



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

020 8946 0305
wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk
sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk
@SHWimbledon /sacredheartwimbledon

Sacred Heart Wimbledon
Edge Hill
Wimbledon
London SW19 4LU

Sunday
15 March 2026

Newsletter

Vol. 12
Issue 10

Laetare Sunday (Year A)
Fourth Week of Lent



Aid to the
Church in Need

7.00pm Thursday: How does persecution shape your faith?

Join us in the Lounge for a powerful and eye-opening evening exploring real stories of faith under persecution. Through personal testimonies, including from ISIS survivors, we will hear how individuals faced hardship, how their faith sustained them, and what their stories can teach us about resilience, courage, and hope.

Aid to the Church in Need, a charity, will give us a short introduction into their work and how they support oppressed people and fight persecution. We will also listen to beautiful ancient chants in Christ's native Aramaic. After the talks, there will be time to ask questions, meet others, and continue the conversation over refreshments. Everyone is welcome!

Parish Pastoral Team

Parish Priest	Canon David Gibbons KCHS
Parish Clergy	Fr Edwin Raj Fr Peter Mudu Frank Deacon Julian Burling
Team Member	Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU
Faith Minister	Rob Hitchcock

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Burlington Road, KT3 4ND
school@sacredheart.merton.sch.uk
Headteacher: Sarah Norville

Today's Mass

We hear another long **Gospel** from St John (9:1-41) this week, chosen to enlighten the elect who have their Second Scrutiny today (see 'This Sunday'). The man born blind is healed by Jesus, and, after an altercation with the Pharisees, comes to believe that Jesus is the Lord. It takes a bit of time for the man to arrive at this belief; likewise, those on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) course must take time to come to full belief in Jesus Christ.

The theme of light is also found in many of today's prayers and antiphons, as well as in the **Second Reading** (Ephesians 5:8-14), which says that the Baptized should 'be like children of the light'.

First Reading (1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a): David is anointed King of Israel by Samuel. But notice that it is God who chooses David. The very well-known **Psalms 23(22)** picks up references to shepherds (as David was), being guided by God (as David was), being anointed as the chosen one (as David was), and eternal life (as David presumably enjoys). David here is clearly a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, the leader of His people, the Anointed One (the Messiah), and the giver of eternal life.

This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday**, from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in Latin. Today's Mass vestments are rose-coloured, and a certain easing in your Lenten discipline is permitted.

Canon David

Happy Mothering Sunday!

In England, since the Middle Ages, Laetare Sunday has been observed as Mothering Sunday, a day for honouring 'mother churches' (the Cathedral), the Church as Holy Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and one's own mother. You can read a reflection on God's mothering love at tinyurl.com/bdz928js. Congratulations and best wishes to all the mothers of our parish, and to all mothers visiting our parish this weekend!





Archbishop John Wilson has asked all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Southwark to join a Catholic Academy Trust (CAT). For Merton, this Trust is the Sancta Familia (Holy Family).

The Governors at **Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School**, our parish's primary school, have agreed to move forward with this process and a consultation with parents and staff is running until Friday 17 April. The Governors are excited about the possibility of joining the Trust and the benefits this will bring.

If you have any queries, please speak with Canon David, who was heavily involved in the Kent CAT in his previous parish.

Forthcoming parish liturgies and events

2.30pm Friday 10 April
Joanna Bogle at the Friendship Group:
'Celebrating Feasts and Seasons'

Join us in the Lounge for this talk by broadcaster Joanna Bogle. Everyone is welcome! Tea and cakes will be served. *Please note that there is no Friendship Group meeting on Good Friday 3 April.*

10.00am Saturday 28 March
Lenten Penitential Service
with individual Confessions

Following the 10.00am Mass, there will be a short communal Service of Penitence. Visiting priests as well as our own will then be available to hear individual Confessions. During the Confessions, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration. Come and confess early for Easter!



The Memory Lane Club needs you!

