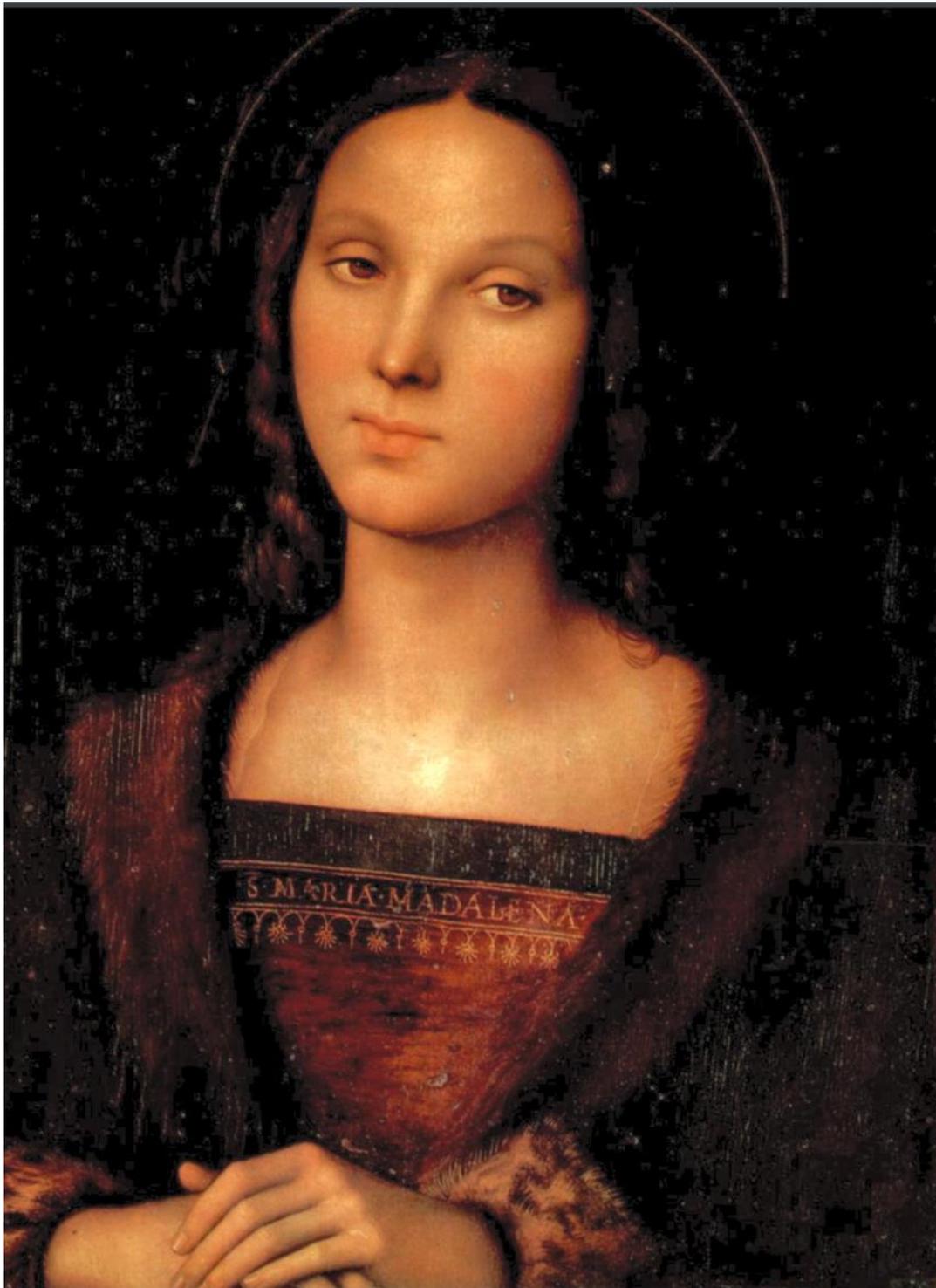

Talkabout

SEPTEMBER 2021

St. John Fisher Parish Magazine



Cover: An oil painting by Perugino of Saint Mary Magdalene appears on our cover this time.
Read more about Mary, the “apostle to the apostles” on pages 10-11.

CONTENTS

Welcome to <i>Talkabout</i>	<i>Fr Francis Nonyelu</i>	3
Your Prayers are Requested .. .. .	.. .. .	4
Weekly Schedule	churchservices/tv/merton	4
Covid-19 Guidelines .. .. .	.. .. .	4
News from the Guides and Rainbows	<i>Sandy Brown</i>	5
Prayer to St Joseph	<i>Pope Francis</i>	5
The Congregation of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart	<i>Josette Kisnorbo</i>	6
Prayer to Our Lady .. .. .	.. .. .	7
Margaret Mary Alacoque	<i>Jean Ladame</i>	8
Traditional Irish Blessing .. .. .	.. .. .	9
John Golden RIP .. .. .	.. .. .	9
Saint Mary Magdalen: Apostle to the Apostles	<i>Teresa Pollard</i>	10
Friday Fare: Apple & Walnut Chutney .. .. .	.. .. .	11
Justice & Peace - Food Collections & Ethical Suggestions	<i>Justice & Peace Group</i>	12
Mary's Meals	<i>Justice & Peace Group</i>	13
Saint Francis of Assisi: Patron Saint of Ecology	<i>Justice & Peace Group</i>	14
A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation	<i>Justice & Peace Group</i>	15
Five Years After Laudato Si'	<i>Brother Alois</i>	16
Josette meets... Mark Lobo	<i>Josette Kisnorbo</i>	18
Wimbledon & District Friends of Life	<i>Christine Davis</i>	20
Liturgical Calendar for 2021-22 .. .. .	.. .. .	21
The Pope's Prayer Intentions for 2021	<i>Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network</i>	21
Prayer Intentions - Prisoners & their Families .. .. .	.. .. .	22
Cycle of Prayer: Autumn & Advent/Christmas Intentions .. .. .	.. .. .	22
Parish Groups .. .. .	.. .. .	30
Parish Details .. .. .	.. .. .	31



Deadline for articles to be included in the next edition of *Talkabout*
must be with the Editorial Team before

SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2021

talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk

WELCOME TO TALKABOUT

Dear Parishioners and all readers of *Talkabout*,

Welcome to the autumn edition of our parish magazine. We also welcome ourselves from the holidays. While some people went on vacation or staycation, others spent theirs visiting friends and families. As the saying goes, “Nothing arrives more slowly and passes more quickly than a vacation.” We prayed for everyone, and we are still praying that we come out of this Covid-19 crisis better than before.

Pope Francis invites us in his book *Let Us Dream* to think of what we have seen during this Covid-19. In a moment of crisis, you get both good and bad: people reveal themselves as they are. Some spend themselves in the service of those in need, and some get rich in other people’s needs. Some move out to meet others – in new and creative ways, without leaving their houses – while some retreat behind defensive armour. The state of our hearts is exposed. This a time to see, a time to choose, and a time to act, the Pope appeals.

September is a busy month for parents and children, for schools, and the parish community. We have arranged the parish programmes for the First Holy Communion children, the Sacrament of Confirmation for the young people, and the RCIA and RCIC candidates. We keep the candidates in our prayers as they undergo the spiritual exercises.

On 1st September every year, we celebrate the ‘World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.’ It kicks off the Season of Creation, a time of sustained prayer and action that lasts a month and four days (1st September-4th October). With prayer, we become open to God’s guidance, inspiration, and call to action. We have a beautiful prayer which we have to say this month for the Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation.

There have been calls to a commitment to care for creation by the Church. Scripture reveals that God “in the beginning,” intended humanity to cooperate in the preservation and protection of the natural environment. Hence, Pope Francis repeatedly calls the earth our “common home” in the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si*.

Furthermore, Pope Francis urges us to review how we live in the face of the damage being done to our planet, now and in the future, through climate change. He connects our responses to each other and to the planet – “everything is connected”. He reminds us that the

consequences of climate change will affect us all. Having seen the damage done recently by the flash floods and mudslides or landslides in different parts of the world, there is a need for ecological awareness that will lead us to what St. John Paul II called “ecological conversion.”

Pope Paul VI affirms in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* of 1974: “Evangelization must not only proclaim the Good News of the future salvation but also the Good News of the reign of God in our midst.” Therefore October is considered the month of the World Mission and the Month of the Rosary. The first Friday in October is Harvest Fast Day in support of justice and peace in the world. However, 24th October is World Mission Day. A day of prayer for the evangelization of the world. When Jesus said we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and an elevated city, the clear implication is that, without vibrant Christians, the world is a much worse place.

A parish is a community. It is a family. Family is about looking out for each other. It is also about supporting each other. It is about love and, it is about care. We, therefore, call on everyone in our parish community to show generosity in the service of God, to become enthusiastic Catholics who are grateful for the Faith and lose no opportunity of showing their appreciation.

We have shown this caring spirit through the many recent activities we had in our parish: the collection for the Columbian Missionaries and other generous collections, the food collections, and donations for the needy. And more interestingly, the parish farewell celebration for Sr. Marion and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, who have worked among us for more than sixty years.

I would like to thank the editorial team and contributors to this edition of *Talkabout* magazine. I invite readers to read with pleasure.

