

# *St. Erconwald's Parish Magazine*

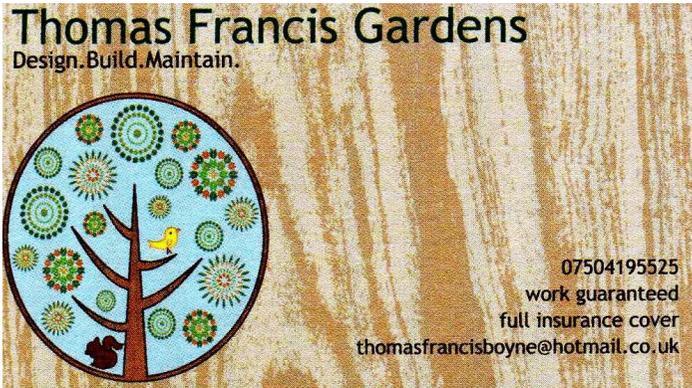


Issue No. 39, Summer 2019

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Cover: Summer Outing: Brighton: View from British Airways i360



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## Editorial: Cardinal John Henry Newman [1801—1890]



Welcome to the summer edition of the parish Magazine.

Cardinal John Henry Newman, a man renowned for his search for truth, his writing, his commitment to education, the hymns he wrote and his dedicated and faithful service as a parish Priest for over 30 years, will be Canonised by Pope Francis in Rome on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Born in London on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1801, baptised into the Church of England, Newman became a Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford in 1822, an Anglican clergyman in 1825 and Vicar of the Oxford University Church in 1828.

The Anglican Newman was a pastor of souls, a University teacher and a student of Christian history and theology. He was a major figure in the *Oxford Movement* to bring the Church of England back to its Catholic roots.

1842-5 were Newman's 'wilderness' years, out of the public eye, secluded in prayer and study. He was convinced that the Faith of the Apostles and Fathers was the Faith of Roman Catholicism. The Church of Christ was the Church of Rome. Embracing the Catholic Church as the 'One Fold of Christ' Newman was received into it at Littlemore by Blessed Dominic Barberi on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1845, twenty years after his ordination as an Anglican priest. Conversion meant ostracism from friends and relatives.

While in Rome studying for the priesthood he became attracted by the idea of the Oratory – a congregation of priests founded by St. Philip Neri, living together in charity, dedicated to prayer, to the liturgy, to preaching, teaching and the intellectual life. Ordained a Catholic priest in Rome in 1847 Newman returned to England where he founded the first English Oratory in Birmingham, and then in London. Pope Leo XIII in 1879 named Newman a Cardinal, while respecting his wishes not to be ordained a bishop. He died on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1890.

Newman was beatified in Birmingham by emeritus Pope Benedict XVI on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010. His journey of faith is inspiring, and his canonization is a chance to thank God for his work and to renew our own commitment to finding God's plan for us.



## Autumn Programme



During the Autumn Term, we will be reflecting on “Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World.” A resource prepared by the Diocese on the theme chosen by Pope Francis in response to his invitation to keep October 2019 as an Extraordinary Month of Mission. Through the stories of six inspirational witnesses, “Baptised and Sent” seeks to deepen our understanding of mission and to widen our horizons.

Starting October, we will be reflecting on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, a major milestone in the development of Catholic mission. Pope Francis has written that, in *Maximum Illud* “Pope Benedict XV sought to give a renewed impetus to the missionary task of proclaiming the Gospel.....what Pope Benedict XV so greatly desired almost a century ago...remains timely”.

*Maximum Illud* is an apostolic letter issued by Pope Benedict XV on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1919. As is traditional with such documents, it takes its name from the opening words of the original Latin text, meaning “that momentous”. Pope Benedict begins by recalling “that momentous and holy charge” found in Mark 16.15: “Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation.”



Finally, none of what we have done or what we are hoping to do would have been possible without the active support and involvement of our parishioners. So a big thank you to all of you who help in the day to day running of the parish, both in the office and in the church. Thank you to everyone in this wonderful Parish which is a privilege to serve and may God bless you and all your families.

Wishing you and all your families a happy and relaxing summer.



Fr. Anthony



From the Parish  
Comings and Goings  
Please remember in your prayers



We welcome and congratulate those who have been baptised here recently, and their families: Faye Hannah Afonso and Ethan Anthony Afonso, Ella Ofunneka Asika, Francis Daniel Nash, Caysha Teresa Coelho, and Leora Daniel Semere.

