

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP

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Website: www.saintedmunds.net

Parish Office 020 8650 0970

Monday to Friday 9 - 1pm



Fr. Steve Wymer - Parish Priest 020 8650 3390 - stephenwymer@rcaos.org.uk

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Deacon Sean Murphy - 020 3490 5693 - seanmurphy@rcaos.org.uk

15 September 2019

24th Sunday

Salesian Sisters

25 Village Way, BR3 3NA

020 8650 6313

patdevine13@gmail.com

Missionary Sisters of

St. Peter Claver

89 Shortlands Road BR2 0JL

020 8313 3915

sspc.echo.uk@googlemail.com

Home Mission Day - Second collection to support evangelization in England and Wales

Talking about God

I PROMISED A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO to tell you something about the annual conference of the Catholic Theological Association, which took place at the beginning of the month in Twickenham. The title of the conference was *Word of God, Words of God: Words, Image and Ritual in Religion and Life*. There were ten substantial keynote sessions and the full papers should be published next year in the theological journal *New Blackfriars*: but as the teaching and study of theology is for the benefit of the whole Church it is important that you have some awareness of what is happening. As I have indicated elsewhere the teaching of theology and religious studies in universities and colleges is fragile, because of pressures on some institutions, because of government policies and the rapid decline in the number of pupils taking RE at any serious level in non-faith schools. The CTA exists to provide mutual support in this situation; we have been having annual conferences since 1984.

The initial session of the conference was led by Professor Anthony Towey from St Mary's University, one of the university's star lecturers. He has been involved in a national commission set up to review RE teaching in secondary schools and he spoke candidly about the issues around, including the hostility shown even from some within the teaching profession towards established faith communities in this country such as the Catholic Church. What we are all coping with is an increasing inability to understand anything approaching religious language – one contributor in the discussion described the task of teaching theology or religious studies as akin to *Teaching English as a Foreign Language*. When we devised the conference theme we wanted to consider not simply verbal language about God and religious faith but also other media, so the second lecture was about theology and art. This was given by David Brown, until recently a Professor at St Andrews University in Scotland, who has written extensively about this. His lecture, illustrated by numerous pictures, explored how artists in Christian history have often aimed to elicit a religious response from the onlooker – religious art is not simply about beauty or conventional aesthetics. On the second day of the conference this lecture was followed by a number of short papers given by members of the CTA. These included a reflection on the current abuse crisis (Dr Bridie Stringer), the ways in which we listen to religious language (Dr John Sullivan), the language of religious language on digital networks (Tim Kinnear), religious language in popular music, especially the music of Ariane Grande (Steph MacGillivray), the experiences of young adults in or on the fringes of the Church (Karen North) and the ways in which we can use Jesus' words about being a eunuch in current debates about gender identity (David Jones).



On the third day sessions began with another well know St Mary's figure, Stephen Bullivant, who has written a book about the mass exodus from the Church in the UK and the USA over the last sixty years. He has researched the phenomenon of atheism extensively, and in his

paper reminded us that the early Christians were accused of being atheists by the authorities of the Roman Empire because they wouldn't worship the gods of the State. This was followed by a fascinating paper from a young theologian from Cambridge, Alastair Lockhart, about religious language in other, rather 'off-beat' religious groups such as the Rastafarians.

Music is an important way in which we try to communicate about God and religious faith. On the Wednesday afternoon we were joined by the acclaimed composer Roxanna Panufnik, shown above. She spoke about her music and her own religious faith – she has pioneered using religious music to break down barriers with Jews and Muslims. This session was illustrated with extracts from her music. That evening we had a conference dinner attended by Cardinal Vincent Nichols who also addressed us at the meal, also reflecting on music, this time the music of the Scottish composer Sir James Macmillan.

