Inside

A Christmas Message from Fr Sean Finnegan
The Story of Sacred Heart Church
Plus: The Sacrament Diaries, Christmas Gallery and much more
Welcome to the first edition of the Sacred Heart Magazine. Our magazine is free and will be published twice a year, every Christmas and Easter. We hope it will act as a window on the spiritual life of our church and its members. If you want to write for it, let me know.

The theme of many of our features is Faith in Action. Our lead feature is a reportage essay from Madaba by Eliz and Mike Wood on how Sacred Heart is reaching out to refugees who fled ISIS in Mosul to refugee camps in Jordan. That theme of service in the community is continued in Fr Gerry Devlin’s article about how Woldingham School is putting faith into action here and around the world. Ciro Candia tells us about putting faith into action in our families. As the father of seven and a local headmaster, he has some useful tips for parents looking to maintain peace this Christmas!

In our Sacrament Diaries section, we have first hand accounts from members of our parish about their experience of the sacraments. First there is a lovely feature from our youngest writer Tess Ciccardini who tells of her First Holy Communion and we hear from two new members of the faith, Andrea Bellot and Andrew Atkinson who tell us why they became Catholics in 2017. Lastly, the section finishes with the incredibly moving and inspiring story of Charmaine Wise on how faith helped in her struggle against cancer.

Those of you who are curious about the history of our beautiful church will be interested to read Paul Waddington’s story of its inception in 1881, the many changes made over the years and the journey towards its restoration which was completed in 2017. And it would not feel festive without some Christmas cards. Take a look at some of the beautiful Nativity drawings made by the children in our Sacred Heart Christmas Gallery spread. The winning picture has been made into a pull out poster. Congratulations to all the children.

Those are the contributions from our parishioners. But it’s only fitting that the magazine begins with A Christmas Message from Father Sean. This magazine is his idea and it is one of many we’ve seen from him to enrich the spiritual life of our parish, including weekly live webcasts of Sunday Mass, the introduction of Benediction before the 5.15pm service and the introduction of a Healing Mass. Thank you Fr. Sean.

The Sacred Heart Magazine concludes with The Last Word, where the story of our faith begins: the birth of Christ as taken from the Gospel of Saint Luke.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2018 to everyone.

Edna Fernandes, Editor
A Christmas Message from Fr Sean Finnegan

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 4:4-7

If there are any few verses in the Bible that move me (and there are many), it is this little chunk. St Paul is writing to the new Christian Church in Galatia, now in the middle of modern Turkey, but which then was Greek-speaking. These people were Gentiles, who would never have expected that the Jewish religion would mean anything to them, or that the Jewish God might take notice of them. But everything changed ‘when the fullness of time had come’.

The law referred to is the Law of Moses, the way that devout Jews had been living for hundreds of years. But over that time, their understanding of God had changed as he revealed himself to them more deeply. In the early times, it seems that they (like their Canaanite neighbours) practised human sacrifice, but God persuaded them to change that to animal sacrifice. Later, through the prophets, he said that what he really wanted was mercy and justice, not sacrifice—and you will note that by the time of Jesus, it is never recorded in the Gospels that our Lord assisted at any sacrifice at all. What comes through the Old Testament is God’s profound desire to be in relationship with his people.

The Greeks, on the other hand had worked out a profound philosophy about how God had to be one and perfect and all powerful. This philosophy more and more came to be like a religion: how can an imperfect human being relate to a remote and perfect God? They had worked out, too, that perfection has to be something that gives of itself, that overflows from its very being, pouring out itself like a fountain: they used the word ‘emanation’.

They had worked out that this perfection, because of where it came from, had itself to be life-giving and be a life of its own: in other words that though there was one supreme God, there were other beings possessed of divinity too, who draw their existence, their life and goodness from the One God. But we human beings, so imperfect, couldn’t possibly know God. There was no question of being in relationship with him.

In Alexandria lived a Jewish thinker called Philo. He was born about twenty years before our Lord, and being a good Jew was deeply familiar with the Old Testament. He noticed that lots of the terms and ideas in the Greek thought also appeared in the Scriptures: he noticed, for instance, that the ‘Word of God’ often came to the prophets; he saw too that Wisdom was described as ‘pure emanation from the Most High’. With greater and greater excitement, he, a Jew, wrote about the Word that was the Bread of Life, whose name is Rising, and much much more.

And so, the fullness of time had come when God the Word could take flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary: ‘the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.’ That unbridgeable divide between God and humanity was bridged at Bethlehem where God became a Jew to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us Gentiles to be adopted as Sons too. Since we, the Church, are the Body of Christ, then since God is the Father of Jesus, he is our Father too, and we can cry out ‘Abba, Father!’

