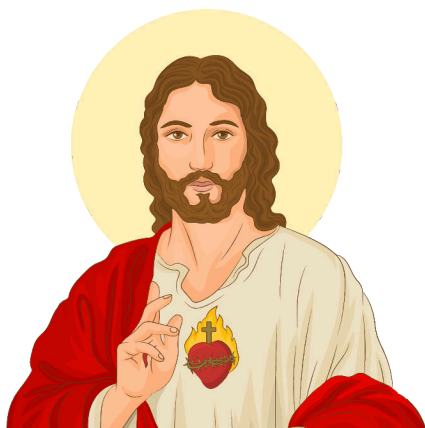


Encyclical: A circulating letter, especially one sent by the Pope.

In its starting chapters, *Dilexit nos* was not an easy read, even more so for those of us who had read Pope Francis' earlier encyclicals, which were far more applied to practical, topical themes such as care for the environment (*Laudato si'*, 2015) and fraternity (*Fratelli tutti*, 2020). Instead, *Dilexit nos* breathes a different air, inviting us to contemplate and rediscover the historic devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – a devotion which, Pope Francis suggests, enriches the teachings of what he calls his 'social encyclicals' (§217).



'The symbol of the heart has often been used to express the love of Jesus Christ. Some have questioned whether this symbol is still meaningful today. Yet living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and ending up as insatiable consumers and slaves to the mechanisms of a market unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart.' (§2)



Pope Francis begins by asking us to reflect on the unique meaning of the heart, 'the profound core ... of the entire person in his or her unique psychosomatic identity' (§21), which is 'the ultimate judge ... of who we truly are' (§6), the store of 'our real personal history' (§11), and the way by which we reach out to others to create 'true closeness between two persons' (§12). The heart is also where we encounter God, as St Ignatius of Loyola emphasised in his *Spiritual Exercises* (§24) and St John Henry Newman in his motto of *cor ad cor loquitur* ('heart speaking unto heart') (§26).



'Who am I, really? What am I looking for? What direction do I want to give to my life, my decisions and my actions? Why and for what purpose am I in this world? How do I want to look back on my life once it ends? What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences? Who do I want to be for others? Who am I for God? All these questions lead us back to the heart.' (§8)

What our hearts mean for us, they also mean for Christ. And so Christ's heart is 'the symbol of the deepest and most personal source of his love for us' (§32). Christ became one of us, loved us with his actions and closeness to us – even in our hurt and sin – and promised to be with us for all time. His humanity was real: think of Jesus' cry from the Cross: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Mark 15:34; §45).



'Jesus' words show that his holiness did not exclude deep emotions ... [He] demonstrated a love that was both passionate and compassionate. He could be deeply moved and grieved, even to the point of shedding tears. It is clear that Jesus was not indifferent to the daily cares and concerns of people, such as their weariness or hunger: 'I have compassion for this crowd ... they have nothing to eat ... they will faint on the way, and some of them have come from a great distance' (Mark 8:2-3). (§44)

How might we react to meeting this heart?



'The Gospel tells us that a rich man came up to Jesus, full of idealism yet lacking in the strength needed to change his life. Jesus then 'looked at him' (Mark 10:21). Can you imagine that moment, that encounter between his eyes and those of Jesus? If Jesus calls you and summons you for a mission, he first looks at you, plumbs the depths of your heart and, knowing everything about you, fixes his gaze upon you. (§39)

So Pope Francis invites us to enter 'the corporal, psychological, and historical reality of Jesus' through his Sacred Heart (§63), which he reaffirms as 'the Holy Spirit's masterpiece' (§75) and 'the incarnate synthesis of the Gospel' (§90).

