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 in March via zoom -date TBC.

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.

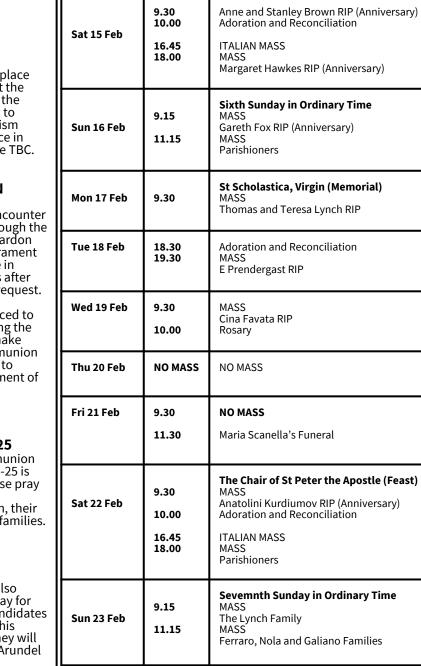
Children are introduced to **Reconciliation** during the year in which they make their first Holy Communion and are then invited to celebrate this sacrament of God's healing.

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.



TODDLER PRAISE AND PLAY

Please note that there is no toddler and praise on Friday 21

February as it's half term. We'll resume on Friday 1 March.



ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER

15-16 FEBRUARY 2025



PARISH PRIEST Fr Ruslan Kurdiumov ruslan.kurdiumov@ abdiocese.org.uk

In today's Gospel, Saint Luke tells us about Jesus coming down from the mountain to a large crowd seeking true meaning and nourishment.

We, too, gather to hear God's encouragement as Jesus speaks personally to us. This Sunday's message is powerful: "Blessed are YOU who are poor, hungry, mourning, and enduring persecution." Jesus' words are meant to impact our lives; they are not just historical literature. The Word of God is alive, reaching deep into our hearts, reminding us of our need for Him. Let us listen to our Lord today: "Blessed are YOU who listen to God's voice and follow Him."

SECOND COLLECTION this week is for the diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage fund. Applications for going on the **diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage** are now open - see the diocesan website.

One of our parishioners, Jack, went last year - this is what he has to say.

My name is Jack, I am 18 years old, and I went to Lourdes in June 2024. I was a purple shirt, meaning I helped assisted pilgrims one to one throughout the day. Going into it, I expected hours of prayer and a real focus on the pilgrims that I was there to assist, sort of a very secluded, private time of self reflection. Instead, I found an amazing sense of community, where people from across the diocese really came together and supported one another. Our days were filled with amazing experiences within the sanctuary at Lourdes, from experiencing Mass in the basilica, to attending the anointing of the sick, which was a really powerful moment. I would highly encourage the opportunity to go, as it brought me a connection to my faith on a level I have never really experienced before. Being there, in the south of France, with people who are all there to experience the same enlightenment together, really does make Lourdes a very special place to be.

In the context of this Jubilee year, the Lourdes theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. The parish is able to support anyone who is interested in going as a helper, whether as a 'Redshirt' (15-16 year olds), 'Purple shirt' (17+) or another kind of helper, or going simply to be part of the pilgrimage. Do contact the parish office.

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. Please note dates for the parish pilgrimage to Walsingham on 10-11 July.

EMAIL:

PARISH DEACON Deacon Joseph Côté EMAIL: micheljoseph.cote@ abdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE TEL: 01932 221 101 **MOB:** 07494 749 833 EMAIL: walton@abdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE HOURS Tue - Fri 10:00 -13:30

WEBSITE www.sterconwalds.org.uk

PARISH SCHOOLS

CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL

Arch Road, Hersham Surrey, KT12 40T TEL: 01932 222536 EMAIL: office@cardinalnew manschool.co.uk

SALESIAN SCHOOL

Guildford Road, Chertsey Surrev, KT16 9LU **TEL:** 01932 582520 EMAIL: 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!

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, Théresè 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 Mulgueen, 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.

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. The course will run on Monday evenings starting on **10 March at 7.30pm in the hall**. SIGN UP in the porch or here:

https://sterconwalds.churchsuite.com/events/hhb14qdn or

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!

Our young parishioners preparing for their First Holy Communion have also been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We pray for them as they continue their journey, preparing to receive God and experience His unconditional love and forgiveness.

RED MISSIO BOX HOLDERS

The first collection of the year is now due: please would donors empty the contents of your box into an envelope (available in the porch) add your details and return it to the sacristy by **Sunday 9 March at the latest**. If you prefer to return your box, please ensure that your name is on the label and place it in the sacristy and take an empty box from the porch. If you would like to start collecting for overseas missions either by a Red Box or by direct debit, please contact Dominic Ennis (local parish secretary for Missio) on 0208 2246114. Thank you.

Maria Scanella's funeral will be this Friday 21 February at

11.30 in the church. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. RIP dear Maria.

STEPS - PARISH SUPPORT GROUP

The next Steps meeting will be on Wednesday 26 February at 7.30pm in the church hall. In addition to our regular home visits in the parish, we are looking for volunteers to support upcoming Parish events such as the Pancake Party on Tuesday 4 March, Lenten lunches, Mother's Day posey making on Saturday 29 March and the "Pot Luck' Supper and Quiz night on Saturday 26 April. If you would like to volunteer then please come along to the meeting or send an email to <u>emma@simpkin.net</u>.

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH!

Youth-led masses will now take place every 4th Saturday of the month at 6pm, **starting next 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 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

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 or visit the website: https://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/100-club.html

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! Full details on the website or from the office: https://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/silent-auction.html. Please note, **closing date for bids is Tuesday 4 March.**

LENTEN REFLECTION GROUPS

We'll be running a 5 week series on the jubilee theme of hope on Thursday mornings starting on **Thursday 13 March at 9.45.** Sign ups here:

https://sterconwalds.churchsuite.com/events/pqq1e5oo Our friends at the **Methodist Church** are also running a bible study during Lent on Tuesdays from 2.30-3.30pm at their church. All are welcome.

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 PLATE COLLECTIONS FOR 09.02.25: £255.36

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 **13 MAR: LENTEN REFLECTION** SERIES START **15 MAR:** FLAME CONGRESS 26 APR: POTLUCK AND QUIZ NIGHT 10-11 JUL: PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 20 SEP: FESTIVAL OF HOPE