

## HOLY TRINITY BROOK GREEN



**WELCOME.** We are part of the world-wide Catholic Church. We seek to follow Christ. We are inspired by his example, encouraged by the sacraments and enlightened by Scripture. Drawn into the mystery of Our Lord's death and resurrection, we are sent out into the world to live in faith, hope and love.

## SERVICES

Saturday Vigil Mass at 6 pm

Sunday at 8.30

10 am (Family Mass)

11.30 am (Sung)

and 6 pm

Weekdays: Mass daily at 9.30 am and 6 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction: Saturday 7-7.30 pm

Confession: Saturday 10-10.30 am and 5.15-5.45 pm

We are also the London centre for the Syriac Catholic Community. They have Mass in Arabic and Aramaic here each Sunday at 1 pm. Their chaplain is Fr Nizar Semaan.



## WHO'S WHO

Fr Terry Tastard *Parish Priest*  
Fr Michael Dunne *Assistant Priest*  
Sister Jenefer Glencross OSU *Catechetical Co-ordinator*  
Mrs Ann McCarthy *Parish Secretary*

## CONTACT US

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## WHERE WE ARE

The church is on Brook Green near the junction with Hammersmith Road. We are also near the Kensington Olympia exhibition centre. Buses 9, 10, 27 and 391 all go along Hammersmith Road with a Brook Green bus stop five minutes walking time from the church. The nearest Tube stations are Barons Court and Hammersmith, each about 12 minutes walking time from the church.

## BAPTISM

Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church and inheritors of the kingdom of God. The outward visible sign of baptism is water, symbol of cleansing and refreshing, but a reminder also of the crossing of the Red Sea from one shore to another. The inward and spiritual gift given us by God in baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection. Through baptism we are able to receive God's grace in the other sacraments.

Parents presenting babies for baptism are required to attend a baptism preparation class. These are held monthly, except in August. Please contact the parish office if you have a child for baptism. Please note that the baptism of older children presents difficulties, and for children of school-going age we will ask that they attend special preparation sessions (see section on Mini-Cats). Note also that one heavily over-subscribed local school applies Catholic canon law, which asks that children be baptised before they are six months old.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Families who regularly worship at Holy Trinity are invited to enroll their children for the parish preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist when they are in Year 3 at school.

Parents play a major part in the preparation and are guided through it with the help of parents' meetings and the Family Work Book. Catechists also lead the children in group activities, and the parish prays for the children and celebrates Sunday Mass with them. The children have a special involvement in the 10 am Sunday Mass during this time.

Participation at Sunday Mass is at the heart of the preparation so it is essential that the family attend Mass regularly before embarking on the programme. The meetings for children and parents take place on alternate Saturdays in term time. The enrolment is in September.

## THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

For young people from Year 9 or 10 onwards, there is an announcement in the newsletter inviting them to write personally asking to join the preparation. The programme usually begins early in the calendar year, and the announcement appears weekly from around November until January.

The confirmation meetings include speakers, activities, prayer and discussion led by catechists. There is also an away-day at a youth retreat centre.

Adults who wish to be confirmed usually join the adult inquirers group.

## WEDDINGS

If you are inquiring about marrying here, then congratulations on your forthcoming wedding. This must be a happy moment, and one full of expectation for yourselves. We join you in asking God's blessing for a long and happy marriage.

All bookings for weddings at Holy Trinity are taken on condition that both parties are free to marry in the eyes of the Catholic Church. We require at least six months notice, and compiling of all the necessary documents. If one of you is not a Catholic then it will be necessary to apply for the dispensation from the diocese. Couples are also required to attend the marriage preparation day which is usually held on a Saturday in February or March.

Couples not resident in the parish need to get the permission of their parish priest to marry here.

Please understand that many couples want to marry in our beautiful church, and that some dates do book up a long time ahead.

We also help couples resident in the parish but marrying elsewhere to complete the necessary paperwork. This will also usually mean participating in a marriage preparation course here or elsewhere. Again, at least six months notice in advance is necessary.



*Stone carving of the Conversion of St Paul from the altar in St Paul's chapel.*

### ADULT INQUIRERS

If you are thinking about becoming a Catholic you are welcome to join the informal weekly meetings which run from September to June each year.

There is a team of catechists and helpers to welcome you, to answer your questions and to walk the journey with you. The whole group explores the Catholic faith together, reflects on the Bible readings of the Sunday and works to deepen their personal relationship with God and their commitment to living the Christian life. Inquirers are encouraged to ask questions about any difficulties they may face on the path to making a commitment. Their commitment must be freely given and there is never any pressure to decide one way or another.

The process may take a year or more and includes various ceremonies leading to the sacraments of baptism (for the non-baptised), confirmation and eucharist. The reception into the Catholic Church usually takes place during the Vigil Mass of Easter. If you are interested please contact Sister Jenefer.

### 'MINI-CATS'

This is the 'junior' version of the adult inquirers, and is for children between the ages of 7 and 15 who have not been baptised, or those whose preparation for the

sacraments has been interrupted for any reasons. The usual time to join the group is September. Parents, children and catechists sit together at the 10 am Mass and then go to the Parish Centre together for an hour of teaching and discussion. As with the adult inquirers we generally look to the Easter Vigil or the Easter season as the time for celebrating the sacraments.

## 10 am FAMILY MASS

In term time children aged 3-7 years are invited to this activity-based learning in a way more appropriate for their age. After the opening of the Mass, they go from the church to the parish centre in a group with their catechists. They return at the offertory to bring up samples of their work and sometimes to tell the congregation what they have learned.

