

Talkabout

JUNE 2021

St. John Fisher Parish Magazine




LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON
presented this certificate to
St John Fisher Church
1st April 2021
In recognition of your dedication and commitment to your
faith community and all people by your demonstration of
service during Covid-19.
Sally Kenny
Cllr Sally Kenny
Mayor of Merton


Cover: A lovely surprise visit on April 28th from Cllr Sally Kenny, the Mayor of Merton. Father Matthias Kizito was presented with a certificate *'in recognition of your dedication and commitment to your faith community and all people by your demonstration of service during Covid-19'*

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WELCOME TO TALKABOUT

Dear Parishioners and all readers of *Talkabout*,

This year's summer edition of the *Talkabout Magazine* will find us in almost similar conditions as last year. Although many of the Coronavirus restrictions are gradually easing and life slowly returning to normal, we still face some challenges and constraints especially as regards traveling. At this time of the year, many would be looking forward to a summer holiday at a destination of their choice. This may not be possible this year due to the travel restrictions still in place. For some, this implies that the pain of not being able to meet their loved ones living abroad, goes on.

Nonetheless we need to continue looking at the bright side of life. We know that we have been through a lot since the beginning of the pandemic. By this time last year, we were facing many more restrictions including not being able to come to Church. We are grateful to God that we are now able to gather as a community for the celebration of the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our lives. This celebration always reminds us of God's abiding love, a God who wished to stay with us permanently in the gift of the consecrated body and blood.

From a liturgical point of view, there are several reminders of God's love at this time of the year, one of which is the celebration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This celebration is observed on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi (Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ). The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a powerful reminder of the love of Christ poured out for us on the Cross. It is a representation of His divine love and human love.

The month of June is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. During this month, the faithful are encouraged to carry out devotional practices like receiving Holy Communion more frequently, doing acts of reparation, honouring the image of the Sacred Heart, and consecrating homes to the Sacred Heart. Our Lord promised Saint Margaret Alacoque that He will bless the houses in which the picture of the Sacred Heart shall be exposed and honoured. The blessing of homes this June will not be possible due to Covid restrictions but other devotions in this regard can still be carried out.

Another reminder of God's love in the month of June is St. John Fisher, our Patron Saint whose feast is celebrated on 22nd June. St John Fisher suffered martyrdom in 1534, emulating the great example of love

of God on the Cross. As Jesus says, Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends, (John 15:13). Through St. John Fisher we receive many blessings from God as a Parish and are confident that he is interceding for us at this critical moment of the pandemic. May we learn from him to keep the faith and to love God as he did.

In this joyful month of June, we also think of the children in our Parish who are preparing to receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. They have been working hard since the beginning of the program in September last year, assisted by their parents and catechists. We pray for these children that Jesus whom they are about to receive for the first time in the Eucharist will remain a friend for life, in whom they will find true love, trust and companionship.

Fr Matthias Kizito

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR

All those recently Baptised

Rose Sothinathan
Gianna Moodie
Micaiah Moodie
Noah Gunaratnam
Amira Glover-Ablor
Jeremiah Glover-Ablor
Emily Andolfi
Arthur Judge



Cooper Ah-Kong
Cooper Hohls
Lexi Hohls
Leo McQueen



All those celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion

All those recently called home to Heaven

Kathleen O'Regan
Madeline Newman
Patricia Campbell
Maureen O'Brien
John 'Sean' Conneely
Michael Challoner



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

PARISH RESOURCES DURING COVID ... & WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Parish finances during the pandemic inevitably suffered with the Church closed for much of the year and attendances down when it was open. In this article Deacon Tom outlines the situation and makes suggestions of ways parishioners can help.

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It will come as no surprise to the parish that Church finances suffered as a consequence of the Covid pandemic. However, due to the generosity of many, the position was somewhat better than we feared at the outset. In total ordinary income fell by £56.8k between 2019 and 2020 to last year's figure of £112.2k, a decline of one-third.

The main constituents of this fall were:

- a decline of £16.4k in offertory collections to £70.1k, including Christmas and Easter.
- a fall of £19.4k in other collections and offerings.
- a drop of £7.5k in interest receipts.
- a reduction of £2.5k in Gift Aid tax rebates
- a fall of £7.2k in Votive Candle and Repository income.

Ordinary expenditure in 2020 came to £156.7k, meaning that the parish suffered a running costs deficit on the year of £44.5k. The situation is not immediately critical as the parish has a substantial capital sum held by the diocese, although considerable amounts of this have been used in recent years for repairs to the Church structure (in particular to the concrete pillars of the Church and to the flat roofs on both sides of the Church), modernising the house at 255 Cannon Hill Lane owned by the parish and updating the kitchen and electrical systems in the Church hall.

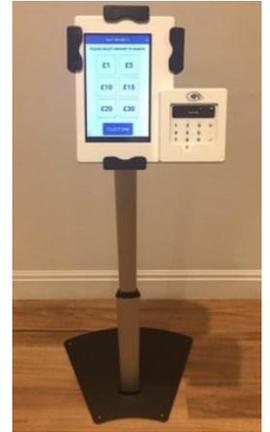
But the parish cannot continue to run a deficit indefinitely. We receive no outside financial assistance and indeed have to contribute our share of the costs of running the diocese, etc. Some steps have been taken to help alleviate the problem.

Most significantly, the house at 255 Cannon Hill Lane was renovated to make it in a fit state for a private rental. It is now tenanted through a local estate agent and bringing in rental income.

Regrettably we had to make our parish organist redundant. The lady who helps with housekeeping in the presbytery has had her role altered so that she now undertakes work which otherwise would have needed a

cleaning company. Our parish secretary spent much of the year on furlough.

As parishioners will have seen, we have installed a contactless card machine in the Church to make payments easier, particularly for visitors. This is already making a worthwhile contribution to our income. If you are daunted by the machine, please speak to one of the stewards who will explain its operation, including how to Gift Aid your donations.



We have enlisted a lettings agent (who is used by other parishes) to seek to rent the hall for functions at times when it is not otherwise needed for parish activities, in particular at weekends.

We have been very grateful for those who continued to financially support the parish during the pandemic. A number of people regularly delivered their offertory envelopes to the presbytery. Those who paid by bank Standing Order have kept up their payments and some others have switched to this method. Yet others have given generously since the Church reopened, making up for donations not made while the Church was closed.

We would encourage parishioners to consider whether they can provide further support. We realise that some cannot as they have suffered financially over the last year but many of us have been fortunate in that our incomes have continued. In particular if you pay income tax and have not signed up for **Gift Aid**, please consider doing so as it is a cost free method of increasing the value of your donations to the church.

Please consider making a Standing Order as that ensures a regular income for the Church.

And you might consider whether your donation matches what you can afford and what the parish needs. Running costs average about £150 to £200 per parishioner per year.

There is a further way in which you can help if you have practical skills such as decorating, DIY or carpentry or if you have a trade and are willing to help out when

PARISH FUNDRAISING

JustGiving™

The link to the **JustGiving** page can be found on the parish website:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-john-fisher-merton



Another way of earning income for the parish without costing you any money is to register for **Easy Fundraising**. Easy fundraising has over 4,400 shops and sites which will donate to us at no extra cost to yourself.

All you have to do is sign up to support us using the link below and the next time you shop online and go through the easyfundraising website or app, the parish receive a free donation. We really need all the help we can get at the moment and any funds we raise will make a big difference to us!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnfisherrcchurch/

needed. During the pandemic the parish benefitted greatly from the generosity of parishioners who gave their time, in particular in supporting the Church by undertaking small electrical works (such as installing the plug for the contactless card machine and the screen in the hall for showing services when the Church was full), by changing light bulbs in the ceiling of the Church and hall and by installing new window blinds. Another parishioner has spent much time maintaining and improving the Church grounds. And one who has a background in the building trade provided valuable support and advice in arranging and supervising the repair and modernisation work. If you think you can help in any way, please contact the parish office.

The parish is emerging from the pandemic in better shape than it might have done and in better shape than some but we need now to ensure that we can re-establish the parish as a strong and viable community.

Deacon Tom Kavanagh

COVID-19 GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

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

CAPACITY

On the 17th May 2021 new government guidelines came into effect regarding the seating capacity in our Church.

We are currently allowed **half the seating capacity** - but we still need to maintain social distancing.

It is impossible to give an exact capacity for our Church as it is dependent on the size of groups who come to Church. We could get a lot of families for one Mass who will be able to sit together and mainly singles/couples for other services who should keep a social distance from each other.

Stewards will seat families in the side/transept chapels and once these areas become full, will then use the main Church.

The clergy have laid out the Church as best they can. Stewards will advise people to keep a social distance when they enter. It is unlikely that we will reach capacity unless everyone returns to Mass suddenly before the next easing of lockdown rules.

CLEANING

If there are not enough stewards for a particular Mass you may be asked to help clean after Mass. There are also small stickers available at the back of Church, these have proved very useful for cleaning. A sticker is given to parishioners as they enter and asked to stick on their pew, to help identify the pews that need to be cleaned if people are spread around the Church.

CARRY ON ...

