

St Michael's News



The quarterly magazine for the people of St Michael's Parish, Ashford

Issue 103

Feast of St Michael 2019

Farewell Mgr Jim

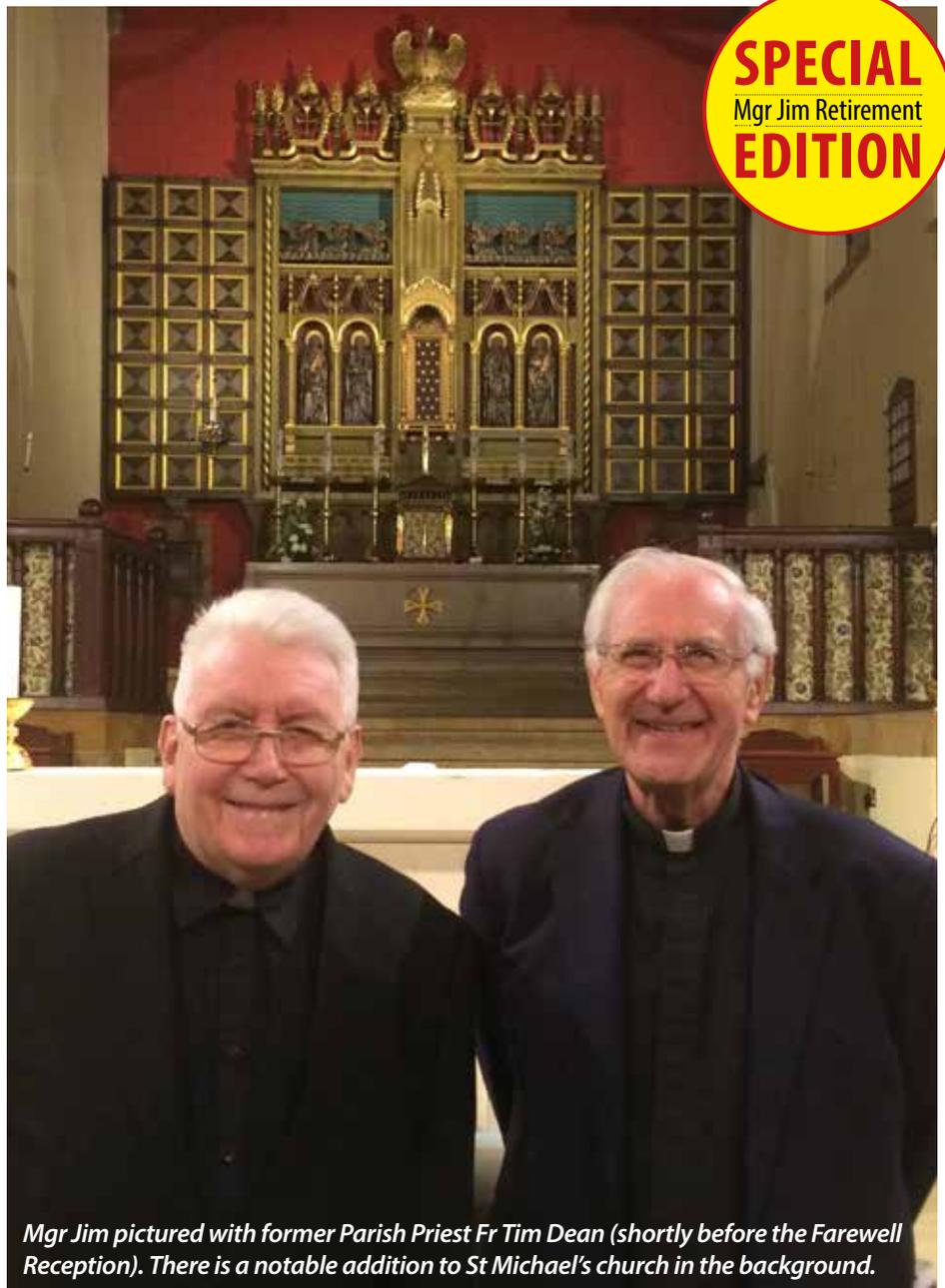
Mgr Jim retires after 17 years as Parish Priest of St Michael's

Richard Meddelton *writes*

On Friday 27th September, parishioners, young and old gathered at St Michael's Parish Centre, to celebrate the retirement of Mgr James Overton, better known to us all as Fr Jim. He has served our Parish for 17 years and has provided guidance, support and friendship to so many of us during his ministry.

Proceedings began with Fr Jim providing a brief ceremony for the blessing of the new Pelican carving in the Church. The Pelican carries rich historical significance as an ancient emblem of Christianity and was commissioned by Fr Jim thanks to generous donations from parishioners. It was beautifully sculpted by Peter Foster who also was present at the ceremony.

Continued on pages 12 & 13



INSIDE 
ST MICHAEL'S NEWS



All change:
Meet our
new priests
Pages 3 & 4



Confirmation
2019
Page 6



A Tale of Two
Cathedrals
Pages 14 & 15

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From the Bulletins

July– September 2019

July 7th – Mary's Meals would like to thank all those who donated items. They collected **380kg** of unwanted clothes/bedding, worth **£212.80** which will feed **15** children one good meal every school day for a whole year.

July 21st – Fr Frank Nolan of the Missionaries of Africa wishes to thank you for your very generous donations of **£1,139.09**.

July 28th – Congratulations and best wishes to Gavin and Mary Boyle who celebrated their **60th Wedding Anniversary** on 25th July 2019.



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August 1st – Fr Tom Quinn RIP
Fr Tom Quinn, former parish priest of St John Fisher, Shepperton, who died on 1st August 2019.
May the Lord reward him for his faithful and generous service of God's people.

August 11th – Sanctuary curtains Many thanks to Stella Walter and Joe Mascarenhas for making and hanging the new curtains behind the balustrades. *See page 7*

August 18th – Many of you have complimented John and Jack Clark on their excellent work in stripping the benches in the church. They should complete the re-varnishing, then kneelers will be re-attached to the benches.

September 1st – Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor RIP. Anniversary (2017).

