

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM PREPARATION

These sessions take place regularly throughout the year. Please contact the office for details and to book. The next Baptism session will take place on **Tuesday 4 February at 8pm on Zoom.**

RECONCILIATION

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we encounter God's love for us through the gift of forgiveness, pardon and peace. This Sacrament is regularly available in church on Saturdays after the 9.30 Mass or on request.

Children are introduced to **Reconciliation** during the year in which they make their first Holy Communion and are then invited to celebrate this sacrament of God's healing.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

Our First Holy Communion programme for 2024-25 is now underway. Please pray for all our First Holy Communion children, their catechists and their families.

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation programme is now also underway. Please pray for our Confirmation candidates as they prepare for this Sacrament, which they will receive next year at Arundel Cathedral.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 08 Feb	9.30 10.00	St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin MASS Adoration and Reconciliation
	16.45 18.00	ITALIAN MASS MASS For the Abolition of Modern Slavery
Sun 09 Feb	9.15	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time MASS Sandra Jane Colon RIP (Anniversary)
	11.15	MASS For the Abolition of Slavery
	13.00	POLISH MASS
Mon 10 Feb	9.30	St Scholastica, Virgin (Memorial) MASS Joan Leavy RIP
Tue 11 Feb	18.30 19.30	Adoration and Reconciliation MASS Mary O'Halloran RIP
Wed 12 Feb	9.30	MASS Felicja & George Brown RIP Rosary
Thu 13 Feb	NO MASS	NO MASS
Fri 14 Feb	9.30	Ss Cyril, Monk, and Methods, Bishop, Patrons of Europe (Feast) MASS Tom McGrath RIP (Anniversary)
	10.00	Divine Mercy Prayer
Sat 15 Feb	9.30 10.00	MASS Adoration and Reconciliation
	16.45 18.00	ITALIAN MASS MASS Margaret Hawkes RIP (Anniversary)
Sun 16 Feb	9.15	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time MASS Gareth Fox RIP (Anniversary)
	11.15	MASS Parishioners

TODDLER PRAISE AND PLAY

The toddler group meets on Fridays during term-time for toddlers and their parent(s)/grandparent(s) etc. **Please sign up** online: <https://sterconwalds.churchsuite.com/events/igv3pov>



ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER

8-9 FEBRUARY 2025

Catch of the Day

Today's Gospel recounts the miraculous catch of fish by Jesus and his disciples. As you can imagine, this text from the Holy Bible is one of my favourite readings. Perhaps this is no surprise to you if you know me well, I love fishing. I couldn't dare imagine how many portions of fish and chips Jesus and his disciples could cook. I am writing this on Thursday and not on Friday as you may have thought. Anyway, it is better for me to come back to the reflection on the Gospel! Behind this story of "catch of the day" is a story of a deep transformation of Jesus' disciples. They were fishermen and experts in their field that is why they initially refused to pay the net into the water as Jesus requested. No one catches fish in the middle of a hot day. Exactly there is the point that the disciples changed from doubters to believers as they saw the miracle of catching fish. Similarly, today Jesus calls us to follow him. We may be afraid and have some doubts, like the disciples in the reading today, but it is worth following him since only Christ can satisfy our deepest needs and give us everlasting happiness.

With prayers Fr. Ruslan and the PPC

JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The Parish Pastoral Council has been busy working on the programme for celebrating the Jubilee Year. A flyer will be available in the next week or two. In the meantime, please note



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Fr Ruslan will be leading us in a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine of Walsingham from **10-11 July**. Details to follow, but do put it in your diaries!

FEBRUARY PRAYER FOCUS

Pope Francis us to pray for vocations this month. He reminds us that "God still calls young people even today, sometimes in ways we can't imagine. Sometimes we don't hear because we're too busy with our own things, our own plans, even with our own things in the Church. But the Holy Spirit also speaks to us through dreams and speaks to us through the concerns young people feel in their hearts."

He says: "Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel called to live Jesus' mission in life: either through the priestly life or religious life."

MODERN SLAVERY

This **Saturday 8 February** we celebrate the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, who encountered slavery.

