

# St. Lawrence's Voice

Summer 2017

£ 1.00



Fr. John and Deacon Peter with the First Holy Communion candidates at the Masses held on Sunday, 4th, and Sunday, 11th June.



Fr. John with Bishop Pat Lynch and Deacon Peter Littleton with the confirmation candidates after the Confirmation Mass on Sunday, 18th June

## **EDITORIAL TEAM**

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We accept letters by post (c/o Parish Office, 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup DA15 7HB, marked "The Voice"), or email to either of the abovementioned email addresses. Please include your name, address (postal and email), and telephone contact details.

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## **Editors' Note**

*Dear Readers,*

*There's nothing for it but to come straight out and say it - sorry! Sorry:*

- 1. that the Spring issue of the magazine was delayed, and*
- 2. it contained formatting errors resulting in the layout and content being all messed up.*

*Regrettably, these problems were purely down to technical issues, and therefore completely out of our control.*

*What is in our control is bringing you the next issue of the magazine, and here it is - the 'Summer' edition. This one particularly feels like a 'celebratory' one because lots of major celebrations seemed to have taken place in the space of a few months. We were privileged to witness and participate in Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Marriage services, as well as milestone wedding anniversaries (Pg. 10). With Holy Week/Easter (Pg. 28) thrown in for good measure, the clergy were certainly kept busy!*

*The congregation too, it would appear: read about Paul Cookson coming up with a winning card design and also writing a children's book (Pg. 22). As organisations rely on ratings and surveys to get the all-important feedback from their customers, how do we fare as a parish? Marie-Anne Hosley, visiting from France, very kindly shares her thoughts on Pg. 32 in "A Visitor's Reaction".*

*Enjoy the summer - here's hoping for a long and sunny one! Happy holidays to all as well; please share and let us know what you got up to. **Deadline for next issue: 15 Sept.***

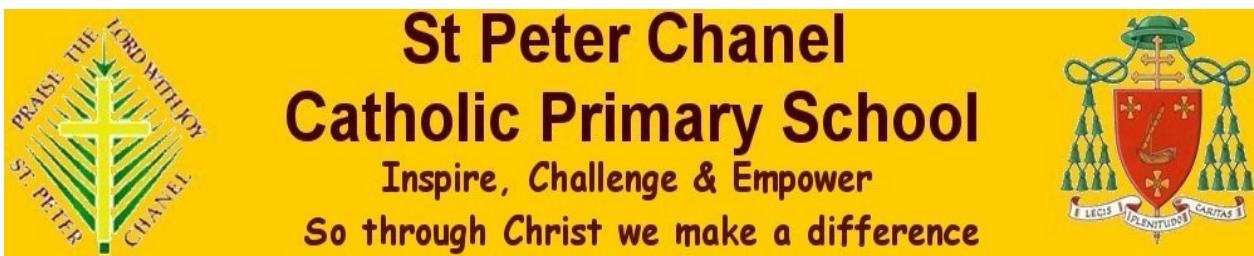
**Joan and Sheila**



**Joan**



**Sheila**



St Peter Chanel School have had a very busy summer term balancing conducting the statutory tests for Years 2 and 6, alongside fun events for the children. Some of the main events have been a Science Day, an Aspirations Day, celebrations of achievement for each year group and a summer outdoor Mass.

The Friends of St Peter Chanel have been working very hard to prepare for the Inflatables Day on 7<sup>th</sup> July. This will be a fantastic opportunity for children, parents and staff, to mingle and relax following on from the excitement of the Sports Day in the morning.

Keeping up with advances in technology, the school website has been relaunched and includes more information for parents. A new parent App called "School Ping" further enhances the school's ability to communicate with parents allowing messages to be sent electronically. Also, the school now has its own Twitter account.

*'A new parent App called "School Ping" further enhances the school's ability to communicate with parents allowing messages to be sent electronically'*

One of the exciting developments at the school is the introduction of a baby group for children from 0-2 years, with their parents, to be run on the school premises. This will start in September, during term time, with three sessions a week on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. The sessions will be an hour long and will be led by a member of our Pre-School Staff. There will be a music session, a 'messy' session and a play-and-learn session. We are hoping that these sessions will reach out to all the families in our community. Families in St Lawrence's who have children in this age range will be most welcome. There is no need to book – just turn up. For more details, please contact the school on **020 8302 6029**.

**Mary Townsend**

Chair of Governors



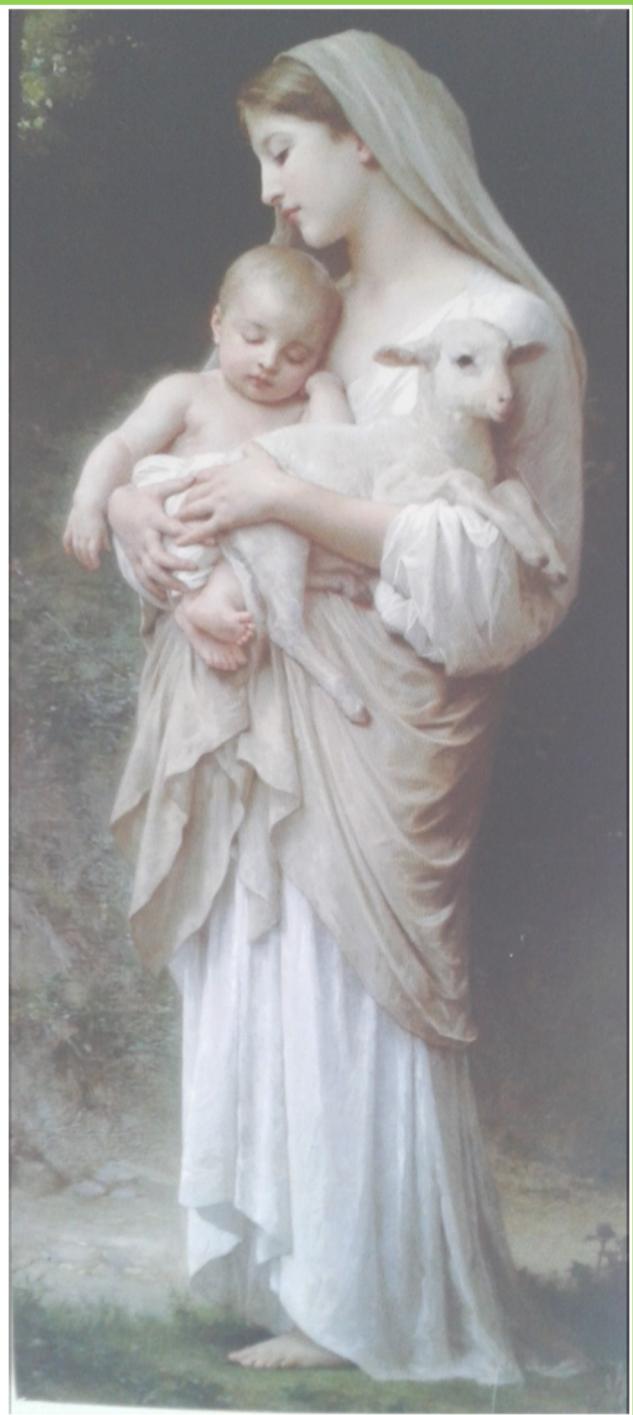
Inspire, challenge, empower, so through Christ we can make a difference



