

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY**  
**20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP**  
Email [stedmundsparish@btconnect.com](mailto:stedmundsparish@btconnect.com)  
Website: [www.saintedmunds.net](http://www.saintedmunds.net)  
Parish Office **020 8650 0970**   
Monday to Friday 9 - 1pm

**13 May 2018 Seventh Sunday of Easter**



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**The second collection this week is for World Communications Day**

## **FLING WIDE THE GATES**



**Fling wide the gates! Fling wide the gates, for the saviour waits to tread in his royal way. He has come from above in his power and love to die on this passion day. Fling wide the gates, He waits, the saviour waits!**

Some of you, perhaps of an older generation, may recognise these words from what was once one of the most popular pieces of

English religious music, The Crucifixion by John Stainer. The lyrics imagine the gates of the city of Jerusalem being flung open for Jesus riding on a donkey on the first Palm Sunday.

They are about Jesus coming into a city, but I was reminded of them when it was decided that the west doors of the church should normally be kept open when the church itself is unlocked and open. Fr Steve has already explained the basic reasons for this decision; I want to reflect further on these reasons and also explore some possible reasons behind negative reactions.

Welcoming people into the building is an obvious moral 'good'. We are taught by the Church to see every guest as Christ himself, so the Palm Sunday reference above is not as remote as it might seem. We fling wide the doors of St Edmund's as we would for Our Lord himself. Hospitality is not simply good marketing - it is a Christian duty: what St Benedict taught his monks many years ago is linked to Catholic teaching about welcoming migrants and refugees. The decision is an extension of the practice of keeping the church open during all the hours of daylight: we are, I think, the only church here which is completely open for at least 10 hours every day. Catholic Christianity is a missionary religion and having our most dominant physical asset open for anyone to enter, free of charge, *is a statement about what we believe*. Over the years we have suffered very little damage (two statues are all that spring to mind) and in any case if you believe that something is right then you take risks. The church is a physical sign of what we believe, set aside and maintained for one purpose - the worship of God; that's why Catholic churches, unlike those of other denominations, are not used for social events or secular concerts. That's also why Catholic cathedrals in this country, unlike most Anglican cathedrals, don't charge people to go in.

Why, then, might we be uneasy or unhappy about the decision? The heating hasn't been on for the weeks since the decision was taken, but it seems a draught under the sliding doors might be an issue (on the subject of heating Pope Francis in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* encouraged us to reduce our heating for environmental reasons). A draught could be reduced with some simple work to the doors - or if it's a real problem we could move a bit further down the church. Noise might be an issue, particularly at this time when the local streets are being constantly dug up. Sometimes we find noise in church a distraction (such as the noise made by people who insist on talking before or after Mass in the body of the church) but there's a sense in which we shouldn't try to shut the world out of the church: it is part of the world. Religion which is escapism is usually rather damaging. I think there might also be two cultural reasons for some reactions which perhaps we should think about.

The first is to do with Catholic history in this country and Ireland. For many years Catholic churches, when they were first built again from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, were unobtrusive and almost hidden; perhaps that cultural memory is still with us even if our church is the largest place of worship in Beckenham and a major-local landmark. Converts often feel that the Catholic Church in this country is less mission-orientated as far as this country is concerned than one might expect. If we were brought up to believe that Catholics should 'keep their heads down' we might instinctively want to keep the doors closed.

Secondly, we live in an environment often dominated by tabloid-fuelled fear. We need to be prudent in relation to security (and we have taken many serious steps to make our premises more secure in recent years) and some of us have suffered burglaries over the years. But this mustn't condition us to allow God's house to be a place dominated by suspicion and fear towards strangers: we exist to welcome all. Sometimes we can get things wrong without being aware of it. Pope Francis likes to say that the Church should be a 'field hospital' - where the suffering and the wounded can experience the love of Jesus Christ mediated through his Body on earth which is the Catholic Church. A field hospital has open doors; it is not like a private, members-only club. The values of Catholic Christians are distinctive - they set us apart, and we have a message of love to share with others in a society which is often cold and heartless. Just consider this: if just one lost soul were to find salvation because of coming through a door which had been closed up until now, wouldn't that make the decision to keep the door open worthwhile?

## PARISH NEWS

You may remember I wrote an article for the front page of our newsletter (Calling all Renovators - 8th April) which was based on a book entitled 'Divine Renovation' by Fr James Mallon.

Last Wednesday I attended a Divine Renovation Day at Holy Trinity Brompton with Deacon Sean and a parishioner, Tammy Fernando. Fr James was the main presenter but there were others who contributed from this country and abroad, telling us about how this book had inspired them to change their parishes from *maintenance* to *mission* parishes.