The capacity of our Church is the **ONLY** change, please continue to do the following:

- Sanitise hands on entry to the Church
- Ensure we wear face coverings at all times in Church
- Maintain a social distance (1 metre) especially during our movements in the Church
- Ventilate the Church during services/Mass (by keeping windows and doors open)
- Clean the Church after each service
- Use the NHS track & trace forms or scan in using our QR code



NEWS FROM THE GUIDES



... AND ... RAINBOWS



We continued our weekly zoom meetings after half term, starting with a variety of international activities to celebrate Thinking Day. We ended the meeting by renewing our Promise by torch or battery candlelight. Next we curated a "virtual" museum and gave a guided tour around each of the personal collection of exhibits ranging from pencil cases to shells. One fun activity later in the term was a sandwich making production line, where instructions to the machine were randomly selected which resulted in some very strange sandwiches being produced. Luckily the girls were able to rearrange the contents so that they could then eat their creations. Finally, we had an Easter themed meeting to finish the term.



We were so pleased to discover that we would be able to meet face to face on our return after the Easter break. Starting a new theme 'Be Well', we made the most of a variety of "new versions" of more familiar sports and games which enabled everyone to be outside (without masks). We have also looked at safety on the internet and natural remedies and beauty products.

We were pleased to welcome Lily to the Guide Unit during this half term. We were also able to present Natalie with her Bronze Award. Congratulations to her. Congratulations as well to Sophie, who completed the skills Section for her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award by developing her cooking skills. Margaret and I watched her each week via zoom and some weeks we also had a personal delivery of some of her cakes and biscuits.

Now we are looking forward to the time when we will once again be able to go on residential and in particular the International Camp next year in Staffordshire, which happens every 4 years.

Sandy Brown

As with the guides we spent the second half of last term zooming for meetings and would like to thank the mums and dads who (had to) join in each to enable some of the activities to take place.

We managed to prepare everyone for an Adventure in Space at the Astronauts Academy before visiting a number of the planets, completing different challenges each time we "landed". We also studied the stars and found out how to find north. The girls also completed their Nature Badge. They recorded the characteristics of the changing seasons, made a leaf collection, identifying them and making a collage and planting some seeds and watching them sprout. Finally, we made an Easter Wreath, turned polystyrene eggs into chicks and rabbits and went on an Easter Hunt around the house. At the end of term we said "Goodbye" to our two oldest Rainbows but after Easter welcomed two new girls to join us.

It was very special to be able to meet face to face again both in the hall and out. Following on from last term the girls made their own telescopes and created their own unique constellations based on their initials. These were then visible when they looked through their telescopes. We have also been exploring "know myself" and have created a beautiful garden of "unique" flowers representing everyone's favourite things (activities, colours, animals etc.). We have made a start on Family Tree badge and travelled back in time to look at various events since guides started, paying special attention to the start of Rainbows.

We had to say "goodbye" to 3 girls who were going off to do other things or move on to Brownies but we are looking forward to 3 new girls joining us after half term. Finally, congratulations to Evie Rose who gained her Bronze Award and to Ciara who completed her Nature Badge.

Sandy Brown

DAUGHTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

The Parish have been informed that the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart will soon be withdrawing from our Parish. Since the death of Sister Catherine in December 2019, Sister Marion has been living alone and the order have decided to relocate Sister Marion back to Ireland.

The Provincial and Council have decided to put the property in Monkleigh Road up for sale.



CHURCH CAR PARK

ENTRANCE/EXIT & LINE PAINTING

As we are sure you have noticed, the parking bays in our Church car park are very faded and the lines need to be renewed.

While investigating the costs with various line painting companies a question was raised by one of them: *'Why is your car park entrance the wrong way around?'* We were also told 'In the UK we drive on the left so usually your car park entrance would be the first and not second crossover'

Why don't we enter the car park using the first entrance as you drive along Cannon Hill Lane from Martin Way? The 413 bus stop is directly outside the current exit making the lines of vision for exiting the carpark very limited and dangerous particularly if you are trying to turn right onto Cannon Hill Lane and there is a bus at the bus stop.

When the original crossovers for the car park entrance and exit were made in 1962 (at a cost of £16) the bus

stop would not have been an issue as the 413 bus route was only extended in November 1996 to include Cannon Hill Lane.

So, for safety reasons, we have decided to change the direction of traffic flow in the car park when the new lines are painted. We don't have a date for the work yet but will ensure warning is given in advance by a notice in the newsletter and announcements in Church. We will change the in/out signage outside the car park but of course, we are creatures of habit and it will take us a while to adjust to the new layout.

We are also planning to add a hatched area to the front of the Church and also to the side of the hall and church to mark the fire escape routes. The current disabled parking bays will also be renewed.

Please keep an eye out for the change in the next few months!

PLATINUM WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Deacon Fred Carter and his wife Pat celebrated a special Mass in the Church on Wednesday 16th June for their 70th Wedding anniversary.

The couple were presented with a Papal Blessing by Canon John Clark, our Dean.

Other priests who attended were Canon Acton, Fr Francis and Fr Jeffrey Smith. Fr Matthias was the main celebrant and Deacon Tom Kavanagh was also in attendance.



As their daughter Margaret explained, St. John Fisher parish has been a huge part of our parents' life and their family's for over 60 years, so it was wonderful to be all together at the church to make the day so very special. "It was a great blessing to have so many priests concelebrating."



NEWS FROM THE BEAVER SCOUTS

As usual, Beaver Scouts have been enjoying themselves this term, gaining new skills, completing a number of challenges and gaining badges. We continued to meet mostly on Zoom but that didn't stop us! We baked, spied, experimented, played games, built dens, sung and toasted super chocolatey marshmallows. We welcomed four new Beavers and said our teary goodbyes to a few who moved on to enjoy their scouting adventures in Cubs.

Unable to parade on St. George's Day again, we were given a permission from St. John Fisher School to show off our uniforms there. It was heart-warming to see how proud Beavers were to be able to wear their uniform to school!

A "Beavers' Bake-Off" set the tone to the term's meetings. Our delicious chocolate chip cookies were loved by everyone, kids and parents alike, and we even had some Beavers baking them on their own, again and again!

Next we turned into detectives and expert communicators, writing emails and SMS messages, taking fingerprints and deciphering secret notes written with an invisible ink, to then learn the basics of Morse code.

After that came time for experimenting – we learned about refraction and the way our eyes see light by creating and using Newton's disc.

The beautiful, tranquil surroundings of Frylands Woods were the first opportunity in a long time for our colony to see face to face. During the District Cyclocross Beavers had a chance to test their cycling skills and to brush up on the health and safety precautions connected with

riding a bike. The mud didn't bother us at all and the smiles of triumph after each completed circuit spoke volumes!

Although again virtual, our annual Sleepover Camp was a great success! Beavers put a lot of thought and effort into creating magnificent dens. Some were built inside; others were outside. All provided a good night's sleep for the Beavers attending, gaining them their Nights Away badge. Before the night fell though we managed to sing a few camp songs (including some disgusting ones!), listen to a story and toast the best marshmallows we have ever eaten.

Unfortunately, our plans to take part in a great District Birthday Party at Walton Firs, commemorating the 35th Anniversary of establishing the section got scuppered by COVID restrictions, but we are already preparing for next year, planning to celebrate the not-so-round 36th Anniversary instead.

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents who helped, guided and supervised their Beavers while on Zoom. Your help is very much appreciated. Thank you also to those parents who helped with our outings.

If there are any parents, grandparents, friends who can help in any way, please get in touch with us via our email at 5thmordenbeavers@gmail.com. There are always things we need help with to keep our programme fun and interesting.

If you wish for your child to join 5th Morden Beavers, please contact our group scout leader, Tracy at tracy@sterlini.plus.com.

Sparrow and Fox



MISS PATRICIA CAMPBELL

R.I.P.

*May God hold you in the palm of His hand...
May your days be many and your troubles be few,
May all God's blessings descend upon you,
May peace be within you,
May your heart be strong,
May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.*

This excerpt from a very well known Irish prayer could not be more apt in summing up our dear friend's life - Miss Campbell to me and perhaps Patricia or Pat to you.

Patricia. It feels odd calling her that, as she was my primary school teacher when I was 7. In fact, Patricia was my First Holy Communion teacher - the most amazing and inspirational woman! She loved everyone and everything that God's hand has created and she had a great enthusiasm for anything new invented by her fellow man - the wonder of the internet didn't phase her, in fact she loved being able to frequently look at her dear Our Lady Queen of Heaven primary school when residing at Kelstone Court. The ingenuity of photographs on a phone thrilled her, as not being able to get outside in her later days meant that she could revisit and recount so many tales of her childhood simply by looking at pictures of the places I had been to and transporting herself back to the times that she was there. She loved to see how the places had changed and so enjoyed re-living the fond memories of her times there too. I most admired her bountiful outpouring of positivity, the ease with which, in any situation she was confronted with, she would never even consider the down sides but always show such an abundance of love, kindness and consideration for the experiences and feelings of others, whether apparent to the eye of the beholder or not. Patricia would never let her own discomforts or dislikes surface but instead consider the sufferings, labour or worries of others - Jesus's commandment - 'Love one another, as I have loved you' was an inherent part of her nature.

Patricia lived a long and fulfilling life, touching the lives

of so many through her work as a teacher and in her parish community after her retirement. She grew up in Clapham Common, where she lived with her parents, and recounted many happy stories of her childhood with mummy and daddy. On one occasion, she shared her memories of WWII and not being evacuated like so many children, instead being away from home for a little while, which was fun but then back again very quickly to be with mummy. Whether this was actually the case, or just another example of how Patricia could



turn the more challenging times in life into moments of no matter, I'll never know. Suffice to say, she loved her parents very much and they were central to her life from childhood and into her adulthood, where she lived with them in Merton.