The Memory Lane Club has been supporting those living with dementia and their carers for eleven years, and many of our dedicated volunteers have been with us for much of that time.

We are looking for new able-bodied volunteers who can help out each Wednesday from 9.30am to 12.30pm in the Lounge. Maybe you are newly retired or are able to work flexibly, and want to give a few hours to your community. We are a friendly, welcoming group that gives and receives a lot from the work that we do. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Madeleine on 07713 882280 or wimbledonmemlanec@rcaos.org.uk.

This Sunday

Café in the Lounge after the 10.00am Mass

You are warmly invited to join us for tea, coffee, biscuits, etc.!

Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10.00am Mass

Children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 are invited to attend with their parents and discover, explore, and discuss the Gospel in an age-appropriate way. We call children to the front of the church after the welcome, process together to the Lounge, and return to the church before the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

After this Sunday, the next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday 19 April. Please email Elizabeth at elizabethbottriell@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

5.00pm Mass: Second Scrutiny

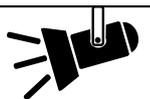
This Easter, three members of our parish's RCIA group will be Baptized, and three others will be Confirmed. Their Second Scrutiny takes place at the 5.00pm Mass. The Readings at Mass are the same as for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, but prayers including the Collect and Bidding Prayers are for the Second Scrutiny.

The Third Scrutiny follows at the 5.00pm Mass next Sunday. Please keep Adeola, Dennis, Patrick, Bill, Sushini, and Catherine in your prayers.

Social Club after the 8.00pm Mass

All are welcome to join us in the Lounge for a drink and social gathering!

Spotlight on...



Looking for a new and rewarding challenge? We require a **Coordinator for the Merton Winter Night Shelter** run by Faith in Action at Sacred Heart Wimbledon. This initiative provides twelve homeless men with food and secure shelter over 16 weeks from November to March. Our parish is involved one day a week for eight weeks from January to March.

There is a team of dedicated volunteers, and you will receive a lot of support. Some organisational skills and empathy with the homeless are all that is required! You will make many new friends in the parish and get to know and help people who have been driven to homelessness. To discuss this rewarding role, please contact Nandita on sacredheartWNS@rcaos.org.uk.

Safeguarding: It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. Further safeguarding information can be found on the parish website at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/safeguarding.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: Victoria Wheatley (wimbledonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)
 Siobhán Heffron (wimbledonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) • Maria Christopher (wimbledonsg5@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

This week

Tuesday: Feast of St Patrick

This Tuesday is the Feast of St Patrick, Bishop, and Patron of Ireland and Nigeria. Happy feast! Those who traditionally celebrate today may enjoy a relaxation of the Lenten discipline.

Donhead Preparatory School

We welcome pupils and staff to the 10.00am Mass on Tuesday.

7.00pm for 7.30pm Tuesday

Lenten talks: The English Doctors of the Church – St John Henry Newman

Join us in the Lower Hall for the final instalment of Canon David's three-part talk series on The English Doctors of the Church in the Lower Hall.

This Tuesday, Canon David will discuss St John Henry Newman – very topical as he was only declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIV in November last year.

Refreshments will be available from 7.00pm, with the talk starting at 7.30pm. Do come along even if you couldn't make previous talks!

7.15pm Wednesday Lenten discussion evening: Ambassadors for Christ

Join us in the Lounge as Nina Beltran, our Parish Lead for Faith Formation, will share a video from *Ambassadors for Christ*, followed by a discussion. Refreshments will be provided.

Produced by the Archdiocese of Southwark, the *Ambassadors for Christ* video series is a landmark apologetics project designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of your faith, so that you can confidently answer questions and be a joyful witness to the Lord Jesus and His Church.

Diocesan notices

Friday 8 – Saturday 10 May Beginning Experience retreat

Are you widowed, separated, or divorced? If so, Beginning Experience is there for you, and invites you to this weekend retreat at Worth Abbey, West Sussex, to help you deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness. For details, please email beginningexperience.soe@gmail.com.

