

ST JAMES'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TWICKENHAM

# A HISTORY



by Fr Ulick Loring

£5



*The photograph of St James' Church  
on the cover is by David Gee.*





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Twickenham 2023

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## ***In memory of the late Maura Devitt 1936-2021***

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Several years ago, I approached a local historian about writing a history of the parish. His response was that he did not know that Twickenham had any Catholic associations! He had obviously never heard of Alexander Pope, Maria Fitzherbert, or King Manuel II of Portugal. I approached the late Patrick Rodgers, but he was otherwise engaged with Westminster Cathedral publications.

Eventually Tom Devitt who took an interest in the project. He unearthed a wealth of information about the parish and pioneered the historical record keeping of the parish. Janet Thomas and Professor Anne Duggan proof read this text and made many very helpful suggestions. They also undertook valuable work in setting up a parish archive.

I also thank the following who helped – David Bedford, Malcolm Howe, Ian Prain, Bernard Hornung, Paul O’Callaghan, Mike Cherry, Rev Jeff Hopkin-Williams, the Sisters of Mercy Archive, the Archdiocese of Westminster Archive, James de Wilde, John Sheaf, Rosa Saraiva, the Fundação da Casa de Bragança, and Beryl Lane.





## CONTENTS

1. The origins of the Parish .....	p06
2. The French Royal connection .....	p11
3. The Parish after 1885 .....	p12
4. King Manuel II of Portugal in Twickenham .....	p16
5. Canon William Gordon .....	p21
6. After the Second World War .....	p23
7. Father Kenneth Dain .....	p24
8. Father Tony Potter .....	p25
9. After Father Potter .....	p26
10. Links with Moldova .....	p27
11. Recent times .....	p28
12. Parish schools .....	p32
13. Conclusion .....	p34
14. Further Reading .....	p34





## 1. THE ORIGINS OF THE PARISH

On 3rd November 1534 the English Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy. By this, King Henry VIII became head of the Church in England. The following year the dissolution of the monasteries began. This resulted in huge social and economic upheaval for the country, and a way of life that had existed for centuries disappeared within a few years. Although there was opposition in some areas and a substantial northern uprising in October 1536, the Pilgrimage of Grace, all resistance was brutally put down. Under Queen Mary I, who reigned from 1553 to 1558, there was a brief and limited revival of monasticism but the old medieval order had in reality been wiped out.

Sion Abbey in Isleworth home of the Bridgettine Order was dissolved and the community left the abbey in 1539. The Chaplain Richard Reynolds, who had supported the mystic Elizabeth Barton, known as the Nun of Kent (an apocalyptic visionary hanged in 1534) and the parish priest of Isleworth, John Haile, a fellow of King's Hall, Cambridge were hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 4th May 1535. It would appear that Haile was indiscreet in a discussion with Robert Fern, Parish Priest of Teddington, concerning King Henry's divorce from Queen Katherine and his marriage to Anne Boleyn. He is attributed with the words, 'Three parts of England are against the king, and the commons sell well enough a sufficient cause of rebellion and insurrection, and we of the Church shall never live merrily till that day come'.<sup>1</sup>



*An early representation of an execution at Tyburn. Some sources say that it represents the execution of Elizabeth Barton known as the Nun of Kent who had the support of St Richard Reynolds*

It is not known if there was any Catholic community in Twickenham in the period after the Reformation, and the Catholic history of the locality is broadly the history of Catholicism in England at this time. In some areas there were strong groups of Catholics, and in other areas Catholics were very thin on the ground. Because the Reformation, at a parish level, was a gradual process clergy often shifted their allegiances according to who was in power. It should be remembered that Twickenham then covered a small area, with a population the size of a village.

The fortunes of those who remained loyal to Rome waxed and waned but by about 1570, during the reign of Elizabeth I, Catholic loyalists had become a persecuted minority surviving in small groups, often under the patronage of some great landowner. Nevertheless, Catholicism never died out completely and its culture endured. It was often sustained by priests who were trained abroad, for example at Douai in northern France, and who travelled secretly to England at great risk to themselves.