## SPIRITUAL AND PRACTICAL CARING

We have a *Legion of Mary* group whose members share a time of prayer together and volunteer for work in the parish. Our *SVP* is available to bring practical support and help to those in need who live in our parish area. *SVP* members are also in the forefront of taking communion to the sick and housebound. We have *faith-sharing groups* which meet on a weekly basis in Advent and Lent, to reflect together on how our faith relates to the world in all its needs.

There are also autonomous groups which none the less have links with the parish and which use our facilities: the *Cubs*, the *Brownies* and for young adults *Communion and Liberation*, a new religious movement which originated in Italy.

Other groups meeting here are open to people joining from the parish but have no formal links with the parish. These include *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Al-Anon*, and *Narcotics Anonymous*.

The parish recently joined other churches and associations by affiliating to *West London Citizens*, a community alliance bringing diverse local organisations together to take action for the common good locally. We hope to play our full part in the work of this alliance.

Each year the parish works with West London Churches Homelessness Concern to operate a *winter night shelter for the homeless*. Our parish hall is opened overnight one night a week (other churches take it in turns other nights to do the same). We provide a hot meal, hospitality, a bed for the night and a cooked breakfast the next morning. This requires a team of some 30 volunteers from the parish.

## CHOIRS

We are keen to encourage parishioners who can sight read to join the 11.30 am choir which provides high-quality SATB singing. Our organist at this Mass is Tad Dan. Rehearsals commence at 10.30 am.

The children's choir at the 10 am Mass welcomes all children who can sing. It is directed by James Casey. Simply go up and join the choir in the church, preferably 15

minutes before Mass begins. Children who can play an instrument (eg flute, recorder) are also encouraged to join.

## ROSARY

Rosary Prayer Group meets in the Church daily after the 6 pm Mass, Monday to Friday. Everyone is welcome to join them to meditate on the saving mysteries of Christ and pray with the Virgin Mary for the many needs of our world.



*This statue of Mary and the infant Jesus stands above our side door*

## HISTORY

After the Reformation, the open expression of Catholic faith was forbidden, but slowly Catholic life returned to London. Hammersmith at that time was a semi-rural area on the outskirts of London. Some protection may have been afforded by the presence of a country home in the area owned by the Portuguese ambassador.

From the early 17th century a discreet Catholic life was established here and slowly the faith was built up anew in this area. Around 1680, Frances Bedingfield, a widow, established a convent of teaching sisters here and other institutions followed it. These included the vast generalate, convent and (for a time) children's home of the Sisters of Nazareth; St Mary's Training College for Teachers, now at Strawberry Hill; and Sacred Heart Convent School, under the direction of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Next to the site of the church, a Catholic almshouse was opened in 1851, St Joseph's House, to provide housing for elderly people.

Drawn in part by these institutions, the Catholic presence in Hammersmith grew steadily, and was greatly strengthened by Irish immigration from the mid-19th century. The need for a church grew pressing. The foundation stone of the church

was laid by Cardinal Wiseman in 1851 and building work finished in 1852. Building was made possible through the generosity of Helen Tasker, a wealthy local resident. It was designed by William Wardell, who later emigrated to Australia where he became a renowned architect of cathedrals and civil buildings, and is regarded as one of the founding fathers of Australian architecture. The stained glass in the church is mostly the work of John Hardman, a disciple of Pugin. In 1862 a tower was added, designed by Joseph Hanson, the polymath who also designed the eponymous cab.

In more recent years the parish has been renewed by people of many different nations and from many walks of life. We are now a thoroughly international community. The French primary school for London is only 200 yards away, and so we have many French-speaking families. Many other countries are represented in the parish, including: Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Sierra Leone, South Africa; Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Mexico; the United States; the island nations of the Caribbean; the Philippines, Sri Lanka, India; Poland, Austria, Italy, Spain; Iraq and Lebanon. And this is a selective list! We are all Catholic. And we are all Londoners.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are always keen to have the contact details of new members of our parish community. If you wish to go on our parish records, please [click here](#) and fill in the form as required, then return it to the parish.





## FINANCE

Many people comment on the beauty of our church. It is indeed a prayerful place, an oasis in the bustle of west London. The art and architecture help us to lift our hearts and minds to God. The maintenance costs are considerable, however. There is also a pressing need to refurbish the complex of halls and lounge which comprise our parish centre behind the church. A cosmetic job will not do: a lot of work needs to be undertaken here. This will require a major capital programme which it is hoped will be launched later in 2007.

A church is its people. Our desire to maintain and enhance our buildings is part of our vision of serving both the parish and the wider community. Prayer, worship, discussion, fellowship and administration, all need spaces adapted to their needs.

If you register with our parish we will invite you to contribute regularly to its upkeep and outreach.

Donations for particular projects are also welcome. You can sponsor the Sunday flowers or you can sponsor the lift that will be required in our parish centre. We can provide projects to sponsor for widely differing budgets.

## FR TERRY'S BOOK

Fr Terry's new book - **THE WAY TO LIFE** - is a series of 14 meditations and prayers accompanying 14 original icons on the theme of the Resurrection painted by Caroline Lees. The pocket-sized book is ideal for personal prayer especially around Easter time.

ISBN 085439 721 3

It is published by St Paul's Publishing, 187 Battersea Road, London SW11 3AS

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It is available from them at £3.99 each plus postage; or from your nearest Christian bookshop.