One of the catchwords I came away with from the day, was 'prayer warrior'. Have you ever thought of yourself as a prayer warrior? I know that warrior evokes an image of a frightening and aggressive soldier but really in this case I mean a redoubtable, formidable and courageous person who uses the powerful weapon of prayer to bring about change and dare I say it, transformation?

Fr Steve

# PRAYER WARRIOR

Thank you to Emily Sawkins for writing our front cover piece last weekend telling us about her experiences with HCPT at Lourdes. We have received many complimentary comments and emails about it.

### LAW SURGERY

The next Law Surgery will be in no 11 from 7pm on **Monday, 14 May**. Please arrive promptly as callers are seen in turn and the lawyer will leave when the final person has been seen.

### ROSARY EVENING

The Salesian Sisters at 25 Village Way would like to invite all to come and join them honouring Our Lady in this month of May.

They would like to gather at about 7.00pm on May 24th, which is the feast of Mary Help of Christians, to pray a decade of the Rosary followed by a cup of tea and a chat. They look forward to welcoming you all.

Every Tuesday after 10 am mass a number of parishioners go across to no 11 for coffee, tea and biscuits. Anyone who is at mass is invited to join them, so do go across the road if you would like - there is a warm welcome for everyone.



### VISIT TO THE SHRINE OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

A few of us from the meditation group will be travelling to Norwich on Friday 8 June to visit the shrine of Julian of Norwich and discover more about the life and writings of this great medieval English mystic. We will take part in a silent prayer meeting in her cell during the morning and enjoy some tea and conviviality in the Julian Centre afterwards. We will also visit the Catholic Cathedral of St John the Baptist.

This is not a parish pilgrimage but others are welcome to join us. It will mean a very early start from Liverpool Street Station and we expect to be back in London by 6.30pm. Ability to walk is essential. Please let the Parish Office know if you are interested by 1 June and we will provide further detail.



### PARISH DAY TO WALSHINGHAM

Saturday 30 June

£20 per seat

Fr Steve will be leading a day trip to Walsingham at the end of June. Details of how pilgrims will spend their day are still being finalised but bookings will be taken from this week.

Please be aware before you book that it will be a long day. The coach will leave St Edmund's at 7am prompt and will return at about 8pm.

You must be confident that you can get on and off the coach and are happy with the length of the drive.

There are booking forms at the back of the church. Please fill one in fully for **each** booking. **The options of how to pay are on the form. Payment must be made at the time of the booking.**

Once again Emily Abonie is organising this trip so if you have any questions please contact her on 0757 676 1990 or mariaemmy@yahoo.co.uk and not the Parish Office.

### ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 25 May

11.00 am Mass

As part of St Mary's School celebrations for their 50th anniversary, parents and friends are invited to attend a special mass to be followed by a picnic lunch on the field.

Please see the poster in the porch for more details.



### CLAVER SISTERS GARDEN PARTY

The date will have been in your diary for a few months now and the Claver sisters have just revealed the cause for which they are raising money.

With the proceeds from their summer garden party on 14 July they hope to raise £6000 to buy the equipment that will enable a group of contemplative nuns in Cameroon to make communion hosts.

Please start to collect items for the Sisters to sell: bottles, jams and marmalades, books, toiletries, DVDs, plants, luxury items for the hamper and the raffle.

**DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK**  
**Monday 21 to Sunday 27 May**

Sunday 20 May  
3.00 pm in the church  
St James the Great Church,  
Petts Wood

A service followed by refreshments  
For further information please contact  
[parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org) or call 01689 827100

St James's Church also runs a group for those living with a dementia. All are welcome and further information can be obtained from their Parish Office

**DROP IN CAFE**

**St Edmund's and friends set up the first Drop-In for people who have dementia more than five years ago. It is still run by a wonderful group of volunteers of all faiths and none.**

Please mention to friends and neighbours with memory problems that they are welcome to attend the Drop In Cafe with their carer or a friend. The Cafe runs every Thursday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is a friendly and welcoming place to be for a couple of hours.

The Drop In Cafe meets either in the Hall or No. 11 but will be signposted each week.

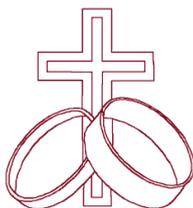
If you want to speak to someone about the Cafe please call **0208 650 1563** and leave a message.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

In the Southwark Diocese it is necessary for couples wanting to marry to contact their priest six months ahead of their intended wedding date. This is to allow sufficient time for them to attend the obligatory Marriage Preparation Course and also for the clergy to complete the necessary paperwork. Our priests would prefer to be given a year to complete the paperwork and suggest that couples do not set a date for their wedding until they have spoken to a priest.

