

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

**Baptism preparation** sessions take place regularly throughout the year. Please contact the office for details and to book. The next Baptism session will be on **Tuesday 8 October** at 19.00 via 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.

If your child is in Year 3 or above you can now apply for the FHC Programme 2025. Forms are available from the back of the church or on our website and need returning to the parish office no **later than Sunday 20 October**. Any families wishing to register their children for this programme need also to be registered with our parish. Parish registration forms are in the back of church/online.

We do need **additional catechists** and especially ask parents of those who children will participate in the programme to help out. You don't need to commit to each week! Do get in touch with the parish office by phone or email.

The first **CONFIRMATION** session was held last week and continues on 23/11. If you're still interested in joining the programme, please contact the parish office.

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>SAT 5 OCT</b>	<b>9:30</b>	GOOD HEALTH OF FRANKY GOES
	<b>10.00</b>	<b>ROSARY</b>
	<b>16.45</b>	<b>ITALIAN MASS</b>
	<b>18:00</b>	<b>MASS</b>
<b>SUN 6 OCT</b>	<b>9:15</b>	<b>27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> IN THANKSGIVING FOR HENRY, MARGOT & TILDA
	<b>11:15</b>	PARISHIONERS
	<b>13.00</b>	<b>POLISH MASS</b>
<b>MON 07 OCT</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY</b> <b>(MEMORIAL)</b> <b>MASS</b>
<b>TUE 8 OCT</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION</b>
	<b>19:30</b>	MOYRA PREDERGAST RIP
<b>WED 9 OCT</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, PRIEST</b> <b>(FEAST)</b> ARNALDO FERNANDEZ RIP (ANNIVERSARY)
	<b>10:00</b>	<b>ROSARY</b>
<b>THU 10 OCT</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>FRI 11 OCT</b>	<b>9:30</b>	ANN HUNTER RIP
	<b>10:00</b>	<b>DIVINE MERCY</b>
<b>SAT 12 OCT</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>ST WILFRID, BISHOP (MEMORIAL)</b> <b>NO MASS</b>
	<b>10:00</b>	<b>NO ADORATION OR</b> <b>RECONCILIATION</b>
	<b>16.45</b>	<b>ITALIAN MASS</b>
	<b>18:00</b>	MARY & JERRY O'SHEA RIP (ANNIVERSARY)
<b>SUN 13 OCT</b>	<b>9:15</b>	<b>28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> JIM MAY, BRIAN O'NEILL & RAY PALMER RIP (ANNIVERSARY)
	<b>11:15</b>	PARISHIONERS

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**TODDLERS GROUP - Play and Praise** continues on Fridays from 10-11.30. Sign up in advance here:  
<https://sterconwalds.churchsuite.com/events/dnp0lyul>.

**REQUEST:** the group would love a small table/2 chairs for toddlers. Do contact the parish office if you can help.



# ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER

5-6 OCTOBER 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate the 27th Sunday in ordinary time, we hear Jesus emphatically instructing his disciples about the Kingdom of God. In today's gospel, Jesus emphasizes the importance of allowing the little children to come to him, adamantly tells the disciples to welcome the vulnerable into their midst, and then urges them to become like them. He clarifies that softening our hearts towards God involves becoming vulnerable and willing to receive. Although receiving and entering may seem like opposite actions, as God's children, we are in a reciprocal relationship with Him. He forcefully draws us close, lifts us, and enfolds us in His arms, valuing and blessing us. In return, we strongly receive His Kingdom and decisively enter His love.

**Thank you** so much for celebrating my BIG birthday with me. Since coming to St Erconwald's I've felt really welcomed and appreciated and seeing all of you celebrating with me on Sunday fills my heart with joy. I feel like the sense of community in this parish is rapidly growing and that is probably the best gift I could wish for. And you have been all so generous with your gifts! You cannot imagine how thankful I am. You are a great parish and I'm very lucky to be working with you all! God bless you all and to celebrate more birthdays together.  
Fr Ruslan

As we approach the dates of our **Parish retreat**, we may be asking ourselves, "**what is the meaning of the word 'retreat'?**" The first thing that comes to mind may be the military definition - to cease the battle, and to fall back. In fact, the word retreat comes from the Latin prefix *re-* and the verb *trahere* - meaning to *draw* back. In this sense, we could interpret our retreat as being a chance to take a step back from our usual routine and the noise and pressures of our everyday lives. It is a time for contemplation and a place for us to go to reset our spiritual selves in preparation for the season of Advent and the Year of Jubilee 2025, Pilgrims of Hope.