Fr Francis Nonyelu



YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR

All those recently Baptised

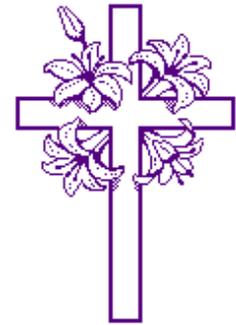
Daniel Mc Cabe
 Elspeth Coffey
 Sophiann Jenkins
 James Brown
 Leo Beeston
 Cadence D'Aguiar
 Carolina Abreu
 Alejandro Hever



Nicolas Lagonegro
 Jack Darling

All those recently called home to Heaven

Lucy Dunford
 Kam Choi Keung
 Teresa Campbell
 Mario Facio
 Josefina Quiocho
 Michael Patrick O'Connor
 Bridget 'Breda' Croke
 Roger Kendall
 Helen Abbot
 John Golden
 Christine Vallely



Grant them eternal rest, Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them.



All those recently joined in Holy Matrimony

Dora McGovern & Craig Monteiro

churchservices.tv/merton

ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH, MERTON, LONDON

207 CANNON HILL LN, LONDON UNITED KINGDOM SW20 9DB
 Phone: 020 8542 6355
 Email: merton@rcaos.org.uk
 Website: <http://www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk/>
[more details »](#)

During this difficult time of the Coronavirus Pandemic which has negatively impacted on our lives, we would like to thank you most sincerely for financially supporting our Parish. Our Church is open for public worship but with restricted numbers attending services, we face a big challenge to our income whilst still having to cover our financial commitments. During this time, it will be our financial supporters like you that will enable us to stay afloat and ensure we are ready for the eventual return to normality. Your continued financial support to the Parish is therefore still very much needed and very much appreciated. Please visit our website - [St John Fisher Merton](#) or email merton@rcaos.org.uk to find out how you can give. Thank you.

NEXT LIVE SERVICE
 09:00 - Daily Mass

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday	9:00 am	Daily Mass
Saturday	9:00 am	Daily Mass
	6.00 pm	Saturday Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:00 am	Sunday Mass
	9.30 am	Sunday Mass
	11.00am	Sunday Mass
	6.30pm	Sunday Mass

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Thank you for your help, your support is very much appreciated by the clergy

In line with the government's new guidelines which began on Monday 19th July, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have recommended the following:

1. Continue to sanitize hands on entry to Churches and before liturgies
2. Wear face coverings in Church
3. Ventilate the Church building especially during Mass and other celebrations (by keeping windows and doors open)
4. Clean high frequency touch points in the Church after each act of Worship
5. Thoroughly clean the Church once a week. (It will be good to maintain the practice of cleaning our Church at least once every day depending on the availability of cleaners)
6. Fill in the NHS track and trace forms or scan in using the QR code
7. Distribute/Receive Holy Communion at the normal time and not at the end of Mass but only under one kind
8. Suspend the physical Sign of Peace during Mass
9. Not to use Holy Water stoups

For more details please visit:

www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship



At the start of the summer term we had started "Be Well" so we continued that theme after the half term. It included yet more variations on traditional games (rounders, rugby) as played in a variety of other countries. Many of the girls completed their Natural Remedies Badge and we also tried out Karate moves one week, and relaxation another time in the form of Tai Chi.

Towards the end of the term, we were looking at the environment which will continue during this term gaining a badge in the process.

Our Region, LaSER (London and South East Region) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and has produced 50 challenges, which can result in several different badges depending on the number of challenges which are completed so we are incorporating these into the programme.

As part of this we are trying out croquet one evening. We are hoping that our residential weekend will be possible and that camps planned for next year including Unity in Staffordshire next year will all go ahead. These events have been sadly missed.

Sandy Brown

We have been steadily increasing in number and in June we welcomed 6 new rainbows into the unit, who settled in quickly. We continued with the "Know Myself" theme and many of the girls gained their Family tree badge which we had started earlier in the term. We spent as much time as possible outside, especially when playing various games. We carried out a survey of all the colourful flowers in the church grounds, matching as many as possible to a colour chart including the shade of green shown by the leaves. The girls also had to record whether the flower had 3, 4, 5, or more petals.

One week later we caught the cloudburst which caused much local flooding. It started just as we were due to start our meeting and continued throughout. I would like to thank all those parents who braved the elements and managed to get their daughters to us and delivered safely to the hall door.

The rain was not quite so heavy by the time we finished but heavy enough to require an umbrella from the parents to get back to their cars!

At our final meeting of the term we held a Promise Ceremony, presenting promise badges and Certificates to all those who had joined us during the term. We also presented skills and theme badges to many of the Rainbows. We said special congratulations to Alicia being the first Rainbow in the unit to gain her Silver Award. She will be moving up to Brownies but is coming back to our first meeting to receive the Award.

I would like to add a special thank you to all parents, to Anna, our Young Leader and to Margaret for all their help and support during the term.

Sandy Brown

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ become man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a
father
and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil.

Amen

Pope Francis



IF YOU FEEL ILL PLEASE STAY AT HOME

If you don't feel well
or have symptoms
of Covid-19,
please stay at home



THE CONGREGATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

"Now that just one sister remains, it is with grateful hearts that the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart say adieu, thank you to all those who supported and inspired us over the years. May the kindness and warmth of God's love continue to flourish in each person in St John Fisher Parish. We have continually prayed for each parishioner and you will always be in our prayers. We take with us very cherished memories of you all. Mass will be offered for the priests and people who have encouraged and helped the sisters over the years."

Sister Marion
**(on behalf of the Congregation of the Daughters
of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart)**

By the time you read this, *Sr Marion* will have left us to return to Ireland. Sister belongs to the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. *Sr Catherine* was probably the best known of all the sisters of the Congregation being involved with the children all through their spiritual growth while teaching in St Catherine's school until she retired. But, as you will remember - or discover now - all the sisters played their parts. *Sr Marion's* departure will be all the saddest as it will mark the end of the presence of the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in our family of St John Fisher after more than 60 years.

When Fr O'Donnell (later Canon O'Donnell, our Parish Priest from 1949 to 1981) had St Catherine's school built, he was determined that Catholic education would be available in the parish and invited a congregation of missionary sisters to provide teachers. His invitation was accepted by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart who carry out missionary and education work in many parts of the world.

Six sisters arrived on 8th September 1960: Sisters *Marietta Tuffy*: Provincial Superior, *Therese McCresh*: Local Superior, *Colette Cushen*, *Catherine Mulcahy* and *Immaculate Minihane*, who lived in a "convent" on Kingston Road.

At that time, as well as teaching during the week, the sisters were busy on weekends preparing the nearby Red Cross hall for Sunday Mass which meant taking chairs from the convent and bringing them back afterwards!

Sisters *Vianney Murray*, *Brigid Browne* and *Josepha Leahy* came the following year and went to Digby Stuart College, Roehampton for teacher-training. On

completion, *Sr Brigid* taught in St Catherine's Middle School and *Sr Vianney* in St John Fisher Primary School. *Sr Josepha* was the home-maker welcoming visitors and seeing to the wellbeing of the sisters.

As their number increased, the sisters had to "move house" in 1966, and they settled in 35 Mostyn Road, which was more spacious and conducive to prayer due to its quiet atmosphere. They had daily Mass there and a priest needed to be collected from the Salesian College in Battersea each Sunday.

Sr Francis Levett and *Sr Miriam Moloney* joined the Mostyn Road Convent when the Congregation closed their school on the Isle of Wight. Both taught in Rotherhide in East London during the week and visited the sick and house-bound in the parish at weekends.

Sr Monica McArdle replaced *Sr Therese McCresh* as local Superior.

Sr Kathleen McQuillan and a few younger sisters came to continue their higher education. On weekends, they helped with religious instruction and social work.

Sr Anne Marie Creegan replaced *Sr Monica* and loved being home-maker.

Sr Gretta Murphy taught at St John Fisher School before going on the missions.

Sr Teresa Duggan worked with the homeless, saw to the Church linen and helped those who came to the convent needing food and clothing.

Sr Fidelis Barbazon also worked with the homeless and spoiled the sisters with her cooking.

Sr Anna Marie Byrne nursed at St George's Hospital and helped preparing bazaars, etc.

Sr Mary Mallin also nursed at St George's Hospital and helped St Catherine in the Parish.



In 2006, as the number of sisters diminished and maintenance of 35 Mostyn Road increased, the sisters moved once again to 48 Monkleigh Road.

Sr Marion O'Mahony came in 1979 and worked as midwife at St Teresa's Hospital, Wimbledon before going to the missions in South Africa. She returned to London in 1989 and worked at St

Anthony's Hospital. On her days off, she worked with SPUC (Society for Protection of the Unborn Child) and later at The Passage (a drop-in centre for the homeless in Westminster).

Sr Ursula Begley worked for many years in Australia and then in Kiribati (in the Pacific Ocean) as a Missionary, an apostolate she dearly loved. She returned to London in 2005 and worked as Parish Sister in the Cathedral Parish, St George's Archdiocese (Southwark), where she endeared herself to the priests and people. Unfortunately, Sister's health deteriorated and she was obliged to retire to the Congregation's Nursing Home in Ireland.

Thank you to all those who gave their support in one way or another to make *Sr Marion's* house/garden sale at Monkleigh Road on Sunday 5th September a great success. Thank God for the weather, which remained dry, and for bringing Fr Matthias back safe and well. Many items were sold and money raised for Sister Marion's favourite charities. Many people attended Mass and the food, service and entertainment afterwards were outstanding. It was so nice to be together again after more than 18 months of being socially separated. Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make the event very enjoyable. Everybody had fun and the art exhibition brought in many sales - £200 in 20 minutes!

