

ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER

14TH FEBRUARY 2021

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Mass Intentions and Mass Times: Week starting 14th February

Saturday 13 th February	9.30 am	Good Health of Nick McDermott
Sunday 14 th February	10.00 am	Ann & Stanley Brown RIP
Monday 15 th February	9.30 am	Good Health of Francis Goes
Tuesday 16 th February	9.30 am	Good Health of Nick Harvey
Wednesday 17 th February	9.30 am	Maureen Gilleece RIP ASH WEDNESDAY
	7.00 pm	Parishioners
Thursday 18 th February	12.00 Noon	Funeral Mass for Vincenzo Constanzo
Friday 19 th February	9.30 am	Terry O'Brien RIP
Saturday 20 th February	9.30 am	All those who help in the church
Sunday 21 st February	9.15 am	Camelia Tagliarino RIP
	11.15 am	Parishioners

Please note that the church is currently closed for public liturgies and will open for Ash Wednesday 17th February and thereafter as announced in the newsletter.

Please pray for those in the Parish who have asked for our prayers:

Michael Snee, Margaret Hawkes, Bernadette Barnbrook, Anna Sartori, Maureen Lloyd, , Sheila Day, Nicoletta Lanzisera, Ben Adderley, Patrick Duggan, Rose Collins, Carmen Galanty, Patrick Russell, Ann Griffin, Ann Lane, Dina Yates, Rose Collins, Manuel and Jackie Faraldo, Andres Gomez, Christian Misuraca, Christopher Clifford and Catherine Browle.

Fr Bill writes: I will be re-opening the church from **Ash Wednesday 17th February** for public worship and private prayer. I will have a booking system for Ash Wednesday to ensure that numbers for the two Masses are safe. Thereafter I hope to open for weekend Masses on a booking basis for the time being. Some parishioners will still not feel comfortable in coming out. That is fine. We all must do what we are comfortable with. There is no virtue in simply taking risks for the sake of it.

To keep us all safe I need volunteers for stewards from those who attend the 11.15 Mass on Sundays. I also need more volunteers to relieve the burden of those who have been generous in offering their services for the good of the Parish. Please let me know if you are willing by emailing me at mail@sterconwalds.org.uk

Please note the letter about the **Diocesan Pilgrimage** this year. There will be a retiring collection this Sunday. As there will be nobody physically present any donations can be put through the letter box. Please note the dates: **23rd – 29th July. The focus will be on prayer and healing for those at the front line of the pandemic such as doctors, nurses, café workers and teachers.**

Note also the pastoral letter from Bishop Richard that is also enclosed concerning the Diocesan Mission that will be starting this Lent. Details are also in the newsletter further down.

There will be no Liturgy of the word on Thursday because of the funeral Mass at 12.00 noon.

I will hold a **Zoom Coffee morning** on Monday and Wednesday this week from 10.30 am until 11.00 am so that I can chat to parishioners whom I have not seen for ages. It would be good to see how some of you are getting on in these challenging times.

Here is the Zoom Invitation

Topic: Zoom Coffee Morning

Time: Monday at 10.30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97155275292?pwd=TnIwRk5FRzlTNzJGRtF5ZVBjbzZ3UT09>

Meeting ID: 971 5527 5292

Passcode: 967199

The hyper link is now active.

The last talk on the gospel of Mark has been given. The handouts and recording of the talks are available for the next month at the hyper link below.

<https://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/mark.html>

*Any notices for this newsletter to be sent to Fr Bill at
mail@sterconwalds.org.uk*

Baptisms are still suspended because of the Government lockdown.

Parish Finance

We have had several generous donations towards the maintenance of the parish recently. **Little income has been received during the current lockdown apart from standing orders which are the life blood of the parish at present. Many thanks to those who regularly donate and to those who are keeping up with their Gift Aid payments. The parish accounts for 2020 will soon be published.**

Standing Order Income for December 2020 : £3,121.93 excluding donations for Christmas and maintenance. Thank you all for your generosity. 94 parishioners approximately are contributing by standing order.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

For those who are able you can either put your donations through the presbytery letterbox at the side of the house or you can make a donation online.