So, when the fullness of time had come, everything changed. ️
Escape from Mosul to Madaba
Sacred Heart helps Iraqi Christians build a new life

In the last few years swathes of northern Iraq and the city of Mosul have become a focal point of atrocities by Islamic State and then anti-ISIS Coalition bombing to oust the group. The city of Mosul has now fallen, ISIS’ hold in Iraq has been broken and yet peace and security are still lacking for so many of its people, especially Iraqi Christians, who remain refugees in places like Jordan.

These refugees have lost so much: family, home and country. The Iraqi children have lost even more: a chance to learn. Without an education this conflict threatens to destroy their future as well as their past. Sacred Heart parish has extended a hand of friendship to these children by raising money to send some of these kids to school. Read this special report from Madaba by two of our parishioners.

All looked well. Fifteen excited young Iraqi refugee girls showed their English visitors the selection of clothes they had made in their workshop. Professionally finished ties, skirts and tee-shirts were all displayed. They checked their calculators to give us prices in pounds sterling.

What a resounding success. This is a meaningful occupation for 15 young women but the generosity of Muslim Jordan in giving shelter to thousands of Christian Iraqis stops short of allowing them to seek jobs. And yet for the young refugees, the opportunity to sew clothes is a lifeline. Providing a salary for 15 young women but the generosity of Muslim Jordan in giving shelter to thousands of Christian Iraqis stops short of allowing them to seek jobs. And yet for the young refugees, the opportunity to sew clothes is a lifeline. For Najwa the workshop offered a brief respite from the reality of her new life as a refugee and she believed her future looked bleak. With a return to their old life seemingly out of reach, escape is something that is constantly on this displaced community’s mind. In the past, popular destinations for fleeing Iraqi Christians had included Canada and Australia, but with the refugee crisis showing no sign of abating, it has become more difficult to obtain a visa.

The Tears of Najwa
And yet despite the progress being made in such ways, the past is never far from the surface. Suddenly, we noticed one young woman sobbing and only later did we discover the cause: one of our number had offered her a small donation. Overwhelmed by this seemingly insignificant act of charity, Najwa had tearfully explained that she was 25yrs old and held a PhD in marketing. The workshop was her only opportunity to escape the family flat. She came from a highly conservative Christian family typical of the prevailing culture of the region, which restricts the movement of their women and daughters.

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Sacred Heart reaches out
In the ancient city of Madaba, south-west of the capital Amman, Father Bader the local parish priest, confirmed that the social life of the refugees was focused around the church. We had come to visit him to hand over funds raised by the Sacred Heart parish and he was hugely appreciative of the donation of £1000 from our parishioners. This sum enables local Iraqi children to attend the parish summer school and it is a vital service, helping to keep up the children’s studies despite their displacement.

We visited nine year old Maryos. His parents and three older sisters were very hospitable and generous, despite having little they provided us with soft drinks and nibbles. They are fortunate to have the use of a substantial flat and spend most of their lives confined within. Like Najwa from the sewing workshop, the three girls, aged 16, 18 and 19 are rarely allowed out, unless their father acts as chaperone. Asked how they spent their time, their father explained that they helped him make rosary beads to sell to the Christian tourists. By this means the family manages to procure a precarious living.

None of the children had attended school in the three years they had lived in Madaba since fleeing their homeland in Iraq. Indeed many of the Iraqis fled Mosul, the city that became the effective capital of ISIS. Many of those fleeing children have not attended school since.

A new start for Maryos
Maryos had missed three essential years of his education and would never make up for those lost years of learning. But we have heard he has obtained a place at the Orthodox Church primary school paid for by Caritas, the international charity.

While education is available for free in Jordan, this is only the case in state Muslim schools. Christian children must pay to attend the parish schools. This is not a rich society and Jordanian families struggle to afford a Christian education for their children, particularly if they have large families. For this reason Caritas is supporting Iraqi refugee children to obtain an education that would otherwise be unaffordable. The annual fees are over £1000 per child. Caritas has now decided to donate.

by Eliz and Mike Wood, reporting from Madaba, Jordan
The Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan are out of the headlines now. They are quietly integrated into Jordanian parishes. They have lost home, work and culture and face an uncertain future. They are part of a dwindling population of Arab Christians, one of the oldest continuous Christian communities in the world.

Their problems are our problems. Our link with them gives us a focus beyond our Caterham community. It gives them and the Jordanian Christians a potential lifeline. They are profoundly grateful for prayers, messages and material support. Their needs may last indefinitely. As their circumstances change our task is not to waver but to foster and strengthen our links and redouble our support.