Congratulations to Fatima Ait Brahim and Laxmin Asika, and their families, who were Baptised, Confirmed and made their First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.



*The Art of Dying Well* is a web site of the Church in England and Wales that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues surrounding death and dying. For more information visit: [www.artofdyingwell.org](http://www.artofdyingwell.org)

Our sympathies to the families of those departed: Joan Kersey, Christine Fernandes, Joyce Bacchus, Kathleen Monaghan, Lourdes Gillingham, John Gibson, and Mary O'Rahilly.

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## Confirmation 2018-2019

Nancy Chu and Rosemary Bradshaw



On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Sarah Cusack, Lisa Dias, Mevia Fernandes, Vilroy Fernandes, William Lekstakaj, Aaron Pereira, Raydin Ranasinghe and Angel Sureshkumar received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 6.00pm Mass.

We were very appreciative to have Bishop John Sherrington to lead us in the celebration. The occasion was well attended by parents, sponsors, family and parishioners. The candidates were very smartly dressed. They participated in the liturgy by welcoming the Bishop and the congregation to the celebration, did the Readings, bidding prayers, offertory and collection of offerings and thanking everyone for coming at the end of Mass.



There was a very joyful party afterwards in the hall with a beautiful cake and refreshments. The hall was filled with sounds of congratulations and laughter as people mingled and chatted. Bishop John commented that there is a very warm family atmosphere in our Parish.

The occasion is a milestone in the young people's life. The preparation programme was made up of ten sessions; and a weekend retreat which was held at the SPEC Centre in Pinner. Part of the programme this year was the opportunity to attend the international youth conference 'Flame' in Wembley Arena on 2<sup>nd</sup> March with over 8,000 youths from the U.K., Ireland and Norway.



At the end of the celebration the newly confirmed received their certificates, a copy of *YouCat*, and Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation to Young People *Christus Vivit* [Christ is Alive] - on which the Bishop's homily was based.



This is a summary of the thoughts and feelings of the candidates about the Sacrament of Confirmation and the preparation programme:

- It has helped me to find out who I am as a person, and how to follow Jesus' footsteps
- It means that I am now responsible

as a Christian

- I am happy to be a fully confirmed member of the Catholic community and will continue to try to be of service to the community
- I am more aware of my faith
- It helps me to be more confident and trust in God
- It helped me to explore my faith more deeply
- It helps me to understand the importance of faith
- It strengthens my communication with God as his child and allows



me to form an unbreakable bond with God

- The Holy Spirit will help me in my life
- It strengthens and confirms my belief so I think it is the most important Christian sacrament
- The best part of the programme was the retreat!



We would like to wish our newly confirmed young parishioners continued progress on their journey of faith.



## First Holy Communion

Bernie Gillen and Bernie O'Reilly



On Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> June, we celebrated Mass with the children who received Holy Communion for the first, but as Fr. Anthony always says, not the last time!

Ruslaan Afonso, Larissa Afonso, Riva Dias, Lucas Daniel-Semere, Avisha Gunasekara, Maya Gracia Marcis-Burog, Vivien Pinho-McLeod, Jessica Salamonzky, and Alice Tohill-Hehir worked hard at all the communion classes with their catechists who are very proud of the effort the children have put in.

The children were all amazingly well dressed for their celebration, the Church was beautifully decorated and the children's work, from all of their classes displayed.



It was a lovely Mass led by Father Anthony and involving all of the children who read the prayers and readings confidently as well as bringing the offertory gifts to Fr. Anthony.



While the children received their First Communion, the church, though full of the children's family and friends, was calm and peaceful as everyone watched the children receive the body and blood of Jesus for the first time.

After the service, Fr. Anthony presented the children with their First Communion certificates (We all hope that the children treasure these in the same way that Fr. Anthony has treasured his for so many years!)

A celebration in the hall followed the service with drinks, food and a lovely cake. The children, their families and the parishioners had a lovely celebration before going on to their own family celebrations.





The children talked about how they felt after their First Holy Communion on the day of the final class on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019.

Quoted by the children:

\* “Nervous, anxious but excited on the morning of my First Holy Communion” and

\* “Wanted to make our families proud of us”;

\* “Relieved and happy when Mass started and we received Jesus for the first time.”

\* It was very exciting to see all our names on the cake.”

\* “I woke early because I was so excited that this special day had arrived. I felt really good when I received Jesus in the bread and wine.