The last morning contained two final papers. Professor Janet Soskice, recently retired from Cambridge, about the different names of God which we find in the Scriptures and the Christian theological tradition. The names we apply to God are all inadequate in many ways, but at the same time they tell us something which is difficult to capture in other ways. Our final lecture was by Professor Lewis Ayres from Cambridge, who spoke about the way the fourth century founder of eastern monasticism, St Basil of Caesarea, talks about the ways in which it is actually at times difficult to talk about God.

I hope this brief sketch has given you a flavour of what we did – and we aim, through this sort of reflection, to be of service to the whole Church. How we talk about God is central to how we share the gospel, how we impart the Christian message. So often harsh or misleading language about God can alienate people from religious faith altogether. We also face big challenges in a culture where people have so rapidly lost the language, the ways to receive any religious message, whether it is imparted through words, art or music. Please pray for all those who teach theology in this country.

MESSAGE FROM FR STEVE

We can learn a lot from the saints especially on important subjects such as prayer. St Therese of Lisieux writes:

"The power of prayer is indeed wonderful. It is like a queen, who, having free access always to the king, can obtain whatever she asks. To secure a hearing there is no need to recite set prayers composed for the occasion – were this the case, I should indeed deserved to be pitied! Apart from the Office [the daily prayer of the Church] which is a daily joy, I do not have the courage to search through books for beautiful prayers. They are so numerous that it would only make my head ache. Unable either to say them all or to choose between them, I do as a child who cannot read – I just say what I want to say to God, quite simply, and he never fails to understand."

I hope this helps.

TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

The St Edmund's priest's pre-reference forms that are required if a child wishes to transfer to a Catholic secondary school are available from the reading slope in the porch. Please take only what you need, you can photocopy extra copies if necessary. Complete the form and put it through the presbytery door in an envelope marked for the attention of Fr Ashley.

NATIONAL MASS COUNT

Next weekend we have the first of four counts of the number of people attending each Sunday Mass. These annual counts are done at all Catholic churches in the country over the same weekends.



A JOURNEY IN FAITH

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

We are starting a course this Thursday 19 September for anyone who is interested in becoming a Catholic or who would like more information about the Catholic Faith. This includes adults (over 18) who were baptised as Catholics, but have little if any knowledge of Catholicism, and who are considering being confirmed.

The course will start with refreshments at 7.45pm at 11 Village Way, opposite the Church and next door to the Hall.

If you would like more information please contact Mary Deering on 0208 650 9650 or Cathy Denne on 07956914164 or mail us on beckenhamrcia@rcaos.org.uk or you are welcome to turn up on the night.

If you would like to attend a course but cannot do so on Thursday evenings please contact us for further advice.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY

Today's second collection is for Home Mission Sunday. It provides the bishops of England and Wales with resources to support Home Mission, the spread of the gospel in our own country. The money collected enables a breadth of work to be done in support of parish evangelization.



ROSIE'S CHOIR

Rosie's Choir is about to resume after the summer break and would welcome new members. We meet twice a month and there is no audition or judgment, just a lot of fun. We sing a range of music from a variety of genres. Our first rehearsal is on Saturday 21 September from 2 - 4pm in No 11 Village Way. If you enjoy singing come and give us a try!

For more details contact claremcconkey55@gmail.com or tel. 020 8650 2650

ST EDMUND'S CATECHISM GROUP

The group provides instruction on the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

The course lasts for two years, and is intended for children in the parish who do not attend Catholic school. We start the classes for 2019/20 on Saturday October 5 with Mass at 10.00 am at St Edmund's Church. After that we meet on the second Saturday of the month.

For further information please email stedscatechismgroup@gmail.com or await the enrolment instructions in the newsletter.

MOTHER'S PRAYERS

In our parish a small group meets to pray for all children and place them into the loving care of Jesus. If you would like us to pray for any child/children/grandchildren, write their name/s on a piece of paper, put it in a sealed envelope (to protect confidentiality) and mark the envelope clearly 'Mothers Prayers'.

Please post your envelope through the door of the Parish Office from where we will collect them and pray for them as we present our children to Jesus.

