

St Erconwald's 22 Esher Avenue Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 2TA

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**Parish Primary School:**

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**Parish Secondary School**

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**Mass Intentions and Mass Times: Week starting 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	9.30 am	Frances Madden RIP
	6.00 pm	Mass in Italian
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	9.15 am	Martin O'Shea RIP
	11.15 am	Tom and Charles Phelp-Penry RIP
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 am	Ann & Stanley Brown RIP
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 am	<b>NO MASS</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00 am	Funeral of Antonia Loggia (Italian invitation only but live streamed)
	7.00 pm	Fr Richard Biggerstaff (Silver Jubilee)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 am	Janan Allos
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 am	Eduardo Santos & Jose Augusto RIP
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 am	Parishioners who helped Dottie & Paddy Brady
	6.00 pm	Mass in Italian
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	9.15 am	Donald Hill RIP
	11.15 am	Parishioners

**The Church is open for public Masses and booking is required for Sunday Masses. Please book no later than Thursday evening for the following Sunday.**

**May is the month of Mary. Please join us for the Rosary on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays 9.00-9.15 am in the church, starting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.**

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

*Michael Snee, Margaret Hawkes, Anna Sartori, Maureen Lloyd, , Sheila Day, Nicoletta Lanzisera, 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.*

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of Antonia Loggia, Bernadette Barnbrook and Annette Watling who died recently.**

**Fr Bill writes:** With the relaxation of the pandemic restrictions **30** people are now allowed at Baptisms. The **Offertory Procession** can now take place and the priest will at Communion now say “**Body of Christ**” to which each person responds **Amen**. **Altar Servers** can now start to fulfil their role. However there can be no singing on the part of the Congregation and masks and social distancing regulations are still in place.

I am very grateful for the work of the stewards in ensuring that we are all safe and that social distancing is maintained as far as is possible. Without their generous help the church would not legally be able to open. It is important therefore that we show our appreciation for what they do by complying with their instructions. **It would be very helpful if some of you could help with the cleaning of benches after Mass on Sundays so that it is not left to the generous few.**

Please note that we are in the process of changing the parish email address from [mail@sterconwalds.org.uk](mailto:mail@sterconwalds.org.uk) to the official diocesan email address [walton@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:walton@abdiocese.org.uk) As from now if you wish to contact the parish office please use the official diocesan email address. For the time being we will be receiving emails from the old email address but in time this will be expected to reduce.

**Please note that there is no Mass on Tuesday because I will be at the Cathedral all day.**

**Pentecost Novena of Prayer:** We have been asked by the Pope to pray for the success of the conference on climate change that will be taking place later in the year. The Bishops of England and Wales have provided materials for a prayerful novena leading up to Pentecost. You are invited to join with the rest of the country in this time of prayer. The materials are on the parish web site.

**First Confessions:** Please pray for the children on the Sacramental Preparation Programme, who will be celebrating the Sacramental of Reconciliation for the first time during the coming week. Please note that Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May there will be no Exposition and during the morning children will be making their First Confession. Tom and Charles Phelp-Penry RIP

**First Communion and First Reconciliation:** I will be meeting groups of parents and children on the Sacramental Preparation Course face-to-face to introduce them to the Church and to what will happen when they Make their First Communion in July. These meetings will take start at 5.30 pm on Wednesdays and 3.30 pm on Saturdays and last no more than an hour.

**Rosary in May:** You are invited to gather and say the Rosary on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 9.00 am to 9.15 am prior to the Morning Mass will commences at 9.30 am.

In the post Easter period there will be Exposition and Confessions after the 9.30 am Mass on Saturdays.

*Any notices for this newsletter to be sent to Fr Bill at [walton@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:walton@abdiocese.org.uk)*

## **OFFERTORY COLLECTION 16<sup>th</sup> May: £624.50 banked Offertory £204.50**

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

## **Announcements**

**Climate Change Petition:** We all know about the climate change. Because of the Climate Change emergency Pope Francis has called on us all to take action. CAFOD and other development charities are also at the forefront of campaigning, because climate change is already hitting the some of the poorest countries hard.

Please will you click on the link below and sign the petition to the UK government to take a strong lead on this issue. Why now? Because the UK is hosting two major conferences of world leaders this year- the G7 in June and the UN "COP26" climate talks in November.

The eyes of the world will be on Britain and with a massive campaign showing popular support, our government will be more likely to push for stronger measures to combat climate change.

Please sign at [cafod.org.uk/reclaim](https://cafod.org.uk/reclaim) and encourage friends and family to do the same.

Thank you!