Thursday: Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the Universal Church

The 6.30pm Mass on Wednesday will also celebrate this Solemnity.

7.00pm Thursday: How does persecution shape your faith?

Please see the front cover.

Francis Saldanha RIP

Funeral Mass at 11.00am on Friday, followed by cremation at the North East Surrey Crematorium. The family invites you to join them in the Rosary before the Mass, starting at 10.40am.

7.00pm Friday: Stations of the Cross

Join us in the church every Friday in Lent to pray the traditional Lenten devotion of the Via Crucis. If you cannot participate in person, please join us via the livestream at [sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/livestream](https://www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/livestream).

Parish Pastoral Council Retreat

All members of the PPC are reminded that they are expected to attend this retreat if they possibly can. The retreat, on Saturday 21 March, starts with the 10.00am Mass and continues in the Lounge until 12.30pm.

Next Sunday's Second Collection: Poor Parishes Fund

This Second Collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of our Archdiocese's poorer parishes.

Other notices

Work Experience: St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD

The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for twenty young adults from Sunday 21 to Friday 26 June in London. All accommodation costs, meals, and travel to the office throughout the week are included. Candidates must be aged 18 to 25 years old, but priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. For further details and to apply before Monday 6 April, please visit tinyurl.com/33x67bdw.

New to the parish?

Welcome! Please introduce yourself to a member of the parish team after Mass and register online at [sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk](https://www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk) or by filling out a registration form from the back of the church.

Other notices (continued)

9.30am – 4.00pm Saturday 21 March Introduction to Prayer Day

What is prayer? How do I pray? Is anyone listening? Who am I praying to? Come and explore meaningful approaches to prayer at the Kairos Centre, Roehampton (Mount Angelus Road, SW15 4JA). There may also be an opportunity for Spiritual Direction. Please bring your own packed lunch. The cost of this one-day retreat is £35. For more details and to book, please email bookings.kairos@psmgs.org.uk as soon as possible.

3.30pm Sunday 22 March Rosary at Hampton Court Palace

UK Prays invites everyone to this silent rosary of reparation during Evensong at Hampton Court Palace to place the country under the protection of Our Lady. For free entry, please go to the Security Office. UK Prays is grateful to the chaplain for his warm welcome.

Sundays 29 March – 5 April Holy Week Retreat

This Holy Week, the Kairos Centre in Roehampton invites you to journey from Passiontide to Resurrection with Fr Maurice O'Mahony CSsR. For more details and to book, please email bookings.kairos@psmgs.org.uk as soon as possible.

Discernment retreats for single Catholic young women aged 18 to 35

The Benedictine Nuns of Minster Abbey believe in the beauty and richness of a life of prayer, especially at this time in the Church and in our world. That is why they are offering young women the opportunity to attend a discernment retreat, to give them a 'taster' of the monastic life. There will be three Friday to Sunday retreats across the year: 27–29 March, 7–9 August, and 9–11 October. To register, please email Sister Walburga at minstervocations@gmail.com.

Celebrants this Sunday

6.30pm (Sat)	Fr Peter Mudu Frank
8.00am	Fr Edwin Raj & Dcn Julian Burling
10.00am	Canon David Gibbons
12 noon	Fr Peter Mudu Frank
5.00pm	Fr Edwin Raj & Dcn Julian Burling
8.00pm	Canon David Gibbons

We remember in our prayers

Those who have died recently

Francis Saldanha • Frances Barden • Jean Sherry
Luis L. Echezabal • Alexander MacDonald
James McNally • Katherine Winter

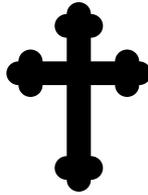
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Joyce Shannon • Jacqueline Ellis • Lucy Gates