The Diocese has a scheme at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory>.

In the message section you mention St Erconwald's Walton-on-Thames and the donation will come to the parish. If it is an Easter offering then mention Easter Offering in the message section.

Alternatively make a bank transfer.

Parish sort code 40 05 20

Account No 01126393

Payable to A&B Diocesan Trust St Erconwalds

Food Bank

The Walton & Hersham Food Bank are now again receiving donations of dry foods and toiletries, following the recent suspension due to Covid 19.

All donations of dry foods and toiletries to assist local people in need, are gratefully received.

Red storage containers are placed in the Church Porch for your donations.

Diocesan Lent Mission

Coming soon – Invited

God loves you. He has great plans for you. He wants to accompany you through all the highs and lows of your life.

There will soon be an opportunity for you to explore all this and more as we journey together as a Diocese through a season of mission.

Visit www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited to find out more.

You, are Invited.

Mary's Mantle Consecration!

This self-directed spiritual retreat has resulted in miracles in the lives and hearts of those who have applied themselves to it. St. Pope John Paul II said that his consecration to Mary was a "decisive turning point in my life". It incorporates four models of prayer that have stood the test of time and truth in moving and melting the heart of God: the Rosary (daily), spiritual readings (daily), fasting (weekly) and consecration to Mary. It is suitable for busy individuals, families and groups. We will start Mary's Mantle Consecration in our Deanery on the Monday 8th of February, until the 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation. Those interested, please email weybridgemarysmantle@gmail.com for more information.

The Gift

A short DVD Course

Do you know how much God loves you personally
and wants you to know him better?
We know he loves us in our heads but do we feel it in our hearts?
Have you ever given time to open up the gift
you were given at baptism?
The prayer group which meets weekly on a Thursday evening
warmly invites you to
join them for seven evenings following this short course
that has been recommended by Pope Francis.
We will journey through Lent to Easter together.
Each week we will listen to a speaker and share our reflections in a small group
with an experienced leader.
At week six we will pray for The Holy Spirit to deepen our awareness
of God's personal love for us and his dynamic Spirit in us.
We will run the course on Zoom and we can help you access this if you have
never used Zoom before. It has been new to most of us this year.
Course runs Thursdays 7.15pm February 11th-March 25th
To register please email or call /text johnngerard@talktalk.net (07949 653703)
or lalana.pang@gmail.com (07903 719336)

[The Gift: A Life in the Spirit Course Official Website](#)

The Current Faith Companion can be accessed at www.thefaithcompanion.co.uk.

Arundel & Brighton Lourdes Pilgrimage 2021

Today I would like to bring you all up to date on the plan for our pilgrimage this summer. As some of you will have heard, some Diocesan pilgrimages have already decided to cancel for a second year due to the significant challenges that are involved with planning anything during this pandemic, but after consultation we have decided to try and create the opportunity for some in the Diocese to travel with us to Lourdes in July.

Hopefully, as happened in the summer of 2020, and aided by the roll out of the vaccine, international travel will be possible again by July. Many got away in 2020 and had a very enjoyable holiday, so it is possible, even in these challenging circumstances. However, a number of things will need to fall into place between now and the summer, so I will start by asking for all of your prayers.

The first disappointment to report is that for many reasons we will not be planning to take Assisted Pilgrims with us to Lourdes this year. Even though it is likely that many of them will have received both of their CV-19 vaccinations by the summer, we currently have no data whether the antibody response will last for any significant period of time and so that, together with a number of other challenging factors, makes it hard for us to include this group, and anyone else with a significant health condition, when planning a week in Lourdes.

With this in mind, the pilgrimage we are hoping to arrange will be a pilgrimage of mission: we carry the prayers and intentions of many parishioners in our Diocese to Lourdes, including our regular APs, and will pray for them and their families at the Grotto. It will also be a pilgrimage of healing: we walk with those who have had a traumatic pandemic through loss of a loved one, loss of a job, or loss of status, and those who have been at the forefront of the pandemic, e.g. doctors, nurses, care support workers, teachers, who need time to process and reflect on their experiences over the past year. We also want our week to be a time of renewal: for those who have suffered by the closure of churches, where they may not yet have been able to re-engage, and see our Lourdes week as a way to recharge their spiritual batteries and return refreshed and ready to re-join their spiritual parish family in earnest.