## ST. LAWRENCE'S PARISH NOTICES

**'CLAIMING FOR CHRIST'  
AS WE WELCOME INTO OUR PARISH FAMILY  
IN BAPTISM**

Beau Stevie Perks	23.04.17
Hedi Elizabeth Russell	30.04.17
Ava Mabel Compston	13.05.17
Vanessa Kelechi Ibiam	04.06.17
Harry William Elliott	04.06.17
Milo Harry Williams	11.06.17
Jacob Louis Bluitt	18.06.17
Camilo Andres Arevalo	24.06.17
Victoria Kristina Oatesova	01.07.17
Esmee Hendrickson-Gerrick	02.07.17
Constance Baruteau	08.07.17
Florence Turner	09.07.17





## MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

"For we know that when the tent we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens."

[2 Corinthians 5: 1]

- ◆ Keira Tiffany Tarrant 23.02.17
- ◆ Maureen Thomas 07.05.17
- ◆ John Bernard Coakley 08.05.17
- ◆ Mary Teresa Judkins 27.05.17
- ◆ Janice Lorraine Mullan 09.06.17
- ◆ Mary Sparrowhawk 04.07.17
- ◆ Anne Billane-Kerins 07.07.17



## MARRIAGES



Justyna Jawor and Damian Suwala

10.06.17

Sarah Burt and Philip Pemberton

08.07.17



## PARISH NOTICEBOARD

What's up in the parish...

### **CLERGY SUPPORT FUND**

Tom Breen, the Bexley Co-ordinator, expressed his gratitude to St. Lawrence Parish for funds in excess of £40,000 that had been raised/pledged in the form of single donations and covenant agreements, to assist the sick and retired priests of the diocese.

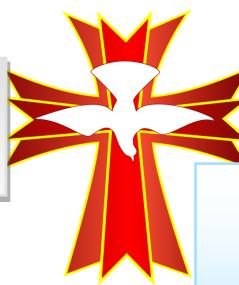
### **PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on 23rd May at 7.30pm in SLCC.



**First Holy Communion Masses** took place on:  
Sunday, 4th June and 11th June, at 11.30 am

**Confirmation Mass** celebrated on Sunday, 18th June, at 11.30am



**ST JOHN  
BOSCO  
CHILDREN'S CAMP**

### **SUMMER FUN FOR CHILDREN**

A camping holiday full of fun-packed activities for boys and girls in over 40 acres of Essex countryside. The site is owned and maintained by St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) volunteers. Activities are run on different weeks in July and August for boys and girls.

Enquiries:

Boys' camp: 07534 065347 } between 6 & 9 pm  
Girls' camp: 07491 811167 }  
[www.svpboscocamp.org.uk]

### **THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF WALISINGHAM**

Marist Day: Saturday, 1st July

[Coach £25]

Chief Celebrant: **Bishop Alan Williams SM**



### **SLCF CHARITY WALK**

**Jeanette Judge, Anne and Arthur Maxted,** walked 5 miles around Bewl Water on 13th May to raise funds for the St. Lawrence Charitable Fund (SLCF). This parish charity aims to assist the poorest families in our local area.

The final amount raised was £1,055.31.

Well done, walkers! A splendid effort and a great act of, and for, charity.

### **BRAVE THE SHAVE**

This event took place in the hall on 24th June to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer. The amount raised was in the region of £2,000. A tidy sum for tidy "haircuts"! Everyone's support and generosity very much appreciated.

# "Cantare amantis est"

"Singing belongs to one who loves."

St. Augustine of Hippo

## MALE AND FEMALE VOICES WANTED

Do you love singing? You don't necessarily have to be like Andrea Bocelli or Katherine Jenkins (if you are, that's great), nor will you be put through any 'X Factor' or 'The Voice'-type auditions! We are simply a group of men and women who enjoy exercising our ministry of music, but as the men are slightly outnumbered at the moment, they particularly could do with a boost.

We are looking for male and female voices, therefore, to join the choir that sings at the 10am Sunday Mass here at St. Lawrence's. Practice is held weekly in the church every Thursday evening, starting at 7.30pm. We usually finish by 8.30pm but may occasionally overrun, especially if we are practising for special events such as Easter or Christmas.

Please come and join us in preparing ourselves and the assembled congregation in singing praises to God. For more information, please contact:

Caron Tragheim (Mrs)  
T: 07505 617607  
E: caron.tragheim@gmail.com



"I will sing to the Lord because he has blessed me so richly."

Psalms 13:6

# MOTHERING SUNDAY

(FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

## 26TH MARCH, 2017

Our parish children certainly know how to pay tribute to all our heroine mums. There seems to be a contest too between mums and dads in one picture (see bottom left); the winner? Up to each one of us to figure that out!





## MARIA DEL LOURDES FELLOWS

26th March, 2017



**Maria del Lourdes Fellows**, usually known as *Marilou*, was born on 26th March 1927, in Gibraltar. She moved to England in 1950. Not only is she the proud mother to three daughters and one son, she is also a great-grandmother.

Marilou took care of the clergy here at St. Lawrence's: she was the housekeeper and looked after the Marist Fathers, sometimes 14 of them! Not one to grumble, Marilou took everything in her stride and eventually retired from service at the age of 61 years.

She admitted to being “**very fond of Fr. Diver**”, especially his homilies, and said that she could listen to him all day. Here we have it - not only is he the ‘good-looking one’ as Fr. Diver himself frequently points out, he has the popularity to match if his fan club, consisting especially of this charming 90 year-old, is anything to go by!