1. Cited in Henry Sebastian Bowden & Donald Attwater, ed, *The Mementoes of the Martyrs and Confessors of England and Wales* (London, 1962), p. 111.







There was a network of Catholic families who remained loyal to Rome and who supported these priests. Help also came through the Catholic spouses of different monarchs. James I's wife Anne of Denmark converted, and the French Henrietta Maria and the Portuguese Catherine of Braganza, queens-consort respectively of Charles I (reigned 1625–1649) and Charles II (reigned 1660–1685), were landowners in Twickenham. These royal spouses had mass celebrated in their palaces. Ambassadorial residences, for example that of Spain, saw the celebration of mass. At various times mass was also celebrated in the London embassies of Catholic countries. Charles II's younger brother, James II (reigned 1685–1688), converted to Catholicism (c.1669–1670) and, after the death of his first wife (also a convert) married the Catholic, Mary of Modena (Maria Beatrice d'Este.) This was not an important issue until Mary gave birth to a male heir in 1688. This was Prince James Francis Edward Stuart. His birth raised the likelihood that James II's heir as King would be a Catholic. Efforts were started to replace James II with his Protestant son-in-law, William the Prince of Orange and Stadtholder of the Netherlands. The English Catholic laity had experienced a brief period of optimism, but after James's deposition and exile in 1688, penal measures were once again enforced.

Attempts were made to rekindle Stuart support through the Jacobite rebellion (1715) which took place in Scotland and Northumberland. The leader of the rebellion in Scotland, John Erskine, earl of Mar and Kellie (1675-1732), leased a house in Twickenham on the site of Denbigh House (now a block of flats called Thames Eyot) by the River. The house was burned down in 1734. Mar was a distinguished landscape designer and architect, and there may have been truth in his claim that he designed the Octagon of what came to be known as Orleans House <sup>2</sup>. He has perhaps unfairly been maligned as a poor and untrustworthy Jacobite commander. His sobriquet, 'Bobbing John,' probably owes more to a physical disability than to his fickleness.<sup>3</sup> He died in exile at Aix-la-Chapelle (present-day Aachen) in 1732. He was a religious man who drew up ambitious and prophetic plans for a new constitution, which which would have included political union between Great Britain and France. Unsurprisingly this was unacceptable to the Stuart court in exile.



*The Earl of Mar and Kellie, Jacobite general and landscape designer, who lived partly on the site of the present Thames Eyot House*



*A print from the collected poems of Alexander Pope. Note the attitude of the aristocratic walkers to the beggar family on their right and to the Afro-Caribbean servant behind them*

2. Margaret Stewart, *The Architectural Landscape and Constitutional Plans of the Earl of Mar* (Dublin, 2016) xxi

3. *Ibid* p175





Meanwhile, the leading English figure in the Jacobite rebellion, the earl of Derwentwater, from Dilston Hall near Hexham, in Northumberland, was beheaded on Tower Hill on 24 February 1716. This was a difficult time for Catholics. Alexander Pope, the poet and satirist experienced the restrictions under which Catholics lived. Mixing with Jacobites he had to tread a cautious path between treason and artistic mockery. One reason why Pope lived in Twickenham was that from 1708 Catholics were forbidden to own property within ten miles of London. Unjust taxes were levied on Catholics. In The Second Epistle of the Second Book of Horace imitated by Mr Pope (1737), he commented on his family's experience:

***"While mighty WILLIAM'S thundering arm prevail'd  
For right hereditary tax'd and fined,  
He stuck to poverty with peace of mind;  
And me the muses help'd to undergo it;  
Convict a papist he and I a poet.  
But (thanks to Homer) since I live and thrive,  
Indebted to prince or peer alive,  
Sure would I want the care of ten Monroes,  
If I would scribble, rather than repose."***<sup>4</sup>