As Pope Francis says: ‘Indifference is dangerous, whether innocent or not’.

The memorial Church of Moses is built on Mount Nebo, a 1,000 metre high mountain just a few kilometres outside of Madaba in Jordan. The mountain has long been a place of pilgrimage for Christians for it is believed that it is from this mountain that Moses saw the Promised Land before he died. Excavations by Franciscans uncovered the remains of a very early church and Byzantine mosaics.

From the wind-swept peaks of the mountain, there is a view of the Dead Sea, the Jordan Valley and beyond, Bethlehem and the hills of Jerusalem. Madaba lies close-by and itself is famous for one of the oldest maps of the Holy Land made of mosaic tiles, hence its name: “City of Mosaics”.

The defeat of ISIS will the Iraqis return to Mosul? Already in June a young man had been sent to survey the prospects for a return and when he came back, his report was disquieting. Their homes were destroyed and possessions looted. Return in significant numbers seems unlikely. Although ISIS has been toppled, peace is still a far off prospect as the country requires rebuilding and stabilisation.

Parishes in Jordan are equally welcoming of the Mosul Christians. The Jordanians have proved to be a generous and hospitable people in the Iraqis time of need. They provide safe refuge to tens of thousands of Palestinians and over a million Syrians. We have much to learn from them in the UK about the treatment of refugees.

Like displaced people everywhere, the shoots of normal life begin to grow in time, despite the many hardships faced by these people. Enterprises are springing up: in Madaba a mosaic workshop is thriving, as is a small jewelry business.

An inadequate library at the parish school.

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Mike renews his baptismal vows in the river Jordan.

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Della Shenton Parishes for Peace with a refugee family.

Mount Nebo and the City of Mosaics

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My First Holy Communion

by Tess Ciccardini

Sunday 21st, May 2016 was the best day of my life - it was my First Holy Communion. I had expected that day for months. We were around thirty Year 3 children preparing to receive Jesus.

Father Sean divided us into two groups. About five lovely mums were helping Father Sean for the register and the First Holy Communion (FHC) sessions. I attended the sessions with either my Mum or Dad. I cannot recall whether a session would last about an hour and a half - time went quickly - I remember it as interactive, serious and fun at the same time. We had songs, prayers, a bit of comprehension and a bit of colouring to do. We also had some homework which I enjoyed doing immediately after the session.

So the 21st of May arrived and I was rejoicing at the thought of receiving the Holy Bread and Wine. My Godparents live in France and it was difficult for both of them to travel at that time, so my grandparents and my auntie came instead to represent them. Everyone helped me to put my magnificent and pristine white dress, my hair accessory and my silky shoes on. I covered my shoulders with an elegant jacket. I felt like a princess.

When we arrived at Sacred Heart, I was holding my baptismal candle tightly. I was proud and reassured to feel my family's love for the register and the First Holy Communion (FHC) sessions. I attended the sessions with either my Mum or Dad. I cannot recall whether a session would last about an hour and a half - time went quickly - I remember it as interactive, serious and fun at the same time. We had songs, prayers, a bit of comprehension and a bit of colouring to do. We also had some homework which I enjoyed doing immediately after the session.

When we arrived at Sacred Heart, I was holding my baptismal candle tightly. I was proud and reassured to feel my family's love around me. With my FHC friends, we walked to the altar, up the steps and surrounded Father Sean. The view from there was breathtaking! We were able to witness every move Father made. We watched Father consecrate the Holy Bread and Wine and lift the Bread and Wine for those of us who were curious about them.

After this, we lined up, ready for our first communion. In my hands, lay the Body and as I dropped it into my mouth, it melted. Then, I headed to the queue for the Blood. I had a sip from the chalice however I must admit that I did not like the taste of it though feeling happy to have Jesus in me.

After a few photos, my family and I went out for lunch. We were savouring being together on that special day. I was very fortunate to receive a missal, a plethora of rosaries and a rosary box to mark the day.

My sister Zoe will receive the Holy Bread and Wine for the first time next May. I was wondering whether Zoe was excited to prepare her first Holy Communion, so I asked her:

“I am very excited”, Zoe answered, “because I will get Jesus inside my body like Mummy, Daddy and you do on a Sunday.” I asked about the guests Zoe would like to attend the event:

“My family,” she replied. Apart from the four of us, the rest of the family is in France, therefore, when we have an event, we like to gather as a family. We can rarely mix friends and family because the whole family speaks French and our friends do not.