I thank God for his love for me and Fr Jim (Mgr James Overton) for his words of encouragement to me. I am delighted to be here and to work together with you and to walk towards God's house; where the Mercy and Love never end. Great Saints; men and women have always said that we are brothers and sisters, meaning one Family under one Almighty and loving God. I request you to always keep in your precious prayer Mgr James Overton, Fr Carlo Maria Mazzotta (Assistant Priest of St Michael's and St David's, Stanwell) and me. May St Michael the Archangel intercede for each one of us, and may Mary our Heavenly Mother guide us to her Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr Sidon Sagar FDP

From the Registers

July– September 2019

Baptisms: Boden Jack White, Arthur Raven Russell, Aoife Patricia Colette Chareyre, Liam Gilles Pierre Chareyre, Luca Harvey Bullock, Aria Natalie Aurelie Marie, Fallon Elizabeth McDermott, Malena Deegon, Zachery James Harries, Joshua James Stroud, Melania Katrina Soban, Phoebe Jean Poulton, Grayson Christopher Charles Ovens, Tawanda Marshal Michael Tapina, Gideon Oluwa Feranmi Victor Thompson, Paul Dawn Olunatobiloba Thompson, Daniel Joseph Taylor, Charlie Alexander Saulle.

Deaths: Stanley James Clarke, Teresa Sheila Miles

Marriages: Jonathan Frogell and Laura Smith, Thomas Walsh and Hollie Axten, Ashley Rice and Stephanie De Souza, Richard Lee and Gemma Holley.

CONFIRMATION: Nell Allister, Jamie Aquilina, Rian Bartley, Luke Downs, Marcus Fernandes, Joana Ferreira, Jack Gale, Jamie Haxton-Smith, Sarah Holmes-De Abreu, Thomas Jones, Jacek Kapczynski, Ryan Mackenzie, Harry Meddelton, Joseph Owusu, Kizzi Richardson, Christina Rodrigues, Connor Salisbury, Lucy Savage, Olivia Skrzecz, Megan Sweeney-Walsh, Samuel Titheridge, Livia Torchia.

Canonization of John Henry Newman



Join Westminster Youth Ministry for a once in a lifetime trip to witness the first canonization of an English saint for almost fifty years. Travelling 11th to 14th October, highlights will include the canonization Mass with Pope Francis, the opportunity to visit historic sites and churches in Rome, and Mass in the Venerable English College with Bishop Nicholas Hudson. Cost is £480, which includes flights, accommodation, breakfast and public transport around Rome and to and from the airport. To register visit dowym.com

Diocesan Annual Accounts 2018
available at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford/diocese/annualaccounts2018/>



Let us introduce ourselves ...

Fr Sidon Sagar FDP *writes*



My Name is Sidon Sagar (Meaning: Ocean of Sidon). I am the fifth generation as Catholic of the family. I am the firstborn and have five siblings, three brothers and two sisters. None of the brothers is married. Sisters are married, so I got two Brothers-in-Law,

and last year got a new member of the family, a Niece. Have a wonderful aunt Ruby Kumari Nagaraj. A small family circle. Oh! by the way, I am from India, Bengaluru, Karnataka, South India. Bengaluru is known for IT Industry and Techies. Just to give Idea, US Postoffice help service or Tech support is run from Bengaluru.

Mr Vincent (no Surname) a Tamilian from Dharmapuri, South India. Dad is no more, he passed away a few months after my Ordination, and I believe he is in the best place. Ms Regina Mary my mom: she speaks Hindi and is from Bihar North India, she is a strong woman, lives by herself with one of my brother, who is a specially-abled person, but always surrounded by my other brothers and sisters. Me, yes! I had a wonderful time, with my parents and siblings. Yes, I come from a middle-class family, as most of them in India.

Excerpts from my life: When I was 14 years old, Dad and Mom got sick, I being the eldest son, I had to take care of my sister who was just a few weeks old and another sister who was just one-year-old. So my brother younger than me started to work, and me at home with mom's guidance taking care of brothers and sisters, learnt to cook, wash dishes and clothes and after my parents got better, joined my brother to work. Yes, I have learnt the harsh realities of life and what it means to be the head of the family, in all its dimensions and challenges. I did all kinds of work to support my family, at the same time doing my studies in Computers programming.

I managed to complete my Post Graduation (in Computer Applications) then got my first job which was given to me: Lab Assistant in the same training school because I had to pay my due fees for the course I did. From there I worked my way

through, all the way to be Systems Engineer for AT&T, having a team of 200 members under me, and earning a good salary.

Then, I decided to get married and settle down as any young man could have wanted (I know what you are thinking but, that story for another time), but had always this emptiness within me, every time I went for a Eucharistic celebration or Mass.

I was found by Sons of Divine Providence in 2002 and that was it. I quit my job and joined the Sons the same year. After philosophical studies, novitiate and First Profession in 2006 I was sent to Italy, where I did all my Theological studies: BTh and MTh in Spirituality and I was Ordained Deacon in Rome, had the great blessing of serving Two Popes (which is also the title of the upcoming movie it's about them), Popes Benedict and Francis on the altar of St. Peter, Vatican.

Then in 2014 Returned to India after nine years, got Ordained as Priest in 2016 after 5 years as Deacon. I worked with the specially-abled children (centre named as Daya Niketan meaning House of Mercy) from 2015 to 2018. Last year in August 2018 I reached London to help in the surrounding parishes for the supply of masses and raise money for the Congregation and help financially the centre with the special children. Things changes this year, I am Parish Priest, next year?! Em! I wonder, what the Lord has planned for me.

.....

Fr Carlo Maria Mazzotta FDP *writes*



I was born in Melbourne, Australia, 4th April, 1955 of Italian immigrants, 7th in a family of eight children. I attended St Joseph's secondary school in East Brunswick, Melbourne run by the Marist Brothers. I later worked briefly in dairy factory a jeweller's shop.

