

ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER 11TH APRIL 2021

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Mass Intentions and Mass Times: Week starting 11th April

Saturday 10 th April	9.30 am	Gabrielle Daniel RIP (<i>Followed by Exposition & Confessions</i>)
Sunday 11 th April (Divine Mercy)	9.15 am	Betty Braganza RIP
	11.15 am	Intentions of Simonne Ellis
Monday 12 th April	9.30 am	Sheila Jones RIP
Tuesday 13 th April	9.30 am	Dominic Raab MP
Wednesday 14 th April	7.00 pm	Iris and Herbert Waldron RIP
Thursday 15 th April	11.00 am	Requiem Mass for Monica Zaufall
Friday 16 th April	9.30 am	Joe and Sarah Hegarty RIP
Saturday 17 th April	9.30 am	Kathleen McMahon RIP <i>followed by Confessions and Exposition</i>
	6.00 pm	Mass in Italian
Sunday 18 th April	9.15 am	Margaret and Gerard Maher 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.

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, 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 Monica Zaufall and Bernard Addley who have died recently. Monica's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday at 11.00 am and will be open to all parishioners.

Fr Bill writes: Many thanks to all who helped during the Liturgies of the Triduum: flower arrangers, cleaners, sacristan, musicians, readers and those who attended. AS things start to open up, we hope to have more live music on Sundays. At present the demand is exceeding supply of places available. **Please book no later than the Thursday prior to the Sunday.**

Many thanks to the children: who submitted paintings for the web site. There are Easter Eggs available. Some have yet to be collected!

Please note that there will be no Liturgy of the Word on Thursday because of the Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Monica Zaufal.

Advance warning: On 19th April I have to co-preside at a family funeral in West Kirby in the Wirral. There will be no Mass celebrated at St Erconwald's on Monday and there will be a Liturgy of the Word on Tuesday 20th April. I will celebrate Mass on Thursday 22nd April in the Parish.

Carlos submitted a poem which is enclosed in this newsletter. Well done, Carlos!

Christus Resurrexit! (Christ is Risen!)

God sent his only begotten son, Jesus,
Who had numerous friends.
And countless times did Jesus say,
"God's love for us never ends!"
They had so much joy together,
And Jesus kept on preaching.
His disciples watched him, spellbound,
As they enjoyed his teaching!
Despite being the son of God,
Envious people despised him.
They plotted against him in secret
And of crucifixion he was to be a victim.
They put a false case against him,
Saying he broke the law.
They said "Let's put him to death, now"
And off his clothes they tore.
Whipped and jeered, he carried a heavy cross,

Through the crowds of Jerusalem town.
They mocked our sweet loving Jesus;
On the journey to Mt. Calvary, 3 times he did fall down.
Roman soldiers nailed Jesus to the rugged cross and he died,
And thought that this was his end.
But Jesus, our Lord, conquered death,
But was his spirit going to ascend?
3 days after his death on the cross,
Mary Magdalene went to the tomb.
She went to grieve for dear Jesus,
In the desolate gloom.
When Mary reached the lonely tomb,
She very nearly fled.
In place of Jesus there was his body's bandages.
"But that's impossible!" she cried. "He's dead!"
She found two men in the tomb,
One said "He's risen and alive!
He roams this garden looking for you,
And he's happy as bees in a hive."
Mary looked around for him,
Till she could look no more.
She felt exhausted,
So, she sat on the floor.
She felt quite famished,
But then she heard a voice.
"Come up now, woman,
Come and rejoice!"
Who do you think it was?
Mary was full of glee,
It was her Lord Jesus,
As glorious as can be!
He said, "Come and share the good news,
The good news of me.
I've risen from the dead, you know,
And I'm as alive as can be.

In the post Easter period there will be Exposition and Confessions after the 9.30 am Mass on Saturdays. **This will start on Saturday 10th April.**

Live Streaming: I believe that the broadband connection has now been restored to its previous reliability and I hope that parishioners will not have any interruption to transmission of services because of this.

Confessions: I will be available for Confessions after Mass on Saturday 20th and 27th March and 3rd April for an hour. I will locate myself in the sacristy.

I have posted the final set of stations of the cross using **artwork of Sieger Koder** on the parish web site. I will take them down in a week's time to protect copyright.. They can be accessed at <https://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/stations.html>

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

There has been a hiatus in the counting of the offertory collection posted through the letterbox or put in the plate at the end of Mass. I am now aiming to finish any outstanding counts by the middle of next week.