We extend our gratitude to *Sr Marion* and her sisters for their prayerful presence, and practical and spiritual support. No doubt, our loss is someone else's gain. Farewell, *Sr Marion*. We shall miss you.

Saint Margaret Mary and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for our dear *Sister Marion*. May she enjoy the exciting things her Loving Father has in store for her in this new phase of her life.

Josette Kisnorbo

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS

Another community of sisters will be leaving our neighbourhood in September: The *Daughters of the Cross* are leaving North Cheam/Sutton and being relocated to Rome.

In September 1904 the *Daughters of the Cross of Liege* purchased North Cheam House for £4,625 in order to establish a hospital. It was named St Anthony's Hospital and had only ten beds initially. An operating theatre was installed at the cost of £224. A new 3-storey hospital was built in 1914 and twenty years later the hospital became a state-recognised training school for nurses. By the 1960s, St Anthony's was one of the largest Catholic hospitals in the country.

In 1987, St Raphael's Hospice was added for the care of terminally ill patients and to provide counselling and support to their relatives. The hospice operates as a charity and employs 53 nurses. Bishop Tripp was their Chaplain for many years and Deacon Fred used to visit on a regular basis. Sadly the hospice is running at a loss and most of the sisters have long reached retirement age and not been replaced. Although they have Mass in the convent chapel and belong to St Cecilia's parish, many attend Mass at St John Fisher especially at weekends.

The complete change of culture, food, language, etc. is not going to be easy for ageing sisters and they need our prayers. We also thank them for helping to look after the patients in St Raphael's, many our own relatives, neighbours and friends.

Josette Kisnorbo



PRAYER TO OUR LADY

Sr Catherine always encouraged her various prayer groups to pray her Congregation's prayer to Our Lady:

Remember, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
the great things the Lord has done for you.
He chose you for His Mother.

He wanted you close to His Cross.
He gives you a share of His glory.
He listens to your prayer.

Offer Him our prayers of praise and thanksgiving;
Present our petitions to Him.
Let us live like you in the love of your Son
that His Kingdom may come.

Lead all people to the source of living water
that flow from His Heart,
spreading over the world Hope and Salvation,
Justice and Peace.

See our trust in you, answer our prayer.
Show yourself always our Mother.

Amen



MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

THE CONGREGATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

Those of you who have visited Paray-le-Monial will have experienced the beauty of its Romanesque basilica. It has been said that the building has a mystical quality which reflects the soul of its builders: workers satisfied with a job well done for the glory of God, at peace with Him, contemplating the promise of the heavenly Jerusalem. Pope Leo XIII called Paray-le-Monial "the city loved by heaven".

The founder of *Order of the Visitation* in Paray, St Francis de Sales, had wanted the religious nuns to leave their convent to visit the poor and the sick but this was opposed by the archbishop of Lyon who deemed such activities incompatible with the contemplative life the nuns were meant to live. So, the Order is known for its austerity and mortification of self-will in the ordinary things of daily life. "The merit of the cross" said St Francis de Sales, "is not in its weight, but in the way it is carried".

Margaret (1647-1690) was the fifth of seven children. She was not born a saint but became one, slowly and not without struggles. She gave herself to God as a child and made a vow of chastity although she did not fully understand its implications. God had also given her the grace of suffering. Having lost her father when she was 7 she lived with her widowed mother and her in-laws. An uncle-in-law, in particular, positively persecuted Margaret and her mother. She was beaten, her clothes were hidden, everything put under lock and key. If she stayed behind in the church, she was accused of having a lover.

When she fell ill, she remained confined to bed for four years, just skin and bones. She owed her recovery to Our Lady and promised she would become a religious in thanksgiving. God's call which she had forgotten made itself heard again and despite her mother's disapproval, she went to visit the Visitation convent in Paray-le-Monial on 27th May 1671. "This is where I want you" an inner voice told her.

She entered the convent on 20 June 1671, her soul overflowing with deep joy, and took the habit on 25th August 1671 (350 years ago on the date of writing!).

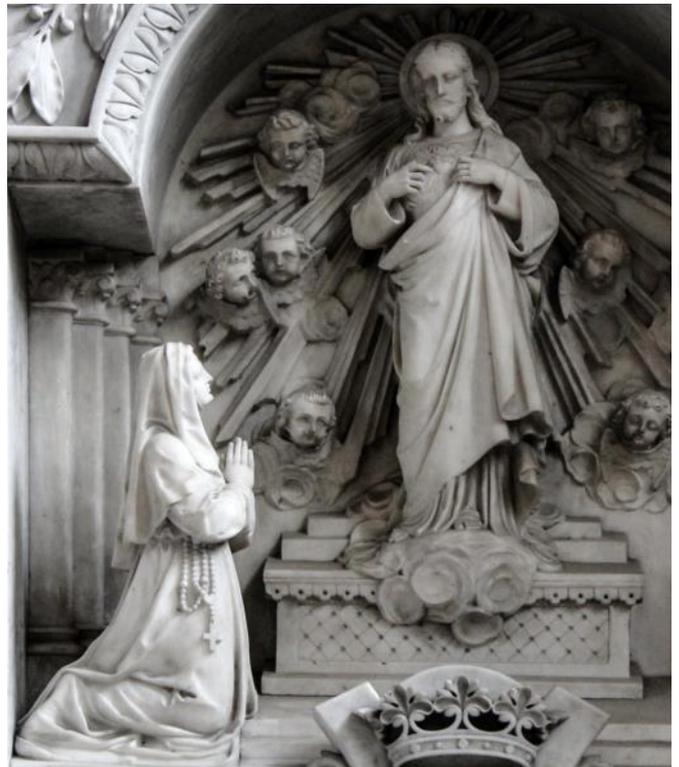
Many of her contemporaries at the convent were devoted to the Heart of Jesus, and Sister Margaret Mary soon became known for receiving visions (she added Mary to her own name in gratitude to Our Lady for healing her). She once saw Our Lady, accompanied by St Francis de Sales. Through her close relationship with God, she experienced deep mental prayer which

left her in a state of extreme fatigue. This was strongly disapproved of by the hierarchy, and she was told that unless she stopped she would not be allowed to make her profession.

When Margaret Mary was 26, Our Lord showed her His Heart for the first time. In the vision, He allowed the young nun's head to lean on His breast for a long time while He revealed to her "the mysterious secrets of His Sacred Heart". "My divine Heart" He told her "is so passionately fond of the human race, and of you in particular, that it cannot keep back the pent-up flames of its burning charity any longer. They must burst out through you".

Then Christ took Margaret Mary's heart and placed it into His and put it back, transformed and shining into the saint's breast. After this mystical experience, Margaret Mary remained "as though on fire and intoxicated", filled with the immense fullness of God.

Margaret Mary recorded some 30 revelations where the Heart of Jesus is often displayed as a sun, flames and sometimes symbols. Christ deplored the rejection and lack of faith of men and asked Margaret Mary to heal their ingratitude by frequent communion, particularly on the first Friday, and by the practice of the Holy Hour.



*St Margaret Mary receiving a vision of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus
(Marble altarpiece in the church of St Catherine, Lille)*



Mosaic detail from the Rosary Basilica in Lourdes

The best known vision took place in June 1675 during the octave of Corpus Christi when Jesus exposed His Heart. "There it is" He said, "that Heart so deeply in love with men, it spared no means of proof - wearing itself out until it was utterly spent.

This meets with scant appreciation from most of them; all I get back is ingratitude - witness their irreverence, their sacrileges, their coldness and contempt for me in this sacrament of Love." (this was during the exposition of The Blessed Sacrament).

Christ then asked for a special liturgical feast for His Sacred Heart, including a "solemn act of reparation" for all the offences and indignities He has received in the Blessed Sacrament.

During her nineteen years at the Visitation in Paray, Margaret Mary suffered greatly, physically and mentally. God wanted her as a victim-soul to save the guilty, particularly those He had called to be perfect but lived a lukewarm life, and also to set the souls in Purgatory free. Margaret Mary experienced the constant agonizing pain of a wound in her side and a burning thirst. Furthermore, as she went through the "dark nights" which precede the inner light and the union in love, her superiors wondered what spirit guided her. Was she mad or possessed? Or filled with grace?

She experienced spiritual dryness, the darkness which obscures God's intentions, the cruel temptations and attacks of the devil, and worse of all, the weight of her own sins before God's holiness, feeling rejected by God yet upheld in His presence.

When on 7 September 1688, the chapel built in the garden was dedicated to the Sacred Heart and blessed, Margaret Mary remained in ecstasy during the whole ceremony, for some two hours.

Having been the confidante of Christ's Heart, she devoted her entire life to being His messenger and apostle. In 1856, the feast of the Sacred Heart was extended to the universal Church and Leo XIII consecrated the whole of mankind to the Sacred Heart in 1899. Margaret Mary's intercession encourages the progress of this devotion Christ has asked her to spread so as to put souls "under the freedom of the power of His love".

**Based on
"Saint Margaret Mary and the Visitation in Paray"
by Jean Ladame**

TRADITIONAL IRISH BLESSING

FAREWELL, SR MARION



May there always be work for your hands to do.