I travelled to Rome in November 1975, the Holy Year. Before returning to Australia I travelled around Europe by train and hitch hiking as a

pilgrim visiting Lourdes, Nevers, Para le Monial, Lisieux, Paris (Rue de Bac, etc.), Madrid, Avila, Salamanca, Lisbon, Fatima. When in Fatima I met Fr Paul Bidone FDP of the Sons of Divine Providence, leading a group of pilgrims.

Later on visiting London, I met again with Fr Paul and decided to try my vocation, entering the Sons of Divine Providence in Hampton Wick, London in 1976. In 1977 I moved to Sarsfield House, Ballyfermot, Dublin, then a hostel for young offenders. I studied philosophy at All Hallows Missionary College, Drumcondra, Dublin from 1977-1979. Novitiate in Up Holland, Lancashire in 1979 – 80. My first profession of vows was in August 1980. I did a year's practical experience at Molesley Venture, East Molesley, a hostel for young men with learning disabilities.

In September 1981, I began theological studies at Allen Hall, London while living in community house in Streatham, London, then part of Fatima House, a home for homeless men. In August 1984, I was ordained deacon at Westminster Cathedral by Cardinal George Basil Hume. I studied Pastoral Theology at Pontifical Lateran College, Rome, Italy, from September 1984 to 1986. On June 2nd, 1985, I was ordained priest in St Peter's Basilica by Pope St John Paul II with 70 others, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

I later returned to Dublin in 1986, working in Sarsfield House, which eventually became a day centre for the elderly and Fr Bidone Court, a housing complex for elderly people. From 1993 -94 Novice Master, Up Holland, Lancashire, returning again to Dublin for several years. In 1996 again to Up Holland, Lancashire, working in Cardinal Heenan House, a nursing home for elderly people.

In October, 2002, I moved to Zarqa, Jordan working in St Joseph Centre, a technical school for boys which became a Comprehensive Secondary School (600) plus a Marian Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Peace. Five years ago it became a parish of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

In June 2017, I returned to Hampton Wick, London. On September 2019, I was appointed assistant priest of St Michael's, Ashford and St David's, Stanwell.

Deo Gratias.

VACANCY

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

St Paul's Catholic College, which continues to develop with the support of our excellent staff and Governing Body and is in the top 10% of schools nationally, is currently looking to appoint a Foundation Governor to join our Governing Body.

We are particularly interested in anyone who has an educational background, however, this position is not applicable to any existing parents of St Paul's children.

For further information with regard to this role please contact our Clerk to the Governors, Jo Chappell, directly on **01932 704119** or email **jchappell@st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk**

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Ofsted - December 2017



Open Day & Evening

Admission to Year 7 in 2020

Thursday 26th September 2019

MORNING:

Choose to visit between 8.45am - 10.15am or 11.00am - 12.20pm

EVENING: Visit between 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Address by the Headteacher, Mr James Mc Nulty, at 6.45pm and 7.30pm
(tours last approximately 1 hour - No appointment necessary)

St Paul's Catholic College rated 'Outstanding'

Ofsted - December 2017



St Paul's Catholic College
Manor Lane, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 6JE
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Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The new rota is now available online at <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford/>

Quiz Night for Grown-ups

by Tina Gale

On the 13th July, we held an Adult Parish Quiz night for Sam Beare Hospice. We had a raffle, ran a bar and placed collection boxes on every table. Paul Gregory and Richard Bartley, who were our resident *compères*, did a great job compiling the questions. I want to give a big thank you to my husband who helped to get raffle prizes and set up the hall and also to Philomena Meddelton for her service behind the bar. Finally, a thank you to Daisy and Freya who sold raffle tickets and to everyone who helped to clear up or attend the quiz to support this marvellous cause.

Sally, a registered nurse at Sam Beare, asked me some time ago if I would hold a quiz night for the hospice. She got stuck in from the start by liaising with the fundraisers at the hospice and produced headed letters that asked for raffle prizes. She trawled the streets along with my husband and I speaking to firms, trying to gain their support concerning raffle prizes.

At the end of the quiz, Sally stood up to thank everyone for coming. She explained that Sam Beare covers Spelthorne, Elmbridge and Runnymede. Ninety pence in every pound goes to the charity. Sam Beare doesn't just cover end of life care; they also deal with issues such as community nursing, counselling and symptom control. Sam Beare, like most hospices, are operating at a 50% deficit, and only 5% of the running costs come from the government, which is why fundraising is always very welcomed.

Many people approached me to congratulate us on a delightful evening. The total sum of money raised was £416.30.



Building Works Final Update

I am delighted that the Pelican carving has now been placed on top of the reredos in the sanctuary as a beautiful and powerful symbol of the sacrifice of the Eucharist.

I thank Peter Foster for his truly excellent craftsmanship in sculpting the lovely Pelican and restoring the sense of balance to the reredos.

The Pelican represents a mother tearing open her breast to feed her chicks with her blood. From the beginning, the Church has always portrayed the Pelican as a symbol of Jesus feeding us with his Body and Blood in the Eucharist. It is, of course, a myth and not a true fact. But as a myth the Pelican expresses in a beautiful symbolic way the profound truth of our Eucharistic faith. Similarly, the apple that Eve and Adam ate is also a myth and not a true fact, yet it also expresses in a powerful symbolic way the fateful truth of the disobedience and fall of humankind.

I would also like to thank Gary and Joseph Moore for building the retaining wall for the church garden by the entrance to the hall which will prevent the stones from spilling over onto the forecourt.

Fr Jim Overton

See images on page 10



Increasing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Confirmation 2019

by **Clive De Souza**, Confirmation Catechist

On Saturday 29th June, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, 22 young people were confirmed here at St Michael's, by the Rt Reverend Michael Campbell, Bishop Emeritus of Lancaster. Bishop Campbell was a late replacement for Bishop John Wilson, who was recently appointed the new Archbishop of Southwark by Pope Francis. He was in Rome receiving his pallium on the same day.