Efforts were made to persuade Alexander Pope to conform to the Established Church, but he resisted these blandishments. In 1717, for example, when Bishop Atterbury, a controversial High Church prelate and Jacobite, suggested that he should conform, Pope replied that he and Jacobite sought to preserve the peace of his conscience in any church.<sup>5</sup> Maybe because of his own uncertain social status he seems to have been sympathetic to those outside an aristocratic milieu. For example, he comes over as sympathetic to the victims of slavery at a time when it was rife and influenced all the moneyed classes.<sup>6</sup> Anyone who maintains that Pope was not the victim of anti-Catholic prejudice should consult the paper by Megumi Ohsumi. She cites Pope's anxiety that he would have to give up the horse given him by his Catholic friend, William Caryll of Harting in present-day West Sussex. At the time Catholics could not own a horse worth more than ten pounds.<sup>7</sup> He received the Last Rites from a Catholic priest on his own deathbed.<sup>8</sup> "He died on the evening of 30th May. The night of his death overtook him so easily and imperceptibly that his attendants did not know the exact moment when he had ceased to breathe. ... six of the poorest men in the parish bore his coffin to the tomb on Tuesday 5th June".<sup>9</sup>

In 1745 there was another Stuart uprising this time under 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', Charles Edward Stuart (1720-1788), titular Prince of Wales. The rapid Stuart advance into England from Scotland sent the government into panic but Charles Edward was obliged by part of his entourage to retreat when his army reached Derby. After the defeat of the Stuart Army at Culloden near Inverness in April 1746, captured Highland broadswords were taken as trophies to Twickenham, where they formed part of the railings at Twickenham House and were placed close to the orangerie. The house was the property of a Scottish peer, John Hay, fourth marquis of Tweeddale. He was also Secretary of State for Scotland and Master of Ordinance for Scotland. As such he was entitled to military trophies.<sup>10</sup> Twickenham House was demolished in 1888, but the orangerie survived as a private house with access in Heath Gardens. Later the broadswords were passed to the Culloden Museum. This was another dark time for Catholics throughout the country with further popular hostility resulting from the uprising.

A prominent Twickenham personality in the eighteenth century was Horace Walpole, fourth earl of Orford. He was the third son of the arch-Whig and immensely corrupt Robert Walpole (commonly regarded as the first Prime Minister)<sup>11</sup>. Of Robert Walpole it was said. 'Indeed, Walpole's corruption undoubtedly exceeded that of his predecessors in scale, grossness and endurance'. He was said by one MP, to be a 'tympany of corruption'.<sup>12</sup>

4. The poetical works of Alexander Pope with life, n d (Gall & Inglis, Edinburgh & London,) p 270

5. David Cody, 'The religion of Alexander Pope', The Victorian Web.org, 2000.

6. Laurence Brown, The Slavery Connections of Marble Hill House (University of Manchester), p. 45.

7. Megusani Ohsumi, Religion and alienation: the case of the Catholic poet, Alexander Pope, (University of Neuchatel, 2013, p 5.

8. Edith Sitwell, Alexander Pope (Harmondsworth, 1948), p. 211

9. The Poetical Works of Alexander Pope p.xii.

10. <http://twickenham-museum.org.uk/detail>.





Horace was the beneficiary of his father's financial misdeeds. While at school he was appointed to the sinecures of Controller of the Pipe and Clerk of the Estreat. Before he reached 21 he had been appointed Usher of the Exchequer.<sup>13</sup> He was far from being sympathetic towards Catholicism and he opposed the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1779.<sup>14</sup> Its passage led to the Gordon Riots in London, when Catholic property was attacked and at least one priest killed. Walpole, it has been maintained, had an uncle on his mother's side who was a Roman Catholic. He wrote favourably of Pope Benedict XIV<sup>15</sup> and was critical of Louise of Stolberg-Gedern, duchess of Albany, the estranged wife of Prince Charles Edward Stuart (de jure King Charles III).



*Highlander broadswords taken at the Battle of Culloden.  
For many years they formed part of the railings at Twickenham House*

When Louise was received at George III's court in 1791, Horace Walpole thought her behaviour ill-bred.<sup>16</sup> Walpole's Gothic folly in Strawberry Hill anticipated the Romantic revival and thus that of Catholic medieval architecture. The painter Thomas Rowlandson peopled his works on Strawberry Hill with imaginary monks and nuns! Paradoxically Strawberry Hill later became the site of a Catholic teacher training college under the auspices of the Vincentian order, and then a Catholic university as St Mary's University.