I enquired about Zoe's clothing on the day:

“Granny will add a layer to your first holy communion dress because I am taller than you are, your shoes fit me because my feet are smaller than yours, and I have tried the veil, it is impeccable on my hair! I know where my baptismal candle is.”

“What about a special cake?” I dared to ask. Zoe mentioned, last year, that she knew what kind of cake she would like for the day: an exquisite, enormeous, moist white cake. She has not changed her mind.

I think that my sister is almost ready for her first communion. Zoe has attended Father Sean's FHC preparation sessions since October and is learning more about Jesus and being Catholic. At our school (Oakwood Primary) we say the Our Father and Hail Mary every day from Year 1 onwards, and pray the rosary twice a day from Year 3 onwards. The FHC sessions homework will not be arduous at all.

I wish all the first communicants including my sister an excellent time!

My Faith Journey to Become a Catholic

by Andrea Bellot

I suppose everyone’s faith journey is different, what influences us, what our life experiences are and how our faith helps and supports us.

My faith journey started when I met my husband and we were to be married. We went to marriage preparation classes and I discovered that in the eyes of the Catholic Church marriage is forever and divorce not recognised spiritually. As we were being married in the Anglican church of my youth, our marriage would not have been recognised by my devout and faithful mother-in-law's family church, which I felt was incredibly important.

Therefore, we applied and were granted a dispensation from the Bishop of our Catholic Diocese and a Catholic Priest attended our nuptials. My Mother-in-law was truly grateful for that and she was a real influence on my faith in the early days. Her faith meant so much to her, sustained her and gave her strength and that was a powerful message for me.

A condition of the dispensation was that we raise our children in the Catholic tradition and this is what brought me to the Sacred Heart. My husband and I attended occasionally but on the arrival of our first child 13 years ago we attended more frequently. Our second child arrived 9 years ago and both were baptised at the Sacred Heart. Both were also prepared for their 1st Holy Communion here too and attended St. Francis School.

I learnt so much in baptism and 1st Holy Communion preparation classes, both of which I attended with each child. As I learned so my faith grew. I attended Mass weekly and discovered a growing understanding but I wanted to take Communion and could not. It felt like something was missing.

I signed up for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and attended wondering quite what would happen. What did happen was a deeper understanding of what Catholics believe in and why. The teaching made sense and I felt closer to the thing I felt was missing. I shared ideas and experiences with cradle Catholics and those who, like me, came to it later. I attended Mass weekly and suddenly the Mass was meaningful spiritually and intellectually.

I was received at Easter in 2017 and am now in year two of my RCIA studies. We are looking more deeply into the lessons of year one and as we do my faith strengthens, It feels as if I have a new extended family and now Sunday does not feel right if Mass is missing. I am active in the church welcoming the 5.15pm Mass goers and I help by driving those who find it difficult to get to church otherwise. Come by and say hello next time you're at Mass on a Sunday evening.
**Why I Became a Catholic in 2017**

by Andrew Atkinson

“So why did you do it?”

Predictably enough, that is the question put to me time and again since I was received into the Catholic Church earlier this year.

My decision indeed came as a shock. That I had any inclination towards religion was a pleasant surprise to my Church of England mother and Quaker father. My wife, born into an Indian Catholic family, assumed I would carry on as I had done for years: questioning from the side-line. Others had me down as an atheist.

Yet on the evening of April 15, in the sacred light of the Easter Vigil, I stood before the altar of our beautiful church and vowed to follow Christ. I had become a Catholic.

In doing so, I rejected the delusions of ego and surrendered to a Divine love. Put simply, I had asked to enter the kingdom of God.

The truth is I had been getting more and more out of accompanying my family to church. I loved the beauty of the Mass and found the homilies thought provoking. In the Eucharist, I saw something transcendent, even though I was unable to fully take part. Sundays were becoming a time to reflect and reset.

The turning point

My wife and I were married in St Mary’s Catholic Church in Hampstead and St Joseph’s, or “Holy Joe’s” as it was known locally, became our parish church when we lived in north London. Our priest there Fr Mark White began to awaken my understanding of the faith with his compelling and compassionate sermons. He was a source of great joy.

There are many more people to thank besides. The sublime erudition of Father Sean Finnegan has shone a brilliant light on the teachings of Jesus. I also owe much to my friend Peter Lovatt, whose journey of Faith classes prepare us newcomers so well. Caro Candia, my sponsor, provided invaluable support and guidance before and after my reception.