Patricia trained as a teacher at Coloma College and later worked as a teacher at Our Lady Queen of Heaven primary school, Wandsworth. Both myself, my brother and my sister had the pleasure of being in her class and I know that there are some other former pupils of hers in our parish today, as well as parents with whom she would have worked closely and who too have a great fondness for her. Here are some memories of her time as a teacher from her colleagues and memories she has shared with her close friends in our Parish.

Miss Campbell often talked about her 'children' 'my little ones' and how she used to take them to Wimbledon Common by herself for their nature lesson (I used to love these trips!). No high viz jackets, no health & safety rules and regulations, only one person to look after 30 children and yet they were all safe and always enjoyed their outing.

Miss Campbell was quietly friendly, always smiling and diligently employed in her classroom. When she was about to retire, Anne went to observe in her reception class, which she was going to move into in the Autumn term and the

atmosphere was calm and purposeful. Miss Campbell seemed to be pleased that Anne would be the new reception teacher and she was very encouraging and

helped her feel more confident about her new role. Miss Campbell was always very interested in every child and she created a safe and calm environment, she loved working at Our Lady Queen of Heaven very much and in her time there she worked with three different headteachers, remaining very close with Sister Stephanie until her passing some years ago. She kept close links with the school into her retirement, taking great pleasure in returning, by constant invitation, to school concerts at Christmas until she moved into Kelstone Court and was unable to attend. Nevertheless, this did not deter her from enquiring after the school and staying in close contact.

Patricia's great passions were teaching, nature and prayer and she was truly devoted to Our Lady. Throughout her life she kept close friendships with many Sisters - she found the passing of her dear friend Sister Catherine difficult to realise and took much comfort from the continuing support from Sister Marion and Josette, who were very dear to her. Like those who would pray with and for Patricia, she always showed a deep interest in others and intercessory prayer was very close to her heart. She prayed for many people throughout her life and she is fondly remembered for her dedication to prayer, when praying for 6 years old Maisie during her battle with leukemia. Her prayers have always been most treasured as Maisie made a full recovery and celebrates her 25th birthday today...

The opportunity to travel with prayer was most apparent in Patricia's room at Kelstone Court where she had many pictures from her pilgrimages to some of the sites of Our Lady's apparitions, that she would always fondly recall, and although she could no longer travel, she remained devoted to Our Lady and the rosary. On my visits, we would quite often pray the rosary together and even on the day before she passed away, she was still able to pray, in part, effortlessly.

Patricia loved to be outside, she was very knowledgeable and fond of nature and as well as the fantastic nature table she used to have in our classroom, for which you were always made to feel amazing when you brought in your little treasure, she had a nature table behind her own front door. While she was still able to go out, Josette and Patricia would pick up little treasures to add to the table and Josette would never visit without adding a new leaf, feather or stone, much to Patricia's delight. She seemed to know all the birds too, Mr Robin and Mrs Blackbird. She would quite often strike up a conversation with the little birds, if a Robin would sing, Pat would answer back.

Patricia's love of education and children, never stopped and that is how our paths crossed again when I used to run the parent and toddler group where my two young

children also attended. I was setting up one day and there she appeared with arms full of bottle tops, sweet wrappers and plastic pots. Just one of the many ways Patricia loved to help in her parish. You would always see her in Mass and she would take great delight at seeing my children grow and change.

When it became clear that she could no longer reside at home, Sister Catherine helped Pat through her transition from hospital to Kelstone Court, where she received an abundance of love and care. She always highly praised the staff as well as her delicious meals, she continued to love arts & crafts and the other activities, she took great pride in the fact that her ideas had been used to create the beautiful flower papered wall and she showed such care, love, empathy and respect for everyone else in her new family at Kelstone. Pat kept up her knitting, enjoyed watching the wildlife from her garden view and thoroughly loved the joy of visitors, particularly the wonderful Christmas carol concerts in the home. She was so very grateful for the company of those who visited and remained very close to God and the parish through receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion, prayer, *Talkabout* magazine and the weekly church newsletter.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to see Miss Campbell, but when we were able to, she enjoyed the company and I'm told she loved the little packages she received too. During her final days, she was so very well cared for and thanks to Hans and the other Patricia working so close with her Parish family, she was able to spend some more time with those who loved her dearly.

Miss Campbell, Patricia, Pat - thank you for the light you shone into our lives, you embodied selflessness, love and joy. I am sure that you are with Sister Catherine, Our Lady, your parents, Jesus and everyone else in heaven looking down on us now and I'm glad I was able to type this, as I know your expectation of my handwriting would be very high! Rest in peace wonderful lady, until we meet again..

Tracey Eaden
11 May 2021

—

MISS CAMPBELL, PATRICIA, PAT...

She was my heart-and-soul friend. "She" being Miss Campbell, Patricia, Pat... We met some 17 years ago as we attended (faithfully I must add) a Lent Course and Prayer Group led by Sister Catherine. When the course ended, we did not allow Sr Catherine to stop and we became simply "The Tuesday Group". We carried on, weekly, throughout many years until Sister was the one to leave... Of course, when Pat was no longer able to

join us, she was the first person we prayed for, knowing she would be joining us in prayer.

Pat and I had immediately felt drawn to each other and became firm friends although she remained "Miss Campbell" for many years. I am not sure what my friendship brought to a person with such depth of spirituality and knowledge, and with so many friends, but I am in no doubt as to how much her friendship enriched my life. There was something about the way Pat prayed, you just wanted to be close to her and let some of her "saintliness" fall on you. She always reminded me of Peter, in Acts, when "people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by" (5:15).

Pat and I spent many happy hours in her "little house" as she called her home. It might be better described as a time-capsule, a sanctuary to her parents and her past as teacher, the Nautilus anchored in a still very present past, a Tardis always ready to depart to heaven. Those who visited her there will know what I mean. Pat never tired of recounting how the Virgin Mary had guided her parents to that particular house in Kenley Road, had in fact given them the house. Although at the time they did not know of the convent in Mostyn Road, the Sisters came to play a very important part in all their lives. As Pat grew older and her health failed, she had no choice but to leave her little house - which she did very reluctantly. She also knew selling it would be unavoidable but - she insisted - she would not consent unless Our Lady gave her authorisation. When a sale was eventually agreed, Pat's heart broke but with her customary fortitude and grace she let go... Her one consolation being that the house was bought by a "little family". She pictured little boys climbing her trees in the back garden, feeding her birds namely Mr Robin, the Blue Tit family and Mrs Blackbird, tending to the Magnolia tree and the lilies of the valley in her front garden. The new owners were very kind and sent Pat cards and photos of their two little boys in the trees.

I always felt better after spending time with Pat. Prayer was her answer to everything. Many times, I had recourse to her wisdom, her advice and relied on her prayers. Many important stages in my life were shared and "kissed better" by her loving kindness. When mentioning dates of hospital appointments or tests, she would often say "Oh... Such and such date is Mummy's birthday or anniversary or the day Daddy went to heaven... she/he will look after you." She loved me telling her about my birthplace, on a farm in the Auvergne and - as an amazing coincidence - she had a record of "Songs from the Auvergne" and was very excited to find out that the translator was a friend of mine, also from the Auvergne. She was fascinated by

nature to the extent of having a "nature table" at home where visitors were expected to contribute an offering of a leaf, a pebble or a feather. She imparted that love for nature and indeed all of God's creation to the children she taught, many of whom remained in contact with her, invited her to their weddings and introduced their children and grandchildren to her.

I would send Pat postcards from the Auvergne choosing sceneries, animals, churches, and tell her about our daily life on the sheep farm. She was interested in EVERYONE and EVERYTHING. We also wrote to each other for no reason, and Pat would occasionally decorate the writing paper with her own sketches and paintings. She was quite talented and attended a Painting Club in later life. She loved my writings too... Before I had started contributing to *Talkabout*, I would read her some of my writings until she convinced me they were good enough to be published in the church magazine. So, that is how Jharrah, the donkey which carried Mary to Bethlehem and Zephira, the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem, were born. At one time, after we had heard some suspicious (but easily identifiable) noises in the kitchen, I wrote about a mouse family who lived with a kind lady in Kenley Road, followed by a Christmas holiday in France and an Easter trip to the Vatican when they jumped out of the Pope's suitcase and gave him a great fright (although these were not published).

We had fun and Pat's laugh is one of the treasures I shall not forget. I remember days to Aylesford and Westminster Cathedral where we would end up giggling away on the journey, and suddenly became 15 again. Occasionally, Sr Catherine would come round to bring Pat Holy Communion while I was visiting and those were extra special - out of this world - moments.

Pat illustrated "Joy in the Lord" and I am blessed and honoured to have known her. I am sure she was greeted with the words "Welcome, good and faithful servant" and is now reunited with her parents whom she cherished and looked after for as long as was necessary. Her deep faith and very personal relationship with Our Lord and his Holy Mother, which was tangible to all those she met, sustained and comforted her all throughout her life, especially during her last years in Kelstone Court. Heaven is the place you have been longing for, dear Pat. Rest in Peace, beloved friend.

Josette Kisnorbo



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!