A huge thank you to Fr. Anthony for his enthusiasm, support and excellent organisation during the programme and on the day. Also, a huge thank you to Penny Donetti for decorating the Church so beautifully and to Elizabeth Patten and all her helpers for preparing the food and drinks for the celebration in the hall. Thanks to Martin Murray for taking photographs during and after the Mass which will be given to the children as a reminder of their very special day.

Please remember the children and their families in your prayers.



## So why do we need CAFOD?

CAFOD Team



The Gospels, Catholic Social Teaching and many comments by Pope Francis all focus on our duty as Catholics to love our neighbour and to be responsible stewards of our planet and its resources. We are asked to think of the needs

of others and to share the world's resources. We live comfortable lives here in the United Kingdom compared with others throughout the world but it is not really practical for us to physically share what we have directly. CAFOD provides one way in which we can actively support the Church's teaching and make a real difference to the lives of others.

CAFOD does this by providing us with the opportunity to

- ◆ give to help us reach people who are still in need of help
- ◆ act by making our voices heard through CAFOD'S campaigns
- ◆ pray for our brothers and sisters living in poverty



But why CAFOD amongst other organisations and ways of responding to these needs? Amongst other reasons these points are worth considering:

- \* CAFOD are the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. With your help, they reach out to people living in hard-to-reach places, in war zones and those who are discriminated against.
- \* CAFOD have global reach as part of one of the largest aid networks in the world. Because of this reach and local presence, these together mean CAFOD has the potential to reach everyone. Their local experts help some of the most difficult-to-reach people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.
- \* CAFOD helps people thrive. No one wants to live on handouts. That's why CAFOD's experts provide long-term aid to equip people with the skills, tools and opportunities to live with dignity, support their families and give back to their communities.

**CAFOD**  
just one world



\* CAFOD are there in a crisis supporting teams of experts who can act fast, providing food, water and shelter for people who have lost everything. They are also there in the months and years that follow too, listening and helping people rebuild their lives and prepare for whatever the future holds.

- \* CAFOD speaks out for justice. When international bodies and governments make decisions that damage poor communities, CAFOD speaks out since campaigning works – it can take years of effort or be as simple as signing a petition but it brings results and influences decisions
- \* CAFOD are trusted. The amount of money they receive and exactly how they spend it changes each year. But one thing stays the same – CAFOD'S commitment to spending it wisely.
- \* CAFOD reach out to young people. Each year, tens of thousands of young people discover CAFOD's work at school or in groups – from volunteers, teachers and classmates. They reach out to young people to be the change they want to see in their communities and worldwide.

In caring for others we are responding to the Lord's call and will be able to respond to the Gospel story of the sheep and the goats:

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the upright will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."*

There is more information about CAFOD and its work at:

[www.cafod.org.uk/About-us/What-we-do](http://www.cafod.org.uk/About-us/What-we-do)



## BIBLE QUIZ: Plants in the Bible



1. From what kind of wood did Noah build the ark?

a. Elm, b. Gopher, c. Cherry, d. Oak

2. When Aaron put his rod inside the Tabernacle, what grew on it?

a. Olives, b. Almonds, c. Figs, d. Moss

3. What happened when Moses cast a tree into the waters of Marah?

a. The children of Israel were able to use the tree as a bridge, b. the water dissolved the tree completely, c. the waters were made sweet, d. the tree caught fire.



4. What did Jacob give Esau in exchange for his birthright?

a. a drink of mint, b. an elixir of lavender, c. some pottage of lentils, d. incense of cinnamon

5. Prior to his crucifixion, what piece of attire was placed on Christ's body to humiliate Him?

a. Anklets of rotten fruit, b. a sash of Ivy, c. flaxen manacles, d. a crown of thorns

Fill in the blanks:

6. The Passover meal included lamb meat, unleavened bread, and \_\_\_\_\_.

a. olives, b. figs, c. oranges, d. bitter herbs

7. Paul compared the Gentiles to wild branches grafted into a good and healthy \_\_\_\_\_ tree.

a. orange, b. olive, c. walnut, d. date

8. Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a \_\_\_\_\_ seed, which would grow from the tiniest seed into a huge tree.

a. pomegranate, b. mallow, c. mint, d. mustard.

9. The Pharisees ridiculed Christ because his disciples plucked and ate \_\_\_\_\_ on the Sabbath.

a. figs, b. oranges, c. plums, d. corn.