Those who are sick

Finley Kennedy • Samar Staussi • Maria Tinker • Emily Grey
Electa Almeida • Karolina Masica • Mark Capra
Angela White • Peter Gent • Margaret Brauer
Karoline Wilhelm-Brown • Valeria Kucharsky
Debbie Gargan • Patricia Codd • Hilary Brazier
Ethan Costa Peruzzo • Peter Hayes • Mary Fripp
Sadie Smith • Warlita Villejo • Ryan Lewis • Joseph Lewis
Peter Boyle • Susan McGuinn • Teresa Williams
Patricia Byrne • Francis O'Farrell • Anthony Murphy
Aimee Jones • Marina Francescotti
Jacqueline Dagnall • Marie Fitzgerald

Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either your name or the names of your relatives and friends should appear in our sick list. For data protection reasons, individuals must explicitly agree for their names to be mentioned in our newsletter.



Exposition

Wednesdays and Fridays
10.30am – 12 noon and
5.25pm – 6.25pm

First Mondays and Fridays
of the month
7.00pm – 8.00pm

Reconciliation

Mondays to Saturdays
6.00pm – 6.20pm

Saturdays
10.30am – 11.30am

7.15pm Good Friday:
Stations of the Cross

Hospital contacts

If you or a member of your family are admitted to a local hospital, please let the hospital's Catholic chaplain know.

St George's: Fr Peter Littleton (020 8725 3069
or 020 8672 1255)

Epsom and St Helier: Fr Philip Pak (020 8296 2000)

Kingston: Fr Tony Oleh (020 8546 7711)

Your generosity helps to fund our parish's wide range of liturgical, spiritual, and cultural activities.

To donate, scan the QR code or visit sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/donate. Thank you.



Weekday Mass Intentions

Saturday 14 March

10.00am	Richard & Shirley Michalak (60 th Anniv.)
1.00pm	Wedding of Joseph Cripps & Charlotte Winter
6.30pm	Jackie Bedford (Birthday)

Monday 16 March

10.00am	Ranjit Croos-Fernando (RIP)
6.30pm	Peggy Tolmie (RIP)

Tuesday 17 March • S Patrick, B

10.00am	Christopher Cooper (RIP)
6.30pm	John Whyte (RIP)

Wednesday 18 March

10.00am	Phuong-Tram Nguyen (Wellbeing)
6.30pm	Anne Hogan (RIP)

Thursday 19 March • S Joseph, Spouse of the Bl. V. Mary

10.00am	Cathal Prior (RIP)
6.30pm	Forster Family

Friday 20 March

10.00am	Martin Foley (RIP)
11.00am	Funeral Mass of Francis Saldanha (RIP)
6.30pm	Dorotela Pereira (RIP)

Saturday 21 March

10.00am	Maria de Lurdes Almeida (RIP)
6.30pm	Connie Pereira

Music at the 12 noon Mass

Missa brevis in Eb (P. di Heredia)

Entry hymn: (619) Rejoice the Lord is King

Offertory motet: *Laudate nomen* (C. Tye)

Communion motet: *Jesu dulcis memoria* (T.L. da Victoria)

Communion hymn: (40) Amazing Grace

Music at the 5.00pm Mass

Scan the QR code or visit
sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/5pm



Parish services and contacts

Parish Office

020 8946 0305

wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk

9.00am – 4.00pm

Monday – Friday

Executive Assistant

Thelma D'Costa

Caretaker

Leo Nicolaou

Please contact the Parish Office for all enquiries, hall bookings, baptisms, first Sacraments, marriages, and funerals. Please email any notices for the weekly newsletter to wimbledonnewsletter@rcaos.org.uk by Tuesday evening.

Please remember always to register your car when using the church car park (except Sundays) via a registration tablet at the church entrance, presbytery reception, or hall entrances.

The **Sacred Heart SVP Conference** meets to help those living locally in need. All enquiries are dealt with confidentially. Please leave your contact details with the Parish Office or email presidentA190704@svp.org.uk.