

ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER 27TH JUNE 2021

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Mass Intentions and Mass Times: Week starting 27th June

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
Monday 28 th June	7.00 pm	Yvonne & Maurice Dunne RIP (<i>Vigil Mass of SS Peter & Paul</i>)
Tuesday 29 th June	9.30 am	Joe Hegarty RIP (<i>SS Peter & Paul</i>)
Wednesday 30 th June	7.00 pm	Intentions of Glen & Queency Gonsalves
Thursday 1 st July	9.30 am	Liturgy of the Word
Friday 2 nd July	9.30 am	Bernard, Nora Ryan and deceased family members
Saturday 3 rd July	2.00 pm	First Communion Mass
	6.00 pm	Mass in Italian
Sunday 4 th July	9.15 am	Intentions of Joseph Buckley
	11.15 am	Holy Souls

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.

Fr Bill writes: We are about to enter the First Communion season. Please pray for the children and their families at this important time in their faith journeys. Please note that there will be no morning Masses on Saturday. Nor is there Exposition. **I will be around for Confessions on Saturday mornings during July between 10.00 am and 10.30 am**

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.

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.

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.**

Offertory Collection: 6th June £237.61, **13th June** £121.16 **20th June** £207.53.
Banked £697.53

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!!

Settled Status: A reminder to EU nationals in our midst who have been resident since before December 31, 2020. that the EU settlement scheme deadline is June 30, 2021 (next Wednesday). The UK government requires that 'a timely application' is made to ensure their continued ability to work, rent accommodation and access healthcare in the UK. Individuals who hold permanent residence or a European Residence card as an EU national or a

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton charity No 25287

family member must also register for settled status (or to naturalise as British Citizens). It goes without saying that as a community we value enormously your presence, your gifts and your contribution to our life; and it is a source of great sorrow for us when mean-spirited language is used towards any of our brothers and sisters, instead of the language of friendship and welcome. UK Government advice can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status?utm_campaign=EU_SettlementScheme\(apply\)&utm_medium=PaidSearch&utm_source=GoogleBing&utm_content=ExpandedLink&gclid=CjwKCAjwT8uGBhBAEiwAayu_9e9Id3PHJveFyeXmV44ezkGFb20K0U4gAfKE-f3dNaNg9Q4oRAW5tBoCVUwQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status?utm_campaign=EU_SettlementScheme(apply)&utm_medium=PaidSearch&utm_source=GoogleBing&utm_content=ExpandedLink&gclid=CjwKCAjwT8uGBhBAEiwAayu_9e9Id3PHJveFyeXmV44ezkGFb20K0U4gAfKE-f3dNaNg9Q4oRAW5tBoCVUwQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

CCRS - The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is beginning again in our Diocese this September. The course is designed for teachers in Catholic schools, for Catechists and for anyone who would like to grow in understanding as they live their Catholic faith. The CCRS offers a very flexible and accessible way of learning, it includes some online content and is made up of eight modules: six core and two specialist modules. Each module involves ten hours of course time and an assignment. For more information or to register your place please [contact our Formation Adviser](#)

Church Cleaners: Now that things are starting to return to normality we are seeking volunteers to clean the church on a regular basis. This includes the vacuuming of the carpet and clearing of cobwebs etc. If we have sufficient numbers it should not be onerous and a rota could be constructed. Any volunteers should email Susana in the office on the parish email address.

Forthcoming Feast Days

28th June St Irenaeus (130 - 202)

Irenaeus was born in Smyrna, in Asia Minor (now Izmir in Turkey) and emigrated to Lyons, in France, where he eventually became the bishop. It is not known for certain whether he was martyred or died a natural death.

Whenever we take up a Bible we touch Irenaeus's work, for he played a decisive role in fixing the canon of the New Testament. It is easy for people nowadays to think of Scripture – and the New Testament in particular – as the basis of the Church, but harder to remember that it was the Church itself that had to agree, early on, about what was scriptural and what was not.

Before Irenaeus, there was vague general agreement on what scripture was, but a system based on this kind of common consent was too weak. As people meditated on the intolerable event of the Redemption, dissensions and heresies inevitably arose, and reference to scripture was the obvious way of trying to settle what the truth really was. But in the absence of an agreed canon of scripture it was all too easy to attack one's opponent's arguments by saying that his texts were corrupt or unscriptural; and easy, too, to do a little fine-tuning of texts on one's own behalf.

So Irenaeus went through all the books of the New Testament, and all the candidates (such as the magical pseudo-Gospels, and the entertaining and uplifting novel *The Shepherd of Hermas*). He did not simply accept or reject each book, because his enemies could have said that he was doing it to bolster his own arguments: he gave reasons for and against the canonicity of each. Irenaeus's canon of scripture is very nearly the modern one (he does not quote from three of the short universal epistles), but more important is the fact that he started the tradition of biblical scholarship.

Irenaeus had to fight against the Gnostics, who believed that the world was irredeemably wicked, and against the Valentinians, who claimed to be possessors of a secret tradition that had never been written down but passed from master to disciple through the ages. This pessimism and this arcane élitism remain with us even today, and each generation must renew the fight against them. Let us pray for the inspiration of St Irenaeus in our battle.

1st July St Oliver Plunkett (1625 - 1681)

Oliver Plunkett was archbishop of Armagh and primate of All Ireland from 1668, at a time when the country was in a state of civil and religious disorder after the interventions of Oliver Cromwell. He persevered for ten years in his effort to ameliorate this state of affairs, until the discovery of a non-existent "Popish Plot" against the English government (invented and revealed by Titus Oates, who implicated many before he was executed for his part in it) gave the authorities an excuse to act against many prominent Catholics. Plunkett was arrested in Ireland but taken to London for trial; one of his companions was saved by being appointed as Bavarian Ambassador to London and therefore acquiring diplomatic immunity, but for Plunkett there was no such escape, and he was hanged at Tyburn, cheating his executioners by dying before he could be ceremonially disembowelled.

His remains are preserved at Downside Abbey, together with such other relics as the notes for his defence at his trial; on the occasion of his canonization in 1975 his casket was opened and some parts of his body given to the cathedral at Drogheda in Ireland.