## The Lilt of Irish Laughter

### PATIENCE

A tourist was fishing on the River Bann when a man came up and started watching him. He did not speak or say a word at all. He just watched. Three hours passed.

"You've been watching me stand here all afternoon," said the tourist.

"Why don't you have a go at fishing yourself?"

"No thanks," said the man. "I haven't the patience."

### FOLLOWER

It was the night of the pub quiz. "Now," said the Question Master, "this is a question in three parts. Part one: Who succeeded Henry VIII"

"Edward VI," said O'Shea.

"Correct. Part two of the question: Who reigned after Edward VI?"

"Mary," replied O';Shea.

"Correct again. And here's the final part: Who followed Mary?"

"Her little lamb!"



### QUICKEST



An old Co. Antrim farmer leaning on his gate is approached by a tourist who asks, "Could you tell me the quickest way to Belfast?"

"Are you walking or driving?" asks the farmer.

"Driving," the man answered.

"Well then, I'd say that was the quickest way."

### EXCUSE

The private was marched into the C.O. for being on parade and in need of a haircut.

"What's your excuse?" asked the C.O.

"Can't find a barber, sir," said the private

"But what about the camp barber?"

"I'm him, sir."



### Answers to Bible Quiz

1b Gopher, 2b Almonds, 3c the water were made sweet, 4c some portage of lentils, 5d crown of thorns, 6d bitter herbs, 7b olive, 8d mustard, 9d corn.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 an intrepid group of parishioners set off in pouring rain that continued for most of the journey to a new place of Pilgrimage for St. Erconwald's. We were resigned to bad weather but, since this was not a family trip to the seaside, it really didn't matter. The route passes through some really beautiful countryside.



When we arrived at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation and St. Francis in West Grinstead, we were welcomed with great hospitality. After we had settled down there was exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Mass celebrated by Fr. Anthony.



This is the first Catholic Shrine in honour of Our Lady to be established in England since the Reformation and it is all due to the Caryl family, a devout family of farming landlords who owned a number of houses in the area. During the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, persecution of Catholics was vicious but, thanks to their efforts, Mass was celebrated continuously throughout the many years of persecution.

There was a very small cottage in a remote corner of their estate occupied by a shepherd. They rehoused him somewhere else and installed their priest in the cottage, disguised as a shepherd. The upper floor of the cottage was used as a hay loft, so the family built a partition wall  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way along it and installed a secret chapel that could only be reached by a ladder from the floor below. Anyone searching the building would have found only hay and that enabled it to survive undetected!

Alas, the Carylls paid for their devotion. Spies were all around the country checking on attendance at Anglican services. When it was found that the Carylls did not attend they were issued with severe fines that ended in them losing most of their estate.



Just before they had to surrender ownership of the manor house, they, together with their loyal servants, took the most sacred objects in the house and transferred them to the shepherd's hut to be hidden until things improved.



The main building of the shrine dates from the 1870's and is a fine example of Victorian Gothic style. It contains one of the rare statues of Our Lady wearing a crown.



After being shown the Secret Chapel in the part of the building that was the shepherd's cottage, miraculously, the sun came out and we were able to celebrate the Glorious Mysteries of The Rosary outside in the beautiful garden.

The Shrine contains many relics, the most moving being those of the Blessed Francis Bell, a Franciscan, who served the West Grinstead Mission. He was martyred at Tyburn on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 1643.

Another surprising discovery in such a small place, was that it turns out to be the last resting place of Hilaire Belloc. He is, perhaps, less well remembered than his friend, collaborator and contemporary, G. K. Chesterton, but was certainly one of Britain's literary giants. Although he wrote some serious works, he is chiefly remembered for his satirical writing and his "Cautionary Tales for Children" which includes my favourite "Matilda, who told such dreadful lies and was burned to death". He could be said to be a forerunner of Roald Dahl although his tales are rather more scary.

Our journey home was not without its adventures. We were making great progress until we reached East Sheen where the traffic was at an absolute standstill. The driver attempted to get round the problem by taking another road which, alas, led to a railway crossing just outside Mortlake Station, where we seemed to sit for ages as the trains went up and down. Eventually we made it back to Wembley, and the pouring rain.



Altogether a very interesting day and a place of Pilgrimage that I'm sure we will visit again.



On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 21 of the parishioners visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation at West Grinstead.