Maria Fitzherbert (1756-1837), the Catholic descendent of north-eastern recusants, who was controversially married to the Prince Regent (later George IV), lived in Marble Hill House for a short while. According to Shane Leslie, she could not have been residing in Marble Hill to begin with, but lived in a cottage called 'Riverside' near what became Orleans House, and also at Gifford Lodge next to Twickenham Green<sup>17</sup>. Her time at Marble Hill was probably in 1795<sup>18</sup>. The Anglican clergyman, Robert Burt, who married the couple on 15 December 1785, is buried in the old cemetery in Holly Road. Burt was one of the Prince's Chaplains in Ordinary', and it is said that he had been in prison as a debtor, but that his debts were paid by the Prince<sup>19</sup>. He was paid £500 for performing the ceremony<sup>20</sup>.

11. It has been maintained that Walpole was not the son of Robert Walpole, but that his father was Carr, Lord Harvey. See the Wikipedia entry on Horace Walpole (retrieved 2021).

12. Ian Gilmour, *Riots, Risings and Revolutions* (London, 1993), p. 81.

13. *ibid.*, p. 55.

14. *ibid.*, p. 347.

15. Brian Fothergill, *The Strawberry Hill Set, Horace Walpole and His Circle* (London, 1983), p. 37

16. Sitwell, pp. 203-204

17. Shane Leslie, *Mrs Fitzherbert* (London, 1939), p. 16.

18. *Ibid.*, p. 109.

19. <https://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/hanover> (retrieved 2023)

20. Leslie, p. 49.





Whatever the case, he was Rector of St Mary's Church until his death in 1791 at the age of 31. It has been said that the Prince Regent and Mrs Fitzherbert spent their honeymoon at Ormeley Lodge near the Ham Gate entrance to Richmond Park<sup>21</sup>. The house still exists and is owned by Lady Annabel Goldsmith, the widow of the Europhobic politician, Sir James Goldsmith (1933-1997.)

Although the British establishment did not recognise the marriage, through the influence of Maria's nephew, Cardinal Acton, the Catholic Church accepted it as valid. She later endowed the Catholic church of St John the Baptist in Kemp Town, Brighton, and is buried there. Before she died she turned down the offer made by King William IV of being made a Duchess<sup>22</sup>. She felt that this would put her on a level with the mistresses of George I and George II, whereas she and the Prince Regent had been properly married before witnesses. There is controversy as to whether she had children by the Prince Regent.



*Maria Fitzherbert*

What changed the status of Catholics in the country had little to do with society becoming more tolerant, though with the accession of George III, the threat of another pro-Stuart uprising became minimal, and public opinion became slowly less anti-Catholic. The rebellion in North America meant that the Army needed recruits and legislation was introduced to enable Catholic Scottish Highlanders to serve the British Crown; when France sided with the rebels, the English Catholics declared their allegiance to the House of Hanover. The Catholic Relief Act was their reward.

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21. Ibid., p. 61.

22. Ibid., p. 294.





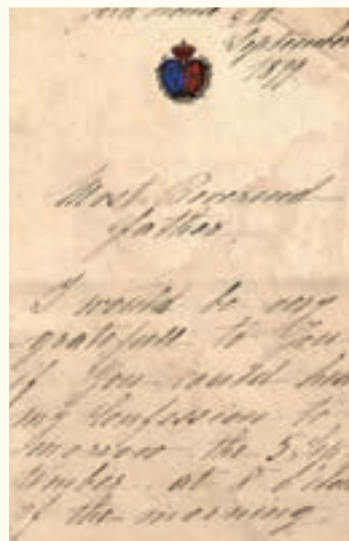
## 2. THE FRENCH ROYAL CONNECTION

Later, the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789 led French Catholic emigrés to seek refuge in Britain, and churches were built to cater for these communities. Mrs Fitzherbert was amongst those who welcomed French refugees to England. It was at this time that the association began between the exiled French Royal House of Bourbon-Orléans and Twickenham.