May your purse always hold a coin or two

May the sun always shine on your window pane.

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near you.

May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

JOHN GOLDEN R.I.P.



With the death of John Golden on 17th August, the Parish has lost one of its longest serving and most loyal parishioners.

Familiar to many as he served on the sanctuary, John was closely involved in many aspects of parish and community life.

John was a member of the Parish Council for many years and recently served as Chair. He also represented the parish on the Merton Deanery Pastoral Council.

He was a longstanding member of the Justice and Peace group, and created and maintained the Justice and Peace website. We believe he also maintained the website of Wimbledon Catenians of which he was a committed member.

For several years John worked for the Christian Care furniture project, collecting furniture from those who no longer needed it and delivering to those who had none. When he retired from this role, he became a Trustee of Christian Care, assisting in the running of the charity.

John also contributed regularly to *Talkabout*, principally with photographs of Parish occasions.

We extend our sympathy to John's six children, his grandchildren and extended family, and his many friends.

Talkabout Editorial Team

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN: APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES

Pope Francis, this year, decreed that July 29th. should be designated in the Roman Calendar as the memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus. The reason being that previously the day was reserved for St. Martha only, in the Roman Rite, because of the uncertainty of Mary's position, often referred to as Mary Magdalen, the sister of Martha. As early as 1262, the Franciscans celebrated the memorial of St. Martha on July 29th, eight days after her "sister" St. Mary Magdalen. Recent scholarship has now separated these two Marys and distinguish Martha's sister as "Mary of Bethany". So, Pope Francis has honoured Mary Magdalen as a person in her own right with a feast day on 22nd July and united Martha, Mary and Lazarus as the special friends of Jesus who welcomed him into their own home in Bethany.



Christ appears to Mary Magdalen by the tomb after his resurrection

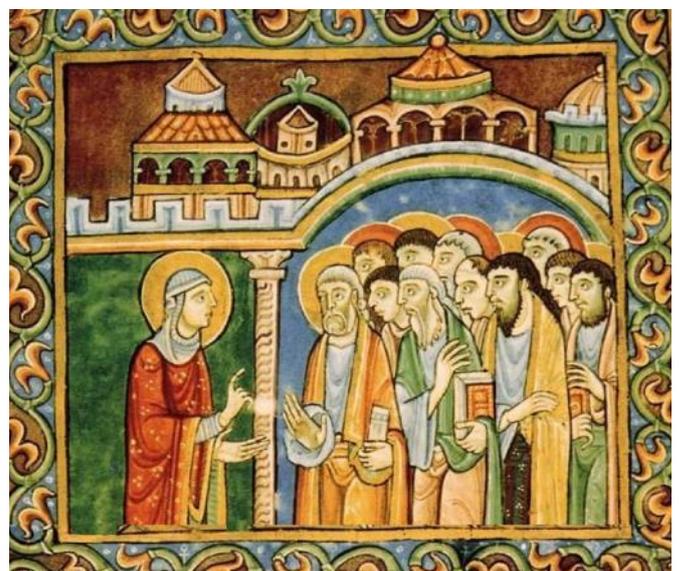
For centuries the two Marys were regarded as one and the same, a sinner, and a prostitute promoted by theologians and preachers and accepted as the norm by all and with Roman approval. Of course the art world played its part too with beautiful paintings of Mary washing the feet of Jesus. It was Pope Paul VI

who in 1969, corrected the record. He changed the liturgical prayers of Mary Magdalen's memorial mass to state in the collect, that *"your Son first entrusted to Mary Magdalen the joyful news of his resurrection"* and replaced St. Luke's account of the sinner washing the feet of Jesus (7:36-50), referencing Mary Magdalen as the sinner, to the gospel account of the meeting of Mary with the resurrected Jesus (John 20:1-2,11-18). Pope Francis in 2016 declared her memorial a feast at the same level as *"the rest of the apostles"* and a new Preface was published honouring her with *"the office of being an Apostle to the Apostles"*.

Elevating Mary Magdalen in this way is the result of constant work chiefly by the Jesuits since the seventeenth century, working on the lives of the saints,

which then supported the reform of the Roman calendar after the Vatican Council in the sixties. The 2016 decree by Pope Francis highlighted three facts about Mary Magdalene. According to Luke (8:1-3), she was one of the group of Jesus' disciples with Joanna, Susanna and many others providing for Jesus mission from their own resources. All four gospels declare that she stood at the cross of Jesus, three of them, Matthew, Mark and John mentioning her by name. She was among the women of Galilee who took note of where Jesus was buried and was the first witness of the resurrection of Jesus according to all four gospels who all mention her by name.

We often hear the words, "for whom much is given, much shall be required", (Luke 12:48), so it was with Mary Magdalene having been freed from seven demons, (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9), she committed herself wholly to following Jesus, listening, learning and being the bearer of the good news of the resurrection to the other Apostles who announced it to the whole world. The amazing and stunning experience of the resurrection made the women fearful, and according to Mark, they ran away (16:8), but they were also joyful as they carried the message that Jesus has risen to the apostles, giving them their new title from Jesus, "my brothers", (John 20:17; Matt 28:10). There is a great intimacy in these greetings with the resurrected Jesus absorbing the apostles into his new family, a spiritual family that encompasses us all. We often hear of James the "brother" of Jesus; this must be where it all began, the new "kingdom come".



German illuminated manuscript of Mary Magdalen announcing the resurrection to the apostles

Mary Magdalen's closeness to Jesus is illustrated by her immediate reach to embrace Jesus when she recognised him at the tomb, revealing the affection and mutual regard they had for each other. But Jesus said "don't cling to me" (John 20:17) indicating that the time for physical closeness was past. Now was the time to embrace a more spiritual detachment which would lead to better and greater things in order to be made free and something new. Mary is our example on how to let go of the finite and reach out for the greater spiritual dimension.

Through the centuries the men have been so highlighted in the scriptures that the women have become almost invisible even though they were the faithful ones, always present in spite of danger and difficulties. They also had responsible duties, for example, Tabitha who was called a disciple (Acts 9:36), Phoebe, a deacon of the church (Rom 16:1-2), and Euodia and Syntyche who laboured and struggled with Paul in the work of the gospel (Phil 4:2-3). One asks, if women held such important positions in the early church why were all twelve disciples of Jesus men? It was not due to any superiority of men over women but what the gender and number of the disciples exemplify. The twelve disciples represent the twelve sons of Jacob from whom the twelve tribes of Israel emerged. As Jesus declared that salvation was for all Israel he had to choose twelve men to represent each of the twelve tribes, a symbolic gesture maybe to "fulfil the scriptures".

Mary only spoke once in the Gospels but she is having a renewed and profound effect on many of the theologians and writers of today. There is much more for us to learn from this great woman.

Teresa Pollard

FRIDAY FARE

APPLE & WALNUT CHUTNEY

Excellent with cheese and cold meats!

Ingredients:

- 4 lbs cooking apples, peeled cored and chopped
- 2 lbs onions, peeled cored and chopped
- Grated rind and juice of 2 oranges or lemons
- 1 lb sultanas
- 8 ozs walnuts, chopped
- 1 tbs ground ginger
- 1 tbs ground cinnamon
- 1 tps ground cloves
- 1 tps salt
- 2 pints of cider or malt vinegar
- 1 1/4 lb brown sugar

Method:

1. Place all the ingredients, except the sugar, in a large pan. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally for 1 hour or until the apples are soft.
2. Add the sugar and simmer uncovered for 1 hour or until the chutney is thickened.
3. Spoon while still hot into prepared jars. Seal with airtight vinegar-proof covers.
4. Allow to rest for six weeks at least before use. Make now for Christmas.

Cooking time is about 2 hours but this can be reduced by finely chopping the onions and apples.

MARY MAGDALEN - PAINTING



Mary Magdalen is an oil on panel painting, dating to the 1490s and now in the Galleria Palatina in the Palazzo Pitti, in Florence - it has featured in its inventory since 1641. Now attributed to Pietro Perugino, the painting is modelled on his wife Chiara Fancelli, who also modelled for several of his Madonnas.

Relative Silence

"Perugino's faces are often too sweet, too other-worldly, but this little picture is unforgettable. It is only in the

most technical sense St. Mary Magdalen, and Perugino has blazoned her name in embroidered capitals across her tunic as if in wry recognition of this. What she is is a young girl, silent indeed, but as yet unprepared to accept the seriousness of living inwardly. She floats on the surface of her spirit, pensive but not committed. This is so reflective a silence that it has little transformative power. It is that easy silence, of which the most accessible form is the daydream. Real silence is both supremely simple and yet not easy. It draws us into a dimension always open to those who will allow themselves to be centred. But centring debars us from many irrelevances in which we take a guilty pleasure. Perugino's little beauty is not yet ready for the light."

Sister Wendy Beckett



JUSTICE & PEACE IN ST. JOHN FISHER PARISH



STAMP COLLECTION

A reminder that there is a box at the back of the church for your used postage stamps.

These stamps are passed to the *Jesuit Missions Stamp Group* who meet monthly to sort the stamps. They are then sold to a dealer and the proceeds used to fund *Jesuit Missions* projects. This raises a considerable sum for the Missions.

Thank you for your donations!