“No-one comes to the Father except through me”

Faith remains a beautiful mystery to me. But one thing seems beyond dispute. We will never find the kingdom of God unless we look for it. “No one comes to the Father except through me,” Jesus said. How remote that message seems in the hate-filled world of today. Suffering is everywhere and we are to blame for most of it.

As I confront my own shortcomings, I am reminded of the need for observance. In the end, it was the weekly discipline of attending Mass that immersed me in the scriptures and fixed my focus where it should be. We all know that achieving anything takes practice and learning. To love, as Jesus asks us to do, is no different. In its simple appeal to live in God, this passage from St. Paul inspires me.

“There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous and worthy of praise. Keep doing all things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace be with you.”

To the parishioners of Sacred Heart, thank you for your kindness. You have welcomed me into your community. To anyone thinking about becoming a Catholic, you are on the cusp of doing something transformational. And if I can make the journey from sceptic to disciple, there is hope for everyone!

(For anyone in the parish wishing to learn more about becoming a Catholic or who wishes to deepen their understanding of the faith, please feel free to contact Peter Lovatt who runs our journey of Faith group every Wednesday evening. His email is in the weekly newsletter.)

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**God has a plan for us**

by Charmaine Wise

I am going to share with you something very personal and private. Because of that I am going to miss out some detail but I hope you understand the point I am trying to make.

All I ever wanted was to be a mum. It filled my head when I was a young girl and I imagined a large wonderful family in the future.

I’d been married a few years before we started trying for a family. After 4 years I hadn’t conceived so I went to the doctor for help. I had a scan and was told there was a tumour on my left ovary and the tumour and my ovary were removed. Women have two ovaries and now my chances of being a mum were reduced by 50%.

I was very angry and I questioned why God would punish me. I gave up on ever being a mum.

Years passed and incredibly I fell pregnant in 1996 and had a wonderful baby girl. My body was already scarred from surgery but somehow she found a little safe spot inside me and grew into a healthy perfect baby. I was so thankful and I remembered to thank God.

Over the years I have learned that the cancer and overload of hormones helped me conceive. My cancer gave me my child and my greatest wish.

I have had many operations over the years and my survival and recovery is unexplainable. Normally only 25% of people with ovarian cancer live beyond 5 years. I’ve had it 20 years now and funnily enough my daughter is also 20.

My message to you is that once I trusted and accepted God’s plan, everything was easier. I was less stressed, worried and frightened and I had peace.

My last operation was last September and Marion came with me on some of my post op appointments. She can confirm that even the brilliant surgeons described my recovery as a miracle.

I don’t know what God’s plan is for me but I do know he granted my greatest wish. Sometimes your life has to follow a pre-determined path and you may not want to follow it. Have faith, ask for guidance in your private thoughts and prayers. There are many quotes in the Bible that offer comfort. Here is one:

“One day I will wipe every tear from your eyes and I’ll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth.”

I guess I’m telling you to read the Book of Revelation sometime if you ever need a top-up of faith.

I’d like to leave you with a final thought. How did my daughter find the only safe place inside me to grow into a healthy baby? Do you think God has a plan for her too? Of course he does and he has one for you too.

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“Here we have one of the most powerful and honest testimonies of faith from a member of our Sacred Heart family, Charmaine Wise. It will surely resonate with many of you who have ever struggled with illness, struggled to have a family, tried to raise that family through adversity. It is only during times like these, when the world seems to be at its most hopeless and darkest, that God’s light is most powerful.”

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**Jeremiah 1.4-5**

*God has a plan for us*
The Story of Sacred Heart Church

by Paul Waddington

When the Caterham Railway opened in 1856, the village of Caterham had only around 500 inhabitants. Few of these would have been Catholics and the nearest church was in Croydon, some 8 miles away. Such was the impact of the railway that the population grew to more than 5,000 by the time that the church of the Sacred Heart was opened in 1881. However, it was neither the railway nor the consequent growth in the local population that was the reason for the building of the church.

In 1877 the area saw the opening of Caterham Barracks as the Depot of the Second Brigade of the Grenadier Guards. A number of the guardsmen were Irish Catholics, and their adjutant, one Capt. Horace Gainsford who was also a Catholic, contacted the parish priest at Croydon, asking for a priest to visit the barracks. Because of the distance involved, the priest was only able to make occasional visits to offer Mass. Apparently he walked there and back on the first occasion, but later used either a bicycle or pony and trap.

In August 1889, Bishop Danell of Southwark sent Fr Francis Roe, then aged only 29, to set up a mission in Caterham. Fr Roe was a convert, as was his father, Capt. William Harriott Roe. The Roe family must have been wealthy, as Capt. Roe funded the building of the church and presbytery at Caterham.