# 'WE'RE These blessed



**DIAMOND(s)**  
60 years  
19th January, 2017



**19.01.17:** Richard & Irene Pereira renewing their vows in the same church they got married 60 years ago; Urwa, Mangalore, south-west India



*"We have shared a treasured lifetime of love, trials, laughter and commitment, bound by the bounty of God's grace, untold blessings and immeasurable love. We are so grateful for everything. Thank you for being part of our lives and enriching it beyond measure."*



**19.01.1957:** The same Richard & Irene (née Rodrigues) Pereira on their wedding day

**in the rich seams of their married lives.**

**RICHARD AND IRENE PEREIRA,**

# RICH!

*couples have struck...*



**GOLD**  
50 years  
27th March, 2017



27.03.17: Fr. John blessing the happy couple as they renewed their commitment to one another during the weekday Mass

*"42 years of our married life has been spent in Sidcup and we hold the parish as being very much part of our family, and even more so since 1997 when I was ordained a deacon. We have both been involved in the Parish both from a spiritual point of view and a social point of view, as catechists, makers of jam and wooden things! Our anniversary celebrations were made all the more special by the kind and wonderful wishes and gifts by a loving and caring parish, reflecting what Christ has asked us to do: "To love one another as he loves us." We feel privileged to belong to such a great community."*



27.03.1967: Peter & Heike (née White) on their wedding day

**HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY,  
AND PETER AND HEIKE VARNES**



## MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

(1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th+ wedding anniversaries)



St. George's Cathedral, Southwark  
17th June 2017

The “weather god” that Fr. Diver asked us to pray to was obviously listening to us as we were blessed with glorious weather for the many significant church events that were taking place, especially during the month of June! Saturday, 17th June, was no exception. Expectations and enthusiasm were running high as the cathedral rapidly filled up with married couples whose milestone wedding anniversaries were the reason for family and friends being present to witness them renewing the vows they made on their wedding day.

The service began with the following address from Archbishop Peter Smith:

*“My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

*A particularly warm welcome to St. George’s Cathedral.*

*I give thanks with you for the many blessings we receive from God, especially in his gift of the Sacrament of Marriage. Your love and fidelity are a wonderful witness to God’s generosity and love for his creation, a witness that is needed so much in our world today, where commitment and self-giving are, sadly, so often lacking.*

*I share in your great happiness today, as you celebrate the years spent together in married love and thank Almighty God for sustaining you in your married lives.*

*I pray that your love may deepen and grow as the years go by.  
With every blessing.”*

In conjunction with the Marriage & Family Life Team, the service was beautifully organized and conducted. For all the guests who were unable to be present on the actual wedding day, then perhaps watching the couples at St. George’s as they stood facing each other and renew their promises today, was the next best thing (see box).

Following the ceremony, for all those “gasping”, there were very welcome refreshments: delectable cakes and savouries, hot and cold beverages, as well as wine. It was a wonderful opportunity to mix and meet the one-year-olds to the 60+ year olds, anniversary-wise, who exemplified and were testimony to the fact that marriage is, indeed, a precious and holy sacrament.

To all those couples from St. Lawrence who were being honoured at the cathedral, we - as a parish community - extend to you our warmest congratulations, and share with you this very happy day in your lives. See you at the cathedral next year!

“I renew with all my heart  
the vows that I have made:  
that you are my lawful wedded  
HUSBAND/WIFE  
to have and to hold  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish  
till death us do part.”



*(For fuller coverage in terms of photos and statistics on this event, please visit the RCSouthwark Diocesan website on: [rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://rcsouthwark.co.uk), where a link will take you to the Diocesan’s Flickr page for more photos.)*



## Thinking of getting married? Marriage and Family Life - South East area

Courses involve one Friday evening and one whole day Saturday for couples wishing to marry in the Catholic church. Courses for the London Southeast Region are run throughout the year in Welling, Beckenham, Forest Hill and Dulwich.

For further information about the courses, contact the Southeast Coordinator,  
Lisette Blanchet Ball on: 020 8690 9310  
or  
Email: [marriages@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:marriages@tiscali.co.uk)

**Couples wishing to get married at St. Lawrence's should contact:-  
Fr. John Diver**



### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SIDCUP

At April's AGM, Mike Conway handed over Chairmanship to Simon Dubbey of New Generation Church, with Paul Hurren filling the Vice-Chair role.

### MINISTERIAL CHANGES

The departures of David Rouse, Colin Terry and (in August) Juliet Ushewokunze, leave their respective parishes – Sidcup Baptist, Holy Redeemer and Emmanuel Church – temporarily leaderless.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lark In The Park, which takes place from Saturday, 22nd July to Sunday, 6 August inclusive, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Two weeks of fun-filled activities for the whole family are promised. There are also a variety of volunteering opportunities available. Further details from: [info@larkinthe park.com](mailto:info@larkinthe park.com) or telephone 020-8309 6056.

Saturday morning prayer meetings (9-9.30am) continue, as follows:-

- 19 August - New Generation
- 16 September - Our Lady of the Rosary
- 21 October - RCCG (New Eltham)

## **HOWE MAXTED GROUP LTD**

**INSURANCE BROKERS & INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS**

**17 Hatherley Road**

**Sidcup Kent DA14 4BP**

**Tel: 020 8309 1717**

**Fax: 020 8300 3167**

**Email: [enquiries@howemaxted.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@howemaxted.co.uk)**



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## ‘Voices that speak...’



A page for you to share all those inspiring moments, which ultimately deepen our relationship with God. The inspiration may come in the form of a particular prayer, picture, thought, what someone said, even mirth-inspiring jokes! - *anything* that makes an impression on you, and which may similarly inspire others. There is a certain joy and fulfilment that comes from wonderment, especially when it is totally unexpected, and gives rise to a generosity and selflessness that cannot be contained. That in itself is a beautiful prayer offering.

**It's all a question of 'interpretation', they say,  
especially as these Sunday School students  
prove...**

- ⇒ *Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients.*
- ⇒ *The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert.*
- ⇒ *Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.*
- ⇒ *St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.*
- ⇒ *A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.*

**LOL, or...  
Laugh out Loud!**



- ☺ Two women called at my door and asked what bread I ate. When I said white, they gave me a 30-minute lecture on the benefits of brown bread. I think they were those *Hovis Witnesses*.
- ☺ A mummy covered in chocolate and nuts has been discovered in Egypt. Archaeologists believe it may be *Pharaoh Rocher*.
- ☺ Jonathan Ross has been accused of shoplifting a kitchen utensil from Tesco. Ross says it was a *whisk* he was prepared to take.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
Replace the tension within us with a holy relaxation;  
Replace the turbulence within us with a sacred calm;  
Replace the anxiety within us with a quiet confidence;  
Replace the fear within us with a strong faith;  
Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of grace;  
Replace the darkness within us with a gentle light;  
Replace the coldness within us with a loving warmth;  
Replace the night within us with your light;  
Replace the winter within us with your spring;  
Straighten our crookedness;  
Fill our emptiness;  
Dull the edge of our pride;  
Sharpen the edge of our humility;  
Light the fires of our love;  
Quench the flames of our lust;  
Let us see ourselves as you see us;  
That we may see You.