This sacrament completes the initiation into the Catholic Church for our young people. The day itself was extremely hot, and the church filled with the joyful sound of the candidates, their families and friends; an occasion truly graced by the 'Holy Spirit'. This day was even more poignant as it also saw Mgr Jim con-celebrate this sacrament for the last time in our parish, before his retirement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank again the Confirmation team, consisting of Clare DeSilva, Sarah Davies, Philomena Meddelton, Madeleine Menezes, Amy James, Emily John and Tess De Souza. Their constant help, support and most importantly their time, has enabled us to provide a Confirmation programme at St Michael's. If anyone is interested in joining the team, please speak to one of us.

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It's curtains for the radiators

by Stella Walter

A couple of years ago, Fr Jim asked me if I might be able to make a pair of curtains to hang behind the balustraded balconies on the sanctuary. Partly for the continued beautification of the church and also to hide the radiators. It wasn't a project I could tackle alone having just had an altercation with a Serrano ham knife, a story for another time. Helen kindly stepped in to help me, and between us, we sourced some suitable fabric that toned very well with the stonework on the sanctuary. We hung them using self-locking extendable tension poles with built-in springs, and they looked very pleasing and have lasted quite well. However, over time, the tension sadly did not build and eventually, the spring sprang, and the curtain fell.

This coincided with the feeling that the stone colour was a little bit drab and that a pattern might lift and brighten the sanctuary.

After some shopping around, I found an ecclesiastical supplier with a fabric based on an 18th century Indo-Portuguese design. The colours seemed right for the church and the



design incorporated some birds which have symbolic significance as they are the mediators between heaven and earth, and in early Christian art signified saved souls.

With the expert measuring, design and construction skill of Joe Mascaranas the new screens were made, reusing the original fabric on the back so that they can be turned for Lent and Advent. They were installed just in time for Father Jim's departure, leaving the church looking so much more beautiful than it did when he arrived.



Mgr Jim reflects on his time at St Michael's

A warm welcome

.....to Mgr Jim Overton who has just arrived at Ashford to be Parish priest of St Michael's.

Our recent record of retaining priests is pretty poor, with the average after Fr Ron being about 12 months, so let's hope and pray that we will have a period of stable and good leadership in our faith community.

We wish Fr Tim well in his new appointment.



St Michael's News (September 2002) Image and text courtesy of Michael Nolan

A Parish Priest is always very conscious that he has been appointed to serve the parish and the parishioners. The parish belongs to the parishioners, not to him!

It is, therefore, an immense privilege to be asked to lead a parish and to serve its members. Each new Parish Priest has a contribution to make to the life of the parish, and to its direction and growth. Indeed, it is only he who can give that lead and develop it.

But it is the parishioners who are at the very heart of each parish with its history and its own culture. When a Parish Priest comes to a parish it already has its own distinctive character with its gifts and talents.

What was clear for me from my arrival in September 2002 was that there were many connections between parishioners. Many families had been here for many years, settling in Ashford and remaining here. In quite a number of cases their children also remained in the parish. Then a number of families had inter-married. Of course, many parishioners had attended St Michael's School and made enduring friendships.

Parishioners also had a great sense that this was their church and their parish. It was here they had been baptised, made their First Holy Communion, been confirmed and quite a number had been married in the church. Often those who had moved away wanted to have their children baptised in the same church that they had been baptised or had been married.

St Michael's has become a truly multi-ethnic, multilingual and multicultural community with many parishioners coming from Africa, Asia, and Europe – East and West. They bring different gifts, talents and a new energy that

enriches our parish community. Their strong, vibrant faith is a great blessing to all of us. The Polish tradition of Blessing of the Easter baskets on Holy Saturday is now a regular event in our parish. This is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions, and observing the creativity of our parishioners is one of the special joys of the occasion.



© Mazur/Catholicnews.org

On Sunday, 19 November 2006, hundreds of parishioners of St Michael's Catholic Church in Ashford, welcomed the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, to Ashford to dedicate the church and the new altar. This year St Michael's celebrated one hundred years as a Parish in the Diocese of Westminster.

One of the highlights of my time as Parish Priest was the re-ordering of the sanctuary and the building of the narthex in 2006 under the direction of George Mather, the architect. The re-ordering, enhanced by the new lighting, brought out the beauty of the church, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott in 1928, and enriched the celebration of the liturgy. The recognition of the church in March 2016 as a Grade II Listed Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest was a great joy for parishioners.



A Very Happy Septuagenarian! (September 2011)

St Michael's Social Club played an important role in providing a sense of community and of involvement with the church, even among those who did not participate in its sacramental life. Through the Club many felt connected to St Michael's. The Club provided opportunities for parishioners to meet and socialise together. This was the case for very many years but during my time as Parish Priest social changes and developments gradually had their impact on the Club as members discovered other ways to meet. Eventually it proved impossible to continue the Club on a viable financial footing and it closed in 2009. Many mourned its closing. It marked the passing of an era and of a way of life.



Reordering work: Dave Hargreaves with Mgr Jim (September 2012)

The parish has forged close links with St Michael's School, especially with the headteacher. The priests of the parish have been involved in the life of the school as chaplains and also as Governors. Many parishioners have also served as Governors. The partnership between parish and school has been most fruitful, both for the school and for the parish.

There are two outstanding characteristics of parishioners that have sustained the life of St Michael's over the years. Firstly, the various parish organisations have always been responsible for recruiting new members. This is clearly seen in the continuing life of the First Holy Communion and Confirmation catechists, Sunday Friends and Followers, Folk Group, Choir, Flower Arrangers and church cleaners.



Monsignor Jim Overton presents the cheque for £31,000 towards the cost of erecting the all-weather pitch at St Michael's School. Supported by the parishioners of St Michael's Church, This was our first Growing in Faith Campaign project. (Summer 2014)

Secondly, parishioners have always given generously to charity both at home and worldwide, initiating the weekly Bucket collections to help local charities. The Water Aid Appeal project raised the astonishing sum of £30,000 to provide water to villages in Africa.



© Darren Pepe RS161668

St Michael's church was awarded Listed Building Status at Grade II on 23rd March 2016.