This weekend we celebrate the **World Day of the Sick, and we remember them in prayer.** Our **SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK** will be for the Lourdes pilgrimage fund.

PARISH PRIEST

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tue - Fri 10:00 -13:30

WEBSITE

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PARISH BANK DETAILS

SORT CODE 40-05-20

ACCOUNT NO 01126393

DONATIONS PAYABLE TO:

RCD A&B ST ERCONWALD'S
WALTON ON THAMES.

You can also donate in church using the DONA device or the QR codes in the pews. Please use Gift Aid if you can. Thank you for all your help and financial contributions!

DEAR PARISHIONERS

This section of our newsletter is for those in need of our prayers, whether sick, housebound or just in need of extra prayer. If you would like your name or someone you know to be added to the list, please let the office know. If you are submitting on behalf of someone else, please seek their permission first. If you are sick or unwell and would like Fr Ruslan to know but not have your name in the newsletter, just let us know.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS

Aman Allos, Teresa Azouz, Baby Elm, Roger Blishen, Christopher Clifford and Catherine Browle, Katherine Cawley, Trish Claxton, Rose Collins, Jimmy Connaughtoin, Thérésè Crumpler, James De Leons-Hopkins, Maureen and Bill Dodds, Julia Donaldson, Mary Edenborough, Manuel and Jackie Faraldo, Michael and Cathy Flynn, Carole Frost, Carmen Galanty, Sophie Giannini, Franky Goes, Gloria Gowen, Ann Griffin, the Hansford family, Yvonne and Michael Johnson, Karen Lane, John Lydon, Rita McGloin, Oscar Menezes, Christian Misuraca, Sarah Mitchell, Maureen Moriarty, Eileen Mulqueen, Colleen Murphy, Louise Nettleton, Arlo Nolan, Ben Piltsher, Shirley Rhodhes, Deborah Russell, Evie Sagun, Anna Sartori, Michael Spears, Michelle Thomas, Eileen White, Angela Widdup, Dina Yates.

HOME VISITS

Fr Ruslan would like to meet parishioners who are too poorly to come to church at different times throughout the year in their homes. Do reach out to Susana in the office, Ann Meehan or Fr Ruslan so we can schedule visits.

THANK YOU to all who came to help take down the **decorations and the crib** last weekend. In a couple of weeks we'd like to have a **deep clean of the kitchen**. If you'd like to help, please contact Lucy on 07740 461 785 so we can arrange a convenient time!

And **Fr Bill thanks all parishioners and children of Cardinal Newman School** for their kind wishes, cards and enclosures. It was a wonderful occasion last Sunday. God bless you all.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dominic and Norma Ennis, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this Sunday!

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH!

Youth-led masses will now take place **every 4th Saturday of the month at 6pm, starting on Saturday 22 February**. These Masses are for you! **We invite and encourage you to join in - whether reading, welcoming, music, etc.** Please do contact Fr Ruslan - and let him know what else our parish can do for you.

PARISH PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

This year's confirmation candidates would once again like to invite the parish to a Ploughman's lunch on **Sunday 23 February** at 12.30 in the hall. The young people will prepare and serve the lunch. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the porch. Please support our youngsters as they continue their confirmation journey.

LENT is nearly upon us! Our leaflet with our Lenten focus and full list of activities, services and focusses will be available soon. There's lots going on!

On **Shrove Tuesday 4 March** we'll have our annual **pancake party** from 3.45-5pm. Sign ups and further details to follow.

DROP IN WELCOME COFFEE MORNING!

Do join us anytime from 10-11.30am on **Wednesday 5 March** (Ash Wednesday in the hall for a cuppa and a chat - the first of our monthly coffee mornings! We'd warmly like to invite all parishioners, with or without babies/toddlers, young or not so young, and especially those who have joined our parish more recently. Come and say hello!

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 7 MARCH

This year the ecumenical Service will be held by our friends at the Methodist church in terrace Road, Walton at 10am. All will be very welcome. We shall have a special **Stations of the Cross** in our parish that Friday too - details to follow.