JUSTICE & PEACE ETHICAL SUGGESTIONS



October:
Avoid using the car to come to Mass and for short journeys

November:
Set heating thermostat lower, and turn off radiators in empty rooms





December:
Keep present wrapping simple - avoid glitter and foil



Food Collections *Feeding Families in Need*

First weekend each month (after all Masses)

The following charities are very grateful for your generous donations:

More people than ever are now being fed by charities

2nd/3rd October

Faith in Action

They would appreciate:

- Packed lunch items:
 - Cereal and protein bars
 - Multi-packs of crisps
 - Multi-packs of small juice cartons
- Sugar
- Small ring-pull tins of sardines or mackerel fillets
- Tins of corned beef
- Tins of sweetcorn
- Jars of peanut butter



6th/7th November

Wimbledon Foodbank

They need:

- Sugar
- Shampoo
- Jam
- Biscuits
- UHT Milk
- Deodorant



4th/5th December

Christian Care

They would appreciate:

- Bottles of Red Grape Juice (eg Schloer)
- Christmas puddings 454g (non-alcoholic nut-free)
- Chocolate puddings 454g
- Sweets/chocolates (family pack)
- Tin of Assorted Biscuits
- Chocolate yule log/cakes
- Tins of fruit cocktail
- Jars of cranberry sauce



MARY'S MEALS

Two million children receiving *Mary's Meals*

At Mary's Meals, they are focused on one goal – that every child receives a nutritious daily meal in a place of education



A few years ago the Justice & Peace group chose *Mary's Meals* as Charity of the Year. We held a coffee morning to raise funds and parishioners donated items for the *Mary's Meals* backpacks which equip a child with clothing and stationery to use for school. Subsequently the Parish held two 'Rags to Riches' collections where parishioners brought old clothes and fabrics which were sold to raise funds.



At that time the charity was feeding some 900,000 children every day. Now thanks to the incredible commitment and dedication of their supporters, volunteers, partners and staff across the globe, two million children are receiving a nutritious meal every day in a place of education.

Sadly, because of contamination issues relating to the pandemic the charity has had to discontinue the 'Rags to Riches' collections. However, their work throughout the pandemic has continued and increased.

Although Covid-19 is still rife across most of the world, the charity is happy that in all of the countries where



they serve their life-changing meals, their work continues.

Schools in South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe have reopened and little ones are receiving their daily meal in class again. Meanwhile, in Malawi, classes are being staggered to ensure they are Covid-safe and *Mary's Meals* are providing food to children to take home in line with government guidance.

Mary's Meals are delighted that they are also reaching children with the promise of a daily meal in 122 more schools in the Vubwi, Chadiza and Katete regions of



Zambia. More than 301,000 hungry children are now enjoying *Mary's Meals* every school day across the country.

However, the situation is still desperate for many families in some of the places where they work, including Madagascar and Thailand, as the escalating spread of Covid-19 cases has caused schools to shut once more.

In India where the virus is currently raging across the country, schools have not reopened since March, last year. At that time, *Mary's Meals* adapted their school feeding programme to deliver food into the communities and have continued to do so.

Thanks to continued support and generosity, they are doing all they can to deliver food to those in the greatest need at this very difficult time and are determined that their work won't stop.

Sometimes people worry that the money they donate gets spent on administration and advertising. *Mary's Meals* boast that: "For every £1 you give, 93p is spent directly on our charitable activities. Thank you!"

www.marysmeals.org.uk

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI: PATRON SAINT OF ECOLOGY

4th October marks the feast day of Francis of Assisi, one of our most popular saints. This is shown by his many patronages.

In June 1939, Pope Pius XII named Francis a joint Patron Saint of Italy along with Catherine of Siena; Francis is the patron of animals, merchants, and ecology. He is also considered the patron against dying alone; against fire; patron of the Franciscan Order and Catholic Action; of families, peace, and needleworkers. On 13th March 2013, upon his election as Pope, Archbishop and Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina chose Francis as his papal name in honour of St Francis of Assisi, becoming Pope Francis.

Saint Francis is widely known for his love of animals, and is often pictured with animals or birds. There are many legends of his interaction with animals: One account describes how one day, while Francis was travelling with some companions, they happened upon a place in the road where birds filled the trees on either side. Francis told his companions to "wait for me while I go to preach to my sisters the birds." The birds surrounded him, intrigued by the power of his voice, and not one of them flew away.

On 28th March 1982, Pope John Paul II said that Francis' love and care for creation was a challenge for

contemporary Catholics and a reminder "not to behave like dissident predators where nature is concerned, but to assume responsibility for it, taking all care so that everything stays healthy and integrated, so as to offer a welcoming and friendly environment even to those who succeed us."

The same Pope wrote on the occasion of the World Day of Peace, 1 January 1990, that Francis "invited all of creation – animals, plants, natural forces, even Brother Sun and Sister Moon – to give honour and praise to the Lord. The poor man of Assisi gives us striking witness that when we are at peace with God we are better able to devote ourselves to building up that peace with all creation which is inseparable from peace among all peoples."

When Pope Francis wrote his encyclical on Care for our Common Home he gave it the title "Laudato Si'" - or "Praise Be to You" - a phrase taken from St Francis' "Canticle of the Sun" (also called the Canticle of the Creatures), a poem and prayer in which God is praised for the creation of the different creatures and aspects of the Earth.

"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs".



This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will”

Pope Francis addresses *Laudato Si'* to “every person living on this planet. He shows how his encyclical is animated by the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of those who promote ecology, and emphasizes the importance of these spiritual roots: “If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously”.

Laudato Si' was extraordinary in that it was addressed to every person on the planet, rather than just the Catholic Church. And the world listened. Leaders from around the globe instantly welcomed what UN climate chief Christiana Figueres described as a clarion call. French President François Hollande stated his hope that “the special voice” of the Pope would be heard in all continents, not just by believers. At the Paris Climate Conference which followed its publication multiple heads of government cited it and praised it in their opening speeches.

Francis is characteristically critical of the ineffective global response to this apocalyptic-crisis, highlighting the many international statements which have led to very little action. He invites us all to dramatically ‘change direction’ - criticising the weak response of the majority of liberal-minded people who, like the majority of us in this country, live in a state of complacency and cheerful recklessness.

This summer, with floods and fires in Europe and beyond, the urgency of caring for our planet has been underlined. The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November 2021.

The climate talks will bring together heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. It is hoped that Pope Francis may attend this conference.

We should pray that this conference will lead to real change on the part of all governments. At the same time, we must remember that Francis’ challenge is to every one of us to take responsibility for our Common Home.

Justice & Peace Group

A CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hands;
they are yours, filled with your presence and
your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune God, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

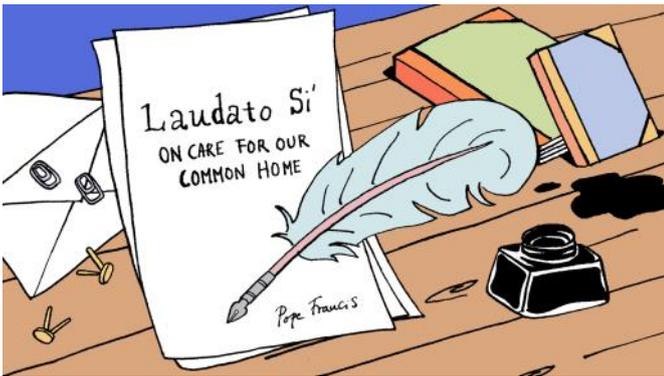
God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good,
advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you!
Amen

Pope Francis published this prayer in his ‘Laudato Si’ encyclical, and is meant for us Christians to ask for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus.

FIVE YEARS AFTER LAUDATO SI'



Five years ago, Pope Francis published his encyclical *Laudato Si'* in which he expressed “an urgent invitation to a new dialogue about how we build the future of the planet.” He added: “We need a conversion that unites all of us, because the environmental challenge we are experiencing, with its human roots, concerns and touches us all.”

taken in many countries have also shown that a political, social and economic response really was possible in view of how serious the issues at stake were. Many voices are calling for the life of our societies not just to return to its usual course, but to take advantage of this moment to ask ourselves some in-depth questions

Today this call is more urgent than ever. And the crisis provoked by the Covid-19 pandemic has abruptly highlighted how vulnerable our common home is.

All of us who have faith are turning to God in prayer and supplication. But I have the inner conviction that in this moment of trial God is also turning in supplication to us, saying: “Wake up!” It is because he loves us that he speaks to us. Isn't it that he wants to tell us: See how

At the same time, the sudden confinement of half of the human population and the drastic health decisions

Laudato Si'
CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

HOW CAN WE CARE FOR GOD'S WORLD?

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Climate change affects
 us all, but it is the poorest
 communities who will suffer the most



much you depend on one another, among people who are close to each other, but also among countries and peoples. See how much you need human fraternity. See how necessary it is for your common future to care for the creation!"

Yes, let us wake up!

While the frantic pace of our societies has suddenly almost stopped, what threatens us now is the risk of social chaos. And it is first and foremost the poorest who will be affected – the poorest countries and the poorest people. Together with them, will we be able to build new solidarities by rediscovering the value of helping each other, as so many people have been doing in recent weeks?

At a time when the collapse of biodiversity is inevitably worsening and when the climate emergency is pressing upon humanity, scientists and the younger generation alike are calling us to make a real change. Unlimited exploitation of finite resources is no longer possible. Will we become ever more aware that with all living beings “we are united by invisible bonds and form a kind of universal family?”