With Cardinal Vincent Nichols at St Michael's (November 2016)

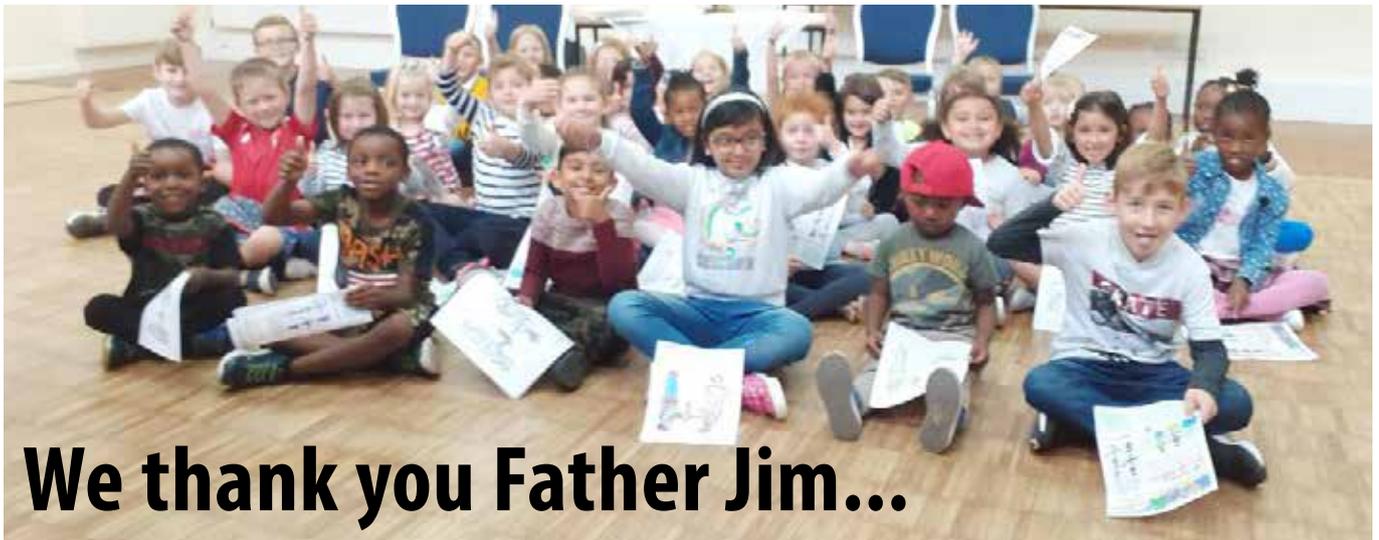
My abiding memories of my seventeen years in St Michael's will be of the kindness, faithfulness and generosity of parishioners, and their unfailing support and encouragement over the years. It has been my privilege to have been a Parish Priest of St Michael's, Ashford.

In place: A symbol of the Eucharist

On 26th September a carving of a Pelican was finally lifted into place. It was blessed the following evening by Mgr Jim, just before his Farewell Reception in the Parish Centre.

The carving took around three months and is the work of sculptor Peter Foster (pictured right). The finished piece is gilded and stands approximately three feet in height.





We thank you Father Jim...

by **Rob Andrews**

Sunday Friends directors can often be found in the photocopier room just before Mass starts!

It was only a couple of Sundays ago when Father Sidon asked if Sunday Friends could make a collage that could be presented to Father Jim at his farewell reception.

The conversation probably took less than two minutes, the seed had been planted, and a plan would be put in place. Time was limited, as this had to be done by the following week for the next Sunday Friends session!

We decided that the Children's Liturgy would go ahead as usual, but running along side it, there would be an additional activity of preparing Father Jim's collage.

On the day, we explained to the children what was happening, what they would be asked to do, and why they would be doing this unique collage.

With the Sunday Liturgy well underway the children were asked to come out quietly in pairs, so as not to disturb the rest of the group who were listening attentively to the Liturgy as it unfolded. As always, the children were brilliant. In pairs they walked the short distance, stealth-like to Father Jim's collage table in total silence, the rest of the group hardly noticing them. Each child was asked to add their thumb print to the collage, and as this happened, we ensured each child's name was recorded next to their thumb print. Wet wipes were used to clean off any remaining ink from their thumb before the children were asked to return to their Liturgy. The next two or three children would be asked to quietly break away from the Liturgy to add their thumb print and names to the collage. The silent, invisible line of children continued until all the children had added their thumb prints and names.

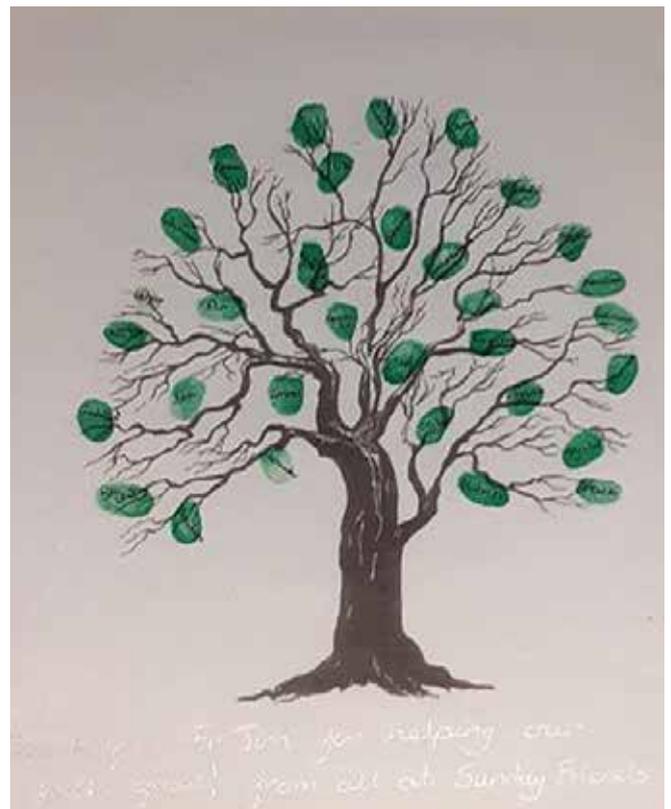
The children were eager and excited to take part in making this special gift for Father Jim, to give thanks for all the hard work he has done for the children, as well as for the wider parish.