Our retreat is an opportunity to look at the bigger picture of our lives. Our time is full of essential activities: work, school, hospital appointments, socialising, commuting. How often do we stop and think about our spiritual journey? For some, the answer to this is: *quite often*. For others it will be: *almost never*. Regardless of your answer, **this retreat is an occasion for us all to come together in a symphony of prayer** as Pope Francis says, to reset our spiritual batteries and to advance towards Christmas, having reflected on our relationships with God.

### OCTOBER and OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

This month our prayer focus on the rosary, and Monday is the **feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary**. See our website for suggestions on how to pray it, particularly if it's a tradition you're not used to: [www.sterconwalds.org.uk/rosary.html](http://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/rosary.html). The rosary will be prayed after all morning masses this month and towards the end of Adoration on a Tuesday evening.

### PARISH PRIEST

Fr Ruslan Kurdiymov

#### EMAIL:

[ruslan.kurdiymov@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ruslan.kurdiymov@abdiocese.org.uk)

### PARISH DEACON

Deacon Joseph Côté

#### EMAIL:

[micheljoseph.cote@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:micheljoseph.cote@abdiocese.org.uk)

### PARISH OFFICE

TEL: 01932 221 101

MOB: 07494 749 833

#### EMAIL:

[walton@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:walton@abdiocese.org.uk)

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tue - Fri 10:00 -13:30

### WEBSITE

[www.sterconwalds.org.uk](http://www.sterconwalds.org.uk)

### PARISH SCHOOLS

#### CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL

Arch Road, Hersham

Surrey, KT12 4QT

TEL: 01932 222536

#### EMAIL:

[office@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk](mailto:office@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk)

#### SALESIAN SCHOOL

Guildford Road, Chertsey

Surrey, KT16 9LU

TEL: 01932 582520

#### EMAIL:

[info@salesian.surrey.sch](mailto:info@salesian.surrey.sch)

### 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!

## PARISH NEWS/EVENTS

### 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, Roger Blishen, Christopher Clifford and Catherine Browle, Katherine Cawley, Trish Claxton, Rose Collins, David Cox, Theresè Crumpler, James De Leons-Hopkins, Maureen and Bill Dodds, Julia Donaldson, Mary Edenborough, June Ellis, 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, Colleen Murphy, Louise Nettleton, Arlo Nolan, Ben Piltsher, Shirley Rhodes, Deborah Russell, Evie Sagun, Anna Sartori, Michael Spears, Michelle Thomas, Eileen White, Dee Wilson, 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 schedule visits.

### HARVEST FAST DAY and THANKSGIVING

...took place on Friday; our second collection this weekend is for CAFOD, and we're also appealing for donations for the local foodbank, in thanksgiving for what we have. Please bring any of these along to mass THIS WEEKEND: ketchup, mayo, tinned tuna, noodles, pasta, deodorant, washing-up liquid, shampoo, laundry capsules. Please don't leave them in the porch; you'll be invited to bring them up as an offering during Mass.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are asking **parents** to sign up to help once every six weeks or so to enable this ministry to keep going each week. The sessions are aimed at children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion.

### DEEP CLEAN

We would like to have a deep clean of the church and sacristy **this Wednesday 9 October** after morning Mass and need extra volunteers to do this. So please get in touch with the parish office if you could spare a bit of your time to help. Thank you!

### ALPHA - Gerard, who took part recently, shares:

I first heard of Alpha when a work colleague told me he need to finish early one evening to get to his Alpha course. Over the years I would occasionally see posters and banners displayed. I realised it was something to do with faith but didn't think it would be relevant to me. I already had my faith, having been raised Catholic. Here at Mass one Sunday I spotted an Alpha Course banner outside the church and an invitation to sign up. "Perhaps this is aimed at me?" I muttered something about it to my daughter who had been thinking the same thing, and a couple of weeks later we turned up to see what it was about.