In Taizé, we are impressed to see the commitment of so many young people to protecting of the planet. To these young people, I would like to say: Do not lose courage in the face of the slowness and hesitation that you see. Along with others of my generation, we should ask your forgiveness for having so neglected this responsibility. Consumerism has taken up far too much space, as if

happiness were nothing more than that. You are right to urge us to change our lifestyle so that it becomes both more sober and more focused on the essentials.

What gives me hope is to see the emergence of multiple grassroots initiatives, made up of very practical commitments which, without providing systematic responses, demonstrate a desire to act, without which nothing will be possible. And these initiatives seem to me to be having more and more impact at the political level.

For believers, there is an additional responsibility: the planet is a gift that God entrusts to us; the concern for Creation is an integral part of our faith. In the face of these environmental challenges, a common witness of the Christian denominations and also of the different religions, is even more important – together with all those who find the motivation for their commitment elsewhere.

In the aftermath of the pandemic crisis, what we should be afraid of is that inequalities may increase further and that economic recovery may take place without taking sufficient account of the climate emergency. But we also have a huge opportunity to ask ourselves what kind of future we want. Will we be able to seize this moment?

**Brother Alois
 Taizé Community**



JOSETTE MEETS ... MARK LOBO



I am very grateful to Mark for finding time for this interview as his work commitments have been greatly increased by the Covid-19 pandemic. When you discover what occupies Mark's working life, you will understand why it was not easy to find spare time to complete this interview! Many of you will know Mark who is an active and faithful member of our parish family but - just in case - he is the quiet handsome young man who, in the absence of our usual choir, is the 11am Mass DJ. I must add that, personally, I find his choice of music and hymns awe inspiring.

Mark was born in Nakuru, Kenya, the youngest of 5 children to Maria Tereza Lobo and Simon Joaquim Lobo. Their ancestry and familial background can be traced back to Goa (a heritage fostered throughout Mark's life by his parents, brothers & sisters) where Mark and Val love to travel, taking the opportunity of visiting cousins, friends and enjoying the beautiful beaches, food, churches & surroundings, generally all under the warmth of the "guaranteed" sun!

Continuing the work of his family before him, they also support: "Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity", now primarily for destitute/homeless women and the attached health clinic for the poor, as well as the Asro Tivim, a care home for orphaned children living with HIV or AIDS.

"Helping others is not only important, but I feel is a duty. People do it every day of their lives, even if it is only a small or quick gesture, but what we sometimes take for granted can be immeasurable to someone else. I know from my own circumstances that life & everyone is so busy and there are always competing priorities. We live in a world that is always on the go and with the continuing "explosion" of social media there are very

rarely any quiet or down times that are not interrupted. We can't do everything. However it's important to be able to take some time, every now and again, not only for our own sanity & well-being, but also to reflect on what's important in life: our faith & God's blessings; to be grateful for what we have and not forget our parents, families and those who came before us and who forged the paths that we can walk more freely. It's good to have a perspective that is wider than our own vision and needs".

Mark grew up in South West London and attended local schools, namely: St Boniface Primary School, Tooting, St Thomas of Canterbury Middle School, Mitcham and Wimbledon College

It was in Primary school that Mark's music teacher, Mr Naughton, spotted his musical talent; it was through his belief, and an audition, that Mark won a place at Brompton Oratory; it was however the love of his family that made it all possible; attendance was 3/4 times a week, with full Mass on Sundays, and a minimum mandatory attendance of over 98%, so his family gave up a lot of their time to help nurture & develop his talent.

Whilst it was hard work, it was also extremely enjoyable with some notable performances at Swan Lake, Tosca at The Royal Opera House and appearing with Cleo Lane on TV over Christmas! Music featured heavily in one shape or form through the years, and yes, even to singing in the bathroom!

Mark's first employer was Barclays Bank where he worked his way through a variety of clerical and management roles building knowledge and experience, and becoming an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers. He then moved into the Private Banking arena where the focus was the relationship management of a portfolio of high net worth clients. Additionally, he qualified as a financial advisor and combined this discipline with his Private Banking role, providing a wider, more diverse and holistic review of clients' needs and requirements, for themselves and their families. During that period, Mark worked in a variety of locations in the West End and the City.

In 1995, he met Valerie at Barclays Bank in Marble Arch where they both worked.

In early 2004, Mark was invited to join the National Australia Bank and their operations at the Clydesdale

Bank in Regent Street as a Private Partner (title). This was followed, in 2007, by a move to the Knightsbridge office of the Bank as Senior Partner, managing a team of Private Bankers.

In 2011, Mark was fortunate enough to be approached (I think one would say "headhunted") to join a Swedish Bank (now Handelsbanken Plc) to set up a new Private and Corporate Banking operation in Richmond. He carried total responsibility for all aspects of the business - this was incredibly hard, yet certainly registers as one of the most challenging times of his career - a period Mark thoroughly enjoyed and remembers with great fondness. *"I remember finding the small local Catholic church and it was through God's grace that I could occasionally attend mass that happened to be on around midday - not a usual occurrence at that time".*

In 2015, after having successfully established their Richmond Branch business, Mark was asked to take over as Head of Human Resources for London and the South East. Whilst not an area he had directly worked in before, Mark's background, including professional and personal skills made this less of a challenge than it might have been. Being strategically involved with a different and critical part of the business, in the UK and Sweden, not only continued to fulfil his professional goals of growth and learning, but also taught him a lot about himself (including that travelling to different countries for business, getting on and off planes and going straight into business meetings is very tiring!).

Mark remembers thinking that whilst commuting to the City he should use the time wisely, so he used to read the newspaper on the tube and then say the rosary whilst walking from the tube station to the office, which always meant he arrived calm and ready. Needless to say he did occasionally get distracted and could then never remember how many Hail Mary he had said, so he used to say a few more to be on the safe side *"Now that's the sort of excess you can never go wrong with!"*

In 2020, Mark decided to move back to his Banking roots and took over one of the biggest and highest contributing branches of the UK business even though that required a lot of work. Little did he know at that time that God was continuing to look after him as the move happened not long before the Covid-19 pandemic hit. It meant Mark was no longer required to travel into the City and thus was able to keep more naturally socially distanced as he could drive to work and with a much shorter commute!

"Whilst I had never planned out my career when I was younger, I fell into banking through the good graces of

my sisters & brother. When I reflect on my career, in many ways I have achieved much more than the young me would have thought possible. That, I know, is down to God looking after & blessing me (don't give up just yet God!) but also to my family & Val who are loving, supportive and caring. I hope I'm able to always keep giving back in a small way; never take things for granted and always remember there are people in the world who are in a much worse position, so not to forget the power of gratitude."

Mark still manages to find time for hobbies such as keeping fit, animal welfare (which includes their rescue cat Popsie), helping others, travel, films, music, cooking, entertainment, etc. He is also Treasurer of the Wimbledon Catenian Association, a Catholic organisation that not only promotes family, faith & friendship, but also undertakes a lot of charitable works especially among the younger generation by providing bursaries.

Mark (technically) joined St John Fisher in 1998 after moving to the area, however having been very involved with St Boniface in Tooting, where he conducted the choir for about 18 years, he didn't really move formally into SJF until much later.

His activities include: Altar Server, Reader, Eucharistic Minister, Chair of Parish Finance Committee, Singer, Choir Conductor, Church steward, Counter and Sunday Mass DJ.

I met Mark a few years ago while we were occasionally on the same team counting the collection money on Sunday mornings, which - at that time - meant counting every single coin and note collected, recording, checking and balancing totals! (nowadays a machine sorts and counts the coins!) Our task required some concentration so we never had much time to chat. Nevertheless, Mark is a true gentleman and his kindness, and polite and calm manners made the morning more enjoyable.

I am glad for the opportunity to find out more about him and am sure you will too. I must admit I had no idea what Mark did in life but felt that, whatever it was, it would be to the Glory of God and I was not wrong. Dear Mark, we appreciate your time is precious and are very grateful for giving us so much of it (together with practical help) so that this interview could take place. May God bless you, Val and all your family and friends. We wish you continued success in your private as well as professional life. With love in Jesus and heartfelt thanks on behalf of your grateful family at St John Fisher.

Josette Kisnorbo



WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT FRIENDS OF LIFE

About Life

Life is a UK charity that provides (1) support services for anyone facing unplanned pregnancy or pregnancy loss, and (2) education about human dignity. The charity upholds the right to life from the womb to the tomb.

Friends Fundraising

The Friends of Life thank everybody who contributed in any way to the Afternoon Tea on 21st August. The takings amounted to £400.

Nuala Scarisbrick (1939-2021)



It is with deep sorrow that Life announces the death of co-founder Nuala Scarisbrick. She left this life on Tuesday 31st August peacefully at home with Jack, her husband, and their two daughters (Emma and Sarah) by her side.

Nuala was the driving force behind the building of the client support services you see today - especially her "hotline" which evolved into our National Helpline. Her tireless passion to support women and families in crisis saved lives on a daily basis and will continue.

Nuala Ann Scarisbrick was born in January 1939. She worked as a teacher, and married distinguished academic Professor John Joseph "Jack" Scarisbrick in 1965.

Nuala and Jack co-founded Life in 1970. The husband-and-wife team were the dynamic duo driving the charity all the way until they stepped down in 2017.



Jack & Nuala meet the newly-elected Pope John Paul II, 1978. The Pope, hearing about Life at a General Audience in Rome, says, "What you are doing is very important for the modern conscience."