Fr Roe lost no time in setting about his work. Within months he had opened a school and appointed an architect to design a new church. The architect was E Ingress Bell, who was little known at the time, but who subsequently became famous for his work at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and at several academic institutions, including Imperial College in South Kensington and several Cambridge Colleges. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Danell in June 1880, and the church was opened in August 1881. Bishop Danell had died by this time, so the opening Mass was celebrated by Bishop Lacey of Middlesbrough, with Cardinal Manning presiding and preaching.

Ingress Bell designed a Gothic Revival Church on a cruciform plan, built from local stone. It was to have a large apsidal chancel with adjoining Lady Chapel, shortened transepts, a nave with aisles on either side and a modest tower surmounted by a slender spire. All this was to have been funded by Fr Roe’s father, Capt. William Roe. At the time of the opening, it was incomplete, with the north aisle un-built, and only the base of the tower in place. The reason for this seems to have been a dispute within the Roe family.

Although there was insufficient money to complete the building of the church, enough was found in the following decade for the sanctuary to be adorned in quite a spectacular way. The Hardman company was engaged to supply glass for the three Gothic windows, each with three lights of the chancel. These were designed by John Hardman Powell, the son-in-law of Augustus Welby Pugin. The central window features an image of the Sacred Heart, surrounded by scenes taken from the life of Our Lord. The window on the left depicts prophetic events recorded in the Old Testament and the one on the right is devoted to mysteries associated with Our Lady. All three windows are of excellent quality, and have survived without damage or alteration.

Once the stained glass was in place, Fr Roe turned his attention to the further embellishment of the sanctuary. Again, he engaged the Hardman company, and under the direction of John Hardman...
Agnus Dei and the two adoring angels which had graced the high altar were lost for good. The wall paintings of Lady Chapel, where leaking gutters had caused more extensive damage, received more drastic treatment. Here, all the surfaces were treated with a paint that contained cement, a product that later proved almost impossible to remove.

In more recent times, further reordering has taken place, with a moveable free-standing altar. It was when this work was being carried out that some parishioners began to realise the value of some of the church’s artefacts, especially the wall paintings. After the arrival of our current parish priest, Fr Sean Finnegan, a plan was put in place to restore all the wall paintings. This work has now been completed and can be enjoyed by all parishioners.

Powell, a decorative scheme was devised for the entire sanctuary, that would incorporate wall paintings, joinery and metalwork. The centrepiece was a painted image of the Lamb of God, flanked by angels, affixed to the front face of the high altar. The surrounding walls were covered with paintings including a multitude of angels singing the opening words of the Te Deum. On the side-walls and in the spandrels above and around the windows were depictions of Old Testament prophets and scenes from the New Testament. The artist was Hardman’s chief artist, Joseph Aloysius Pippet. Unusually, these wall paintings were applied directly to the limestone of the walls.

The sanctuary was completed with a stone reredos, or ornamental screen, incorporating a tabernacle with an ornate monstrance throne above. The monstrance is an elaborate receptacle used to display the consecrated Host for adoration, as seen every Sunday at Benediction before the 5.15 Mass. The wrought iron and brass gates were fitted to the communion rail and appropriately carved seating was provided for the clergy in choir.

In 1892, Fr Roe turned his attention to the Lady Chapel. The Hardman company provided a fine wooden altarpiece with an icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour as its centre. Stained glass was fitted to all five windows and the walls were covered with paintings, again using Pippet as the artist.

Fr Roe remained at Caterham until he died in 1918, serving the Sacred Heart Church for 39 years. He was succeeded in 1920 by Fr Walter Cooksey who in turn was followed by Canon Cooksey who also gave good service. It was during his time in 1923 that Caterham became a parish. It was also in his time [1931] that the north aisle was augmented to provide additional seating as well as a porch and baptistery at the west end. Canon Cooksey was succeeded in 1955 by Fr Cyril Scarborough, who remained at Caterham until his retirement in 1979.

It was during Fr Scarborough’s time that people started to think about “modernising” old churches. Caterham did not entirely escape this trend. The reredos, with its monstrance throne, was removed and replaced by a curtain. The lower parts of the wall paintings in the sanctuary, which had been affected by rising damp, were simply painted over. Tragically, the three panels depicting the Agnus Dei and the two adoring angels which had graced the high altar were lost for good. The wall paintings of Lady Chapel, where leaking gutters had caused more extensive damage, received more drastic treatment. Here, all the surfaces were treated with a paint that contained cement, a product that later proved almost impossible to remove.
To survive parenting, have a little faith

Father-of-7 and headmaster on the highs and lows
by Ciro Candia

My wife and I are both teachers and as parents of seven children we are constantly asked questions about how we raise our children – “How do you discipline them?” or “How do you cope with difficult teenagers?” and so on.

