



ST ERCONWALD'S NEWSLETTER



28-29 MARCH 2026

MESSAGE FROM FR RUSLAN - PALM SUNDAY

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ
 Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week, the most sacred week of the year. In today's Gospel, St Matthew guides us through the Passion of the Lord, once again reminding us of the depth of Christ's love for us. We witness betrayal, weakness, and suffering. Judas betrays Jesus, Peter denies Him, and the disciples lose courage and run away. Yet Our Lord remains faithful. He accepts the Cross freely and gives Himself completely for our salvation. This Gospel speaks to each of us because we are aware of our own weaknesses too. Sometimes we are strong in faith; other times, we struggle, become distracted, or fail to stay close to the Lord. But the great consolation of Holy Week is that Jesus never turns away from us. His love remains faithful, patient, and full of mercy. As we begin this holy journey, I encourage you to set aside time for prayer and for the liturgies of Holy Week. Let us walk with the Lord through His Passion so that we may celebrate Easter with renewed faith, hope, and joy.

**With prayers, Father Ruslan
 and the Community Pastoral Council**

WHY ARE PURPLE CLOTHS COVERING THE CRUCIFIXES AND STATUES?

During the last two weeks of Lent, all images of Christ and all crucifixes are covered in purple fabric. This is a tradition that dates back as far as the early Church and serves as a sign of mourning and anticipation of Christ's passion. **You may like to adopt a similar practice:** in some homes, images are covered and tables are set with purple dining cloths or are decorated with purple candles. When we see the deep purple hues of Lent, they remind us to repent and to turn away from sin and toward Christ, to remember the suffering He endured for our sake, and prepare us for the joy of Easter when our King, once robed in purple and crowned with thorns, is revealed in His resurrection glory.

BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND

Fr Ruslan is celebrating Alfie Oliver and Oscar Anthony Mahoney's baptisms this weekend. Please pray for these children and their family as they are received and welcomed into the Catholic Church.

REMEMBER THE CLOCKS CHANGE THIS WEEKEND!

The clocks move forward this weekend - so don't forget to adjust your clocks or you may be late for Mass on Sunday morning!

THANK YOU to Fr Alex and Fr Luke who led us in a wonderfully joyful **Divine Mercy** retreat last Saturday, and for the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was great to see so many of you and others from our wider parish come along and receive God's grace.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 28 Mar	9.30	MASS
	10.00	ADORATION & RECONCILIATION
Sun 29 Mar	16.45	ITALIAN MASS
	18.00	MASS Arnaldo Fernandes RIP
	9.15	Palm Sunday of The Passion of the Lord MASS Parishioners
Mon 30 Mar	11.15	MASS Ronny Richardson RIP
	13.00	POLISH MASS
	9.30	Monday of Holy Week MASS Intentions of Libby Grace
Tues 31 Mar	18.30	Tuesday of Holy Week
	19.30	ADORATION & RECONCILIATION MASS
Wed 1 Apr	9.30	'Spy' Wednesday of Holy Week MASS Health & Wellbeing of Elaine & Adam Toms
	10.00	NO ROSARY, NO ADORATION AND NO RECONCILIATION
Thurs 2 Apr	19.30	Maundy Thursday THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Fri 3 Apr	9.30	Good Friday
	15.00	NO MASS and NO DIVINE MERCY THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
Sat 4 Apr	9.30	Holy Saturday. The Solemn Vigil of Easter.
	10.00	NO MASS
	11.00	NO ADORATION & NO RECONCILIATION
	13.00	EASTER BLESSING OF FOOD EASTER BLESSING OF FOOD
Sun 5 Apr	16.45	NO ITALIAN MASS
	20.00	MASS Sydney & Joan Simpkin RIP
	9.15	Easter Sunday MASS Intentions of Josephine Corkery & family
	11.15	MASS Parishioners
Sun 5 Apr	12.30	ITALIAN MASS
	13.30	POLISH MASS

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM PREPARATION

These sessions take place throughout the year. The next preparation session will be on **Tuesday 14th of April at 8.15pm**. Please contact the office for details and to book.

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 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays during Adoration (please see Masses Timetable).

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 AND CONFIRMATION

Applications are now closed for the 2025-26 programmes.

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Ruslan Kurdiumov

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PARISH DEACON

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PARISH OFFICE

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tue - Fri 10:00 -13:30

WEBSITE

www.sterconwalds.org.uk

PARISH SCHOOLS

CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL

Arch Road, Hersham

Surrey, KT12 4QT

TEL: 01932 222536

EMAIL:

office@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk

SALESIAN SCHOOL

Guildford Road, Chertsey

Surrey, 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. 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, Tom Asbury, Teresa Azouz, Baby Elm, Roger Blishen, Christopher Clifford and Catherine Browle, Katherine Cawley, Trish Claxton, Rose Collins, Jimmy Connaughtoin, Pat Couchman, Thérèse Crumpler, James De Leons-Hopkins, Maureen and Bill Dodds, Julia Donaldson, Manuel and Jackie Faraldo, Michael and Cathy Flynn, Carole Frost, Carmen Galanty, Sophie Giannini, Franky Goes, Gloria Gowen, Ann Griffin, the Hansford family, Michael Johnson, Karen Lane, John Lydon, Rita McGloin, Oscar Menezes, Christian Misuraca, Sarah Mitchell, Maureen Moriarty, Colleen Murphy, Louise Nettleton, Arlo Nolan, Fr Sebastian Paul, 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.