Prayers - Fr Stan Swamy

Please pray for Fr Stan Swamy, an 84 year old Jesuit priest and human rights activist, who has been unfairly imprisoned by the National Investigation Agency in India since the 8th October 2020. He is in poor health and suffering from Parkinson's disease

**JUSTICE & PEACE
ETHICAL
SUGGESTIONS**



July:
Consider your carbon footprint when planning holidays

August:
Take everything home with you after days out

September:
Choose 'eco-friendly' stationery when preparing for back to school



**PLEASE
TAKE YOUR
RUBBISH
HOME**



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

3rd/4th July

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



7th/8th August

Wimbledon Foodbank

They need:

- Long life milk
- Tinned soup
- Ketchup
- Cereal bars
- Multi-pack crisps



4th/5th September

Christian Care

They would appreciate:

- Cereals
- Long life milk
- Rice
- Cooking oil
- Shampoo and conditioner



MISSIO

J&P CHARITY 2021

Each January the J&P Group in our Parish nominate a 'Charity of the Year' which we try to raise awareness of and direct donations to during the year. In 2019 it was *The Passage*. Usually we alternate each year between a 'local' good cause and an international charity. In 2020, we decided to promote *Missio* as our Charity of the Year 2020, and in view of the interruption caused by Covid-19 we are continuing to support *Missio* this year.



If you don't have a 'red box' in your home please get one (Deacon Tom Kavanagh can help, as he is *Missio*'s Diocesan Director for Southwark).

You can also give securely via *Missio*'s website. Please remember to Gift Aid your donation if you can:

<https://missio.org.uk/lets-think-outside-the-box>

DAY OF MANY COLOURS

Children across England and Wales are preparing to celebrate the **Day of Many Colours** – a day for children to celebrate belonging to God's universal family.

29th June is a time for children to remember how loved and special each and every one of them is. On the **Day of Many Colours** let's help them join hands with their sisters and brothers around the world.

What is #DOMC?

Based on the five colours of the Mission Rosary, the **Day of Many Colours** (#DOMC) encourages children to unite in prayer with their sisters and brothers on every continent: Africa, the Americas, Europe, Oceania, and Asia.

In England and Wales, the **Day of Many Colours** takes place on **29th June** every year to coincide with the feast of two great missionaries, St Peter and St Paul. But it's also possible to hold your celebration in your own time. In fact, children in every country where the Church is present celebrate this special day on different dates throughout the year.



All together now!

The **Day of Many Colours** is shared in every country where our Church is present. Through the Pope's charity *Mission Together*, similar days are held around the world,

8 January 2021

Dear Father Matthias,

I am writing on behalf of the Christian Care Association to thank you all at St John Fisher Church for your wonderful donations of food and monetary gift this Easter time.

We also send grateful thanks to Julie for her help in organising and for delivering the gifts along with Peter.

By helping us, you have brought joy and hope to struggling families in Merton who would, otherwise, not have been able to feed their families adequately.

We received many heartfelt messages of thanks from parents.

As you know, our charity has been supporting people in crisis for over 50 years with food, clothing, baby items, furniture and special events for children and families.

COVID has brought even more emergency requests on top of the regular monthly support we give to around 20 families. Our volunteers have been faithfully delivering food and essentials to many doorsteps over the past months, as well as telephoning to keep in touch. This has been a great encouragement to all in these difficult days of loneliness and isolation.

With God's help, we are looking forward with faith and hope to a new and better future.

Again, many thanks.

May God bless and keep you all safe.

Rehana

Rehana Edun
Family Support Coordinator

each with the same aim: to develop in children a missionary spirit of care for others; expressed through prayer, charity, and action.

Let's join hands for all God's children on this special day.

WHO WAS SAINT JOHN FISHER, THE PATRON OF OUR PARISH?

The missing words will fit in the crossword puzzle (Down & Across). Solution on page 21.

John Fisher was born in 16 D in 1469, the son of a cloth dealer. He was educated at 31 A University from the age 14, and became a distinguished scholar. John Fisher was ordained a 33 A in 1491 at age 22, and became vice-chancellor of the university ten years later. He did much to improve the 23 D, and in 1504 became its chancellor. In the same year, he was also appointed 4 D of Rochester. John Fisher was noted for his educational reforms, his preaching, and was said to have one of the finest 6 D in Europe.

Bishop Fisher was chaplain and confessor to Lady Margaret Beaufort, 7 D of King Henry VII. It is believed that he was a tutor of Prince Henry, who would become 27 D upon his father's death. Unfortunately, after Henry VIII ascended to the 26 A conflict arose between the two men. As Bishop, John Fisher defended the traditional Catholic doctrine against 15 D reformers in other English universities.

King Henry VIII and his wife, Catherine of Aragon, had only a single 32 D, Mary, who survived infancy. Henry wanted a 34 D heir and was determined to divorce his wife and marry Anne 25 D. However, Bishop Fisher led the ecclesiastical opposition to the King's effort to 18 A Catherine, becoming the Queen's chief supporter and most trusted 24 A. He appeared on the Queen's behalf in court, where he declared that he was ready to die on behalf of the indissolubility of 1 D. His statement enraged the King, and he never 36 D John Fisher. In November 1529, the "Long 20 D" of Henry VIII's reign began a series of encroachments on the 38 A Church. As member of the House of 42 A, John Fisher warned Parliament that such acts could only end in the 39 A destruction of the Catholic Church in 30 A.

When Pope 28 D VII refused to annul his marriage, King Henry decided to 2 D the Church of England from the authority of 47 D. In 1534, the Act of Supremacy recognized Henry as "the only 21 A Head on earth of the Church of England". Henry declared his marriage to Catherine 45 D and 48 A. Bishop Fisher refused to acknowledge the Succession Act or take the 14 D that the King was supreme head of the Church.

John Fisher was 13 A and sent to the 10 A of London on 26th April 1534, where he remained for 47 D than a year under severe conditions. During his imprisonment, Henry tried to make him submit on several occasions. But John held firm, despite poor conditions and the inability to see a priest.

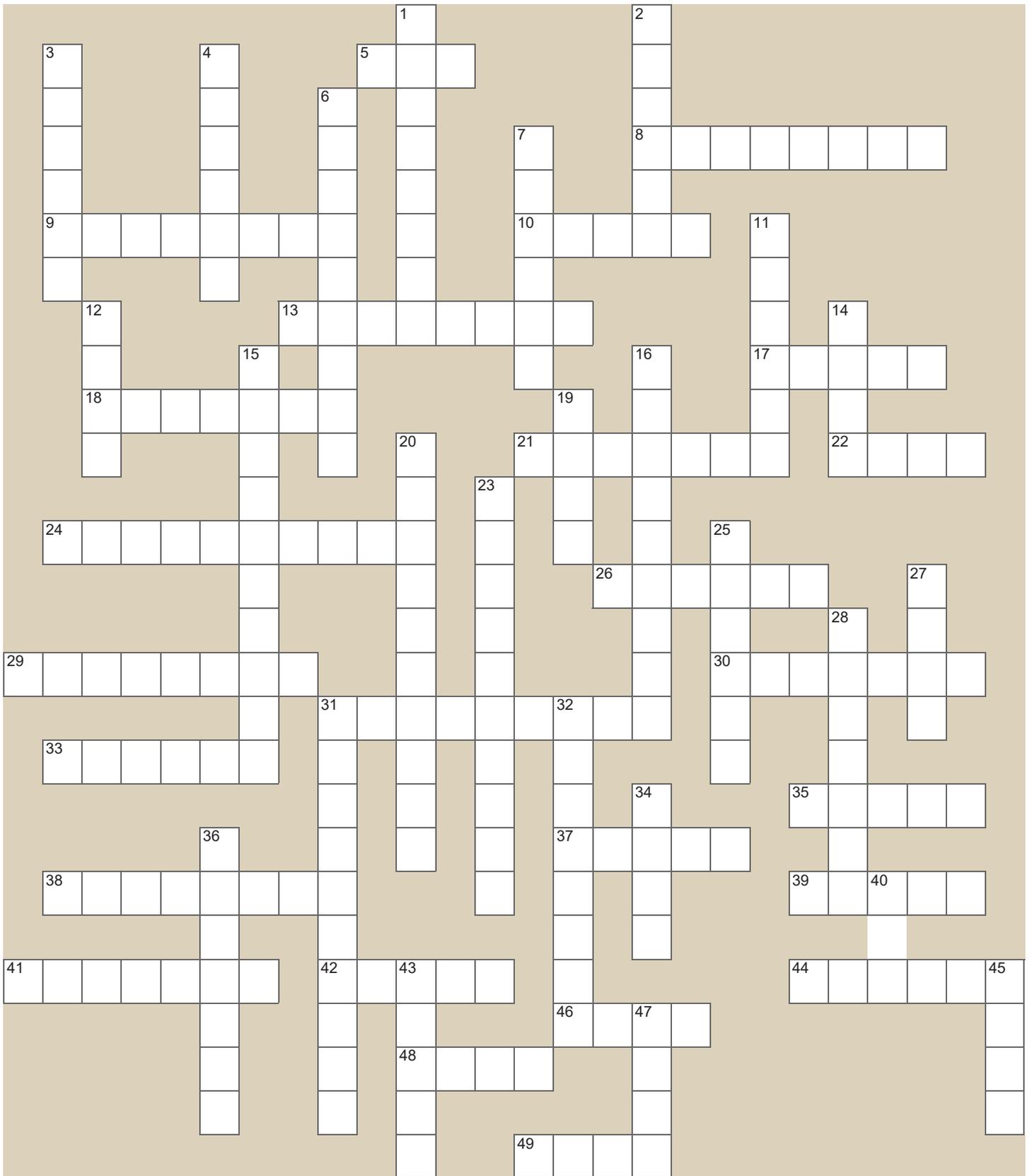
In May 1535, newly elected Pope Paul III elevated John

Fisher to 29 A, hoping to induce Henry to ease the mistreatment of the priest. The act had just the 8 A effect: Henry refused to allow the Cardinal's 5 A to be brought to England, declaring he would send John Fisher's 22 A to Rome instead. Cardinal Fisher was tried as a 9 A for treason because of his refusal to acknowledge that the king was the supreme head of the 3 D of England. He was found guilty, was condemned to 17 A and beheaded on 22nd 19 D 1535.

