

ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER 20TH JUNE 2021

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Mass Intentions and Mass Times: Week starting 20th June

Saturday 19 th June	9.30 am	In Thanksgiving
	6.00 pm	Mass in Italian
Sunday 20 th June	9.15 am	John Reid RIP
	11.15 am	Parishioners
Monday 21 st June	9.30 am	Annette Watling RIP
Tuesday 22 nd June	2.30 pm	Funeral Mass for Maureen Lloyd RIP
Wednesday 23 rd June	7.00 pm	Private Intention
Thursday 24 th June	9.30 am	Liturgy of the Word
Friday 25 th June	9.30 am	Mary Hales RIP
Saturday 26 th June	9.30 am	Helen Devereux RIP
	6.00 pm	Mass in Italian
Sunday 27 th June	9.15 am	Michael William Prince RIP
	11.15 am	Michael & Bridie Rourke

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.

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

Michael Snee, Margaret Hawkes, Anna Sartori, Sheila Day, Nicoletta Lanzisera, Rose Collins, Carmen Galanty, Patrick Russell, Ann Griffin, Ann Lane, Dina Yates, Rose Collins, Manuel and Jackie Faraldo, Eileen Englefield, Andres Gomez, Christian Misuraca, Christopher Clifford and Catherine Browle.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Lloyd who has died recently. Her funeral service will be on 22nd June. Pray also for the repose of the soul of Annette Watling RIP, whose funeral will be on Monday at Randalls Park Crematorium.

Fr Bill writes: Although there is a certain relaxation in some of the COVID restrictions we are still asked to be cautious and keep one metre apart in enclosed spaces even though we may be wearing masks. While people may wish to have conversations with people whom they have not seen for a long time it is important that those conversations take place outside and in areas that blocks the smooth exit of people from the church.

In line with the Bishops' request to increase the COVID capacity of our churches by reducing the social distance to one metre for those wearing masks, there will be space for two bubbles per bench in the church. This will be important for funerals and it enables some parishioners to attend the First Communion Masses on the Saturday afternoon if they so wish. **However booking is still essential for any parishioners wishing to attend the First Communion Masses to ensure that the church remains within the COVID guidelines. First Communion families are entitled to one bench each. Parishioners should only book for one of the Masses in the first instance to give others a chance. The Masses will take place on Saturday 3rd July, 10th July, 17th July and 24th July. All Masses will start at 2.00 pm.**

John and Ola will be departing during the weekend of 17/18th July to start a new venture in Cumbria in the north of England. There will be an opportunity to say goodbye to them during the weekend 10/11th July. The Parish is grateful for all that they have done during their time here.

Advance Warning: The First Communion Masses will be taking place at 2.00 pm on the first four Saturday afternoons during the first four weeks of July. On those Saturdays there will be no morning Masses though the opportunity for Confessions will continue.

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.**

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.

Offertory Collection:

Standing Orders for May totalled £2934

Those who are not able to attend Mass on Sundays can either put their 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.

Alternatively make a bank transfer.

Parish sort code 40 05 20

Account No 01126393

Payable to A&B Diocesan Trust St Erconwalds

Announcements

Parish Jam and Plant sale: A huge thank you for your very generous support of the Parish Jam and Plant Sale last weekend, which so far has raised over £250 for CAFOD. Thank you to all those who came along, and for some very kind plant donations. Happy eating and planting!!

London Students for Life was established last year to advocate for and support the prolife message. You can see more about them here: <https://www.facebook.com/londonstudentsforlife/about/> This is their second sponsored walk: the first raised funds to help pregnant students. This walk is to support the great work of Good Counsel Network which offers practical and emotional support to women who might otherwise feel forced to abort. See: <https://goodcounselnet.co.uk/about-the-good-counsel>

This is a wonderful and courageous initiative by London students and it would be great to see them offered encouragement through promotion of their work and donations to this cause. And the A & B Diocese has a special connection with this group as one of the co-founders, Mollie, is the daughter of Tessa and Fr Graham Ricketts. Tessa is our Diocesan Social Action Adviser.