The weather was not too bright but we were blessed with some sun and a pleasant time by the afternoon. The journey from London was quite pleasant, through green landscapes but somehow a bit long! By a field I noticed a sign “This is a vineyard” – how good to tell us, we might not have noticed! It was very well established though with only a few leaves for the season, maybe with grapes next year!

No we did not get lost – here is the Church. What can be said about it? Very simple but so nice with beautiful stained glass windows – these associated with the story of the Mission, the Parish: St. Richard of Chichister, St. George, St. Bruno, St. Dominic .....



A few statues: St. Therese of Lisieux, St. John Vianney ... and nearby a painting of St. Charbel, the Lebanese hermit priest. On the right, over a side altar I particularly liked a very big crucifix.

Indeed a pleasant, and a peaceful atmosphere to prepare us for a time of Adoration before Holy Mass. Father was wearing a very beautiful chasuble, mostly blue in honour of our Lady. Thanks be to God.

Then we were ready for our meal, but an unpleasant surprise was awaiting for some of us, including myself: the coach left the premises with our packed lunches – where are you chauffeur? We are perishing... Fortunately one could get as many cups of coffee [or tea] as desired, a biscuit. Oh, thank God the coach was back with us! Meal concluded we met again outside for the Rosary – well illustrated stations – I even noticed a duck by the crib on the 3<sup>rd</sup> joyful mystery – but wasn't it cold, with a bitter wind – at the end, a cup of coffee was welcome.





Close by the Tower door is the grave and memorial of the Sussex writer and poet Hilaire Belloc buried alongside his wife Elodie and other members of his family.

The second part of the day was a visit to a priest hiding place – a small chapel under the roof of the house .. a difficult climb, a narrow passage. It might have been hard for the priest to fulfil his ministry but not so for the people dedicated to the same good cause.

In the reign of Elizabeth I, the Caryll family lived in the nearby parish of Shipley at Benton's Place, a farmhouse which still stands. They were known to be supporters of the "Old Religion", giving shelter to priests.

Originally this was just a small cottage consisting of one room on each of the ground and the first floor. A priest would have lived there disguised as a local shepherd. Two priests hides were built into the massive chimney breast, so the place became a safe house for the priests who were beginning to travel to Douai and Rome.



This small cottage became what is quite probably the oldest continuously occupied presbytery in England. The West Grinstead Shrine is affiliated in such a way as to be a true extension of that of Turin but separate under its own title – Our Lady of Consolation of West Grinstead. Papal authority for the shrine was given.



This visit to West Grinstead impressed me particularly with the priest's hiding place. I never realised before the importance of such places in time of persecution. In the past I visited other places, but this one left its mark upon me. In the future I would like to visit the Shrine again, maybe with other members of the parish. I Thank God for this experience. Back home with the blessings of a pouring rain, safe and sound.



The summer Mass with anointing of the sick took place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Fr. Anthony was helped in administering the sacrament by Fr. Joseph Okoro.

The theme for this celebration was based on the Gospel reading [Luke 4. 16-21] for the Chrism Mass, where the priests gather with their bishops to celebrate their priesthood and the Sacred Oils [for the anointing of the Sick, and the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination to the priesthood] are then blessed for use in parishes.

Since the time of the Apostles, we as a community have expressed our concern for our sick brothers and sisters by gathering specially to pray for them, and to anoint them to invoke God's mercy and healing. In fact, one of the distinctive signs of Christianity has always been that the elderly, the sick, and the needy are central to it.



After the Mass everyone is invited into the Hall to share a lunch consisting of tuna, salad and boiled potatoes followed by ice cream and tea or coffee. This was both enjoyable and important in terms of building our parish community. Having shared the Mass and prayed together this coming together socially is a continuation of our building our parish family.

Our Parish includes four Residential and Nursing Homes: Brook House, Kenbrook, Preston Lodge and Birchwood Grange. These homes are visited once a fortnight by our Eucharistic Ministers who bring Holy Communion to residents and staff alike. As the majority of the sick in these Homes are unable to attend Mass, Fr. Anthony celebrates Mass with Anointing three times a year. The Eucharistic Ministers spend time chatting to the residents whenever they visit and whilst this ministry is really appreciated, Fr. Anthony's visits are especially valued.





On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June Fr. Anthony visited Brook House where twelve residents, some of their families and some guests attended this celebration. Where possible all the sick are taken to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor where an altar is erected and Mass is celebrated. Some of the residents are bed-bound so after Mass Fr. Anthony visits these residents in their rooms.