Cardinal Fisher met death with a calm dignified 41 A which profoundly impressed all present. After beheading, his 12 D was stripped and left on the scaffold until evening, when it was thrown naked into a 37 A in the churchyard of All Hallows. John Fisher's head was stuck upon a 49 A on London 11 D, but its lifelike appearance drew so much attention that it was thrown into the Thames 43 D. Sir Thomas More was beheaded on 6th July, just fourteen days after John Fisher. John Fisher's body was moved and laid beside that of Sir Thomas More in the church of St. 35 A ad Vincula by the Tower of 44 A.



*St John Fisher, 1469 - 1635.
Bishop of Rochester*



*"I reckon in this realm no one man, in wisdom,
learning, and long-approved virtue together,
meet to be matched and compared with him."*

~ Sir Thomas More

**St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More
share a feast day on June 22nd.**



JOSETTE MEETS ... FATHER TOM M^CHUGH

By now, Canon Thomas McHugh (he prefers to be called Fr Tom) has become a familiar figure in St John Fisher family as he regularly celebrates Mass at weekends. Fr Tom joined us when he retired and moved into the flat Bishop Tripp vacated when he left us to go to St Peter's Retirement Home in Vauxhall. Fr Tom describes St John Fisher as a "credit to the people but most especially to Canon Acton."

WRESTLING WITH THE "CALL"

It was a warm summer's day in 1957. Fr Tom was thirteen then and was sitting on the edge of his grandmother's bed. She was dying. Other family members had taken their turn and now it was his opportunity to fan a breeze of comfort around her face with a hand-held piece of cardboard. She was propped up with pillows. Her breathing was shallow. Her final words to her grandson as she gazed through and past him as though focusing on something beyond "One day, Tom a grà (meaning "my love"), you will be a priest." Fr Tom never disclosed this to anyone until his ordination.

For the next five years, he wrestled with those words, still echoing in his 'heart's core', sometimes praying "Not this, Lord", but always ending "Whatever you wish. Thy will be done." As J.H. Neman famously said God calls each of us for "some definite service... which he has not committed to another. *"My mind and heart were set on becoming a priest on the day I went to the Seminary."*

FAMILY

Born on the 27th August 1943, Fr Tom was one of seven children of Pa and Mary McHugh, a family of small farmers. They had three great passions: faith, education ("it's no load to carry") and hard work ("it never killed anyone"). Their God was an "everyday and everywhere God", who gazes on us with love and comes to help us in our needs. His parents were people of personal and family prayer and enabled their children to pray daily with them. They ensured everyone

received a good education, though their own was limited to a primary level.

Fr Tom is now uncle to 22 nephews and nieces, many of them already married with children of their own. Both his parents died within two years of him becoming a priest. While he is profoundly grateful to God for the wonderful blessing that they have been and indeed still

are in his life, he has one regret – that their relationship hadn't had a chance to grow beyond Parent Son/Priest to that of being friends with the freedom and equality that comes with that.

ALL HALLOWS SEMINARY & VATICAN II

Fr Tom arrived at the All Hallows Seminary in Dublin in September 1962. It was a bit of a shock when he observed the high boundary walls mounted with barbed wire. "Who was locked in? Or "Who was locked out?". "Was the church about imprisonment or deliverance?"

Soon after his arrival, on the 11th October 1962, at 11a.m. the college bells rang out

continuously for thirty minutes. The same was true in every church around the globe to mark the opening of the most significant event of the Catholic Church since the Reformation and the Council of Trent that followed it. *"My time in All Hallows and my life as a Priest has been shaped by the Vision and the Mission of the Church as set out in the 16 documents of this great Council, Vatican II, that assembled for four sessions in St Peter's from 1962-1965."*

The Council was called by Pope John XXIII who died in 1963. Paul VI was elected in his place and steered the Council to its successful conclusion. He also began the ongoing process of implementing the vision set out by the Council Fathers. Both those Popes were canonised by Pope Francis, who is now boldly calling us to embrace more fully the insights of Vatican II. *"In many ways, we are only at the beginning of the renewal and reform that is necessary in the life of the Church family."*



Most recently, true to the Council's vision, Pope Francis has instituted three new ministries: Lector, Acolyte and Catechist. It's a reminder that as disciples of Jesus Christ through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, we participate directly in the life and mission of Christ, Priest, Prophet and Servant King.

During the time of Council, many bishops came to visit All Hallows from all around the world, with the latest news about the often dramatic events unfolding in Rome. For Fr Tom, the prison-like boundary walls were taking on a new meaning, that of the protective boundary of a seed bed, giving life, fresh vision and energy to shape a new kind of Church. One which would once again focus, not on its own survival or growth, but on the Kingdom of God - a civilization of love which Jesus came to serve. "I have come to bring good news to the poor" is the first line of Our Lord's inaugural address in the synagogue in Nazareth.

As part of their formation, the seminarians went out to experience the life of residents in psychiatric units, prisons and poor families, accompanied by members of St Vincent de Paul and the Legion of Mary. They met with family groups in parishes who were reflecting on the Sunday Scriptures in people's homes. This varied syllabus was preparing them to serve God's people in the missionary spirit of the Gospel. These were exciting times in the Church and in the rapidly changing world around them, says Fr Tom.

ORDINATION AND MINISTRY OF SERVICE

"Thirty of us stood waiting to hear our name called on the Ordination day. I made my nervous but firm response "Here I am" when it was my turn. Then all thirty of us prostrated; the choir sang "Lord have mercy." "Christ have mercy." Yes, I felt unworthy and in need of mercy then and many times since." Aware that I shared in the priesthood of all the baptised, now I had just said 'Yes' to serve God's people as the shepherd, indeed to serve every person and creature who need the touch of compassion and healing."

PARISHES

Fr Tom joined his first parish, SS Peter and Paul Mitcham in 1968. His Parish Priest was a shy man who loved the people and encouraged Fr Tom in his work with the "Young Christian Workers" and "Home inter-family groups" who reflected on social issues in the light of the Scriptures. Working in partnership with other Christian communities bore fruit in a shared response to homelessness, and in hosting 30 children (from across the religious divide in Belfast) by families in Mitcham for two weeks. A fun time was had by all. Ecumenical partnership among sister Christian churches was a strong focus of Vatican II.

St Peter's Woolwich was a short-term appointment before Fr Tom was invited to join the Catholic Missionary Society. Similar to Sion Community today, it sought to offer formative ministry in parishes. It was a very transformative but challenging time. The first hurdle was to change from being an exclusively clerical group to being a team of lay religious and ordained. The focus was on implementing the vision of Vatican II in parishes around England and Wales. Calling, forming and sustaining lay disciples of Jesus to live out the "call to serve" of their Baptism.

Following eight happy years there, Fr Tom was asked by his Bishop to study Adult Formation at Fordham University. Having completed his studies in New York, he was appointed Director of the Christian Education Centre for the Archdiocese of Southwark (1986-93). His main focus was to gather a multi-disciplined team to further the education and formation in the vision of Vatican II in schools and parishes. This found particular expression in the implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in the diocese, promulgated in 1972 – another fruit of the Council. RCIA engages people and priests working together to accompany new members in the faith, who are received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Finally, the crowning time in Fr Tom's ministry was to serve as Parish Priest in St Joseph's, Roehampton (1993-2006) and in St Joseph, Bromley (2006-2019). After all, it is in parishes that fullness of Vatican II vision needs to take place.

Now in his retirement, Fr Tom finds the pace of life easier. He trained as a spiritual director in the Jesuit Spirituality Centre in St Beuno's North Wales and has been available for ministry to lay people, religious and priests. This is a very rewarding ministry. Looking back more than 50 years, he says that each decade and appointment brought its own blessing and growth. His passion for the Gospel and the renewal of the Church is stronger today than ever.

Fr Tom takes time to relax by walking in the local area and further away. He enjoys Radio 4, music and film and some theatre too. A culture enthusiast, Fr Tom is fond of social activities and meeting with friends. He says it is great to be here in St John Fisher Parish where he is made most welcome. To his surprise, he continues to discover that so many friends from times past have made their home here too. It's the appeal of the place and the people that attracts.

It remains for me to thank Father Tom for his input, patience and time, and Anna Gorniak whose editing skills and expertise in IT enabled us to overcome many technical problems. Unfortunately, space did not allow us to expend further on Father's varied and

interesting years in the priesthood. We, the St John Fisher family, are blessed and grateful to welcome among us one of God's experienced yet humble

servants. May God bless you and keep you, Father Tom, and may you always feel at home with us."

Josette Kisnorbo



WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT FRIENDS OF LIFE

In March, there was news of our Care Centre in Hounslow, and our shop in Gerards Cross.

Sadly, both of these have had to close. What a toll this pandemic is taking on small and medium sized charities!

So let's be positive, and look at what the charity *Life* has achieved this year. The last monthly figures I received were in April:

- 4,784 pregnancy tests were requested;
- 423 people requested counselling; and
- 226 mums and babies were housed

This means that 22,096 people had been helped by *Life* this year.

On 1st June, I received the welcome news that Life is launching an online store. I quote: "You can get thousands of high-quality, affordable items by shopping at *Life's* NEW online store:

store.lifecharity.org.uk

And, as a token of our appreciation, use promo code **lifelaunch10** before 1st July to get 10% off!



As things open up again, and children are back in school, our two voluntary speakers may be able to give the *Life Before Birth* talk to year 6 pupils once again. We do hope so.