The finished collage

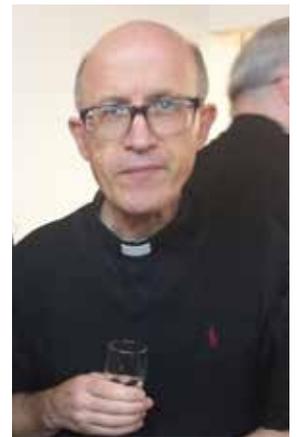
Well, we at Sunday Friends think it looks lovely. It's a tree of faith, with strong roots. Each green leaf is a child's thumb print and written on the leaf is their name. Below the tree reads:

*"Thank you Fr Jim for helping our faith grow!
From all at Sunday Friends."*

It's a gift to Father Jim of appreciation and thanks from the children, which makes it very special.



Continued from front page



Fortunately, it was installed just in time for Fr Jim's farewell gathering so that he was able to preside over and bless it.

Soon after the blessing, the Hall was packed with well-wishers of all ages – estimates of 200 or more would probably not be wide of the mark. Canapés were served by several of our Altar Servers and other young members of the Parish and was washed down with Champagne,

sparkling wine and soft drinks. The event gave all an excellent opportunity to meet one another from the Parish in a convivial setting as well as to express their own personal messages of thanks and well wishes to Fr Jim.

During which, an excellent performance was given by the Folk Group and our organist. Fr Jim appreciated the amendment to a David Bowie classic in his honour with the choir in fine voice!





Speeches followed from parishioners, Desmond DeSa, Chair of the Parish Council and Clive De Souza from the Finance Committee. Both aptly demonstrated the appreciation and affection in which our Priest is held and recognised some of the significant moments in his long service to this Parish. There then followed a presentation of a cheque and a book of messages from parishioners.



We also received speeches from our new Parish Priest, Fr Sidon Sagar together with Fr Marcelo Boschi, Delegate Superior from his Order; The Sons of the Divine Providence from Rome, who had come to the event to greet and thank Fr Jim and the Parish community. Both recognised the achievements made

under Fr Jim's stewardship. They also took the opportunity to introduce a new Priest who is joining the Ashford and Stanwell Parish Team, Fr Henry Halman who will join both Fr Sidon and Fr Carlo Mazzotta imminently.



On behalf of the Sunday Friends group, Rob Andrews, presented Fr Jim with a framed and signed picture made by many of the younger members of the Parish.

Fr Jim gave his own thanks to all of us who he has served so well over the years, highlighting the fact that it is those within the Parish that make it what it is. He wished us all well and promised to see us again in the future.

Overall, this was a fitting send-off for an extremely popular and respected Parish Priest. A special thanks go to all those who were involved in ensuring the success of the evening.

God Bless you in your retirement, Fr Jim.



—————Recent visit—————

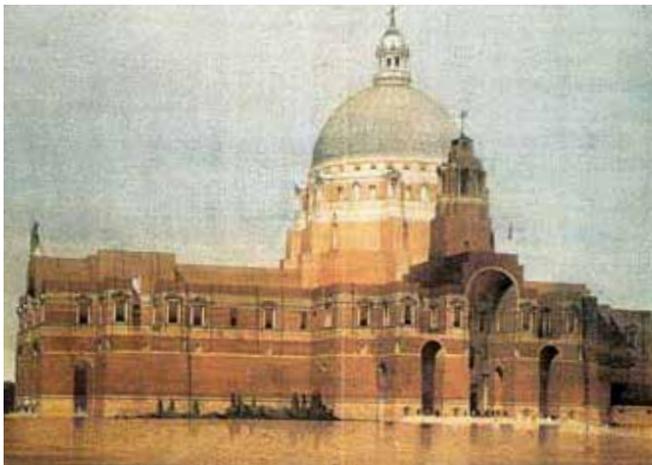
The Mersey Funnel and the Cathedral that never was

by Julian Game

On a recent short visit to Liverpool (my first), I took in some of the many sights of this former European Capital of Culture and centre for Merseybeat during the 1960s. It is a city where old and new architecture mix harmoniously side by side. One of these sights was the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, the seat of the Archbishop of Liverpool and the mother church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool.

A massive structure

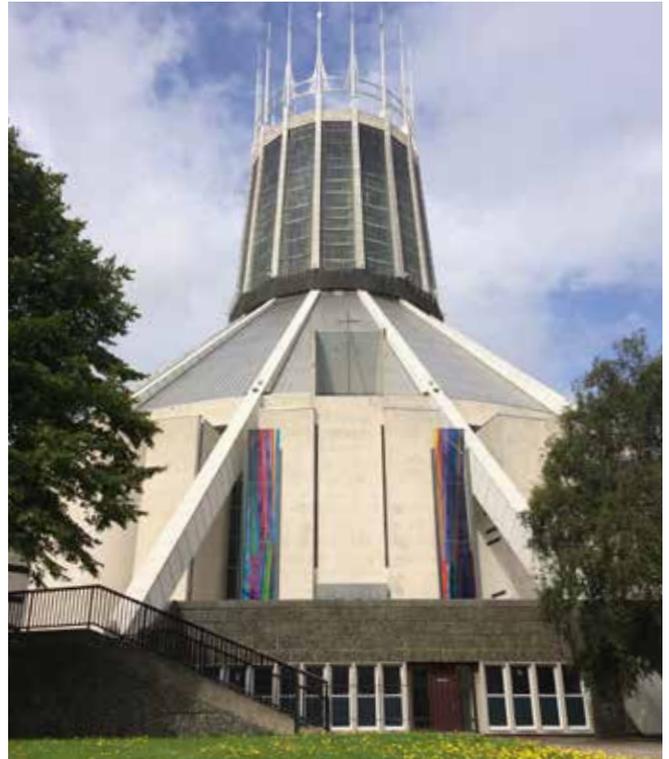
Following the purchase of the former Brownlow Hill workhouse site in 1930, Sir Edwin Lutyens (*The Cenotaph, Hampton Court Bridge, Grosvenor Estate in Westminster*) was commissioned to provide a design which would be an appropriate response to the Giles Gilbert Scott-designed Neo-gothic Anglican Cathedral, then being built further along Hope Street.