Once you have decided to get married please email the Parish Office with your names and address and a preliminary marriage application form will be sent to you plus an enrolment form for the Marriage Preparation Course.

If you intend to get married at a church other than St Edmund's our clergy are still responsible for all the paperwork. As a growing number of our parishioners were born outside the UK we will need to obtain documentation from their previous parishes. This can take some time. There is also extra work to be completed for those who are having their ceremony abroad or for those who have had a previous marriage. So, in short, as soon as you decide to get married, please start the ball rolling by contacting the Parish Office.



**VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN**  
**(20s and 30s)**

Theme: Discerning God's Call in my life

Dates: 25-27 May 2018

Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the sisters of the order of the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life.

It is an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters!

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

**AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION**

The Eucharistic Miracles of the World.

Throughout May at

St. Anselm's Dartford, DA1 2HJ.

There are also events during the month to promote devotion and love of the Eucharist.

For more details contact

Fr. Stephen Boyle : 01322 220 075,

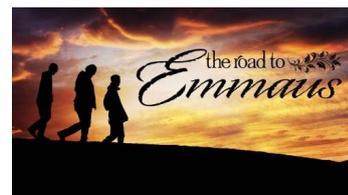
email:[stanselm01@googlemail.com](mailto:stanselm01@googlemail.com)

or visit the website:[www.stanselmsdartford.wordpress.com](http://www.stanselmsdartford.wordpress.com).

or :<http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org/>

**THE ROAD TO EMMAUS AND BEYOND**

Fr Denis McBride CSM, who has been described in the Tablet as a superb raconteur and thought provoking scripture scholar will be speaking about his new book *The Road to Emmaus and Beyond* at St. Anthony of Padua, Anerley, on Thursday 17 May at 7.30pm. A warm welcome is extended to members of the Deanery and their congregations to join us to hear someone whose 'lectures and writing are designed to appeal to the heart as much as the head' (The Tablet).



**LOOKING FOR A CHRISTIAN GAP YEAR?**

Rock UK offers an action packed adventure programme with on the job training. You will spend your Christian gap year or 2 years learning and working, at the same time gaining essential experience in youth work and leading groups. The course is residential so you will be living, working and training together with other like minded Christians, building friendships and making life-long memories. Come and find out more about our Instructor Training Programme at our Frontier Centre at <https://rockuk.org/open-day/>

**SICK LIST IN OUR NEWSLETTER**

Our sick list has once again grown. If your name is on it or you requested that a name be included please think carefully about whether that name needs still to be there. From the first newsletter in June we will include only those names that have been asked for again.

## MASSES AND SERVICES May 13 - 20

### Sunday 13 May

8.00 am	Church	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> Deceased parents and relatives of the Salesian family
9.30 am	Church	Patricia & Michael Hanrahan RIP
11.00 am	Church	Edith Ransford RIP
5.30 pm	Church	Banfield & Dowling families
7.00 pm	Church	John Murnane, orphans and benefactors.

### Monday 14 May

8.15 am	Church	<b>Saint Matthias</b> Sr Eileen McGarry RIP
10.00 am	Church	Monica Grima RIP
7.30 pm	Salesians	Adoration

### Tuesday 15 May

8.15 am	Claver	<b>Feria</b> Dec'd Benefactors & Promoters of the Claver Sisters
10.00 am	Church	Joseph Wauters & family

### Wednesday 16 May

8.00 am	Challoner	<b>Saint Simon Stock, Priest</b> Erica Rogers RIP
8.15 am	Claver	Peggy Gwynne RIP
10.00 am	Church	Ints of Handmaids of the Sacred Heart
7.30 pm	Church	Johanna Piatek RIP

### Thursday 17 May

8.15am	Claver	<b>Feria</b> Francis & Katherine Pratt & family
10.00 am	Church	Sr Raphaela Mary's feastday
8.00 pm	Claver	Adoration & Benediction

### Friday 18 May

8.15 am	Claver	<b>Feria (Saint John 1, Pope &amp; Martyr)</b> The Griffin family
9.10 am	St Mary's	May Procession
10.00 am	Church	Cotter family

### Saturday 19 May

8.15 am	Claver	<b>Feria (Saint Dunstan)</b> May O'Mahony
10.00 am	Church	Breada Hoare & Maise McNamara RIP
<b>NO EXPOSITION (Wedding)</b>		
6.00 pm	Church	Paul Bones RIP

**Reconciliation from 10.30 - 11 am and 5 - 5.55pm**

### Sunday 20 May

8.00 am	Church	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> For the people
9.30 am	Church	Mary Smith RIP (anniv)
11.00 am	Church	Jeanne & Pierre Champetier RIP & Nancy & Stephen Dennis RIP
5.30 pm	Church	Paddy & Erika Curtin RIP
7.00 pm	Church	John Murnane's orphans and benefactors.