It has been impossible to organise any fundraising events. We had hoped to hold a 'Ten Bridges Walk' in the Autumn of this year, but this has now been put off until next Summer, possibly on 19th June 2022.

Christine will arrange a fundraising Garden Tea one weekend this summer. Details will be in the parish newsletter.



Politicians, especially those who are pro-abortion, have been very busy. We thank all those who took part in the consultation objecting to the extension of the provision of so-called 'DIY Abortions' and making them permissible permanently. We await the decision of Parliament.

We are reliably informed of several moves to come from our opposition.

1. In Northern Ireland, where already 1,035 little lives have been lost since abortion was decriminalised by Westminster, the abortion lobby now want further expansion.
2. At Westminster, Rupa Huq MP tabled an amendment to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, to introduce nationwide censorship zones around abortion clinics.
3. The 'pro-choice' lobby is likely to make another attempt to introduce an extreme abortion law. That might mean: abortion for any reason up to the due birth date.
4. Baroness Meacher's Bill to introduce assisted suicide was introduced to the House of Lords on 16th May.

Were these huge threats from our opposition to be successful, thousands more lives would be lost. We must do all we can to find out our MPs' opinion on these matters, and ask them to vote against the culture of death. If we do nothing else, we must pray for our MPs and for all pro-life organisations, who, like the charity *Life*, uphold the right to life from the womb to the tomb.

Christine Davis

MARY OUR MOTHER & PROTECTOR

As Queen of Heaven Mary has a special role to play in our lives. She was given a unique mission at the foot of the cross when Jesus made her the mother of the human race. She spent the last years of her life on earth guiding the new church of her Son Jesus and is still guiding it today as Mother of the Church.

Her presence among us has been felt continuously from that time through apparitions and answers to prayer. Many of these apparitions were of a very serious nature with very special and urgent messages. At Lourdes in 1858 Our Lady appeared to an eleven-year-old girl, Bernadette Soubirous, and encouraged us to offer prayers and sacrifices for sinners, especially through the rosary. Lourdes soon became a major centre for healing.

In 1917 in Fatima in Portugal there were a series of apparitions which continued the request to pray for sinners but more urgently. Our Lady appeared to three young children and again asked that we should offer prayers and sacrifices to save people from hell. This occurred during the First World War but Our Lady said that if people did not respond to her call for prayer there would be a second world war which would be even worse than the first. The children were shown a vision of hell where unrepentant sinners go. The call to say the rosary was repeated with a prayer to follow each decade: 'Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of your mercy'. Two of the children, Francisco and Jacinta, died soon after while still very young, but Lucia lived into her 90s continuing to spread the urgent messages of Fatima.

A second World War did indeed follow, even worse than the first. Our Lady has appeared in many other parts of the world since that time, always deeply concerned for sinners and calling for a return to God. In June 1981 she appeared to six young people in a tiny village in Bosnia-Herzegovina, just over the border with Croatia, called Medjugorje. The urgency of her concern for mankind through its lack of love and regard for God's laws is reflected in the unprecedented thousands



of times she has been appearing there. For 40 years now she has been calling us very urgently to come nearer to her Son in five important ways: by praying sincerely from the heart, by love of the Eucharist and Holy Mass, by reading the Scriptures daily, by fasting and making sacrifices and by monthly Confession.

By failing to respect God the human race is bringing catastrophe on itself as can be seen every day through the wars all over the world, through stark disregard for justice and love of neighbour and through immoral practices and greed. God's way is that of peace and love for everyone, and we can

help both ourselves and everyone by following Our Lady's code of living through prayer and self-denial.

Many millions of pilgrims, including several members of our parish, have visited Medjugorje and the shrine is overseen directly by the Vatican with a local bishop overseeing the affairs of the diocese. There are many websites you can visit - why not try medjugorje.org? Our parish has a great record of following Our Lady's requests: you can join in with the daily rosary, either in church or on-line, and hopefully one day we will be able to hold our prayer groups again. In the meantime, find a bible and leave it open in a conspicuous place for the family to read. Find opportunities each day to offer small sacrifices to Jesus. Following the easing of restrictions in the pandemic, our church is beginning to fill up again and Confessions are being restored.

Our Lady is always pointing us towards her Divine Son and takes our prayers to him as our great Intercessor. We hope, through her direction, for a renewal of spiritual life in ourselves, but also in a badly scarred Church which has suffered so much during its recent history. Our sharing in the Divine Life through the Eucharist and through prayer gives us hope for the future. Let's thank God for sending us the Queen of Peace to help us.

Julie Brook

THE INEXPLICABLE STAIRS

AN ANSWER TO PRAYERS TO ST. JOSEPH

The Sisters of Loretto set out in September 1852 to set up a community and school in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the request of Bishop Lamy. Their journey took them from Kentucky travelling by paddle boat and covered wagon. While on the steamer "The Lady Franklin" their superior Mother Matilda died of cholera. When the captain became aware of this he forced the sisters to leave his boat and find their own way by land. Two other sisters caught cholera but survived.



Antoine, designed the cathedral in Santa Fe. The new structure was under the care of French and Italian masons to build a large structure. Mother Magdalen recorded in the annals that the erection of the chapel was placed under the patronage of St. Joseph, "in whose honour we communicated every Wednesday that he might assist us". She adds "Of His

powerful help we have been witness on several occasions". The chapel progressed with a maximum of faith on the sisters part in spite of some financial worries.

Months of struggle and fears followed, with broken axles, broken wheels, scorching dried up land, with dried-to-chalk bones littering their way, the small community finally arrived in Santa Fe. With Sr. Magdalen as superior, Sisters Catherine, Hilaria and Roberta made up the new community. Sr. Magdalen was a woman of strong faith and resolution as were her companions, full of the love of God and thereby able to brave the hardships of their journey and the first few years in Santa Fe. New Mexico was at the time unsettled and the sisters had only a one room adobe house to live in. Santa Fe was populated by Mexicans and Indians. Today Santa Fe is a good sized city with quaintly narrow streets and Native Americans selling their wares, keeping alive the ancient climate of the old Santa Fe.

Completion day was almost upon them when they realised they had made a dreadful mistake. The chapel itself was beautiful as was the choir loft but the dreadful realisation was that there was no connecting stairs, no means of ascending the exceptional height to the choir. Neither was there any room to build such a stairway. Mother Magdalen called in many carpenters to solve this apparently unsurmountable problem. In all cases the response was "It can't be done Mother". Being women of resilience and faith the sisters who were devoted to St. Joseph started a novena to him for a suitable resolution to the problem.

The sisters were aware that to fulfil Bishop Lamy's intentions for a convent and school they needed to build. Mexican carpenters began building the school which was dedicated on completion to Our Lady of Light. The next project was to build a beautiful chapel. As Bishop Lamy was French he wished the sisters to have a chapel similar to his beloved Sainte Chapelle in Paris. That meant that it was to be strictly Gothic, in fact it was the first Gothic structure west of the Mississippi. According to the sisters' annals, it was started on 25th July 1873 and was designed by Projectus Mouly, whose father,



On the last day of the novena, as the narrative goes, a grey-haired man came up to the convent with a donkey and a tool box. He approached Mother Magdalen and asked if he could help the sisters by building a stairway! Mother gladly consented and he set to work. Some of the sisters, present at the time, passed on to others that the only tools he had were a hammer, a saw and a T square. He worked by himself during the Christmas season of 1879. When Mother Magdalen went to pay him he had vanished. She went to the local lumber yard to pay for the wood at least. They knew nothing of it there. To this day there is no record of any payment.

The spiral stairway the old man built for

the sisters is a masterpiece of wondrous beauty. It has two complete 360 degree turns with no supporting central pole as most circular stairways have. It hangs there with no visible support, it's entire weight being supported on its base. Architects have said it should have crashed to the ground as soon as anyone stepped on it, yet it has been used daily since its construction, with no nails and only wooden pegs. The stairway had no banisters when it was first built. Lime plaster with horsehair was used to fill the space under the treads between the stringers to strengthen it. Visitors tended to chip away chunks of the plaster as souvenirs so in 1952, when the sisters celebrated the centennial of their arrival in Santa Fe they had the plaster renewed and painted to resemble varnished wood.

During the time that the stairway was being built, a young girl of 13 was attending the academy and later became a Loretto nun, Sister Mary. She never failed to tell the story of how she and a friend were among the first to climb up the stairway. She says they were so frightened when they got to the choir loft they descended by sitting on each step. In 1960 Sister Januarius told of how many visitors arrived from all over the world to see and admire the wonderful structure. Among them were many architects who, without exception, were baffled and amazed at the construction of the stairway and how it remained so sturdy after almost a century of use.

Mr. Urban Weidner, a Santa Fe architect and wood expert reported that he had never seen a circular wooden stairway with 360 degree turns and no supporting pole. He was struck by the perfection of the curves of the stringers so expertly carved. How, one asks, was this done in the 1870's by a single man in a remote place with the most primitive of tools? Many experts have tried to identify the wood and suggest where it might have originated but no one was able to give a full report on it. The treads have been constantly used but show only signs of wear on the edges. Mr. Weidner identified the wood as "edge-grained fir of some sort". A later identification suggests it is a previously unknown type of spruce with the strength of a hardwood and flexibility of spruce. Another mystery. Where could this old man have got such a wood?

We know the Catholic Church is very cautious about making statements on any supernatural events. For this reason the sisters and priests of Santa Fe, in the same spirit, refrained from saying anything definitive about the stairway.