Enquiries may be made to the Parish Office on **020 8650 0970**

The Folk Choir has returned to 5.30 Mass after our summer break. In September **2020**, we will be celebrating our fiftieth year of singing in St Edmunds. We are also continuing to learn some of the new songs we added to our books in the recent reprint, so now is a great time to join us. All we ask is that you commit to practising on Thursdays at 8.15 (in the church) and to 5.30 Mass on Sundays. Singing ability and experience are nice to have, but not essential!



ST EDMUND'S WALKING GROUP

Last Sunday, members of the Walking Group joined Sevenoaks parishioners on their Walking Pilgrimage to St Edith's Well at Kemsing. After walking through beautiful Kentish countryside on a perfect day, devotions at the Well were followed by the world premiere of new settings of psalms and canticles at the nearby Anglican church. Next year, in mid September, we plan walks to the Well of varying length, so that more St Edmund's folk can take part.

DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS Saturday 28 September St George's Cathedral

Would all catechists please call in to the sacristy after Mass and collect two sheets of paper which give full details of this day for catechists. Fr Steve would like as many of you as possible to take advantage of it. When you decide which sessions you would like to attend please email the Parish Office with your details. The Parish will pay for your attendance fee.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 7 December

If you would like to help with the fair please contact Sue Owen on 07828 132921 or at sueowenwolf@gmail.com

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN MORNINGS

Our parish school St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Beckenham - will be holding their open mornings for parents of children due to start Reception in September 2020 at 10.30am on **7th October, 14th October and 17th December 2019**. If you would like to attend any of these open mornings please contact Mrs Tracey - School Admissions Officer on 020 8650 2355 or email at admin@stmaryscp.co.uk



NEWT

Many thanks to both of our school's, Bishop Challoner and St Mary's who have donated bags of unwanted school uniforms and PE

outfits to be sent to Deacon Sean's village in Ghana. They will be on their way by the end of the month.



ALPHA YOUTH

Holy Innocents in Orpington is running an Alpha Youth Series for young people in Y9 up to age 19. There is a poster in the porch with links to the organisers and to the website for full details



Holy Innocents is also running an adult Alpha Course starting on **Friday 20 September**. They will run a lunchtime and an evening session. Again full details are on a poster in the porch.

THE MAGIC OF ITALIAN OPERA Night Under the Stars

5 November, 7.30 pm at the
Royal Festival Hall

An evening of Italian opera classics.

Andrea Hixon is arranging a block booking to this event which is in aid of The Passage, the homeless charity in Westminster. Please see the flyer in the porch and if you are interested in coming leave your name and a telephone number with the Parish Office.

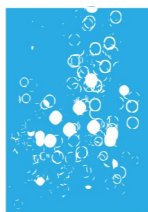
Ticket price is £19

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.

LIVE STREAMING OF OUR SERVICES

If you have friends and family who are unable physically to get to a church please tell them about our broadcasts and show them how easy it is to view them on a computer or laptop.



Living Well
Bromley

Living Well at Holy Trinity Church in Penge has come to the end of a very busy summer providing food parcels and meals to those in real need. Once again their stocks have run very low and so they are appealing for help.

Items which are particularly useful are: tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned meat, longlife fruit juice, biscuits, rice, dried mash, cereals and shower gel.

Please leave your donations in the church porch. We will take them from there on a regular basis and deliver them to Holy Trinity.