Brook House welcomes the parishioners from St. Erconwald's and the staff are aware of the joy and happiness of the residents on these occasions.

After the celebration, tea/coffee, biscuits and cake are provided for everyone and this is a time for chatting with residents, so there is a social aspect as well as a spiritual one to these visits. For a short while the residents are the centre of attention and this feeling of spiritual and physical well-being remains with them and they look forward to the next celebration. A frequently asked question after such a visit is: "and when is Father coming again to see us?"

These celebrations allow the Church to be close to the elderly and those who are facing challenges and we are privileged to be the instruments who bring the Church to those brothers and sisters of ours who are suffering in this way.

If you are a carer looking after family suffering with Dementia [including Alzheimer's] the Wembley Dementia Carers Support Group meet in the Parish Hall alternate Mondays from 1.00pm - 3.00pm For further information please contact Frank Arrojo on 07867 903917 (email [frankj.arrojo@gmail.com](mailto:frankj.arrojo@gmail.com)).



Of your charity, please keep all the sick and house-bound in your thoughts and prayers during the summer. May the Lord Jesus bless, console and strengthen all the sick, and may Mary, health of the sick, intercede for them.

*Thank you to all those who give of their time to visit the sick and the house-bound.*



This annual celebration was held on Pentecost Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Preparations took place on Saturday and thanks to a large numbers of parishioners who came to help, we were able to prepare both the Church and the Hall for our Pentecost and International Day celebrations.

The Church was decked out in banners, flags and beautiful floral arrangements. Likewise the Hall was very colourful with the fabulous International table-cloths, flags and bunting. The marquees were erected in the Car Park and despite the warning of strong winds they were still standing on Pentecost morning (doubtless thanks to the gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit).

On Sunday morning the Hall was a hive of activity, with a constant stream of people bringing food from all corners of the world, sweet and savoury. We had curries, rice dishes, dumplings, jerk chicken, poached salmon, pasta dishes, Guinness stew, pastries, fruit and wonderful Italian ice-cream, to mention just a few.



We were very pleased to welcome *Velvet Touch* to entertain us again this year as only they can with their vast repertoire of songs. We were also treated to some traditional Indian singing, thanks to "Young Perry" who is in fact a parishioner. Whilst the band entertained in the Hall, God provided his own, in the form of Duck and her five ducklings in the Nursery Garden which drew attention from both young and old.

They had obviously lost their way to Brook River so a group of parishioners guided the duck and her ducklings through the car park across Princess Court and Elmstead Avenue stopping traffic as we went and safely to Brook River where we saw them plop one by one into the river to join Daddy Drake. It was good to see our Church community and local community working together in a spirit of togetherness, and was most appropriate on the feast of Pentecost.





Meanwhile back in the Hall the dancing was in full flow and everyone was having a good time. A queue was forming at the Irish coffee table, so it was forget about the ducks and get back to work.

“Time flies when you are having fun!” Our celebration was fast approaching its end, all that remained was to hold the raffle and to express our thanks to *Velvet Touch* and Perry for entertaining us.

This year we keenly felt the loss of many dear friends and people who have helped and who have been a big part of this celebration in past years. We give to God's open arms: Giovanni, Betty, Bernard, Monica, Joan and Joyce who have joined the eternal celebration. There were others who were absent due to illness or who were abroad, we missed you and hope you will be able to join us next year.



Finally it just remains to say a big thank you to those who cooked, shopped, helped set up, clear away, and all who helped in any way.

### Pentecost Raffle Results:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: £120: Ticket 2228; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Hamper: Ticket 1122; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Voucher £50: Ticket: 2296; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Glass Lantern: Ticket 2565; 5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Children's Prize: Ticket 0705; 6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Surprise Attendance Prize: Cloakroom ticket 27.

Thank you to all the donors, and congratulations to all the winners.





We have had a great term at school and the time has flown by. We have been very busy completing all the activities that make up this Term.

Our Y6 classes have been particularly busy completing their exams (SATs in Maths and English) in May, followed by a trip to Madrid for 14 of them as we completed the Comenius exchange programme with our link school in Spain (Colegio Miramadrid). This was a lovely time for our children as they are so well looked after and they get to have a cultural experience not normally on offer in Primary Schools.

They are now getting ready for Secondary school transfer with the transition days with the majority of our children going to our link Academy school, St Gregory's Science College, and others going to local schools such as Sacred Heart and Salvatorian.