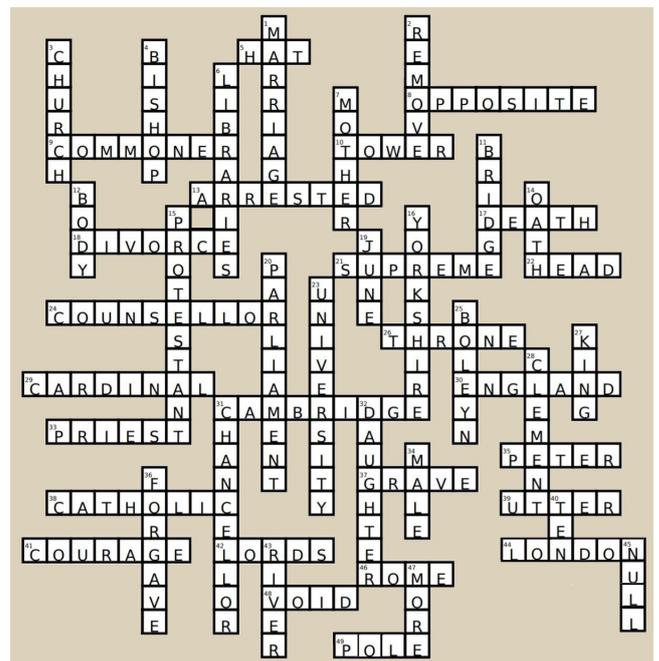
The sisters of Loretto Academy today know as did Mother Magdalen and her community that the stairway is St. Joseph's answer to prayer. Many like to think that the carpenter was St. Joseph himself. However the

community annals and the archdiocese archives are silent on this part of the subject. So we are left with no satisfactory explanation of how the stairway got there or how it stays there. A truly inexplicable stairway.

Teresa Pollard



ST JOHN FISHER Page 8 - CROSSWORD ANSWERS



THE CHOSEN

"Playing Jesus has made me a better version of myself" - Jonathan Roumie

During the first lockdown last year, a friend recommended we watch *"The Chosen"* which was being shown on YouTube free of charge.

The biggest crowd-funded project is the brainchild of American Evangelical film-maker, Dallas Jenkins, and is inspired by, and rooted in, Gospel stories. Following the advice of a Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest, Dallas presents Jesus in all his Jewishness and humanity and portrays him as believable, genuine and endearing, mesmerising even - far from the 1977 good-looking, handsome blue-eyed Caucasian "Jesus of Nazareth". Despite the British-Italian film being riveting, I always felt Robert Powell (unwittingly, of course), had done Christ a great disservice as so many fell in love with his good looks and blue eyes!

Dallas was in the habit of producing films for his own church at Christmas and Easter, with Jonathan Roumie as one of the lead actors. In 2017, he approached Jonathan and offered him the part of Jesus in a new series he was hoping to produce and call *"The Chosen"*. At the time, 46 year old Jonathan had decided to let God guide his life and career and accepted the part. Baptised Greek Orthodox, Jonathan was born in New York where he grew up. During his childhood, the only church near his home was a Catholic church and he says "the transition was very easy". He now describes himself as a "Born-again Catholic" or "Evangelical Catholic" (probably referred to as "Charismatic" here) and says unashamedly that *The Chosen* "impacted his heart and his life". He also leads a Divine Mercy Chaplet online and sees using his art to guide people towards Christ as his mission.

After in-depth research and based on sound knowledge of the Bible, the respect for cultural and historical traditions brings Jesus' environment to life in ways I had never even thought about: the cloth and jewellery women wore at the time, the food, the lively markets, the gossips in the streets, the atmosphere and conflicts under Roman occupation, the bridegroom's and bride's family background and why it was so important that

good wine should be provided at their wedding, the fishermen's lives and their daily struggles, Jesus living a hermit's life, Jesus' interaction with children, Jesus speaking Egyptian and remembering living in Egypt...

Jesus, himself, is utterly authentic, genuine, approachable and "one of them." I rarely - possibly never - imagined Jesus laughing, dancing, joking, winking, crying... but He is SO human and yet so divine, and always under any circumstance, totally plausible. In one scene, after washing his hands, he splashes water at his mother who laughs... When at the wedding Mary tells him about running out of wine, he looks at her and smiles, as if teasing her. This episode is often seen as Jesus almost rebuking Mary. However, that is forgetting the bond between them: they are accomplices in doing God's work. Jesus does not hide his joy at seeing his friends enjoying themselves when they have more wine (although they do not understand how a miracle has been performed as he had asked everyone to leave the room). He is just happy to be able to help his friends and winks at Mary who shares his secret.

The scene at the well is extremely moving, Jonathan himself, so immersed in his role, comes near to tears while talking to the overjoyed Samaritan woman. Tears in Jesus' eyes were not included in the original script but were so genuine and appropriate, they decided to keep the scene unchanged. The spiritual and emotional healing of Mary Magdalen is another powerful event and it is easy to understand why she would follow Jesus for the rest of his days on earth. The disciples come alive as we discover their daily toils and their families. Poor Matthew, I never realised just how difficult his life was, collecting taxes from his compatriots to give to the Romans. Rejected by everyone, including his own parents, he can hardly believe Jesus would want to befriend him. Nicodemus is more than just another character, his growing inner turmoil etched all over Erik Avari's face, as the Truth gradually sinks in and disturbs his own faith and that of his ancestors.



Lacking the necessary finances, Dallas Jenkins had the inspiration to crowd-fund the series. The first appeal for funds raised 4 million dollars which enabled him to start Season 1. Another 6 million, another six episodes. There is a separate episode for Christmas, the Nativity seen by the shepherds which, if I am not mistaken, was one of the films Dallas had done for his church. Dallas' aim is for one billion people round the world to watch the series and be touched by its message.

Season 2 started on Easter Sunday and we have watched the first five episodes. The first one concentrated on the apostles' characters and personalities, highlighting aspects not necessarily obvious in the Bible. Another episode showed Jesus

after a day spent healing people. He is absolutely exhausted, his feet swollen and sore, completely drained. His mother, very humbly and lovingly, kneels in front of Jesus and washes his feet...

We became totally addicted to the series. Please, do yourself a great favour and watch it. I can assure you, you will not regret it.

"God governs my life. So, anything that happens to me is something that God has either allowed or disallowed. So I just continue to trust in whatever happens that he's got my back." ~ Jonathan Roumie.

Josette Kisnorbo



FRIDAY FARE

DOM'S PASTA SALAD



This is a favourite amongst our family and friends - a perfect accompaniment to a summer barbecue!

Ingredients:

- Pasta - twists/fusilli work well
- 1/2 tin sweetcorn
- 1 tin pineapple, diced
- Pine nuts
- 1 bunch spring onions
- 2 dsp honey
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- Sesame oil
- Vinegar
- Parsley
- Tarragon
- Ground salt and pepper



2. In one dessertspoonful of oil, fry off pine nuts until lightly browned.
3. Place pasta in suitably sized bowl and add fried pine nuts.
4. Chop spring onions and add to pasta with the sweetcorn and pineapple. Add only 2 spoons of the pineapple juice, discard the rest.
5. Then add the honey, olive oil, a few drops of sesame oil and vinegar.
6. Season to taste with plenty of pepper and finish with chopped parsley and tarragon - fresh is best!
7. Give it all a good toss, and keep chilled.

Method:

1. Cook off pasta in salted boiling water. Strain when cooked and 'refresh' by leaving in running cold water.

Dom Gunn

BANANA & WALNUT CAKE

Fruity and moist - this banana cake recipe is perfect for afternoon tea!

Ingredients:

- 120 g butter
- 120g brown sugar
- 150g walnuts, chopped
- 240g self-raising flour
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3 bananas, mashed
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 3 tbs milk
- 1 tbs boiling water



Method:

1. Cream butter, sugar and water together.
2. Gradually add eggs, then the mashed bananas.
3. Dissolve bicarbonate of soda in milk and add flour alternately with milk to banana mixture.
4. Add chopped walnuts.
5. Bake at 180° C for about an hour or until a knife comes out clean.

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN FISHER PRIMARY SCHOOL

There has been an increasing sense during the summer term of educational restoration. From Year 2 children re-enacting the Crimean War, to the return of educational visits outside of the school and a slow but steady reinstatement of external sports competitions, pupils, staff and parents are excited to once again be embracing the huge number of aspects of school life that cannot possibly be replicated through the best online learning platforms.



Reception visit Hever Castle



Frisbee Taster Day



Year 2 Character in Writing puppets



Year 1 visit Kew Gardens



Year 6 in Morden Hall Park



Year 3 Roman Britain

May is the Month of Mary

On Wednesday 12th May, we gathered outdoors in St Catherine Garden classroom for prayer sessions to



crown the statue of Our Lady with flowers in honour of her special month. It was the first time for over a year that we were able to come together to pray, sing and celebrate. It reminded us of how important it is to gather and share our faith with each other. The sun shone as we placed tributes at the feet of Our Lady and children received a special memento of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

Pyjamara

On Friday 14th May, we were treated to a day of cosy comfort as the school supported BookTrust's fundraising campaign. We all agree that Bedtime stories are magical! However, not every child is lucky enough to experience them so we spent the day in PJ's and shared our love of stories, while raising money for BookTrust to help ensure that all children have access to books and stories.



STEM Week

The children enjoyed a wonderful STEM week - filled with experiments and investigations!