Before the opening of St James's, it is believed Mass was celebrated in several places including Cross Deep house. The Austrian ambassador, Prince Ludwig von Starhemberg (1762-1833), who owned York House in the early nineteenth century, had a private chapel there, and when Lord Petre resided at York House, he allowed mass to be celebrated there. It is possible that mass was also celebrated at York House when members of the Bourbon-Orléans family were in residence. They lived there on two separate occasions. It is also said that Henri, Duc d'Aumale (1822–1897) a son of Louis Phillippe I, King of the French, who lived for a time at York House, maintained a place of worship in Hampton. The Duc d'Aumale had been Governor-General of Algeria at the time of the overthrow of his father in 1848. The French royal family worshipped primarily at St Raphael's church, Kingston, before St James's was built.

The fleur de lys carvings on the ceiling above the sanctuary of St James's bear witness to the French connection. The side alcove altar to the right, dedicated to the apparition of the Sacred Heart to St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), also illustrates the church's association with France. This theme is illustrated as well in the central stained-glass window above the high altar. The glass doors from the main body of the church into St Joseph's chapel also bear the royal fleur de lys motif; and the thanksgiving plaque to Our Lady to its right, written in French, is another indicator of the French association with the parish.

St James's Church certainly owed a debt to the House of Bourbon-Orléans claimant to the French throne, for at the time of the opening of the church, Prince Louis Philippe, Comte de Paris (1869-1926) was a benefactor of the parish. Princess Marie-Amélie of Bourbon-Orléans was born at York House in 1865. She married King Carlos of Portugal. Their second son became King Manuel II of Portugal (1889-1932), following the assassination of King Carlos and Crown Prince Luis in Lisbon on 1 February 1908. King Manuel also became an important benefactor of the parish following his exile. A letter in the parish archives, dated 4 September 1899, from 'Mary, Duchess of Orleans', asks 'the parish priest' to hear her confession at eight am on the following day. This must be Marie Dorothee, born an archduchess of Austria-Hungary (1867–1932). She was married to the Comte de Paris who, according to Odile Hughson, had a reputation as a philanderer. He was pretender to the French throne and as such was known by his supporters as King Philippe VIII. However, he became unpopular locally because of his support for the Boers during the Boer War.



*Letter from Princess Marie Dorothee de Bourbon-Orléans seeking Confession*



*Princesse Marie Dorothee de Bourbon-Orléans*

23. T. H. R. Cashmore, *York House, Twickenham* (Twickenham, 1990), p. 26.

24. *Richmond Herald*, 22 December 1900.

25. Odile Hughson, *Royal Friendships, the life of the Royal Family of Orléans exiled in Britain*, (Peterborough, 2019), p 387.

26. Cashmore, p. 47.





### 3. THE PARISH AFTER 1885

It has to be borne in mind that Twickenham, at the time that St James's Church was built, was still semi-rural. The opening of Twickenham Station in 1848 and Strawberry Hill Station in 1873 pointed in the direction of urbanisation, but to the casual observer this would have not been obvious, and for some years to come the area would have seemed quite countrified. For example, in 1885 what is now the Upper Grotto Road area behind St James's Church was a market garden managed by Richard Clarke, who was possibly working for Viscount Clifden, an Anglo-Irish peer<sup>27</sup>. The road itself was not laid down until 1898-1899. When land behind the Church was excavated prior to its development as the Emmanuel Centre, silage ditches were found, presumably used for pig rearing, and also a quantity of coal, for heating the church. It has been said that a duty of the altar servers in the past was to stoke the fire which heated the church!

Before St James's, the principal place of Catholic worship in the area was St Bridget's in Isleworth. The origins of St James's parish can be traced to a meeting held at the Alma Hotel, Arragon Road, early in 1884, under Canon George Aker, to discuss the establishment of a mission<sup>28</sup>. Canon Akers was not, as been stated in at least one place, the parish priest but Vice- President of St Edmund's College, the seminary at Ware. He may have been appointed to initiate this project by Cardinal Manning because of his position in the archdiocese, but the survival of an envelope addressed to him at the time, suggests that he was living in Hampton Wick.