Sir Edwin Lutyens' grand design

Lutyens' design was intended to create a massive structure that would have become the second-largest church in the world. It would have had the world's largest dome, with a diameter of 168 ft compared to the 138 ft diameter on St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City

Building work based on Lutyens' design began on 5th June 1933, being paid for mostly by the contributions of working-class Catholics of the burgeoning industrial port.



Sir Frederick Gibberds' cathedral today

In 1941, the restrictions of World War II wartime and a rising cost from £3 million to nearly £30 million forced construction to stop (our own St Michael's, a Gilbert Scott design from 1927 and Grade II listed, was finally completed in the late 1950s after work was halted during the war years). Lutyens died in 1944, never to see whether *his* dream would be realised.

In 1956, work recommenced on the crypt, which was completed two years later. Thereafter, Lutyens' design for the Cathedral was considered too costly and was abandoned with only the crypt complete.

A competition to design a new Cathedral was held in 1959, and Sir Frederick Gibberd (*Didcot Power Station in Oxfordshire, Terminal Buildings at Heathrow Airport*), was commissioned to create it. Construction began in October 1962, and less than five years later, on the Feast of Pentecost, 14th May 1967, the completed Cathedral was consecrated.



The interior of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King

A circular building with the altar at its centre

The requirement was first, for a congregation of 3,000 which was later reduced to 2,000, (although, apparently still a larger space than Westminster Cathedral) to be able to see the altar, in order that they could be more involved in the celebration of the Mass, and second, for the Lutyens crypt to be incorporated in the structure. Gibberd achieved these requirements by designing a circular building with the altar at its centre, and by transforming the roof of the crypt into an elevated platform, with the Cathedral standing at one end.

The design was architecture of the day, and it is unique (although often nicknamed 'Paddy's Wigwam' or the 'Mersey Funnel'). It sharply contrasts with Gilbert Scott's Anglican Cathedral at the opposite end of Hope Street and can also be viewed from the Liverpool waterfront (a UNESCO designated World Heritage Site) along with many other buildings, including the renovated Albert Docks and the iconic 'Three Graces'. However, it is not until inside; that you can appreciate this circular space and look up at the dazzling coloured lantern-like light streaming in.

The Cathedral Crypt – brilliantly atmospheric

I had seen a couple of documentaries on Lutyens crypt so I was briefly informed. However, again, these alone do not fully prepare you for the experience of the enormity of this cavernous building. It has vaulted ceilings and passageways, starburst stained glass windows and an astonishing six-ton Rolling Stone Gate, which is inside the Chapel of the

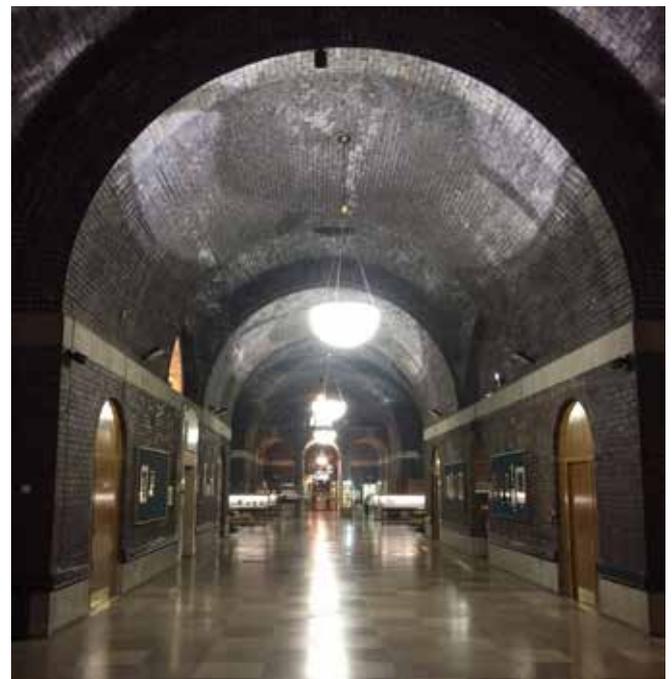


A stunning starburst window

Relics. The enormous granite dressings, hewn from Cornish quarries, were chosen to take the weight of the Cathedral above and this compliments the beautiful brickwork. There is a fascinating exhibition at one end of the Pontifical Hall, complete with archive films together with plans

and images for the proposed Cathedral. At the other end, the Cathedral Treasury is housed, containing vestments, croziers and crosses, mitres and medals, some dating from pre-Reformation times. The restored architectural model of the Lutyens Cathedral is on display at the Museum of Liverpool. However, I was a little disappointed not to see it here.

It is an impressive and remarkable reminder of one of the most magnificent buildings never to have been built and well worth a visit.



The Pontifical Hall looking towards the Cathedral Treasury

St Michael the Archangel, pray for us

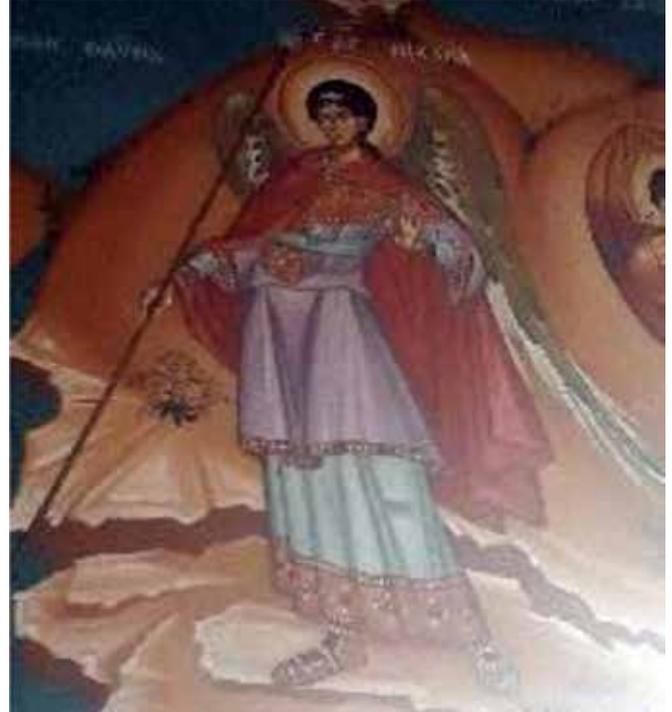
by Michael George

The island of Cyprus contains just four Catholic parishes. These four parishes cover the whole island, and the distances parishioners travel to their parish church are inevitably sometimes substantial, compared with what we are used to in the UK.