7th March Offertory Collection: **£160**; Crib Collection 2020: **£56.17**

14th March Offertory collection: **£229**. Amount banked:**£491.60**

21st March Offertory Collection **£160.60**. Amount banked **£499.60**

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

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.

Thank you for your continued support

Feasts of the Coming Week

The Feast of Divine Mercy 2nd Sunday of Easter was recorded in the diary of St. Faustina granting the biggest promise of Grace from the Devotion of Divine Mercy¹. On this day, all who receive communion may obtain total forgiveness of all sins, meaning that the person would go directly to heaven without suffering in purgatory². Plenary indulgences are granted by the catholic church by reciting certain simple prayers². Saint Faustina Kowalska was a polish nun who received visitations and visions of Jesus, where he asked specifically for a feast of Divine Mercy to be founded the Sunday after easter³. She wrote about her vision of the feast of Divine Mercy being attended by innumerable participants and the pope in 1937. The first Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday was held on March 23, 1937⁵. Saint Faustina was canonized on April 30, 2000, by Pope John Paul II on the Sunday after easter of that year and became an official

catholic holiday⁴. Both Faustina Kowalska and her confessor Father Micheal Sopocko attended the Mass⁵.

Celebration

Those confessing will go to church on this day and partake in the usual practices as well as faithfully detaching themselves from their sins⁶. Confession will also be made either on this day or several days before.

Friday 16th April St Bernadette Soubirous



She was born in 1844 to a destitute family in Lourdes, in France. On 11 February 1858 she went down to the river Gave with her sister and a friend, to look for firewood and bones. There she received the first of a series of visions of the Mother of God which led to Lourdes becoming a place of pilgrimage and healing. In 1866 she became a nun at Nevers, where she died on 16 April 1879.

It is a rule of the Church that saints are to be celebrated for what they are and what they do – to serve as examples of heroic virtue for us all – and not merely for what happens to them. There is no way that we can all go off and have visions of Our Lady, and the world would be a madhouse if we tried. So what of Bernadette? What heroic virtue has she that we should imitate? There are two: suffering, and humility.

Bernadette was seriously ill with asthma all her life and she died young; but she never let illness be an excuse for anything – how many times do we, feeling a little unwell, use that as an excuse for being bad-tempered or simply not doing what we ought?

To move away from Bernadette for a moment: imagine that you are a poor working-class boy with little education who happens to be good at kicking a ball about. Within a few years you find yourself earning more, annually, than your

father earned in his entire lifetime. You receive attention, adulation, status – all that you could possibly desire. People emulate you. They hang on your every word. How would you feel? How would you act?

Next, imagine that you are a poor girl – not even working-class, because your father hardly ever has any work – poor in a way that we can hardly conceive of – unintelligent and uneducated, and suddenly something happens to you. Overnight you are famous. People come in crowds to see you (sometimes the police have to control them). Everyone treats you with respect and admiration. They hang on your every word and ask you, over and over, questions about even the tiniest detail of your experience. They press coins into your family’s hands. You shut yourself up in a convent far from home, but even there you are constantly visited by bishops and other eminent persons who just want a quick look at you.

Wouldn’t that turn your head? Just a little? Wouldn’t you think that there must be something about you that made you worth seeing? However tiny that something was?

Here is Bernadette’s response, in conversation with one of the nuns:

“What do you do with a broom?”

“Why, sweep with it, of course.”

“And then?”

“Put it back in its place.”

“Yes. And so for me. Our Lady used me. They have put me in my corner. I am happy there, and stay there.”

Saint Bernadette Soubirous is patron saint of the sick, and rightly so. But if there is to be a patron saint of celebrities and footballers, Bernadette would be a wise choice for that task too.

Smile Lines

Right-click

Tech Support: “I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop.”

Customer: “OK.”

Tech Support: “Did you get a pop-up menu?”

Customer: “No.”

Tech Support: “OK. Right-click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?”

Customer: “No.”

Tech Support: “OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?”

Customer: “Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.”

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How to make your wife more efficient

An efficiency expert was delivering a seminar on time management for a company's junior executives. He concluded the session with a disclaimer: "But whatever you do, do NOT attempt these task-organising tips at home," he said.

When he was asked why not, he explained: "Well, I did a study of my wife's routine of fixing breakfast. I noticed she made a lot of trips between the refrigerator and the stove, the table and the cabinets, each time carrying only one item. So, I told her: 'Darling you are making too many trips back and forth carrying one item at a time. If you would only try carrying several things at once you would be much more efficient.'" He paused.

"Did that save time?" one of the executives asked.

"Actually, yes," the expert answered, "It used to take her 15 minutes to fix my breakfast. Now I get my own in seven minutes."

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