Anyone watching our school community

arrive at the gates for our STEM Dress Up, day on Friday 11th June, may well have been left wondering what on earth was happening! From a sea of white lab coats (many carefully crafted from oversize shirts and adorned with suitably scientific equipment and symbols!) to space scientists and inventors, the 'walking, talking STEM museum' brought our STEM week to a close in great style! The children thoroughly

enjoyed taking part in a range of activities, including tackling some very thought provoking scientific questions in their classes. For example, when Year 4 pondered what a world without numbers would be like, questions were raised such as 'how would we contact people without telephone numbers', 'how would we measure things accurately' (including time) and 'what would happen to money?!'

Sports & Well Being

As I write, we are all looking forward to the 'Sports and Well Being' fortnight at school, commencing on 28th

June. During this fortnight, amongst other sports, pupils will take part in athletics/track and field type events. Unfortunately we will not be holding sports day events for parents and carers to attend this term. We continue to prioritise the safety of our whole school community and, to this end, all events are for pupils and staff only.

Enjoy a wonderful summer everyone. We wish our Year 6 pupils all the best as they move on, and look forward to welcoming our new starters and our other Years return in September.

Janine Kenna
Head teacher

MUSICAL REJUVENATION

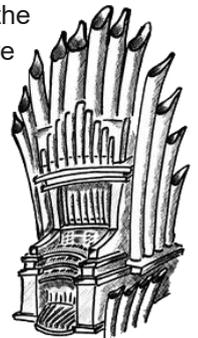
The recent history of the organ at St John Fisher Church has been lengthy and at times tortuous. This significant instrument has been in use at our church since 1975. It was secondhand when we acquired it from a redundant church in North London and so has been in use for the best part of a century. Regrettably the servicing of the organ over the years has not been undertaken as recommended. It has now reached an age when it has become more and more difficult to play with some notes not working at all.

A few years ago, when Fr David was the parish priest, it was deemed appropriate by the Parish Advisory Council to see what could be done to have the organ fully overhauled or even replaced. Unfortunately, after obtaining a number of estimates, it became quite clear that we could not afford to have the total refurbishment that the organ needed. The cost was likely to be in the region of £80,000 to £90,000 in addition to setting money aside each year for regular maintenance and servicing.

A subcommittee was formed headed by Simon Bruton who was joined by the present organist and one of the past ones. It did a great deal of valuable work looking into the possibility of digital organs as a substitute for the pipe organ. It was likely that this could be done at a fraction of the price of overhaul.

To achieve the removal of the organ and the purchase of a new digital organ it was necessary to have diocesan approval for the alterations. An exchange of correspondence took place together with a number of meetings with the Diocesan Arts and Architecture Committee. The diocesan committee took well over a year to reach a decision which ultimately was not to allow us to proceed with the replacement organ. It recommended we should seek a grant to raise the necessary funds to restore the original organ. The Diocesan Grants Committee fortunately took a more

pragmatic view and indicated to us that the chances of obtaining any such grant were negligible. So we went back to the Diocesan Arts and Architecture Committee who saw our dilemma and subsequently agreed we could go ahead and replace the old organ.



The late Canon O'Donnell at his death in 1981 left a not insignificant legacy for work to be done to beautify the church. This money was in the hands of the Diocese. The works that the Canon had wanted to see done such as the mosaics were largely achieved, leaving some funds available for other works. The sole surviving trustee Bishop Tripp, agreed that the remaining funds could be used to provide a replacement organ. He particularly liked the idea that it would open up the vista of the large stained glass window at the west end of the church. It would also provide the church with more light.

The parish is now ready to implement this new and exciting project. In readiness work will start in late June to clear the choir loft by removing the pipe organ. This will be followed by an inspection of the works necessary to repair, replace or remove the ceiling panels which were cut round the organ at the time of the reordering of the church in the early 1980s. This would mean that the original roof will be exposed and any remedial work necessary can be undertaken. It may of course simply need just a new coat of paint. When this preparation work has been completed the new digital organ which is now on order will be installed possibly in September

Using the legacy from Canon O'Donnell is very fitting. He clearly loved the church, the building of which he was of course responsible for. The parish is still reaping the benefit of his stewardship now forty years after his death.

Paul Spooner

THE ISLAMISATION OF AFRICA

Many horrifying tales have come out of Africa in the last decade due to the unprovoked attacks of Islamists such as Boko Haram in Nigeria, who have linked up with Daesh (ISIS). They then renamed themselves Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) but later splintered into two groups because of internal divisions. However these two groups continue with their main agenda, to wipe out Christians from the region, operating indiscriminately, leaving to date 8,000 widows whose husbands have been killed and 17,000 fatherless children.

They operate mostly in the North-eastern province of Nigeria but have pushed further south to the middle belt of the country. Here they have infiltrated the Fulani herdsmen. There has been a long-standing conflict between the Fulani and the Christian settled farmers but in the last five years a wave of targeted attacks on Christian villages by the Islamists among the Fulani herdsmen is forcing the Christians to flee their farmlands.

Help for the traumatised survivors comes from the Church due to the lack of support from local authorities. One such project leader is Fr. Joseph Fidelis who oversees a trauma centre in Maiduguri, where hundreds of young girls were kidnapped. This centre gives emotional and psychological support and shelter, mostly in churches, to the women and children. These women suffered the inhuman degradation of torture and rape while some have been taken into forced marriages to give birth to children by Boko Haram fighters. In spite of such atrocities and Islamists attempts to force conversion to Islam, the Christian communities remain steadfast in their faith.

One sad example of such force occurred on 8th January 2020 when four seminarians were kidnapped. One was released but another, Michael Nnadi, was killed for speaking out and telling his murderer, Mustapha Mohammed, to change his evil ways. Mustapha must have been impressed by his bravery as he was overheard boasting to others about the incident.

Nigeria is not alone in such terrible suffering. These attacks continue in other countries of Africa, for example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Mozambique. Attacks are mainly against Christians trying to force conversion to Islam on them. Islamists are massacring thousands of innocent victims.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), support project partners in all these countries. They are very grateful for our support by prayers and finances and in turn offer prayers and Masses for all benefactor. ACN has highlighted two of the above countries. In one, the bishops of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have condemned violence in the east of the country highlighting attempted Islamisation, forced conversion of prisoners, the deaths of thousands, including 2000 deaths recorded in 2020. According to the bishops: "There are at least 3 million displaced people and around 7,500 people kidnapped".

In Burkina Faso since 2015, ACN reports that "the security situation has continued to deteriorate. Terrorist attacks have spread from the border areas of the Sahel to the interior of the country. Kidnappings and massacres have unfortunately become a regular occurrence. This has led to the closure of more than 1,200 primary and secondary schools and nearly 765,000 becoming internally displaced".

Looking at the above three countries we must question what we can do to help and support these poor suffering Christians, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Above all prayer is the greatest gift but any monetary support is accepted with gratitude and prayers in return. Enquiries can be made at: www.acnuk.org or donations can be sent to:

Aid to the Church in Need UK,
12-14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA.

Let us pray for a peaceful resolution to this destructive and inhuman persecution on all Christians and peace for all to practice and follow their faith without interference.

Teresa Pollard



Internally displaced women who sought shelter at Saint James's, Yola.

ACN/Jaco Klamer

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR 2021-22

Calendar of Feasts and Fasts:

Saints Peter and Paul, apostles	Sun.	29th June 2021
The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Fri.	6th August
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sun.	15th August
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
Maundy 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

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

** Days of Fasting and Abstinence.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2021



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

*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.*

JULY

Social Friendship

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

AUGUST

The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

SEPTEMBER

An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.



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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

- Lourdes & Paris > 13 Aug / 5 Days / by Coach / £380
- Lourdes & Paris > 13 Aug / 4 Days / by Air / £480
- Lourdes > 6 Sept / 7 Days / by Coach / £580
- Lourdes by Air > 7 Sept / 4 Days / by Air / £580
- Fatima & Lisbon > 6 Sept / 5 Days / by Air / £580
- The Holy Land > 22 Oct / 8 Days / by Air / £1290
- The Holy Land > 19 Nov / 8 Days / by Air / £1290
- Lourdes & Paris 2022 > 14 April Easter / £380

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Open:

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Mass most weekdays

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



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St. John Fisher Over 60s Club

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

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SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



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

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Marina Bowyer

020 8542 1349

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

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or **07932 628840**

or email: christiancaremerton@gmail.com

TALKABOUT PARISH MAGAZINE - 2021 DATES

Deadline for submitting items
(talkabout@blueyonder.co.uk or % the Parish Office)

Sunday 29 Aug.

Sunday 21 Nov.

Distribution Weekend

18 & 19 Sept.

11 & 12 Dec.



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

SUNDAY 29TH AUGUST 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.

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

" A life without love is like a year without summer "

Swedish Proverb



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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	<i>To be advised</i>
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>To be advised</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)	Tuesday 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



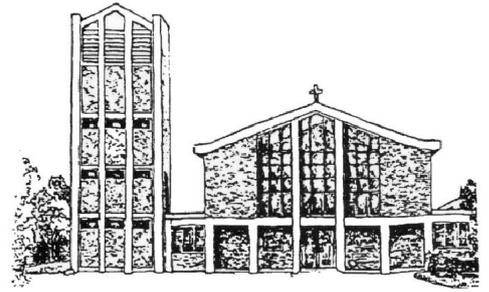
Assist. Priest
Fr Francis
Nonyelu



Deacon
Fred
Carter



Deacon
Tom
Kavanagh



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

Telephone: 020 8542 6355

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

Website: www.stjohnfishermerton.co.uk

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

Parish Business: 7.00 pm Mondays

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

Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 am
5:30 - 5:50 pm

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

John Golden
• Co-opt Member

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



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