During the Summer my family and I stayed in the town of Paralimni, in the south-eastern corner of Cyprus. Paralimni is in the parish of Larnaca and is more than 50km from the parish church. Happily, Sunday Mass is celebrated by a priest from Larnaca each week in a very small Orthodox chapel in Paralimni. The chapel is dedicated to the Archangel Michael.



The outside of the chapel is unremarkable, but the inside is beautiful, in the tradition of Orthodox churches.



For centuries the Catholic church in Cyprus has been served by Franciscan priests. It is believed that St Francis of Assisi himself visited Cyprus when travelling from Assisi to the Holy Land in 1219.

It was a privilege to be able to participate in the celebration of Mass at a church of St Michael, even when far from Ashford. Apart from the mural of St Michael we were reminded that we were in the Chapel of Archangel Michael because at the end of every Mass in the chapel the prayer to St Michael is recited

by priest and congregation – the end of Mass rather than before Mass as 'at home', but providing a lovely sense of continuity, not just through the

consistent and universal liturgy of the Mass but through the parochial seeking of the protection of our patron: St Michael, Ashford, and the Archangel Michael, Paralimni.



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www.st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

St Paul's Catholic College

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www.st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk

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Parish: Feltham
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www.st-lawrencesprimary.co.uk

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Please just come along.

EMERGENCY EXITS
In the event of an emergency, please note that the three fire exits from St Michael's church are the main church entrance, the side door to the left of St Joseph's Chapel, and the main entrance to the hall.

Autumnal Days

*Howling gales, driving rain!
Autumn's with us once again.
Summer's gone, Winter's near.
Freezing cold, we all will fear.
Leaves of gold, yellow and red,
falling fast, making a bed.
'Conkers' are down upon the ground,
waiting for a string to be found.
Soon the trees will all be bare,
just twigs and branches hanging there.
But still we have the evergreen,
which helps to beautify the scene.
Morning mists, frost on the lawn,
painted white before the dawn.
Dimmer days, darker nights,
even early morning lights.
Sun much lower in the sky,
shadows long to catch the eye.
Shapes elongated too,
larger than, both me and you.
Days begin to get quite short.
Early starts for all the Sport.
Standing, watching, in the cold,
not too clever when you're old!
Would it be nice to hibernate?
Warm and cosy. Would feel great!
Sleep through all the cold and chill,
then wake in Spring to such a thrill!*

Roger Houlding

PARISH CONTACTS

Altar Servers	Heather Nolan	01784 256549	heathernolan61@gmail.com
Ashford Hospital Chaplain	Frances Castledine	01784 455915	ashford@rcdow.org.uk
Baptism	Lee Gibson	07713 760281	lee.gibson2na@btinternet.com
Charismatic Prayer Group	Frances Castledine	01784 455915	
Choir	Peter Turner	01784 252230	ashford@rcdow.org.uk
Church Cleaning	Anna Floyd	01784 248099	annafloyd@sky.com
Church Flowers	Louise Lloyd	07896 698954	louise.lloyd@gmx.com
Church Gardens	Michael Glynn	01784 469934	glynn.pauline@googlemail.com
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First Holy Communion	Sarah Davies	01784 251763	ashfordcomm@rcdow.org.uk
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Folk Group	Sarah Walsh	07798 918064	mrssmwash@gmail.com
General Intercessions Writers	Tess De Souza	01784 246580	tess.desouza@btinternet.com
Extrordinary Ministers of Holy Communion			
	Tess De Souza	01784 246580	tess.desouza@btinternet.com
Housebound and Sick Parishioners	Gavin Boyle	01784 254345	
Ladies Circle	Maysie Boone	01784 557165	maysie.boone@gmail.com
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Organist	Peter Turner	01784 252230	ashford@rcdow.org.uk
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Safeguarding Representatives	Amanda McCarthy	01784 256810	ashfordsg2@safeguard.rcdow.org.uk
	Jennifer Parsons	01784 248314	ashfordsg2@safeguard.rcdow.org.uk
Sunday Friends	Rob Andrews	07905 249266	robandrews27@gmail.com
St Michael's News	Julian Game	01784 252230	juliangame@aol.com
St Michael's School	Stacy Rielly	01784 253333	info@st-michaels.surrey.sch.uk
Transport	Shenda Holmes	01784 252230	ashford@rcdow.org.uk

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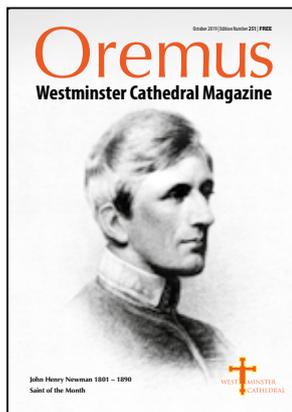


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(alternate Wednesdays)

Thursdays:
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Hall (alternate Thursdays)

Saturdays:
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Parish Priest
Fr Sidon Sagar FDP
Assistant Priest
Fr Carlo Maria Mazzotta FDP
St Michael's Catholic Church,
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Ashford, Middlesex TW15
2QD. Telephone:
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Email: **ashford@rcdow.org.uk**
Web: **https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford/**

Parish Secretary, parish
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Saturday 6:00pm,
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of the Word); 11:00am and 6:00pm

Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday, Saturday 9:15am
No Mass on Thursdays

Holy Days of Obligation Masses
9:15am and 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration
Saturday 9:45 – 10:15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 10:15 – 10:45am

Sacrament of Baptism
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