**Amen**

[Shared by Nita Pereira]

**When you are going  
through something  
hard and wonder  
where God is,  
remember the  
teacher is always  
quiet during a test.**



# HOME-ILY

**Taking the priest's words home for reflection**

**Your opportunity to share what struck you about the homily you heard, and why...**

**Simple rules:**

1. Give a brief outline of the background to the homily i.e. whether a particular feast day, normal Sunday Mass etc.
2. Name of celebrant, and church Mass was celebrated in e.g. ‘Fr.X of so-and-so church’. This is optional, so you can keep these details general but focus on the actual message instead.

The editors reserve the right to edit contributions for reasons of brevity and **fair comment** (for any of us, constructive criticism is useful - taking pot shots isn't). Well-deserved encomiums have a worthy place too - share them! Contact details on Page 2.



From lots of words to:  
**'The Word of the Lord'**

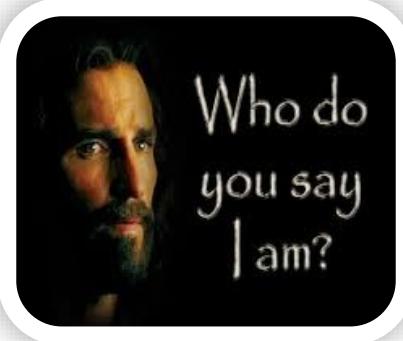
**Fourth Sunday of Lent (A); 26th March, 2017: “God does not see as man sees”**

Blindness manifests itself in various forms, and **Fr. Bryan Wells** in his homily explained how the readings at today's Mass were all about “seeing and not seeing; about light and darkness,” essentially, **perception**. From the prophet, Samuel, having to decide which of Jesse's many sons to crown king of Israel to the man born blind having his sight restored, it is because Jesus cures their *spiritual* blindness that they are able to “see” with both eyes and heart. Fr. Wells likened this sort of perception to the ‘penny drops’ moment.

In order for us to cultivate this deep sense of perception, Fr. Wells reminded us of St. Paul's exhortation to ‘put on the mind of Christ’ where we are confronted with a whole world of truths: of people, events and, more importantly, of ourselves. With such a mindset we are also able to widen and deepen our vision of life, which can often be an “uncomfortable and disconcerting experience.” What can be more uncomfortable or disconcerting than loving our enemies and praying for them as Jesus asks us to do? In so doing, Fr. Wells said that, “perhaps our inner vision becomes purified and we are drawn further and deeper into the mystery of God's love.” The following poem that he shared is beautiful as it is challenging, about what can happen dare we believe in the power of love (exactly as Jesus wants us to do):

*I wonder what would happen if  
I treated everyone like I was in love  
With them whether I like them or not and  
Whether they respond or not and no matter  
What they do or say to me and even if I see  
Things in them which are ugly twisted petty  
Cruel vain deceitful indifferent, just accept  
All that and turn my attention to some small  
Weak tender hidden part and keep my eyes on  
That until it shines like a beam of light  
Like a bonfire I can warm my hands by and trust  
It to burn away all the waste which is not  
Never was my business to meddle with.*

Perhaps that is what Fr. Wells meant when he asked that this Lent we “**pray for renewed sight**,” which in turn takes us a step closer to the ultimate vision that is Jesus Christ.



## C. H. R. I. S. T.

### Christian Hope Rests In Solidarity Together

As I came out of the train station at Charing Cross, I was greeted by a profusion of yellow in every direction practically - not from an abundance of daffodils that had suddenly sprouted but, rather, police officers in their high visibility jackets - lots of them swarming everywhere from Charing

Cross through to Trafalgar Square and in the immediate vicinity. Their vans also formed a tight cordon in front of the station and by St. Martin-in-the-Fields church nearby - reminded me of the Wild West where the covered wagons would form a tight circle as a way of defending themselves against attack by the Indians!

This was no April Fools' prank either, considering it was the 1st of April. The reason for the heavy police presence was to keep the peace between different groups exercising their democratic right to freedom of speech: on the one hand, Britain First and the English Defence League were holding anti-terrorism marches, whilst there were counter-demonstrations at the same time by the Unite Against Fascism group. The police managed to contain the protesting groups, a task not made entirely easy by the hordes of tourists and visitors thronging the popular area as well. However, while I was there things seemed to be under control, and since I had an hour or more before the "Sketchbook Tour" at the National Gallery (see Pg. 24), I made my way down Whitehall towards Westminster.

The street sign below points to the terrible events that took place on Westminster Bridge on Wednesday, 22nd March. Driving his car at high speed over the bridge, a terrorist mowed down pedestrians as he did so, then crashed his vehicle into the railings at the Palace of Westminster. Armed with a knife, he ran into New Palace Yard and repeatedly stabbed police officer, PC Keith Palmer, who challenged him. The terrorist was then shot by a police officer and, despite medics treating both the wounded men, they died at the scene. There were a lot of casualties in terms of the wounded, those who were critically ill and, sadly, those who died –all because of one person's cruel and selfish act. However, he did not have the last word; if anything, it has made people even more determined not to be cowed by terrorists and to want to live in peace and tolerance with each other, in **solidarity**.

So often religion is used as a weapon of division and destruction where its true purpose and intent is exactly the opposite. The sea of flowers in Parliament Square with their personal and moving messages reaffirm the message of solidarity, and emphasise more our commonality than our differences.

A sea of flowers in remembrance and paying tribute



"People of All Faith United Against Hate Crimes",  
the above message reads

**Sheila Pereira**

## CHILDREN'S MASS

At the 10am Mass on Sundays, during school term time, the children are offered a Children's Liturgy. After the first hymn and welcome from Fr. John Diver, the children are invited forward and then proceed out of Mass by the catechists to the St Lawrence's Community Centre ("SLCC"). Here they can learn about the Gospel stories in ways suited to their age and needs.

### **7-year-olds and younger**

Large upper room in SLCC

(Parents are welcome to attend with pre-school children, if necessary, where they can participate in the Liturgy of the Word with their children.)

### **All the Catechists are CRB-checked.**

Parishioners who would like to volunteer as a catechist are always welcome. Please contact Fr. John Diver.