Raising children right is difficult these days. However, creating a loving home in which our children’s characters, hearts and minds can be nurtured and developed is a battle worth fighting. Moreover, it can be great fun!

There is no more powerful way of creating such a home than developing a culture of unconditional love. Pope Francis in a General Audience in February 2015 reminds us: “A child is loved because he is one’s child: not because he is beautiful, or because he is like this or like that; no, because he is a child. Not because he thinks as I do, or embodies my dreams. A child is a child: a life generated by us but intended for him, for his good, for the good of the family, of society, of mankind as a whole.”

As a father I want all my children to achieve well academically but more than that I want them to be successful as people and to be well formed in their Christian faith. Later, when they become adults, their lives will be filled with those who will constantly judge them on their successes. At least in the home our children should be loved unconditionally for who they are, just as God loves them.

Body and soul

The home is not simply a place for feeding our children, keeping a roof over their heads and trying to ensure they don’t end up in jail! Rather, it’s a place where values first make their appearance and where the whole person is developed – body and soul. A place of laughter, warm memories – a break from the pressures of the world and where we can point our children to new horizons and a reality beyond the four walls.

For this reason parents should avoid any kind of negativism along the lines of, “Modern culture is terrible and I don’t allow any TV in the home or let my children use mobile phones.” The issue, in such cases, is not technology but how we use or misuse it. Our focus should be on the good and how to filter out the bad. Setting controls and limits is an important part of our job as parents but we gain little by shutting down access. Ultimately parental controls should lead our children to develop self-control but this can be much harder if we turn our home into a boot camp!

In our own home we have a few hard and fast rules to help develop a sense of family culture – for example, no calls or internet use after a certain time, no technology at the dinner table and no use of uncivil or disrespectful language; but if we have sometimes ‘gone to war’ over these issues we have tried to pick the right fights.

 Forgiveness is central

Ultimately it’s about our attitude as adults. With the raging hormones and fluctuating moods of teenagers, for example, it’s important that we remain a steady, calm force. There has to be a point where no matter how much paint our 5-year-old has tipped over the new carpet it can be dealt with and forgotten. Forgiveness must be central in our homes.

Our children visit regularly and for a period of time my teenage children accompanied me to a soup kitchen where they had to engage with the homeless and vulnerable. We have assigned a day of the week to each of our children and on their day they are encouraged to lead the family prayers, help make dinner and carry out other responsibilities. Helping children to see the needs around them and to cheerfully serve others is an important part of their formation.

Be your child’s friend

(a) Praise your children a lot. Praise tells us what we are doing is right and encourages us to do it again – crucial if good habits and virtues are to be fostered. Praise must never be insincere, but it should always be given for small victories: “John, well done for putting some of your pocket money into the collection,” is a favourite of mine as such praise encourages generosity and develops a sense of financial prudence!

(b) Children love those who have the time not only to teach them, but to have fun with them. Fun need not be expensive. It’s about the odd surprise, having a midnight feast in holiday time, water fights, making silly videos or simply playing charades. When our children were very little we used to tickle them. It’s important we never stop!

(c) I always know when the friend of one of my daughters has visited our home by the dirty footprints and fingerprints left behind on the floors and walls. Making our homes bright and cheerful means having them open to other children. Indeed engaging our children’s friends in conversation, or any other visitor to the home, by taking an interest in them provides a wonderful example to our own children of how to develop their friendships.

(d) Make daily quiet times a part of your family routine. These times offer the opportunity to bond more deeply, but don’t have to be silent. They are often most powerful when they are filled with our prayers to God, through the family rosary for example, but quiet times can also be a wonderful opportunity to instil a love for reading, or going for a walk, having a family get together – all relaxing pastimes that can extend to adult life and which give everyone in the family a great sense of mental and physical well-being.

(e) One of the best conversations I ever had with one of my sons was in the car on the way to a football match. After having been on a mini retreat my son suddenly asked me about the nature of vocations. Interestingly, this conversation followed after a rather prolonged period of silence when we were simply sitting there driving along. The conversation which followed was a deep and hopefully meaningful one, talking about the meaning of love and sacrifice; and in a sense this is what our relationship with God is all about – about living lives of prayer, quiet moments when God can reveal himself most intimately to us.