The session started with friendly introductions and a lovely hot meal. Over the weeks the sessions alternated between in-person and online. Each week had a theme, all quite challenging: 'Why don't our prayers always get answered', 'Why do bad things happen', etc. A short video is shown followed by a group discussion, sharing our own thoughts and experiences. There are no answers other than those you arrive at yourself, but that's the point. It a personal journey of reflection and consideration. You should aim to attend every session but I had to miss a few to work commitments but could catch up with online videos and a book to guide reflection.

Our next Alpha Course starts as a short 4-week course next **Sunday 13 October at 7.30pm** in the hall. What are you waiting for? Sign up and see where your Alpha journey takes you. <https://sterconwalds.churchsuite.com/events/5nlchpss>

**BABY LOSS AWARENESS WEEK - WAVE OF LIGHT BLAW** culminates with the global event "Wave of Light" on **Tuesday 15 October**, with candles lit at **7pm** across the world for all babies that have died too soon. This time coincides with our weekly Adoration and evening Mass. We invite you to come to candlelit prayer in the quiet of our church; to reflect and to remember in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. As usual Adoration begins at 6.30pm, with Mass at 7.30. Do join us.

### MUSIC PRACTICE

Want to learn some new songs that we'll be introducing at the 9.15 masses over the next few weeks? Some of them will also be used at various points during our parish retreat. **All are welcome** - do come along to a practice on **Wednesday 16 October at 7.30pm** in church.

### ADVENT 2024

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently preparing for Advent. **If you'd like to help plan or simply share ideas**, please contact John Joyce on 07801 373 299.

### PARISH RETREAT

Our parish retreat will start with Mass at 6pm on **Fri eve 22 November**, with sessions throughout the day and evening. On **Sun 24 November** there will be a final session after our 11.15 mass followed by lunch. A programme outline is in the porch and on the website. We need some help with hospitality/meals - **please contact Lucy** on 07740 461785.

### WILLS, INHERITANCE TAX AND CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

Wills and inheritance tax can be difficult subjects, emotionally and technically, but help is at hand! In November, Jess Buttaci, a parishioner who has a law practice in Walton, will be giving **two talks in the hall** about this, which will incorporate any changes arising from the Budget in October. They will also cover how to make charitable bequests. Dates/times TBC.

### SPARE ROOM FOR A REFUGEE?

A Ukrainian refugee and her two young children need a place to live for one month and is happy to pay. If you can help or know someone, please contact Alison Foreman on 07920 775872. Thank you.

### HELP UGANDA TRUST

**Thank you** for your generous support over the years for St Michael's orphanage in Kampala. Nearly all of the children have now left, many going on to further studies: Fausta has graduated and is now a nurse. Truly wonderful!

### MASSES LED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

These start again on **Saturday 19 October** at 6pm. If you'd like to participate please contact Fr Ruslan. All are welcome!

**SECOND COLLECTION** next week 12/13 October will be for our utility bills, and Mass next Saturday 12 October will be said by Fr Bill. Welcome Fr Bill!

## DIOCESAN/OTHER EVENTS

### YOUNG ADULTS IN OUR DIOCESE

Lizzie Wakeling, our diocesan youth adviser, has established a Youth Council and is looking for additional members (aged 18-35). The Council is currently working on ideas for young adult ministry. If you'd like to be involved, do contact Lucy Jardine on 07740 461785 or Lizzie: [lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk).

### NATIONAL BOARD OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

The NBCW is promoting various talks and events during October - for full details see the poster in the porch.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Please send any newsletter/website/social media items or any amendments to: [comms.sterconwalds@gmail.com](mailto: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 (**change of email address**): [tina@okellynet.com](mailto: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. For details: <https://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/get-involved.html>

## COLLECTIONS

**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS FOR 29.09.24: 254.40**

**STANDING ORDERS FOR SEPTEMBER: £5258.46**

## THANK YOU!

## SAVE THE DATES

13 OCT: ALPHA STARTS  
19 OCT: YOUTH-LED MASS  
22-24 NOV: PARISH RETREAT  
15 DEC: CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
15 MAR: FLAME CONGRESS