Forthcoming Feast Days

Monday St Aloysius Gonzaga (1568 - 1591)

St Aloysius was the eldest son of a Mantuan nobleman, and was intended by his father to be a soldier. Aloysius, on the other hand, had determined to be a missionary, and even to die for his faith. He renounced his birthright in favour of his brother and at the age of 16 became a Jesuit novice in Rome, living the same life of severe austerity and penance that he had followed even when serving in the courts of dukes and princes. In 1591 an epidemic of plague broke out in Rome, and the Jesuits opened a hospital to care for the sick. Aloysius, still a novice, worked hard in the hospital until he himself caught the plague. He did not recover; but, his determination to die for the faith having been fulfilled, died at midnight on the 20th of June with the name of Jesus on his lips.

Tuesday St John Fisher and St Thomas Moore

St John Fisher was born in Beverley, in Yorkshire, in 1469. He studied theology at the University of Cambridge, and had a successful career there, finally becoming chancellor of the University and bishop of Rochester: unusually for the time, he paid a great deal of attention to the welfare of his diocese.

He wrote much against the errors and corruption into which the Church had fallen, and was a friend and supporter of great humanists such as Erasmus of Rotterdam; but he was greatly opposed to Lutheranism, both in its doctrine and in its ideas of reform.

He supported the validity of King Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and for this he was briefly imprisoned. When the King had divorced Catherine, married Anne Boleyn, and constituted himself the supreme Head of the Church in England, John Fisher refused to assent. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London on a charge of treason, and on 22 June 1535, a month after having been made a Cardinal by the Pope, he was executed. He was so ill and weak that he had to be carried in a chair to the place of execution.

He was the only bishop to oppose Henry VIII's actions, on the grounds that they were a repudiation of papal authority, but even so he avoided direct confrontation with the other bishops, not holding himself up as a hero or boasting of his coming martyrdom: *I condemn no other man's conscience: their conscience may save them, and mine must save me*. We should remember, in all the controversies in which we engage, to treat our opponents as if they were acting in good faith, even if they seem to us to be acting out of spite or self-interest.

St Thomas More (1477 - 1535)

He was born in London, the son of a judge, and himself became an eminent lawyer. He married twice, and had four children. He was a humanist and a reformer, and his book, *Utopia*, depicting a society regulated by the natural virtues, is still read today.

Thomas More was a close friend of King Henry VIII. As a judge, he was famous for his incorruptibility and impartiality, and he was made Lord Chancellor – the highest legal position in England – in 1529.

When Henry VIII demanded a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, Thomas More opposed him. He resigned the chancellorship in 1532 and retired from public life; but he could not retire from his reputation, and so it was demanded that he take an oath to support the Act of Succession, which effectively repudiated papal religious authority. He refused, and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. After the execution of John Fisher, he was tried on the charge of high treason for denying the King's supreme headship of the Church, found guilty, and sentenced to death. He went to his execution, on 6 July 1535, with a clear conscience and a light heart; he told the spectators that he was still "the king's good servant – but God's first," and carefully adjusted his beard before he was beheaded.

He wrote a number of devotional works, some of the best of them while in prison awaiting trial. He fought his fight without acrimony, telling his judges that he wished that "we may yet hereafter in Heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation."

Golf

There was a clergyman who was an avid golfer. One Sunday was a picture-perfect day for golf, and the minister could not resist the temptation. He rang his assistant and told him he was too ill to attend church. Then he packed up the car, and drove three hours to a golf course where no one would recognise him. Happily, he began to play the course. But an angel up above was watching the minister and was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, 'Look at the minister. He should be punished for what he's doing.'

God nodded in agreement. The minister teed up on the first hole. He swung, and the ball sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup three hundred and fifty yards away. A perfect hole-in-one. The minister was amazed and overjoyed. The angel was a little shocked. He turned to God and said: 'Begging your pardon, but I thought you were going to punish him.' And God smiled. 'Think about it; who can he tell?'

Helpful signs

Sign on a door: Push. If that doesn't work. Pull. If that doesn't work, we're closed.

In front of a church: Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case.

In the grounds of a private school: No trespassing without permission.

A sign advertising a Company-wide skiing race: Let's see who can go downhill the fastest.

Outside a photographer's studio: Out to lunch: if not back by five, out for dinner also.