While Jack became the figurehead of the new charity, it was Nuala who did the day-to-day running of Life. For 30 years, she took a full-time but unpaid position as National Administrator. Jack described her as Life's "chief animator."

Speaking of Nuala's influence, he said: "Nuala ran Life ... and she was amazing! Travelling all over the place, all over Europe, and addressing numerous meetings and founding the National Helpline. She was a leading figure on it for many years. Really without her, it would never have taken off as it did."

Nuala's energy and drive were formidable. She did everything: fundraising, hosting supporters, going to meetings, starting Life's national helpline, starting Life's education programme, operations, PR (where she was particularly known for her precise use of language), all the while she and Jack were supporting pregnant girls by taking them into their home.

Nuala and Jack lived in Leamington Spa. They have two daughters, eight grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren with a tenth due imminently.

We are forever indebted to the remarkable woman that was Nuala Scarisbrick. May she rest in peace.

To share your tribute with Jack and the family and read more about her exceptional life visit the Life website at www.lifecharity.org.uk.

We join with Jack and the family in mourning her loss.

Christine Davis

" Notice that autumn is more the season of the soul than of nature."

Friedrichh Nietzsche

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR 2021-22

Calendar of Feasts and Fasts:

All Saints	Sun.	31st October
Our Lord Jesus Christ. King of the Universe	Sun.	21st November
First Sunday of Advent (Sunday Cycle: B)	Sun.	28th November
The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day	Wed.	25th December
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Sun.	26th December
<hr/>		
The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God	Sat.	1st Jan. 2022
The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Thur.	6th January
The Baptism of Our Lord	Sun.	9th January
The Presentation of Our Lord (Candlemas)	Wed.	2nd February
Ash Wednesday **	Wed.	2nd March
Saint Joseph	Sat.	19th March
The Annunciation of the Lord	Fri.	25th March
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	Sun.	10th April
Mundy Thursday	Thu.	14th April
Good Friday **	Fri.	15th April
Easter Sunday	Sun.	17th April
Saint George, Protector of England	Tue.	26th April
The Ascension of Our Lord	Thu.	26th May
The Feast of Pentecost, Whit Sunday	Sun.	5th June
Mary, Mother of the Church	Mon.	6th June
The Most Holy Trinity	Sun.	12th June
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Sun.	19th June
Saint John Fisher & Saint Thomas More	Wed.	22nd June
The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist	Thu.	23rd June
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Fri.	24th June
Immaculate Heart of Blessed Virgin Mary	Sat.	25th June
Saint Peter and Saint Paul, apostles	Wed.	29th June
The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Sat.	6th August
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sun.	14th August

Bold entries above denote Holydays of Obligation (and every Sunday too).

** Days of Fasting and Abstinence.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2021



*The intentions are keys to live our faith in daily life, joining action to our prayers.
Each intention presenting a challenge that gives purpose to the month.*

OCTOBER

Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

NOVEMBER

People Who Suffer From Depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

DECEMBER

Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER INTENTIONS PRISONERS & THEIR FAMILIES

We are asked to pray in the autumn for prisoners and their families, especially on **Prisoners Sunday** (Sunday 10th October) and in **Prisons Week** (10th - 16th October)

Prisoner's week was a Catholic initiative begun in 1975 by Bishop Victor Guazelli which has since gained ecumenical support and observance. It reflects the work of the *Prison Advice & Care Trust* which builds on its origins as the *Bourne Trust - The Catholic Prisoner's Aid Society*. The Sunday and the following week seek to focus attention not only on the needs of prisoners but on all those involved the field of prison care, prisoners families, victims of crime, prison staff and many volunteers.

Lord, We pray for all in prison and their families, that they may know the Lord's compassion and love. We pray also for the judicial system, may it practice both justice and mercy. Amen.

*Almighty and merciful God,
to whom alone the secrets of the heart lie open,
who recognize the just and make righteous the guilty,
hear our prayers for your servants held in prison,
and grant that through patience and hope
they may find relief in their affliction and soon return
unhindered to their own. Amen.*



Consider the
RAVENS:
they do
not sow
or reap,
they
have
no
storeroom
or barn;
yet God
feeds
them.
And how
much more
valuable you
are than
birds!
LUKE 12:24

WWW.PRISONSWEEK.ORG
@PRISONSWEEK #PRISONSWEEK

PRISONSWEEK
A WEEK OF PRAYER
10TH-16TH OCT 2021

CYCLE OF PRAYER

In the Cycle of Prayer, the liturgical year has been divided into six periods. Please pray for the intentions stated - not only on a particular day, not only at Mass, but throughout the period, especially in your own private prayers.

Ordinary Time: Autumn

The Harvest, the Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation

especially on World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1 September) & whenever Harvest Festivals are held

Students and Teachers

especially on the Education Day (2nd Sunday in September)

The Spread of the Gospel

especially on Home Mission Day (3rd Sunday in September) & on World Mission Day (penultimate Sunday in October)

Justice and Peace in the world

especially on Racial Justice day (2nd Sunday in September) & on Harvest Fast Day (1st Friday in October)

Prisoners and their Families

especially on the Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependants (2nd Sunday in October) & during Prisons Week (2nd week in October)

All Victims of War

especially on Remembrance Sunday (2nd Sunday in November)

Young People

especially on Youth Day (Christ the King)

Advent / Christmas

Migrants and Refugees

especially on Migrants Day (Friday 3 December)

Expectant Mothers

especially on the 4th Sunday in Advent (19 December)



www.liturgyoffice.org.uk



Discover the joy of learning!
“Specialist in STEM Maths”

1 to 1 and Group Tuition
STEM GCSEs, KS1/2, SATs, Phonics Test & 11+ Exams
Experienced PGCE Qualified Tutors (Limited Spaces - book now!)

Telephone: 07904 880 448



@goldstarlearningacademy_uk

Paul's Carpentry Services

We offer a broad range of carpentry services including:



- ◆ Conversions and interior reconstructions
- ◆ Kitchens and bathrooms
- ◆ Custom made furniture
- ◆ Floors, doors, stairs and balustrades
- ◆ Painting and decorating



Visit our website
www.paulscarpentryservices.com

or call us on
07438 936 432
to get a free quotation

Made to Measure

With Ana

Cushions
Pleat Curtains

Roman blinds
Traditional Curtains

For a free virtual or home consultation contact me on:
mobile: 07424338445 - e-mail: anairene.c@gmail.com

ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH REPOSITORY & BOOKSHOP

Open:

*Before and after 9 am
Mass most weekdays*

*On Sundays between
8.30 to 9.30am
and 10.30 to 11am*



- All occasion cards
- Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation items available
- We also stock adult Prayer books in foreign languages and children's Prayer books in Polish



Do something to help!

**VOLUNTEER
WITH CHRISTIAN CARE**

We are looking for Befrienders, Shoppers & Furniture Project Helpers

We also urgently need your unwanted furniture

For more information visit
www.christiancaremerton.org.uk

To enquire about helping or to donate unwanted furniture items contact us on

020 3302 0181

or **07932 628840**

or email: christiancaremerton@gmail.com



St John Fisher
Catholic Primary School



Together we grow in God's love.
Learning to be the best we can be.

LOVE LEARN ACHIEVE

The very best start in education—for pupils, parents and staff



- Children aged 3—11 years
- Strong academic performance profile
- Outstanding behaviour and strong community ethos
- Nurturing the needs of individuals
- Wide range of extra-curriculum provision
- Large school site and extensive grounds

St. John Fisher is the popular, over subscribed primary school serving the parish and wider community.

Staff, parents and governors work together to offer all pupils a high quality education centred on Christ and with gospel values at its core

We would be delighted to welcome you to our wonderful school.

Please visit the school website or contact the school office for details.

St John Fisher RC Primary School

Grand Drive

West Wimbledon

London SW20 9NA

Telephone: 020 8540 2637

Email: school@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk

Website: www.st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk



Tel: 0203 773 5115 | 0780 737 5061

office@stpeterspilgrimages.com

www.stpeterspilgrimages.com



Pilgrimages 2021 - 2022

Medjugorje	> 2 Oct / 8 Days / £580
The Holy Land	> 22 Oct / 8 Days / £1290
Lourdes & Paris	> 22 Oct / 5 Days / £380
Lourdes Easter	> 14 April / 5 Days / £380
Fatima & Lisbon	> 11 May / 5 Days / £580
Krakow Divine Mercy	> 28 May / 6 Days / £680
Camino de Santiago	> 25 June / 6 Days / £580
Lourdes & Nevers	> 13 Aug / 6 Days / £480
Lourdes by Air	> 14 Aug / 5 Days / £580

St. John Fisher

Over 60s Club

Are you free on Thursdays 1–3 pm?

Do you and your friends like playing card games?

Are you good at words and like playing Scrabble?

Or do you just want to relax, chat and play Bingo?

We offer all these activities, together with tea, coffee, cakes and sandwiches.

So, why not come along to the Church Hall

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Bespoke Local Dressmaker Designer

Handmade Dresses for Children & Adults

Made to Measure

Bridal, Prom, Birthday, Baptism, First Holy Communion & Special Occasions

Repairs and Alterations Clinic

Men's hems taken up, Trousers taken in, Dresses reshaped & Men's Jackets relined, etc.

Over 25 years experience.