## Readings for Sunday 20 May Pentecost (B) Psalter Week 3

Acts 2: 1-11  
Psalm 103  
1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13  
John 29:19-23

## DIARY DATES

### MAY

*Meditation every Monday in no11 from 5.30-6.15pm - Includes Bank Holidays*

Monday 14 - Law Surgery no 11 - 7.00pm

Friday 25 - Prayer Meeting - no 11 - 7.30pm

Saturday 26 - Contemplative Saturday from 11-12 in no11

### JUNE

*Meditation every Monday in no11 from 5.30-6.15pm*

Wednesday 6 - Bereavement Support - 10.30-12 in no11

Saturday 23 - Contemplative Saturday from 11-12 in no11.

Saturday 30 - Parish Day to Walsingham

### JULY

Wednesday 4 - Bereavement Support - 10.30 - 12 in no11

Saturday 14 - Claver Sisters' Garden Party

The collection last weekend raised £1950.41 plus  
£1832.28 donated electronically.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Hospital Chaplains

### WHEN BEING ADMITTED TO A HOSPITAL OR NURSING / CARE HOME

It is very important that all parishioners who are being admitted to a hospital or a nursing or care home register their religion as Roman Catholic and state whether they would like to receive a visit from an extraordinary eucharistic minister or a priest. All too often people fail to do this and consequently hospital staff do not know the patient's wishes in case of an emergency.

If family or friends accompany a sick person please would they ensure that this important matter is attended to.

**We pray for those who have died recently:** Mary (Maureen) Dickson, Monica Wells, Orlando Campos, Baby Camilla Zorilla, Eddie Podesta and Rosalita Mamboya.

**Those whose anniversaries are this week:** Alice Duck, Tony Kendrick, Janet O'Brien, Johanna Pauline Piatek, Silvana Verlengia, Anna Fleming, Salvador Ernesto Moncada, Rose Hook, Mgr Peter Strand, Kathleen Yourell, Doreen Griffin

**We pray for the sick:** Peter Appleyard, Baby Valentina Attard, Mary Atsu, James Bekoe, Kim Benardis, Roy Brocklehurst, Christopher Browne, Edith Campos, Vienna-Marie Carpenter, Paul James Claridge, Tony Cox, Ann Couper-Johnson, Christine Curl, Giacomo Dillon, Kate Dillon, John Dillon, Rita Dixon, Elizabeth, David Edwards, Ann Elmer, Margaret Fennessy, Umberto Ferrando, Luigi Ferrara, Ethna Fitzgerald, Suzette Fox, Barry Gardiner, Baby Megan May Gavey, Isabelle Ghawi, Philomena Guard, Hans Halpin, Eileen Hayes, Pat Hibberd, Norman Holland, Frank Holmes, Daphne Hoyles, Frances Hughes, Dave Hustwayte, Monica Hyland, Kathy Jobson, Alabooso Joe-Jim, Victoria Jovanov, Zara Kadi, Fr Peter Kelly, Keith Kench, Richard Kirin, Grace Knight, Peggy Lake, Noah Langan, Anita Leslau, Sarah Lister, Mim Lodge, Jo McCarthy, Eamonn McGeehan, Kathleen McGeehan, Dominic McGrath, Jim McGrath, Natalie McGrath, Mickey McGuigan, Paul McQuinny and family, Patrick Metters, Philip Mifsud, Halina Mikulko, Eddie Mitchell, Dominic Nash, Sean O'Connor, Valerie Parr, Leonard Pope, John Quaipe, Kieran Quinn, Louise Ridge, Gabriella Rolls, Sandra Sekulic, Marie-Therese Sinon, Mike & Eileen Slemen, Mary Smith, Rebecca Strong, Jo Subieta, Eleni Symeou, John Sylvester, Sarah Thornton, Barry Thorp, Toma Toma, Katie Toone, Jeanne Tadier, Barbara Tucker, Shirley Turner, Hilary Walker, Jimmy Walters, Louise Walters, Patricia Weal, Terry Weal, Emma Winch, Freda Wukolz, George Wukolz and Maureen Young.

***This list will be used to the end of May. If you wish a name to continue on the list please contact the Parish Office, preferably by email or by posting a note through the door.***