## ST LAWRENCE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Presbytery & Parish Office:

1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup, DA15 7HB

**Tel:** 020 8300 2480

**e-mail:** [stlawrencesidcup@gmail.com](mailto:stlawrencesidcup@gmail.com)

**website:** [www.stlawrenceschurch.org.uk](http://www.stlawrenceschurch.org.uk)

**Deacon:** Rev. Peter Varnes

**Parish Priest:** Fr. John Diver

**Secretary:** Mrs. Bridget Edwards

### SERVICES

**Sunday Masses:** 6.30pm (Sat Vigil), 8.30, 10.00 & 11.30am

**Weekday Masses:** Mon-Sat 9.30am

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Wed 10.00am-12 noon & 5.00-7.00pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sat after 9.30am Mass, 11.00am-12 noon,  
6.00-6.30pm, and at call.

**Benediction:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, following half-hour Adoration after 9.30am Mass

**Rosary:** Sat 9.00am



## ST LAWRENCE'S DIRECTORY

### Parish Council Team

(Correspondence with Councillors via the suggestion box in the back of church)

Fr. John Diver  
Rev. Peter Varnes, Deacon  
Marie O'Grady-Hills  
Kevin Dadswell

Doris Afrell  
Fabiola Mestriner  
Derek Forris  
Mike Crowhurst

### MINISTRIES

**Sacristan:**

Marie Gurhy

**Altar Servers:**

Parish Team

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** Peter Varnes

**Home Visits for Holy Communion:**

Gabrielle Grant

**Welcomers:**

Pam Dennis 8309 0439

**Readers:**

Jill Martin 8302 7263

Denise Baldwin 8300 4984

**Choir & Instrumentalists:**

Caron Tragheim 07505 617607

**Flowers:**

Anne Maxted 8300 1215

**Parish Library:**

Mary Townsend 8302 1155

**The Repository (Missals, cards):**

Open after 8.30am & 10am Masses (in the hall) on Sundays

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CO-ORDINATORS

**First Communion:**

**Confirmation:**

**Marriage Preparation:**

**Baptismal Programme:**

**Please contact the Parish Office for further details**

**020 8300 2480**

**Children's Liturgy (age 0 – 7):** Wendy Boyle

### QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL.

**RC Chaplain**

Fr. John Diver

**Holy Communion Coordinator:**

John Wilsdon

**ST LAWRENCE'S DIRECTORY - continued****CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**Churches Together in Sidcup:** Mr Mike Conway 8300 8911

**SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATORS FOR THE PARISH  
(for the protection of children & vulnerable adults)**

Mrs Carolynn Briggs, Mrs Kathy Rice, Ian Middleton

**In emergency please ring: 07504 751239**

**ORGANISATIONS**

**St Lawrence Charitable Fund:** Nick Wells

**100 Club:** Colin Bradbury

**Deanery Developing World**

**Group:** Susan Grace

**Parish Magazine Editors:** Joan Coles 8309 5110  
Sheila Pereira 8309 5913

**St Lawrence's Prayer Group** Tony Regan 8300 6656

**Mothers' Prayers:** Heike Varnes  
Monday 4.30pm 8300 5074

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**CTK: St Mary's** (Christ the King College) 8309 4760

Shireen Razey, Associate Principal

**YOUTH**

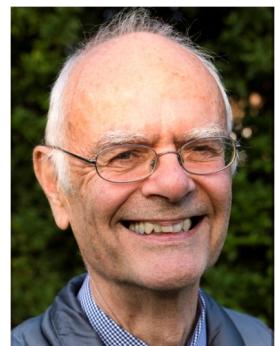
**Brownies (age 7-10):** Rebecca Crisp 07833 501196

**Guides (age 10-14):** Kate McGranghan 07891 559419

## **SINGING PRAISE FOR CARD DESIGN**

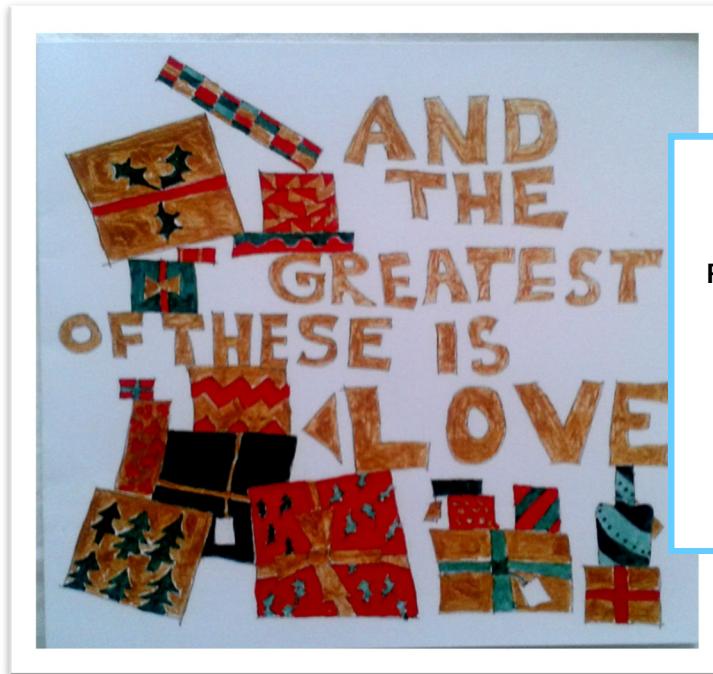
*By Paul Cookson*

You may be dismayed to see a reference to Christmas in the middle of summer, but I have been asked to write a few words on my Christmas card design.



Last August, on BBC Songs of Praise, I saw a competition to design a Christmas card to be sold in aid of Children in Need.

I have always designed personal birthday cards for my family, so I thought I might give the competition a try. I have long thought that the message of Christmas has been overtaken by commercialism so, with that in mind, I quickly drew the card and sent off my entry. To my surprise, I received an e-mail from



Paul's competition entry used by *Children in Need* Christmas Cards 2016

the BBC saying that I was one of the ten designers whose card was chosen to be printed and sold for Children in Need.

I hope the card design is self-explanatory and was successful in raising money for the Children in Need appeal.

### **Editors' Note:**

**Paul's not finished yet it would seem! Watch out for his children's storybook "Christmas Kitten", which should be published in time for Christmas this year.**

## I KID YOU NOT

### A Campaign to Save the Lives of High-Risk Missing Children

On my way to morning Mass (it was the Monday of Holy Week), I bumped into Stephen Fry (actor). Well, not in person actually but staring off a poster that was displayed in one of the advertising panels at the bus stop. It caught my attention because the poster was in animated form and Mr. Fry was baring his chest Superman-like; however, he wasn't advertising the next superhero movie - it was more serious than that. In fact, he was promoting the **Child Rescue Alert** campaign by the charity, Missing People, of which he is patron.