Call, Text or WhatsApp
07904 880 448



ST. JOHN FISHER PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

Thursdays (term time only)
9.30 - 11.30 am in the Parish Hall



The Parent and Toddler Group invite pre-school children and their parents to come along and create new friendships within our church community.

£3 admission (includes refreshments and a new craft activity each week). Admission is limited to 30 children to ensure a fun and safe environment.

Any questions?

Please contact Pippa at
pipnlindsay@gmail.com

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE





Beauty Treatments

(Sparkle 8 Spa Manicure)

Acrylic/Gel nails & File or Dulux Hand Massage

(Sparkle 8 Spa Pedicure)

Dulux foot Spa/File & Foot massage

(Mini & Full Facials)

Therapeutic Massage

Head, Neck, shoulder, Back & Full Body

Adults/Babies & Pregnancy

(Private Mobile Beauty Therapists or Private Clinic)



Call/Txt: 07535 650 150



To advertise in TALKABOUT

Please contact:

Marina Bowyer

020 8542 1349

talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk

Speak to Marina about what you would like worded or illustrated in your advert.

We aim to please!

Prices (per issue)

Quarter Page	£15
Half Page	£23
Full Page	
(inside)	£30
(back cover)	£38

TALKABOUT PARISH MAGAZINE - 2021/22 DATES

Deadline for submitting items (talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk or % the Parish Office)	Sunday 21 Nov.	Sunday 27 Feb.	Sunday 29 May.
Distribution Weekend	11 & 12 Dec.	19 & 20 March	18 & 19 Jun.



Deadline for articles to be included in the next edition of *Talkabout* **must** be with the Editorial Team before

SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2021

talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE:

The Readers' Rota, Eucharistic Ministers Rota and Collection Counters Rota are not being published at present.



Coffee, tea, squash & biscuits are served in the Hall after 9:30am and 11:00am Mass each Sunday.

Everyone welcome!

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

" How beautiful the leaves grow old. How full of light and colour are their last days."

John Burroughs



Ursuline Preparatory School Wimbledon

A Roman Catholic Independent Preparatory School
for Girls aged 4 to 11 and a Coeducational Nursery



Educating the HEART, the MIND
and the SOUL

'The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent'

ISI Inspection May 2019

- Strong Ursuline Ethos
- Excellent ISI Inspection Report
- New ICT Suite
- New Theatre & Dance Studio
- Strong All Inclusive Sporting Programme
- Full 11+ Preparation Programme
- Outstanding Academic, Sport, Drama & Musical Success
- Wrap around Care, 7.45am to 5.45pm

Find out more about our Open Events at
www.ursulineprep.org/admissions/open-events
or phone 020 8947 0859

"We highly recommend this school. A fantastic community that nurtures each girl and focuses on their strengths. Great academics and lots of wonderful additions."

Mrs V. (Parent)

18 The Downs, Wimbledon, SW20 8HR

  UrsulinePrep

 Ursuline_Prep

PARISH GROUPS

	Who for?	When?	Where?	Run by?	Contact Details?
Altar Servers	Parishioners (post-First Holy Communion)			Robert Roy	raroysms@gmail.com
Choir 11am Mass	Church Choir	Practice: Tuesday 3.00-4.30pm	Church Choir Loft	<i>To be advised</i>	
Crusaders	Post-First Holy Communion Young People	First Tuesday each month 4.00-5.00pm	Day Chapel	<i>To be advised</i>	
Music Group 9.30am Mass	Singers and Musicians		Family Mass	Pippa Lindsay & Mary Farrell	pipnlindsay@gmail.com
Guild of Our Lady	Parish children (Year 5 & above)	Monday evening	Day Chapel	Kate Colthup	merton@rcaos.org.uk
Justice & Peace Group	Parishioners	Once a month	Venue varies	J&P Team	sjf.justiceandpeace@gmail.com
Over 60s Club	Parishioners	Thursday 1.00-3.00pm	Parish Hall	<i>To be advised</i>	
RCIA	Anyone wishing to learn more about Catholicism	Tuesday 8.00pm	<i>To be advised</i>	Kate Colthup & Miriam Davis	<i>merton@rcaos.org.uk</i>
Readers	Please speak to the Clergy if you would like to read	Mass	Church	Clergy	207 Cannon Hill Lane merton@rcaos.org.uk
SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society)	Needy parishioners	Help available as needed	By arrangement	SVP Team	Sean Deane 020 8715 7972
Talkabout	Parishioners	Editorial Team meet quarterly	Venue varies	Editorial Team	talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk
Teams of Our Lady	Parish Families	Each Team meets monthly	Homes of members	Davide Buttaci	davide011974@gmail.com
Toddler Group	Children (birth - 4 yrs)	Thursday Term Time 9.30-11.30am	Parish Hall	Pippa Lindsay	pipnlindsay@gmail.com
Youth Group	Parish children (Year 7 & above)	Friday 7.30– 9.00pm	Parish Hall	Clergy	207 Cannon Hill Lane merton@rcaos.org.uk
UNIFORM GROUPS		<i>Uniform Groups Coordinator:</i>		Jaki O'Neill-Ford	jakioneillford@yahoo.co.uk
Rainbows	Girls (5 - 7 yrs)	Monday 4.30-5.30pm	Parish Hall	Sandy Brown	san.brown8@hotmail.co.uk.
Brownies	Girls (6 - 9 yrs)	Monday 5.30-7.00pm	Parish Hall	Leanne Kennett <i>Brown Owl</i>	LKennett75@virginmedia.com 07957 470 943
Guides	Girls (10 - 14 yrs)	Tuesday 6.00-7.40pm	Parish Hall	Sandy Brown <i>Guide Leader</i>	san.brown8@hotmail.co.uk.
Beavers	Boys & Girls (6 - 8 yrs)	Friday 5.45pm	Parish Hall	}	}
Cubs	Boys & Girls (8 - 10 ¹ / ₂ yrs)	Wednesday 6.00-7.30pm	Parish Hall	}	Tracy Sterlini <i>Group Scout Leader</i> tracy@sterlini.plus.com
Scouts	Boys & Girls (10 ¹ / ₂ - 14 yrs)	Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm	Parish Hall	}	}
Explorers	Boys & Girls (14 - 19 yrs)	Tuesday 7.45-9.30pm	Parish Hall	Tom Carter & Andy Newman <i>ESLs</i>	dtjambo@yahoo.co.uk

PARISH DETAILS

ST. JOHN FISHER PARISH



Parish Admin.
Fr Matthias
Kizito



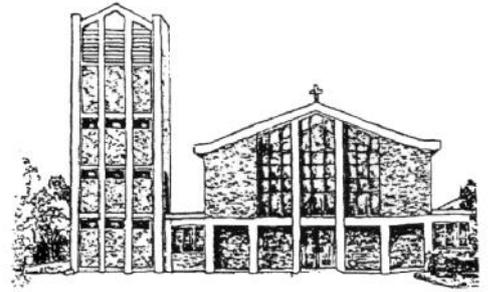
Assist. Priest
Fr Francis
Nonyelu



Deacon
Fred
Carter



Deacon
Tom
Kavanagh



Address: The Presbytery
207 Cannon Hill Lane
Merton, London SW20 9DB

Telephone: 020 8542 6355

E-mail: merton@rcaos.org.uk
talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk.

Website: www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/
StJohnFisherParishMerton/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/StJohnFisherParishMerton/)

Parish Secretary: Melissa Russell
9am - 2.00pm Monday - Thursday

Baptism: 3:00 pm First Sunday of the month
by prior arrangement

Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30 - 10:30 am
in the Hall

Mass Times:

Weekdays: 9:00 am

First Fridays: 8:00 pm

Holydays: 6:00 pm (Vigil), 9:00 am & 7.30 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am & 6:00 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:00 am

9:30 am (Family Mass)

11:00 am (Sung Mass)

6:30 pm

Repository: Weekdays - before and after 9 am
Mass most weekdays.
Sundays - between 8.30 to 9.30am
and 10.30 to 11am.

ST. JOHN FISHER PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Fr. Matthias
President

Deacon Fred
Ex-Officio

Paul Spooner
• Chairman

Peter Nash
• Deputy Chair

Collette Farley
• Secretary

Fr Francis
• Ex-Officio

Deacon Tom
• Ex-Officio
• Apostolate



Davide Buttaci
• Teams of Our
Lady

Michael Calnan
• Elected Member

Sean Deane
• St. Vincent de
Paul

Pippa Lindsay
• Toddlers Group
• Church Music

Angie Mackay
• St. John Fisher
Primary School



Sandra Malveiro
• Elected Member

Ursula O'Byrne
• Safeguarding

Jaki O'Neill-Ford
• Uniform Groups

Rob Roy
• Elected Member

Melissa Russell
• Co-opt Member

Ann Vaz
• Elected Member



Official School Uniform Suppliers

Wimbledon College,
St John Fisher & Sacred Heart
Schoolwear made to last, at low prices

Communion Dresses, Veils & White Shoes
Special Offers on Dresses Till December

Christian Cards for
Christmas & All Occasions
Advent Calendars & Nativity Sets
Party Balloons & Banners

Open 6 Days a Week
9.00 to 5.00 pm Monday to Fridays
10.00 to 4.00 pm Saturdays



368 Grand Drive,
London, SW20-9NQ
020-8543-7721

www.firstholychommunion.co.uk