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday 15 Sept

8.00 am Church
9.30 am Church
11.00 am Church
5.30 pm Church
7.00 pm Church

Twenty fourth Sunday

Tom Spillane RIP
Ints of Aileen Farrell (family Mass)
Richard Graves RIP (Latin)
Rosie Reed & John McNamara RIP
For the people

Monday 16 Sept

8.15 am Church

10.00 am Church
7.30 pm 27 VW

Saints Cornelius & Cyprian

All persecuted born & unborn children in the world
Peter Gorman RIP
Adoration

Tuesday 17 Sept

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church

Feria (St Robert Bellarmine)

Mrs Mary Ryan RIP
Margaret Hayes RIP

Wednesday 18 Sept

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
7.30 pm Church

Feria (St Edith of Kemsing)

Mike Burrell
Ints of Anne Webster
Luigi Ferrara RIP

Thursday 19 Sept

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
8.00 pm Claver

Feria (St Theodore of Canterbury)

Bobby Palmer RIP
Hazel Teresa Friend-Pereira
Adoration

Friday 20 Sept

8.15 am Claver
9.10 am St Mary's
10.00 am Church

St Andrew Kim Tae-gön & Paul Chông Ha-Sang & Companions, Martyrs

Margaret Wymer RIP
Private intention
Int of Miss Anne Cairns

Saturday 21 Sept

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
6.00 pm Church

St Matthew, Apostle

Paul Shutt RIP
Grace Okezie - birthday thanks-giving
Kathleen Cowling RIP

Sunday 22 Sept

8.00 am Church
9.30 am Church

11.00 am Church

5.30 pm Church
7.00 pm Church

Twenty fifth Sunday

Day of Prayer for the Harvest

For the people
Lily Beavis & Tony Colonnese RIP
Church Parade
Mary & John Edet & Caroline Anaele RIP
Paul Stephens RIP
Marianne Martin & Jimmy Howard RIP

Confessions on Saturdays from 10.30 - 11.00 am and 5.00pm - 5.55 pm and at other times by request.

Rosary is said Monday to Saturday from 9.40 am and Adoration is for an hour after 10.00 am Mass.

DIARY DATES

Meditation every Monday in no11 from 5.30 - 6.15 pm - except on Bank Holidays

Open door for the bereaved on the first Wednesday of every month from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

Law Surgery every second Monday of the month in no11 at 7pm

Prayer Meeting last Friday of the month in no 11 at 7.30pm

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

Fri 4 Requiem of John Cranstoun 12 noon

Sat 26 Contemplative Saturday in no11 - 11.00am

DECEMBER

Sat 7 Parish Christmas Fair

Sat 21 Contemplative Saturday in no11 - 11.00am

COLLECTION

Our collection last weekend raised £1895.93, with a further £3210.38 from Standing Orders and through ChurchSuite. The second collection raised £1090.37 for the Catholic Education Service.

I am afraid that the Church Shop will remain closed until either repairs have been made to the security gate or it has been replaced.

We are sorry for the inconvenience this is causing but we are sure you will continue to support the shop and the tireless band of helpers who staff it when it reopens.

No refreshments after the 11.00 am Mass this week.
Back to normal next Sunday 22 September.

BBC 1 SONGS OF PRAISE - this Sunday at 1.15pm is from Lourdes

Readings for 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle 1 Psalter Wk 1

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 112

1 Paul to Timothy 2:1-8

Luke 16:1-13

We pray for those who have died recently: John Cranstoun, John Macnamara, Steve Sturdy and Michel Pottier

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Martin Norris, Thomas Spillane, Olga Roberts, Margaret Leeks, Ann Zacaroli, Marisia Nawara, Maria Okafor, John Stoneman, Marion Martin and Patricia English.

We pray for the sick: Aondongu Akuha, Angela, Bernice, Emma-Jane, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Arthur Cromwell, Christine, John Crouch, Fr John Cunningham, Ilean Curry, Giacomo Dillon, Colin Dowling, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Cecil Dutton, David Edwards, Ann Elmer, Felicity, Chris Grant, Hans Halpin, Eileen Hayes, Maude Herring, Jerry Jacob, John, Bernadette McGilloway, Mary McGrath, Eddie Mitchell, Barbara Moyce, Orla O'Regan, John Quaife, Brian Russell, Peter Sanders, Mary Shipsey, Coleen Shroeder, Siobhan, Angela Stolle, Charlie Wynn and Patricia Weal.