DIVINE MERCY REFLECTION AFTERNOON

Mark the date in your calendars! On **Saturday 8 March from 1.30-4.30pm** we'll be led by Marian Fathers in an afternoon reflection. This will include Mass, Benediction and a talk on Divine Mercy and hope during this Jubilee year. We'll have refreshments in the hall afterwards. See the poster in the porch. It's an ideal opportunity to **come along and see** and would be a prayerful way to start your **Lenten journey**. See the website for the full programme.
<https://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/parish-retreats.html>

FIVE-WEEK ALPHA PARENTING COURSE

Do you have young children 2-10 years old? Would you like to like to learn practical and valuable tips and strategies to help build and strengthen your family relationships? Join us for this family parenting course. It's based on Christian principles but is designed for everyone regardless of their faith. Meet other parents and share experiences in faith parenting. It will run on Monday evenings starting on **10 March, time TBC**. **SIGN UPS START NEXT WEEK** online or in the porch.

FUNDRAISING 100 Club

We are launching St Erconwald's 100 Club, similar to many parishes and clubs up and down the country. Members are entered in a monthly lottery; 40% of the income goes to cash prizes and the remaining 60% goes to the church and will be split between running costs and maintenance projects. If you would like more information about joining the club please contact the office and full details will be sent to you.

Silent auction - apartment in Italy

Want to visit Italy/Rome during the Jubilee year?! One of our parishioners has generously offered a week's use of their apartment north of Rome as a silent auction prize - it's an easy day visit to Rome. Contact the office, more details to follow!

OTHER NEWS/EVENTS

JUBILEE FOR YOUTH - PILGRIMS OF HOPE - ROME 2025

Young adults from all over the world aged 18-30 will be gathering in Rome from 28 July-4 August to celebrate the special Jubilee year. Join other like-minded people as part of the Diocesan group. Full details are on the diocesan website. **Parish support is available - contact the parish office.**

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Applications for this summer's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (**25-31 July** by air or own transport, **24 July-1 August** by coach/jumbulance) are now open on the diocesan website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home> In the context of this Jubilee year, the Lourdes theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. We are invited to set out on our pilgrimage journey with our Lady and St Bernadette, in the 'hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ.' (Pope Francis, Spes non Confundit 2025).

Lourdes is a place of renewal. We enter a space in which we can be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in ways that, perhaps, we would never have thought possible before. **We warmly encourage parishioners to apply; financial support is available. Deadline is 31 March.** Please contact the parish office.

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT

The annual Walton and Hersham Irish Society St Patrick's Night will be on **Saturday 15 March** at All Saints in Hersham. Come along and enjoy the craic! **Tickets are now on sale:** <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thehershamwaltonstpa/ddysfamilyshindig/1545561>

COMMUNICATIONS

Please send any newsletter/website/porch/social media items or any amendments to: **comms.sterconwalds@gmail.com** by Thursdays at 2pm for inclusion/ uploading as appropriate. All feedback is welcome.

SAFEGUARDING

If you wish to work with children or vulnerable adults in our parish please contact Tina O'Kelly, our Safeguarding Rep for volunteers: tina@okellynet.com. See our website for further details.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are such a huge part of our parish and we would love to welcome anyone who wishes to get involved as we grow together as a faith community and reach out to those around us. See here for details: <https://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/get-involved.html>

YOUR OFFERINGS PLATECOLLECTIONS FOR 02.02.25: 344.79

STANDING ORDERS FOR JANUARY: £4560.67

THANK YOU!

SAVE THE DATES!

22 FEB: YOUTH-LED MASS
23 FEB: PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH
4 MAR: PANCAKE PARTY
5 MAR: ASH WEDNESDAY AND COFFEE MORNING
7 MAR: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
8 MAR: DIVINE MERCY REFLECTION/RETREAT
10 MAR: PARENTING COURSE STARTS
15 MAR: FLAME CONGRESS
26 APR: POTLUCK AND QUIZ NIGHT
10-11 JUL: PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM
20 SEP: FESTIVAL OF HOPE