In its modern form, the devotion to the Sacred Heart began in the 1670s with the visions of St Margaret Mary Alacoque and the 'Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart' that were entrusted to her (see [page 13](#)). The last of these promises offers mercy to those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month, a devotion which is also observed in our parish. Pope Francis highlights the historical context into which this devotion emerged:



'The promotion of Eucharistic Communion on the first Friday of each month ... sent a powerful message at a time when many people had stopped receiving Communion because they were no longer confident of God's mercy and forgiveness and regarded communion as a kind of reward for the perfect. In the context of Jansenism, the spread of this practice proved immensely beneficial ... [and] it can prove similarly beneficial in our own time, for a different reason. Amid the frenetic pace of today's world and our obsession with free time, consumption and diversion, cell phones and social media, we forget to nourish our lives with the strength of the Eucharist.' (§84)

Our reading group resonated with Pope Francis' discussions of how the Sacred Heart has been contemplated through the centuries by saints such as St Francis de Sales and St Thérèse of Lisieux, and the devotion's privileged place in Jesuit spirituality. Some images and reflections were more tractable than others: for example, some of us found the images of Jesus' gaze and his thirst for us uncomfortable at first!

In *Dilexit nos*' closing chapters, the Holy Father reflects on 'two essential aspects that contemporary devotion to the Sacred Heart needs to combine'; these are 'personal spiritual experience and communal missionary commitment' (§91).

On the first aspect, Pope Francis draws us to reflect on our 'natural desire to console Christ' (§158), a 'devotion of consolation ... [which] becomes flesh and blood in the Church's pilgrimage through history' (§157). Where does this desire come from? Compunction – that is, the sting of conscience we feel when we do wrong – is our reflex when we examine our response to how immensely Christ loves us:



'The natural desire to console Christ, which begins with our sorrow in contemplating what he endured for us, grows with the honest acknowledgment of our bad habits, compulsions, attachments, weak faith, vain goals, and, together with our actual sins, the failure of our hearts to respond to the Lord's love and his plan for our lives.' (§158)

This compunction moves us to a deeper experience and practice of the Faith:



'I also encourage everyone to consider whether there might be greater reasonableness, truth, and wisdom in certain demonstrations of love that seek to console the Lord than in the cold, distant, calculated and nominal acts of love that are at times practised by those who claim to possess a more reflective, sophisticated and mature faith.' (§160)

On the second aspect, our devotion to the Sacred Heart challenges us to extend Christ's love to others (§163), just as the early Christians did: Christian charity was so effective that it agitated Emperor Julian to provide more support for the needy across the Roman Empire! (§169) It was here that we especially considered how we might apply the encyclical to our parish community. We thought of the many parish groups, such as the Memory Lane Club, that witness to Christ's love, and the role of lay leadership in driving them.

Pope Francis encourages us to reinterpret the practice of reparation, which is particularly associated with devotion to the Sacred Heart, as part of 'the social dimension of this devotion' (§152).



Reparation: Making amends for our offences, especially against God.

The notion of reparation calls us to 'build a new civilisation of love' (§182), with 'a desire to mend wounded hearts where the deepest harm was done' (§185), beginning firstly by 'acknowledging our sins before others ... which demonstrates great nobility amid our human weakness' (§§188–189). It is in this way that Pope Francis calls us to make amends for our offences. He emphasises that this is a mission entrusted to each of us, but in communion with the whole Church.



'*Dilexit nos* is both insightful and challenging. Reading it as part of the Sacred Heart book club was a valuable experience, allowing us time to reflect on the letter, section by section together. I gained such a lot by hearing others' perspectives.

The key takeaway for me is the reminder that God loves each of us, and we can grow closer to Him by embracing the small daily challenges we face.'

— Teresa

If our group felt that the encyclical's earlier chapters were abstract, intractable, or removed from the personable reflections that characterise Pope Francis, *Dilexit nos*' later chapters stimulated lively discussions about our faith, parish community, and the wider world. We exchanged faith and friendship with parishioners and friends across ages,

backgrounds, and spiritual persuasions. Hosting the evenings online also enabled us to include parishioners who live further afield and others with family, friendship, or historic connections to the parish.

Everyone who attended greatly enriched our discussions. I am very grateful to you for accompanying us on our pilgrimage through the encyclical.