As part of a two-week long national campaign, Stephen Fry wants the public to participate in saving the lives of high-risk missing children by joining the **Child Rescue Alert Team**. As every second is crucial when a child goes missing, information needs to be disseminated widely and quickly, and the Child Rescue Alert system does just that. *"When a Child Rescue Alert is issued, it is sent directly to thousands of people through text, email, app notifications, social media, digital billboards and national media. This means that many more eyes and ears are on the ground, on the lookout for the missing child."*

To participate in this campaign, you need to register first of all in one of two ways:

- 1) online for free at: [www.childrescuealert.org.uk](http://www.childrescuealert.org.uk) (where you can also learn more about this initiative), or
- 2) by text (charge applies. Text the word 'Hero' as well as your postcode to **85080**).

For further information, contact Customer Care on 020 8392 4571.



**"Act now. You could save a child's life."**

**Sheila Pereira**

## THE NATIONAL GALLERY “SKETCHBOOK TOUR”

*By Sheila Pereira*

From the latest visitor numbers available through [visitlondon.com](http://visitlondon.com), the official visitor guide, The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, has been voted one of London's top 10 free attractions. It certainly gets my vote too, especially after I took part in the Gallery's Sketchbook Tour, one of their many **free** creative sessions that are led by artists, poets and National Gallery lecturers.

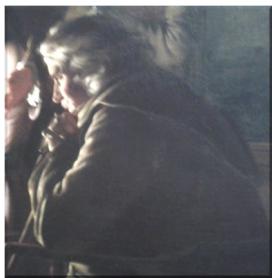
As places for this particular tour were limited to 25 people on a first-come, first-served basis, turning up early was advised especially as prospective sketchers needed to first collect a sticker from the Sainsbury Wing Guided Tour Meeting Point in order to be able to take part. You are also required to bring your own materials in terms of sketchbook, pencils, rubber - some who had taken part before knew the drill and came equipped with charcoal pencils and sticks also; however, the Gallery does provide the stools for sitting on!

We were then met by the artist in charge who gave us a basic overview of the format for the 90-minute session, distributed several handouts designed to give a rough introduction: for example, how to draw angles of the head and achieve levels of tone, after which we were led to the first of three paintings to begin our sketching exercise. However, before getting to the paintings themselves and being overwhelmed by the sheer artistry and imagination of their creators, the architecture and internal decor of the building was breathtaking too: from high-vaulted ceilings to ornate columns, the sheer structural elegance of the surroundings was a fitting complement - and tribute - to all the talent that it was guardian of.

**“Don’t use your knowledge; draw what you really see,”** we were told. In other words, just because we were sketching an eye didn’t mean we automatically had to put in eyelashes. Also, by viewing the painting as an abstract form and breaking it up into shapes, helped in getting the tone and eventual shape of the subject right. We had about 30 minutes at each painting, and the three we worked on were:

- 1) “**An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump**, 1768” by Joseph Wright of Derby (1734-1797);
- 2) “**Self Portrait**, probably 1668-70” by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617-1682), and
- 3) “**Salome receives the Head of John the Baptist**, about 1609-10” by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1571-1610).

My attempt of Painting No. 1 mentioned above is shown below alongside the original, which has been scaled back to focus only on the subject being sketched as there is not enough space to show the original painting in its full detail.



1



My sketch!

(My fellow sketchers’ work on display as well)



Having thoroughly enjoyed the creative buzz of the sketchbook tour, it felt like I had gained a new appreciation for art by actually *participating* rather than just spectating. Once the tour was over, I decided to make the most of the rest of my time at the Gallery by visiting the other exhibitions that were currently running, such as the "Michelangelo & Sebastiano" one, and appreciating the masterpiece by Guido Cagnacci, 'The Repentant Magdalene', which is "***on view in the UK for the first time in over thirty years.***" (See left).

There are over 300 paintings housed in different rooms in the Gallery, and I captured as many as I could on my mobile phone camera; it must have been just as 'culturally' overawed as I was! Take

my word for it: participate in a sketchbook tour (or any one of the many activities hosted by the National Gallery), and visit - or revisit - what is rightly voted as a *top attraction*.

Another attraction that is hard to miss in Trafalgar Square - and I'm not talking about the pigeons! - is the outsized thumb. It is part of a hand sculpture that sits on the Fourth Plinth. The sculpture by David Shrigley, entitled "Really Good", was unveiled on 29 September 2016 by Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London.

The rationale behind the sculpture is a noble and optimistic one (as is explained in the inscription - see box below). The notion of remaining positive despite all the bleakness reminds me of my favourite passage from Romans 5:1-5. Why? For the powerful message of endurance being rewarded because we place our hope and trust in a God who loves us and never abandons us:

***"... we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us."***



**Really Good**

David Shrigley  
b. 1968 in Macclesfield, England

'Really Good' is a seven metre-high hand giving a thumbs up. Cast in bronze, with the same dark patina as the other statues in the square, the thumb is disproportionately long. Shrigley's ambition is that this simple gesture will become a self-fulfilling prophecy; that things considered 'bad' such as the economy, the weather and society, will benefit from a change of consensus towards positivity.

The sculpture is 7 metres tall and weighs 4.5 tonnes

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Fr. Diver blessing the palms before the service on Palm Sunday, 9th April



## PALM LEADING THE EASTER HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY



### HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY:

Christ's commandment by his own example of how we are to love and serve one another.

"Maundy" is derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means "commandment".

Two very important aspects of our Catholic faith are commemorated on this most holy day:

1. The institution of the Eucharist; and
2. The institution of the sacrament of the priesthood.



**Fr. John and Deacon Peter emulating Christ's example in the washing of feet**

# SUNDAY TO TRIDUUM TO HOLY SATURDAY



## GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS 14th April, 2017

Welcome & sending forth from St. John the Evangelist Church, Church Road



### THE 'WITNESS' ROUTE:

1. First stop: War Memorial  
[Reading: Gospel of Matthew 26: 47-56 *The Arrest of Jesus*  
Hymn: When I survey the wondrous cross]
2. Second: Morrisons Supermarket  
[Reading: Gospel of Mark 14: 66-73 *Peter denies Jesus*  
Hymn: Thine be the glory]
3. Third: On Main Road  
[Reading: Gospel of Luke 23: 13-25 *Jesus is sentenced to death*  
Hymn: Amazing Grace]
4. Fourth: The Crescent, Main Road  
[Reading: Gospel of John 19: 16-30 *Jesus is crucified*  
Hymn: Freely, freely]



LAST STOP: TEA/COFFEE & HOT CROSS BUNS AT ST. LAWRENCE'S!