One of the highlights of the school year was the theatre trip when we took the whole of Y6 to see Aladdin in the West End. They loved it and it was the first time that the majority of them have been to the theatre and we discovered that some have not even been to the cinema, so they really appreciated this trip. They will have their leaving Mass and Leavers' Assembly in their final week here which will be after they have performed the annual show which this year is Aladdin. It is all happening for them and it will be sad to see them go.

Our Y3 classes have been the main focus of attention as they have made their First Holy Communions (FHC) this Term. We celebrated with all of them at our annual FHC assembly recently when they all dressed up in their Communion clothing and told us all how they felt 'closer to God' now and they were delighted to be able to 'take a full part in the Mass.' We also offered our thanks to all of the Catechists in the many Churches that are represented within our school.





After half-term we had a brilliant Music week where we welcomed a Gospel Choir who ran workshops all day and each class had its own genre to perform at the Grandparent's assembly at the end of the week. This assembly is always very well attended and we welcomed over 200 visitors who were local but also from abroad to represent so many of our children. Our Grandparents are great and a tremendous support to our families and it is fitting that we offer this day each year to celebrate them!

Our Sportsday was held in glorious sunshine. We were very lucky with the weather and we all had a great day. In the morning session the Infants took part in 16 different activities within their House Teams accompanied by their parents/carers who took part as well. This was repeated in the afternoon for the Juniors. It was a great community event, full of fun and great sportsmanship. We will finish the Term with our Sprint Finals which will be followed by our annual Sports Assembly.



The Summer Fete was held on a Friday this Term and it worked really well. Again we were lucky with tremendous sunny weather and this drew a huge crowd who had great fun on all of the rides, eating and drinking and throwing sponges at the Headteacher! We are very grateful to the Friends' Association and the whole community who provided and supported this event—I was very proud of you all!

The summer holidays are almost upon us and I would like to wish you all a very nice summer and I hope that you enjoy your holidays. If your children want to come to our Summer Club from Monday 12th August 9-1pm for 3 weeks they are welcome - just ring the school office on 020 8204 8902.

Take care.

# Hi-Di-Hi

# The Chameleons



On behalf of all of us at The Chameleons, we'd like to offer a huge thank you to all of you who took the time to pop down and join us at Maplins Holiday Camp and to Elizabeth and Father Anthony for their continued support.



We had a lovely time and we certainly hope you did too. Here's just some of the things people had to say:

“The whole show had me giggling from start to finish”

“An amazing performance and so well acted”



“A wonderfully entertaining evening with everyone entering in to the spirit of 1950's holiday fun”

If you couldn't make it to the show, not to worry, we bring news of our next production!



Yes, that's right, we're travelling back to Pantomand on the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December at Bushey and Oxhey Methodist Church for Aladdin! Box Office will be opening shortly so be sure to like and follow our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter feeds for more information! Oh and have no fear, we'll be sending details to Elizabeth for all the congregation to see! For now, bye-de-bye and it's behind you!

**Aladdin**  
**14-15th**  
**December**  
**Bushey and Oxhey**  
**Methodist Church**  
**Details to follow**

  @the\_chameleons  
 fb.com/thechameleonsdrama

[www.thechameleons.co.uk](http://www.thechameleons.co.uk)

Jokes

What's the difference between a guitar and a fish?

Did you hear about the race between the lettuce and the tomato?

What do you get from a pampered cow?

Riddles

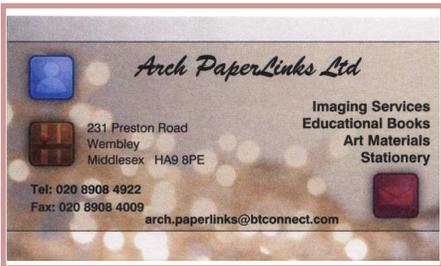
What do you throw out when you want to use it, but take it in when you don't want to use it?

The man who invented it, doesn't want it. The man who bought it, doesn't need it. The man who needs it, doesn't know it.

I am so simple, that I can only point, yet I guide people all over the world.

Compass  
Coffin  
Anchor  
Spoiled milk.

You can't tuna fish.  
The lettuce was a "head" and the tomato was trying to "ketchup"!

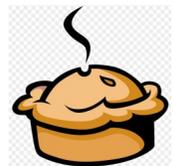


ON THE DOUBLE

Delighted by the gift she'd received the lady spoke warmly to the boy.