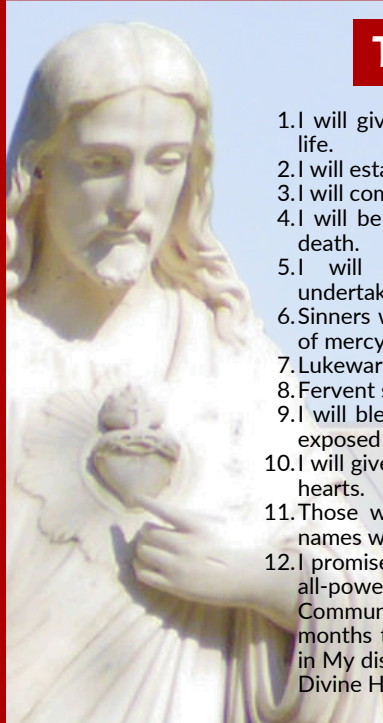
Matteo Baccaglini

You can read the encyclical in full and for free through the Vatican's website at tinyurl.com/dilexitnos.



Romans 8:37–39

No: in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all Creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



The Twelve Promises

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an image of My Heart is exposed and honoured.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in My disgrace, nor without receiving their Sacraments. My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

Meet 'Peter the Pilgrim Bear'!

In 2025, Pope Francis is inviting all of us to embrace the Year of Jubilee for 'Pilgrims of Hope', a special time to deepen our faith through spiritual journeys.

Pilgrimages are not only about visiting sacred places, but about opening our hearts to God, walking together in hope, and renewing our commitment to love and serve others. This year offers us a chance to reflect on our personal journey with Christ and live out His message of hope in our lives.

To make this journey even more exciting and engaging at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, we have introduced our very own pilgrim: **Peter the Pilgrim Bear**!

Peter will be joining us on school trips, attending Mass, and accompanying our pupils on their own personal journeys of faith and kindness. Whether it's visiting the parish church, exploring other places of worship (such as mosques, temples, or gurdwaras), or showing acts of kindness in everyday life, Peter will help remind us to walk in Jesus' footsteps and put our faith into action.

You won't believe where Peter's first adventure took him! He travelled all the way to the Vatican with our pupil Bertha, who had the amazing opportunity to visit over the half term. Bertha is currently writing a blog post about her unforgettable experience, so be sure to check it out soon!

This is a journey for all of us, regardless of our background, as we walk together in faith, hope, and love. Through Peter's travels, we aim to foster a sense of awe and wonder, helping our pupils see the



beauty of God's creation and reflecting on how we are all pilgrims on a journey of faith.

We invite the parish community to follow Peter's adventures and stay updated on his travels through our school's website at sacredheartmerton.sch.uk. Follow us as Peter visits new places, experiences the world, and reminds us of the joy and excitement of being pilgrims in God's world.

We look forward to walking together in faith, hope, and love throughout this Year of Jubilee, with Peter the Pilgrim Bear as our companion.

James Bush

From Akan to Urdu ...

Did you know that pupils at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School speak over *thirty* different languages?!

Your editor was in awe when he came across a board in the hallway (*right*) listing the languages spoken by our parish school's wonderful and talented pupils.

Located on Burlington Road, near Shannon Corner, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School welcomes boys and girls of all faiths and none. The school is guided by its motto, 'Learning in Love', and its core Gospel values of faith, hope, and love.

To learn more about the school and admissions to Nursery, Reception, or Years 1 through 6, please visit the school website at sacredheartmerton.sch.uk.



Jodie always cheers me up

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visit: gacarers.co.uk/wimbledon

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Where's the Mass in Scripture?

During Lent, Canon David hosted a series of hour-long talks in the Lower Hall on the Mass. We produce here an adapted extract of the first of these talks, 'Foundations and Key Elements', delivered on Monday 10 March.

The very first point I want to make in this series of talks is that the Mass – the central act of worship of the universal Church – is scriptural.

When I was Director of the Diocesan Formation Centre, I would visit various groups of people, such as Confirmation candidates and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. I would always start by asking them: 'From where in the Scriptures do we get the Mass?' Inevitably, they would answer: 'The Last Supper'.

'Yes,' I would say, 'and where else?' They would stop and think. At most, some would mention the Feeding of the 5,000, but that would be about it.

And yet, the Old and New Testaments are so filled with so many passages about the Mass that it would be easiest to list those books that don't refer to it.

We find so many Eucharistic references in the Old Testament, such as the rather mysterious figure of Melchizedek, King of Salem, in Genesis 14, who brings bread and wine. Psalm 9 describes Melchizedek as a priest.