St. John the Evangelist Church was flooded with light as all those taking part in the 'Walk of Witness' assembled inside for a blessing and the singing of a hymn before setting off on the walk itself.

It was remarked that this year's walk was very well attended; for those whose first time it was to take part in such an event, it made for a very powerful and visible affirmation of the Christian faith, particularly when this faith is considered an irrelevance or - worse - subject to deliberate persecution.

At the conclusion of the walk, there was no better way to sum up what we had just participated in but also the whole promise that is Easter, than the following,

**Jesus said: 'It is finished', NOT 'I am finished'.**

With that truth ringing in our ears, we made our way to St. Lawrence church hall to enjoy the warm hospitality of tea/coffee and hot cross buns, buoyed by our coming together and witnessing as a Christian community. Later, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm followed by the Taizé Prayers Around the Cross at 8pm at St. Lawrence's, proclaimed love's triumph on this most holy of "good" days.

*May the light of  
Christ, rising in  
glory, dispel the  
darkness of our  
hearts and minds*

## THE EASTER VIGIL HOLY SATURDAY

15th April, 2017



An evening with a difference, one full of anticipation and eagerness to celebrate a promise fulfilled. The Easter Vigil began at 9pm with a hush in the church as most of the activity was initially concentrated outdoors for the blessing of the new fire and the Paschal candle.

The Procession of Light began with the Easter candle held aloft and Deacon Peter Varnes proclaiming, “The light of Christ”, to which the assembled congregation joyfully responded “*Thanks be to God*”, while cradling their own tiny candles in their hands. Deacon Varnes then proceeded to sing the Exsultet, a touching rendition reminding us, among many promises, that, **“This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.”**

The rest of the service only reinforced that message, none more so than when Fr. Diver fully received into the Church the six people who had made a journey in faith (see below) and “confirmed [them] in what the Church holds and knows to be the truth.” He went on to say that the one thing that has united these candidates is that someone somewhere has guided them, walked with them, shown them what it means to be part of the Church. And that is what we are all called to do; that is what the disciples, the people who went to the tomb, did. What they saw they remembered and passed on. Fr. Diver’s urging about *living the truth* and knowing that the gospel can change us if we just believe sounds simple enough but not always easy to do. Perhaps that is why we are always on a ‘journey in faith.’ With the map set out by the Lord as well as Him being our guide, we can’t fail to reach our destination!

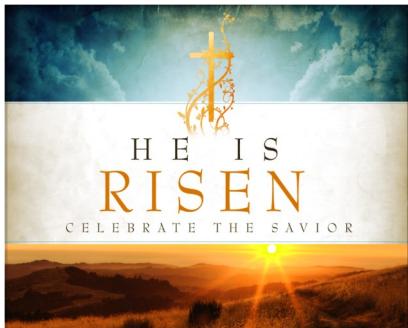
The spirit of thanksgiving continued to feature very strongly in this two-hour service as Fr. Diver paid tribute to all those whose help in whatever “ministry” they undertook was essential to the smooth running of St. Lawrence: Deacon Varnes, the choir, those who cleaned the church and many others. However, the greatest praise was reserved for our young altar servers who, everyone agreed, do a magnificent job at every Mass but did exceptionally so over the entire Easter celebration. They are an inspiration to us all and our hope that the Christian flame can never be extinguished.

The service may have come to an end round about 11pm but the truth we professed - and are witness to - is eternal.

The six candidates who were received and confirmed into the Catholic church:

**Rachael Carabine-Clark, Ronald Davies, Patrick Obah, Danny James O’Callaghan, Linda Provenza and Patrick Simbule.**





**“A CHRISTIAN GOSPEL MESSAGE WILL NEVER BE HARMFUL**

The message of the Resurrection cannot be dumbed down, nor can it be made politically correct. Easter is something we all have to experience; we all have to live it and tell people about it because it is...  
**true.”**

[Extract from Fr. Diver's Easter Day homily]

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
16th April, 2017



A common sight at the Easter Sunday services at St. Lawrence's - a full church with standing room only!





## **A VISITOR'S REACTION**

I had the good fortune to attend Mass at St Lawrence last Sunday and Monday (14-15 May), and I would like to convey my appreciation by saying a big *thank you*.

Though I retired 15 years ago to live in the south of France with good weather and a view of the Mediterranean, a Mass in English is always a treat.

Would it be possible to hijack you all? So many people played an active part and yet it all happened so smoothly: readers who clearly hadn't been asked to read five minutes before Mass; altar servers of all ages - including girls - who were competent, slick and not distracting.

The music enhanced both Masses - a capella at the weekday Mass and a melodious choir on Sunday with a duo of excellent psalmists. There were hymns I knew and those that I didn't were easy to pick up. I found myself smiling when we sang the GLORIA of the Lourdes Mass which I know so well; I hadn't realised that now I roll my 'r's!

Maybe you can understand my reaction when I say that I come from a parish that is a merger of five parishes where each commune has one Sunday Mass and the four priests, with an average age of 62 years, do the rounds. There is no Catholic school and catechism classes are dwindling as judo, ballet and football, are seen as more important. Altar servers are very rare and are 'boys only'. We are trying to improve the singing but congregations won't sing unless there is someone (an "animateur") leading from the front - even one with an English accent! There are two of us for three churches! Communion under both kinds is almost unheard of and a woman as an Extraordinary Minister - dream on!

Thank you, Father John, for a moving sermon though I was struck that in 2016 you only had 37 funerals; we had 93, and in January there were four in one day alone!

It was heartening to see a congregation across the total spectrum of ages and standing room at a premium. I witnessed a church and a parish very much alive and thriving. The feeling of community was almost tangible.

Thank you all and God bless.

**Marie-Anne Hosley**  
Eze, France

P.S.: Thank you too to your deacon, Peter Varnes, who, having persuaded me to write this, offered me a lift to the station speeding me on my way to Gatwick! I sense how this parish is so alive.

### **Editors' Note:**

Thank you, Marie-Anne, for sharing your warm and generous sentiments about our parish. Extending hospitality and welcome to all, especially strangers in our midst, is what Christ exhorted us to do and by you sharing your experience at St. Lawrence, do we realise what practically living out our faith really means. We look forward to seeing you again, this time travelling in the opposite direction from Gatwick!