To do this, we need you to apply to join us in Lourdes when applications open in March, assuming you do not have a condition that makes you susceptible to CV-19, to carry the prayers and intentions from those at home, and to provide companionship to those who have had a hard year on the front line of the pandemic, or through loss as a result of the pandemic, during a prayerful and hopefully enjoyable pilgrimage week.

We also hope that families will join us in the usual way, and we have been encouraged to invite Redshirts and young pilgrims from Years 12 and 13 too, so these groups will hopefully join us, although we are anticipating that, for obvious reasons, the numbers will be lower than usual. Inevitably there will be some changes to the way we normally operate. For example, we envisage there being hotel bubbles, so that socialising will be carried out in hotel groups, rather than as a whole pilgrimage. We will all be flying, to limit the time each of us has to spend

travelling and transferring into our hotels in Lourdes, and we do not expect the usual number of pilgrims, so our week will inevitably feel different.

We will need leaders for each of the hotel groups and the Redshirts, choir members (assuming we can plan for CV-19 safe singing) and helpers to help in the family group, but all these requirements will be lighter than normal, so please do not be disappointed if you are not asked to help in some way. To have you with us in our journey of devotion to Our Lady will be wonderful, and for many, this will be the opportunity to have a week in Lourdes to reflect, re-energise, and give thanks for the gifts that we have all been blessed with.

If everything goes to plan, we will open applications at the end of March and will ask everyone to apply as quickly as possible so we can book the appropriate accommodation in Lourdes. Financial support will be available to those of you who will struggle to fund the week away, so this should not be an impediment to joining us.

The pilgrimage dates are **23rd July to the 29th July** (although some people may be asked to travel on the 22nd and return on the 30th), so please put these dates in your diary.

If, assuming the CV-19 environment is favourable, you would like to join us, please email office@ablourdes.org to express your wish to be notified when applications open in March.

Those of you who accepted Credit Notes from us last year when the pilgrimage was cancelled will be able to use them to come to Lourdes this year. Fear not though, if you decide to stay at home, your credit note can be redeemed in 2022, when we will hopefully be arranging a normal pilgrimage. Prayers please for that too!

Lastly, for the avoidance of doubt, our week in Lourdes is not certain, and we will not make a final decision on whether to go as a group until May. When applications open, you will only be asked for a £50 deposit to secure your place, and you will not be invoiced for any other payments until May, when the situation for July should be clearer. We will plan for success, but would ask that you be prepared for disappointment. Your prayers over the coming weeks will be much appreciated.

May God bless you all.

Mike Thoms and the Pilgrimage team

Feasts of the Coming Week

15th February St Claude La Colombière (1641-1682)

Claude la Colmbière (1641-1682) was born in France, joined the Society of Jesus in 1659, and was ordained a priest ten years later. In 1675, he was appointed superior of the Jesuit residence in Paray-le-Moniel. There he also became the spiritual director of Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun, who was missioned by Christ to promote devotion to his Sacred Heart, in collaboration with Colombière. On learning about this mission, Saint Claude, after prayerful discernment, authenticated the supernatural experiences of

Margaret Mary, and became both her supporter and a zealous apostle of the devotion. His preaching and writing helped propagate widespread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1676 he was missioned to be the personal preacher of the Duchess of York. His zeal and the stresses of court intrigue harmed his health, and he began to develop illnesses of the throat and lungs. He was imprisoned as a result of false accusations and deported in 1679. He returned to Lyon, then to Paray-le-Monial, where he died in 1682.

Miscellaneous observations on modern life

Switched on

A housewife was helping her aged mother get up the stairs on their brand-new stair lift when the minister telephoned her. He was horrified to hear her say: "I'm so sorry, but I'll have to ring you back. I can't talk right now because I've finally got Mother in the electric chair and I'm eager to press the switch and see if it works!"

Talking with God

Why is it that when we talk to God we're said to be praying, but when God talks to us, we're said to be schizophrenic?