Then, in Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, there's the manna from heaven that God provides the Israelites in their 40-year trek to the Promised Land. John 6 contrasts this manna with the living bread offered by Jesus.

Leviticus 24 describes the bread for the tabernacle, and there's the passover in Exodus 12 with all its Eucharistic associations, especially the sacrificial lambs.

Of the prophets, Isaiah 25:6 says that 'on this mountain, the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines'. Malachi 1:11 appears to prophesy specifically about the Christian offering of Mass: 'For from the rising of the sun to its setting, my name is great among the nations, and in every place, incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.'

The theme of the banquet is also found in the much-loved Psalm 23. How can we forget the line: 'You have prepared a banquet in the sight of my foes'?

So many of these references are pointing forward to the Eucharist. Our eyes open, and we begin to see that a pattern develops.

But, as I will explain, the themes in this pattern are not just bread and wine. Rather, Scripture also teaches us key aspects that are central to the meaning of the Mass.



You can listen to the full recordings of Canon David's Lenten talks on 'The Mass' on the parish website, sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk, under 'Faith and the Sacraments' → 'Talks'.

What's this 'Be Well Hub' all about?

'Be Well Hubs' are being launched across South London to tackle the causes of mental ill-health, promote access to mental health services, and support people in their local communities.

The initiative is spearheaded by South London Listens, a unique partnership launched in 2020 between three local mental health trusts, Citizens UK, local authorities, and community organisations.

Vacancy: Be Well Hub Organiser

The parish is looking for a recent graduate to help bring to life its Be Well Hub. Fr Jackson and parishioner Graham Kennedy, supported by three other volunteers, are leading our Hub's development.

The role, which currently is not funded, will involve confirming the detailed services that the Hub will provide, defining a programme of meetings for the Hub, defining a launch plan, and launching a pilot programme. The role is suitable for a recent graduate with an interest in mental health and with good communication, research, and analytical skills who is looking for work experience.

We expect the successful candidate to spend 2 to 3 days per week working on the Hub for around three months. For more details, to express interest, and to apply, please get in touch with Fr Jackson at jacksonmaveli@rcaos.org.uk.

South London Listens has facilitated the 'Be Well Champions' initiative, which provides training and ongoing supervision to equip Champions to listen to people in the community and provide information, resources, and signposting to mental health support.

As part of a broader 'Be Well Programme', Be Well Hubs provide a space for people to turn to when they feel their mental health is low or they feel isolated. Possible hubs include community organisations, faith groups, libraries, health centres, schools, a football club, and even private cafés.

Several Be Well Hubs have already been established in Merton, including Wimbledon College, Merton Libraries, Mitcham Parish, and YMCA.

The hubs can help local communities to build relationships, offer practical support and signposting, and take action to act on structural and systemic inequalities and injustices that impact mental health. The hubs will report back on key themes and trends from their communities.

More broadly, it is hoped that Be Well Hubs will destigmatise mental health, use community organising principles to build strong relationships with local health services, and organise leaders to listen and take action on the barriers and systemic problems impacting mental health.

This article has been adapted from an NHS South London and Maudsley press release (tinyurl.com/4cz66mtf) and South London Listens' website (southlondonlistens.org/champions). See the latter site for further information and resources.

The 28th Wimbledon (Sacred Heart) Guides: 'dreamers, innovators, and leaders'



The 28th Wimbledon (Sacred Heart) Guides has run continuously since 1941 for 10- to 18-year-old girls of the parish.

Samantha Axbey has been the Unit leader for the last 35 years, and the Unit has provided weekly meetings, residential camps, and international opportunities as far afield as India, Canada and Costa Rica. The Unit is split into Guides (ages 10 to 14) and Rangers (ages 14 to 18).

The Unit strongly values resilience and problem-solving. It aims to foster independence in young girls through various activities. Weekly meetings enhance social and collaborative elements, and the organised 'patrol' structure creates leadership opportunities that help to cultivate confidence skills. Furthermore, all adult leaders are volunteers, emphasising the effort and dedication towards making this journey worthwhile.

Throughout their time with the troop, Guides acquire knowledge in outdoor skills like map-reading, putting up a tent, and starting a fire. Members also participate in physical activities like rock climbing, water sports, and go-karting, plus more social opportunities such as ice skating, going to the theatre, or playing mini-golf. These are so much fun!