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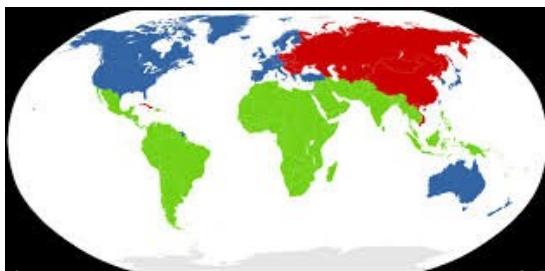
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*Bexley Deanery Developing World*

**By Susan Grace**

The group continues to support independent community projects across the developing world. To date, we have supported six projects, including three that were nominated by parishioners of St Lawrence's. The projects have been in various parts of the world, from Bolivia to Tanzania.

We have:

- ♦ supported a home for physically disabled women;
- ♦ provided equipment for two schools;
- ♦ supplied seeds and machinery to help a group of widows increase their cassava crop, and
- ♦ helped to educate young women in Malawi to keep them out of child marriage.

The latest project this year has been to purchase a kiln for a school for disabled children in Tanzania. It will enable calipers and prosthetic limbs to be made on site and in greater numbers. I have attached the thank you and photos we received from the head teacher.

Thank you for your support over the last year - the curry and quiz night raised £660.

\*\*\*\*\*

*“Dear All the good people of Bexley Deanery Developing World Group,*

*I can't tell you how much your help means to us out here. It's not just the money but also the thought of all the love and sacrifice that went into collecting all that money. It is so encouraging.*

*Your donation has covered the cost of buying the oven. It looks like a pizza oven but, believe me, it would scorch any pastry brought near it!. We were fortunate in getting it second-hand, which meant we had money over to buy a grinding machine for finishing the moulds and some plastic sheets for making the calipers. Since we got the oven, Maikol, our techie, has made 15 pairs of calipers for legs and hands.*

*I have included a few pictures (from Tanzania) showing you the work in progress and the finished articles on some of the children. Ema is a small boy of five with his dad; his mother died when he was just one year old, and his father has looked after him ever since. He [the father] comes to the centre faithfully almost every day. As you can see he is a very young man. He has no job but is supported by his family. There are many mothers like him but few dads. Working with these children and their families is a great grace. They have so much to teach us.*



Ema and his father



*Again grateful thanks from all of us: parents, staff and children. You are remembered in our daily prayer before we begin work. God bless you all for your generosity.*

*Love and blessings,*

***Sr. Adriana”***

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## TV DRAMA REVIEW

**'Broken'**

*By Suneila Pereira*

This six-part BBC One drama by Jimmy McGovern which first aired on 30th May, was a powerful portrayal of everyday life across different parts of our society and those who have been marginalised in some way.

It features a Catholic parish priest, Michael Kerrigan, who ministers to his flock in the northwest of England whilst trying to get to grips with the challenges his own life throws at him. His church was located in a deprived community where poverty, both material and spiritual abound, bigotry, intolerance and fear are blended into an explosive mix.

The episodes reflect human conflict in all its dimensions: struggles with lack of money, abuse of different kinds, mental illness, addictions, suffering at the hands of others because of their intolerance, lies, deceit and abuse of authority. The audience is confronted with aspects of themselves, and crucially underscores our fundamental need to be loved and to belong. That in turn involves an examination of conscience and courage to do the right thing, knowing that sometimes this will cause deep hurt and pain to others as well as ourselves. Such questioning leads to the supreme challenge of asking for forgiveness and being able to forgive.

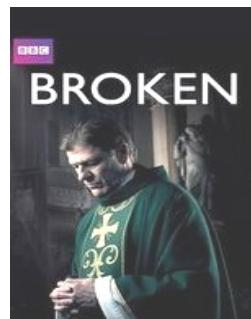
Throughout, the episodes depicted our Catholic faith positively with the Mass rites respectfully and accurately portrayed. It also showed the people who make up the Church— individuals from all levels of society who come together to celebrate the love of God as a community whilst each struggling with their own realities.

Sean Bean, who portrays the priest Michael Kerrigan, gives a wonderful performance of a man who does his best to meet the needs of his parishioners whilst dealing with his own demons and struggling to be faithful to his calling as a priest. His obedience to the Church comes under scrutiny as well as his own values when dealing with a gay man, questioning his [Michael's] own sexuality after having been abused by a priest as a young boy, finding courage to confront the wrongs done by others directly to him as well as to those he ministers to. He is also a concerned man and rather than offering the indifferent solace of 'trust in God and say three Hail Marys' (important though these are), he offers them *practical* help too – food vouchers for the hungry, confronting bad business practices that threaten lives and whole communities by making money from addiction and deprivation, and helping people cope when their circumstances seem to overwhelm.

Fr. Kerrigan is an amalgamation of therapist, confidante, social worker, son, brother as well as priest. Perhaps it is because of his own brokenness that he has a natural empathy with the suffering of others and establishes a rapport with them, which is a kind of saving grace. It is fitting then that the series ends with Kerrigan facing his demons with courage and faith, and being affirmed of his worth and vocation as a priest when his parishioners sincerely say as they receive Holy Communion, "Amen, you wonderful priest!"

We say this beautiful prayer before entering into the most holy part of the Mass,

**'Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed'**



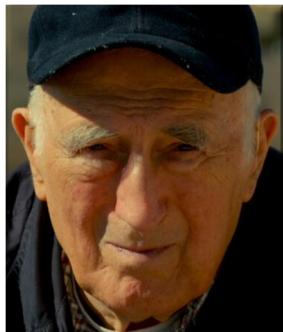
Sean Bean as  
Fr. Michael Kerrigan

We are all broken now and then but do not remain so because in communion with Jesus, we can be sure that His response to our plea above is to always make us whole and loved - to give us a new life that is beyond our understanding, and therefore unbreakable.

## FILM REVIEW

### 'SUMMER IN THE FOREST'

*By Alan Pavelin*



Jean Vanier

The L'Arche community was founded by the Canadian Catholic Jean Vanier, now in his late 80s, to provide a home for mentally disabled and disturbed people.

This documentary film, which had a very limited cinema release but which will probably come out on DVD, was shot mainly at the original community near Paris, but then reverts to one in Palestine (there are now communities in over 30 countries, including Britain).

The film concentrates not so much on Vanier himself (though he is given plenty of scope to speak of his life and experiences) as on several of the people who are looked after, and how they cope.

The final extended scene is of an outdoor wedding ceremony between two of the residents. A very moving and impressive film, not least because of the beautiful forest environment and some striking overhead camerawork. Highly recommended, if you can get to see it.



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