**CAFOD Opportunities:** Step into the Gap with CAFOD's gap year programme. Applications are open until 31 May 2021. It's an opportunity for 18–30-year-olds: learn more about yourself and global justice whilst gaining skills and work experience. Accommodation, travel expenses and stipend included. More info at: [www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear](https://www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear)

**Parish Jam and Plant Sale** returns on **Sunday June 6th.**

Homemade jams, and home-grown plants (tomatoes, courgettes etc.) will be available in the Church Car Park, between the 9.15 and 11.15 Masses, with proceeds in aid of CAFOD.

Donations and buyers very welcome! (To maintain COVID safety, exact cash would be appreciated).

Thank you for your support.

**Forthcoming Feasts**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May    Mary Mother of the Church**

The Blessed Virgin Mary has been given the title of Mother of the Church since she gave birth to Christ, the Head of the Church, and she became the Mother of the redeemed people before her Son had given up the spirit on the Cross. Pope Paul VI solemnly confirmed the title in an address to the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council on 21 November 1964 and decreed that the whole Christian people should, by the use of this beautiful title, give still greater honour to the Mother of God.

‘The joyous veneration given to the Mother of God by the contemporary Church, in light of reflection on the mystery of Christ and on his nature, cannot ignore the figure of a woman (cf. Gal 4:4), the Virgin Mary, who is both the Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church. In some ways this was already present in the mind of the Church from the premonitory words of Saint Augustine and Saint Leo the Great. In fact the former says that Mary is the mother of the members of Christ, because with charity she cooperated in the rebirth of the faithful into the Church, while the latter says that the birth of the Head is also the birth of the body, thus indicating that Mary is at once Mother of Christ, the Son of God, and mother of the members of his Mystical Body, which is the Church’ (Decree of the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship).



**St Bede** was born in the north of England, near the monastery of Wearmouth. He joined that monastery, and spent all his life there or at Jarrow, teaching and writing. He was the outstanding ecclesiastical author of his time. He wrote commentaries on Scripture; an ecclesiastical history of the English people, which is a unique and irreplaceable resource for much of early English history; and the first martyrology (collection of saints' lives) to be compiled on historical principles. He was also the first known writer of English prose, though this has not survived. He died at Jarrow on 25 May 735: he taught and worked until the last moments of his life, which are narrated by Cuthbert in today's Office of Readings. He is venerated as the "light of the Church" in the Dark Ages, and as a forerunner of the 8th and 9th century renaissance of the Western Church.



**St Philip Neri** was born in Florence in 1515. At the age of eighteen he went to Rome, and earned his living as a tutor. He undertook much-needed charitable work among the young men of the city, and started a brotherhood to help the sick poor and pilgrims.

He was advised that he could do more good as a priest, and was ordained in 1551. He built an oratory over the church of San Girolamo, where he invented services, consisting of spiritual readings and hymns, which were the origin of the oratorio (tradition is a good thing; but innovation also has its place). He continued to serve the young men of Rome, rich and poor alike, with religious discussions and by organising charitable enterprises. He had a particular care for the young students at the English College in Rome, studying for a missionary life and probable martyrdom in England.

He inspired other clergy to emulate him, and formed them into the Congregation of the Oratory. Oratorian foundations still flourish in many countries today. He died in Rome in 1595

**St Philip Neri** was an enemy of solemnity and conventionality. When some of his more pompous penitents made their confession to him (he was famous as a confessor) he imposed salutary and deflating penances on them, such as walking through the streets of Rome carrying his cat (he was very fond of cats). When a novice showed signs of excessive seriousness, Philip stood on his head in front of him, to make him laugh. When people looked up to him too much, he did something ridiculous so that they should not respect someone who was no wiser – and no less sinful – than they were. In every case there was an excellent point to his pranks: to combat pride, or melancholy, or hero-worship.

Laughter is not much heard in churches: perhaps that is to be expected... but outside church, Christians should laugh more than anyone else – laugh from sheer joy, that God bothered to make us, and that he continues to love us despite the idiots we are.

Everyone is a sinner, but Christians are sinners *redeemed* – an undeserved rescue that we make even less deserved by everything we do. It is too serious a matter to be serious about: all we can reasonably do is rejoice.

Very many of the saints, not just St Philip, have an abiding terror of being looked up to. For they know their imperfections better than anyone else, and being revered by other people is doubly bad. It is bad for the others, who should be revering God instead, and for themselves, because they might be tempted to believe their own image and believe themselves to be worthy.

We are not saints yet, but we, too, should beware. Uprightness and virtue do have their rewards, in self-respect and in respect from others, and it is easy to find ourselves aiming for the result rather than the cause. Let us aim for joy, rather than respectability. Let us make fools of ourselves from time to time, and thus see ourselves, for a moment, as the all-wise God sees us.