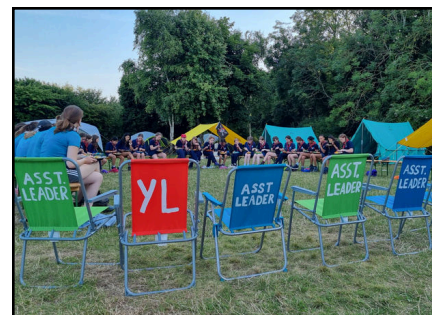
We really enjoy the several camps held throughout the year, particularly the popular week-long Summer Camp. Additionally, in recent years, many girls have undertaken their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Awards through the Unit, all of which include taking part in an expedition. The Gold Award expedition involves canoeing and wild camping in northern Sweden and those who complete that award overall are invited in-person to Buckingham Palace or St James' Palace to receive their award.

“One of my favourite parts about Guides and Rangers is giving back to the community through charitable projects like carol singing, bake sales, and our yearly Remembrance Parade. It feels so rewarding and I love helping others'

— Ranger Zahra Allen (aged 15)

“My Silver DofE was one of the highlights of my summer as I got to spend time with my friends while exploring a new area by canoe. I've made some lifelong memories and I'm so excited for Gold!

— Member Chloe Hook



Ultimately, Girlguiding empowers girls and young women to step outside their comfort zones, take risks, and nurture their sense of adventure, developing skills and creativity that stimulate a fun-loving atmosphere.

It is here at Guides that we become dreamers, innovators, and leaders, always pushing for change to make this world a better place.

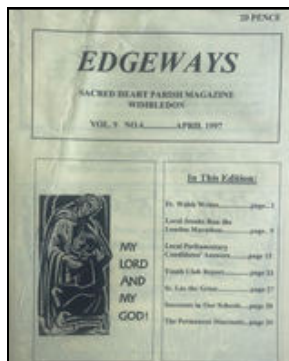
Niharika Parkash-Mair

If your daughter is interested in learning more about or joining the Rainbows (ages 4 to 7), Brownies (ages 7 to 10), Guides (ages 10 to 14), or Rangers (ages 14 to 18), please register their details at girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child.

Alongside our girlguiding groups, boys can join our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers. Follow Edgways, your parish magazine, to learn more about how our parish caters to children of both sexes from ages 4 to 18 through these uniformed groups, all made possible for our young people by the generosity and time of volunteers.

This month back then – an Edgeways history of YOUR parish!

Can you remember what you were doing in April 1997, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020? These Edgeways front covers might remind you!

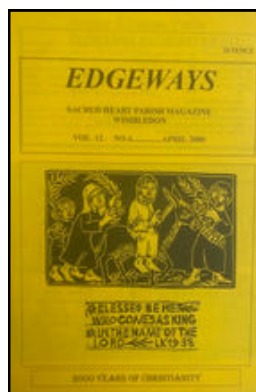


April 1997 (Vol. 9 No. 4)

- Ursuline High School is inspected well by Ofsted and the Archdiocese
- Parliamentary candidates answer questions from the Deanery Council
- Three Jesuits run the London Marathon for Makumbi Orphanage

April 2000 (Vol. 12 No. 4)

- The Christian Church in Wimbledon by Richard Milward
- Reviews of Parish Pancake Lunch and Quiz Nite [sic]
- Women's World Day of Prayer hosted by the parish



April 2005 (Vol. 17 No. 4)

- An invitation to volunteer *[nothing changes! - ed]*
- Marriage Maintenance Day
- The Wimbledon Befriending Scheme



April 2010 (Vol. 22 No. 4)

- Centenary of Girlguiding
- Five stories of Guiding from the 28th Wimbledon
- The Friendship Group for older parishioners

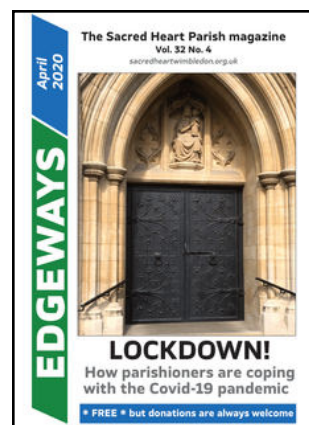
April 2015 (Vol. 27 No. 4)

- Young flames go for it with 'Flame 2' at Wembley
- 'My Raynes Park Festival' review of events in SW20
- 'Meet the Scholastics' with Ugandan Musiitwa Jean Baptiste



April 2020 (Vol. 32 No. 4)

- Coping with Covid!
- Parish work continues online
- Tribute to Archbishop Peter Smith RIP



You can read April 2020's *Edgeways* in full online through the digital archive at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/edgeways.