Finally let’s not forget about the love that should exist between spouses. My wife and I are the first to admit that we have failed many times in our role as parents but we also recognise that by being united to one another, each new day offers a chance to begin again. Raising a family is a great sporting adventure, and we should be prepared for the setbacks, but with God’s help and a sense of humour our homes can always become the nurturing environments they were intended to be.
Welcome to the 'Sacred Heart Christmas Gallery' by the children of the parish. Thank you to all the children who took the time to draw these wonderful pictures of the Nativity: Anna Mei Peachey, Martha and Tom, Alexander (age 5), Zoe Ciccardini, Amy Lissaman (age 7), Tom Corcoran (age 6), John Corcoran (age 6), Anna and Tom. Well done to all of you for such a great job. It was hard to choose just one for the first magazine Christmas poster, but we decided on Anne Mei’s Nativity (below). Congratulations.
Beyond the Valley

Catholic outreach in our community and beyond

by Father Gerard Devlin

Woldingham School was founded in 1842 and this year we proudly celebrate our 175th anniversary. The Chaplaincy is located in the heart of the school and I have been greatly encouraged by the number of students who have involved themselves fully in creating a welcoming community where we care for one another and reach out to others. It is fair to say that the students have embraced our Sacred Heart goal of “Community” and there has been a true engagement in caring for one another.

At the beginning of the new academic year students are encouraged to use their gifts and talents in service to others. The identity of the school, as Catholic, demands, is fidelity to the mandate given to us in Scripture that we demonstrate our love of God through our love for our neighbour (Mark 12:28-34). Many of our students come from a privileged background and they are challenged to comprehend where the self is seen in the eyes of the vulnerable other. It is important to encourage students to follow the example of the Gospel and live out the good news in our everyday lives. On Holy Thursday, Jesus showed how perfect his love was:

“If I then the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example that you may copy what I have done to you.”


The Sacred Heart tradition of service

This is what I try to do as Chaplain and I encourage others in the community to do the same: to serve others without counting the cost to ourselves.

In developing outreach programmes, we create opportunities which allow our students to serve. The students often return with positive stories from their experiences and they are providing others with reason to hope as well. Outreach activity is rooted in the Sacred Heart tradition and the words of the founding Sister of the Society of the Sacred Heart, St Madeleine Sophie Barat, challenged us when she said: “Your actions, even more than your words will be an eloquent lesson to the world”. The outreach programmes connect the school to our local community, to central London and also to some national and international links.

Our Lower Sixth form students are timetabled to go out on a voluntary placement each week for one academic term and other students give of their time freely each week to embrace community projects which have been organised: helping pupils with their reading and writing in local schools, working with young people who have learning disabilities at the Orpheus Centre, visiting local nursing homes, working in charity shops, organising a lunch for the elderly at the school, working in the Cardinal Hume Centre, working with the Mizzen Foundation, providing food and toiletries for the local food banks, fundraising for local, national and international charities.

Leading by example

There have been so many encouraging signs of staff and students working together in collaboration with the Chaplaincy to develop and foster all that builds up and sustains a community that is positive in its outlook, where people take time to look out and care for one another. In the words of St Rose Philippine Duchesne RSCJ, “Preach by example of your lives rather than by words. Example is the very best sermon.” That is the challenge for all of us today.

As a school our aim is to produce young people with ideas and dreams, with a vision for what they want to achieve in life, who have a strong sense of service, of care and compassion for those in need and, above all, a love of life, a zest for living life to the full. My aim is to build up our own community who will go forward to rediscover and redefine our sense of service.

The goal of developing potential at Woldingham is not confined to the academic work, the Chaplaincy compliments the work of the academic departments and will continue to work closely with students in developing their skills and talents creatively in serving each other and the wider needs of our world. My hope is that in the years that lie ahead students will go on to assume active leadership roles within the Church and Society, benefitting from taking part in outreach programmes knowing that “we are called to act justly, love tenderly, serve one another and walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8).
The Birth of Jesus
From the Gospel of St Luke

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to the town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

“The word of the Lord”
SUNDAY TIMES TOP 100 PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

FOUR SCHOOLS
ONE MISSION

ENTRY AVAILABLE AT 11+ 13+ AND SIXTH FORM

THE CEDARS SCHOOL
BOYS AGED 11 - 18 YEARS
COOMBE ROAD | LLOYD PARK
CROYDON | CR0 5RD
☎ 020 8185 7770
✉ ENQUIRIES@THECEDARSSCHOOL.ORG.UK
🌐 WWW.THECEDARSSCHOOL.ORG.UK

THE LAURELS SCHOOL
GIRLS AGED 11 - 18 YEARS
126 ATKINS ROAD
LONDON | SW12 0AN
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