"Tomorrow I'll thank your mother for this lovely pie."

"If you don't mind," the boy suggested nervously, "Would you thank her for two pies?"





**Summer Concerts:** To end their time in the Infant school and the Junior school, year two and year six have performed their end of year celebration shows. Year two performed 'Mary Poppins' Whilst year six performed 'Aladdin' inspired by their recent visit to see the West End show

**Trips:** This term had many different trips out of school. Year 1 visited Kew Gardens, Saint John Paul enjoyed a wonderful trip to Windsor Castle. Year 2 enjoyed visiting the Roald Dahl Museum. Year 4 visited the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Year 5 visited the Air Bus Discovery Centre and gifted and talented pupils visited the Apple Store in Brent Cross.



**School Fete:** Many thanks to everyone who attended and supported our annual summer fete on Saturday the 6th of July. Fun was had by all, with games, competitions and even a visit from the police and the Mayor of Brent.

**Health and Well Being Week:** One of the highlights of the year on the calendar is the celebration of Health and Well Being week where we organised a number of external providers to come in to give children new experiences and new skills.



**A-Life:** We had a group called A-Life in who provide Healthy Workshops with minimal teaching and maximum pupil participation. Sessions were differentiated throughout, increasing in difficulty across the key stages. Activities were stimulating and engaging with the key messages of looking after our bodies and keeping healthy infiltrating the day. Parents (where possible) also joined their children in the activities and feedback from both groups was very positive.



**Chess:** Children also had the chance to experience/ practise chess. For some of them this was completely new and for others it was a great chance to compete against others.

**Yoga:** The Yoga teacher who takes sessions on a Monday and Tuesday also gave a day to both schools for them to experience the 'calming' effects of yoga movements.

**Dance/ Gym:** Our usual coaches came in that week as well as part of the sports programme to continue the variety on offer this week. The children love gymnastics and look forward to their lessons. We also entered teams for the borough gymnastics tournaments. We entered a team in KS1 and both the lower and upper stages of KS2 and won all three. Our KS2 teams went on to represent the borough in School Games on July 4th as did our athletics group.



**Bollywood Dance:** The children enjoyed taster sessions of Bollywood dancing and a new weekly club will begin in September.

**Cricket:** KS2 pupils enjoyed taster cricket sessions and we hope to run a cricket club next year. Saint Giles Trust- Year 5 and Year 6 had special workshops from the Saint Giles Trust on knife crime and keeping safe and making good choices.

**Sports Day:** The week culminated with our annual sports event. This year the children competed in Houses with Saint John triumphing in the end!



**Skip To Be Fit:** This summer term all of the children have enjoyed participating in a six week skipping programme called 'Skip to Be Fit'. This has aimed to develop not only their skipping ability but their overall fitness levels as well as being just great fun!

**History Day:** Children enjoyed researching and dressing up as a famous historical character and then did a short presentation to their class.



We wish Saint Erconwald's entire Parish a restful summer. Best Wishes, Mandy Whelan and all the Governors, Staff and Pupils at Saint Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools Wembley.

St. Erconwald's Catholic Church  
112 Carlton Avenue East, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8NB  
Tel: 020 8904 6031

E-mail: [wembley3@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wembley3@rcdow.org.uk) Website: [www.erconwald.org.uk](http://www.erconwald.org.uk)

This Parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee  
Charity No. 233699

## **PARISH PRIEST**

Father Anthony Psaila

## **PARISH OFFICE:**

See the weekly newsletter or visit: <http://www.erconwald.org.uk>

## **PARISH HALL LETS:**

Elizabeth Patten: [wembley3@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wembley3@rcdow.org.uk)

## **CHILD PROTECTION/VULNERABLE ADULTS**

Lesley Gaynor and Margaret Nichols

## **SUNDAY MASSES**

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm; 9am and 11.30am

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 4.30 - 5.00pm

**HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION:** Wednesday 10.00-11.00am

## **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Monday, Tuesday ,Wednesday and Friday: 9.30am.

## **First Class Learning**



Wembley Study Centre meets Thursday 3.30pm – 5.00pm. After school Maths & English classes.

Contact Divya. tel: 020 8958 8363;

mobile: 07515 630371.

Email: [wembleypark@firstclasslearning.co.uk](mailto:wembleypark@firstclasslearning.co.uk)

[www.firstclasslearning.co.uk](http://www.firstclasslearning.co.uk)