Baptisms and Funerals

We welcome into the family of the Church the following who have recently been baptised: Millie Barbara Liszewska-Haggerty, Penelope Reynoldson, Aidan Luc Wauters, Celine Penelope Blyth, Finlay Jupiter Henson Jack, Erin Grace Mulryan, Elodie Rose Adelise Anglim, Charles Henry Corr, Tamati Jay Butler, Maia Lucia Angeline Barber, and Alexander Remy Freeman.

We offer sympathies to the families and friends of those who have died recently: Anne-Marie Davidson, Emmanuel Gilbert Kofi Nuako Bando, Tadeusz Teodor Opalinski, Nicholas Gerald Bernardi, James Theo Whelan-Blake, Helen Mary Marino, Daniel O'Brien, Mary Bridget de Maria, and Mary Theresa Hoey.



Saturday 3 May Legion of Mary Venerable Edel Quinn Pilgrimage

Join the Legion of Mary in Aylesford Priory, Kent, for a pilgrimage inspired by Venerable Edel Quinn. The programme includes Mass at 12 noon, celebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks.

A coach will board from outside Sacred Heart Church at 8.30am, returning at about 6.00pm. Seats are £18 for adults and £5 for children. Please contact Questa Newill on 07787 334586 or 0208 5408091 as soon as possible if you would like to join!

10.15am – 4.30pm Tuesday 13 May
Friendship Group Outing to Hever Castle, Kent

For full details, please contact Judy at
judyruston@gmail.com.



Would you like to write for Edgeways?

Do you have an article that you think would be a great addition to YOUR parish magazine? We're always open to contributions! Please contact the editor at dthurst52@gmail.com.



6.45pm Saturday 10 May The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

James Marshall (*above*), parishioner and violinist at the 10.00am Mass on Sundays, is one of the guest artists at this concert hosted at St Matthew's, Raynes Park, supporting the Merton Homelessness Project.

James is currently in his final year studying violin at the world-famous Yehudi Menuhin School. He was formerly at Donhead Preparatory School, and has played music in our parish since he was six years old.

Do come along! Book your tickets at
trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/79116.

Merton Homelessness Project presents

The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

For a Fundraising Concert

Saturday, 10th May 2025. 6:45 pm
At St Matthew's Church, West Wimbledon
London SW20 0DE
Tickets £40 and £30.
For more information or to book tickets please email: chair@mertonfaithinaction.org or scan the QR code.



Hope in Adoration

As part of the Jubilee Year, Archbishop John is encouraging people to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration: 'It is by understanding that the Lord Jesus is present in the Eucharist that we can begin to understand why worship before the Blessed Sacrament provides such fulfilment.'

Throughout the year, the *Hope in Adoration* campaign will share testimonies from parish priests and the laity on how Eucharistic Adoration has helped them build a closer relationship with the Lord Jesus. Find out more about the campaign at rcaos.org.uk/hopeinadoration.

SACRED HEART CHURCH, EDGE HILL, WIMBLEDON, SW19 4LU

THE SACRED HEART
CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

HAYDN

Missa in Angustiis (Nelson Mass)

Te Deum in C Major (Marie Therese)

Symphony No. 101 (The Clock)

KATY TANSEY | CATHY BELL
JOHN UPPERTON | ALEKSI KOPONEN
CONDUCTOR ROBERT RATHBONE

Saturday, 14 June 2025 at 8pm

TICKETS | FULL £20 | CONC. £15 | UNDER-18s FREE
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT UNTIL 31 MAY

<https://www.sacredheartmusic.co.uk/concerts/>