EASTER OFFERINGS

A gentle reminder that parish priests are not paid a salary; they are remunerated from mass stipends and from Easter and Christmas offerings. Any parishioners who wish to make an Easter offering for our priest are warmly invited to do so. If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid can be applied, allowing us to reclaim an additional 25% at no extra cost to you. Although the collection is taken by the parish, all Easter offerings (including the Gift Aid uplift) go directly to support Fr Ruslan. If you donate by regular standing order, please make a separate payment with the description, "Easter". You can also donate online or via Dona (select 'Easter'). **Thank you for your generosity** and for all you do to support the life of our parish.

On **Good Friday** the collection will be for the **Holy Land**, and on **Easter Sunday** there will be a **second collection** for HCPT pilgrimage trust Group 24. HCPT organises pilgrimages to Lourdes for disabled and disadvantaged children.

LENTEN LUNCHES

Thank you to all of those that came along to the Lenten lunches and especially those who provided the soup and bread. It was a wonderful way to come together during the season of Lent, and raise money for HCPT group 24.

BIG CLEAN and LOST PROPERTY

Thank you to all of those who came along for the BIG CLEAN in the church this Saturday, many hands make light work. We hope you notice the difference. Thank you also to those who collected lost property, we're happy to see you reunited with your belongings!

BABY AND TODDLERS PLAY GROUP

We'll next meet in April, after Easter. Watch this space for dates.

YOUTH-LED MASS

Our next youth-led Mass will be after Easter, on Saturday **18 April** at 6pm. All are welcome.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have a vibrant group of children attending Sunday 9.15am Mass and liturgy during term-time. The small team who run this group would love some more volunteers to join and help as often as fits your own schedule. If you're interested or just want to find out more please contact Susana in our office.

WELCOMING MINISTRY

Can you be a welcoming face to greet people as they come to Mass? This is such an important ministry and we're looking for additional people, especially for both Sunday morning Masses. Please contact the office if you're interested.

CAMINO WALKING PREPARATION

Are you walking the Camino in June or would you simply like to join a group and get some steps in? We walk around 4-6 miles on Thursday and/or Saturday mornings, usually leaving from somewhere in Walton and taking around 1.45-2 hours. Join as often or as infrequently as you like. Contact Lucy Jardine on 07740-461785 for details of where to meet each week.

OTHER PARISH VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

We'd love some more volunteers for these important ministries and activities at St Erconwalds. Please contact the office if you can help.

- Eucharistic Ministry
- Readers - especially for weekday masses
- Communications team eg newsletter, posters

ST ERCONWALD FEAST DAY - SAVE THE DATE!

We will celebrate our community St Erconwald feast day on **17 May 2026**, and, in honour of that we shall begin a **novena**, from **8 May to 16 May**. On the feast day there will only have one Mass at 10am, with a gathering after the 10 am mass in our parish hall. More details to follow.

OTHER/DIOCESAN NEWS/EVENTS

JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the most sacred time in the Christian liturgical year, commemorating the final days of Jesus' earthly life, from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his passion, death, and resurrection. It forms the gateway to the Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday, the "Feast of Feasts," where the Paschal Mystery - Christ's suffering, death, and rising - unfolds as the source and summit of salvation. The Diocese has created **three short films** to accompany people across our family of faith through Holy Week. The films are presented by Canon Kieron O'Brien from The Catholic Parish of Brighton & Hove; Canon Jonathan Martin, Diocesan Administrator and PP of St Pancras, Lewes; and Fr Jonathan How, Moderator of Guildford Catholic Parish. <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/holy-week-des>

CATHOLIC UNION

The Catholic Union would like to make its Weekly Briefing, which is essential reading for any of us, available to every Catholic in England, Scotland and Wales who wishes to receive it. It is free of charge and full of information - do subscribe.

GRANDPARENTS FORMATION DAY

Thursday 23 April 10-4pm at St John the Evangelist parish hall, Horsham. Join us for what promises to be a wonderful, engaging and affirming day with guest speaker, David Wells. For more details on David's talks visit his website davidwellslive.com To register, go to the Events page of the Diocesan website www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING

Saturday 9 May 2026, 10-3pm at the St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley - Tickets are just £40 per delegate. To register visit www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events.

The Diocese sends out a **weekly E-Bulletin newsletter** which includes details of formation and events taking place across the Diocese and our wider Catholic community. Click here to sign up: mailchi.mp/7529e811ae63/joinourlist

COMMUNICATIONS

Please send any newsletter/website/porch/social media items or any amendments to: comms.sterconwalds@gmail.com by Thursday 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 FEBRUARY: £1112.84

2ND COLLECTION FLOWERS: TBC

STANDING ORDERS FOR FEBRUARY: £4420.67

THANK YOU!

SAVE THE DATES!

03 APR: GOOD FRIDAY
04 APR: HOLY SATURDAY
05 APR: EASTER SUNDAY
18 APR: YOUTH-LED MASS
17 MAY: ST ERCONWALDS FEAST DAY CELEBRATION