We know little about the very early days of the parish. Fr Thomas Godfrey and Fr Clement Dunn are mentioned as being in situ from 1883 to 1885, and Fr Michael Ryan from 1885 to 1886. The first baptism was on 25th May 1884 and was performed by Fr Godfrey. The name of the candidate was Christina Thompson. The first baptism performed by Edmund English was on 6th November 1886. According to Fr O'Brien, Parish Priest from 1924 until 1936, accounts were kept from 1884. Fr Ryan employed 'a girl' for 2/- a week until he appointed a housekeeper who received £16 a year. There was also 'a boy' who received £6 a year. A journey to London cost 3/6 pence. Collections only reached £1 before the end of 1885, and only twelve times in 1886<sup>29</sup>.

A mass was celebrated by Fr Godfrey in May 1885 near Twickenham station (presumably Grosvenor Road). Cardinal Henry Edward Manning donated the altar stone and a chalice<sup>30</sup>, St James's Church was opened in July 1885 by the Cardinal. The church was described as "... a relatively modest Gothic Revival building which takes its cues from thirteenth-century architecture"<sup>31</sup>. It was paid for by a convert, James de Lacey Towle, hence its dedication to St James. There is a plaque to de Lacey Towle, who died in 1888, on the right-hand side of the church as you go in through the doors from the porch. A great tragedy occurred the day after the opening: Henry Hillier who carved the side chapels was drowned while swimming in the Thames.

There is also a plaque on the right-hand wall in memory of Frederick Hyde Pownall (1831-1907), who was County Surveyor of Middlesex and a distinguished architect. Pownall lived in Cross Deep house from 1894. He himself was a convert to Catholicism, although his father, J. G. Henry Pownall, was anti-Catholic<sup>32</sup>. Frederick Pownall designed Corpus Christi Church in Maiden Lane and Sacred Heart Church in Holloway.

His younger son, Gilbert Pownall, originally a portrait painter, was persuaded by Cardinal Bourne to work on the mosaics in Westminster Cathedral<sup>33</sup>. However, the design caused immense controversy and Cardinal Hinsley who succeeded Bourne in 1935 suspended Pownall's work in November of that year. Pownall received £2,000 in compensation<sup>34</sup>. That was a large sum in those days.

27. Andrew Miller, 'Streetwise', The Bulletin (Strawberry Hill Residents' Association), no. 170 (Summer 2019), p. 4.

28. Thomas Clarke to Rev. G. Akers, 29 January 1884.

29. St James Parish Magazine IX, 117, September 1934

30. Bernard W. Kelly, Historical Notes on English Catholic Missions (London 1907) reprinted by Michael Gandy, Catholic Family History Society, 1995, p.399.

31. Ibid.

32. Michael Lee, 'Cross Deep. the house, its owners and tenants', Occasional Papers 2 (The Twickenham Museum), 2005, pp. 19-20.

33. Patrick Rogers, Westminster Cathedral: an illustrated history (Westminster Cathedral, 2012), p. 138

34. ibid., 'Storms of controversy – the early mosaics,' Oremus, July-August 2022, p. 15





Next to the plaque to F. H. Pownall is one to Elise Chambers. She and her husband, Freddie Chambers, were friends of King Manuel and Queen Augusta Victoria. Elise died a few days before King Manuel, who had sent a wreath for her funeral. Freddie Chambers was the founder of the Convert Aids Society set up to assist convert clergy<sup>35</sup>. They owned property near the church, which became available to clergy who had left other Christian denominations and who needed accommodation. The Society eventually changed its name to the St Barnabas Society.

The church was consecrated in July 1887 by Cardinal Manning in the presence of the Comte and Comtesse de Paris and the so-called 'Prince of Mantua and Montferrat' (His real name was Charles Groom.) After the consecration mass, lunch for 100 people was served in the then town hall<sup>36</sup>. The latter was then situated between King Street and the river. From 1886 the Parish Priest was Edmund English, who originated from Co. Tipperary, and was born in 1847. He was educated at St Edmund's College, Ware. Fr English was ordained in Hammersmith in 1872 and had served in the parish of Somers Town next to Euston station.

He was related to the Irish diarist, historian and promoter of women's rights, Mary Hayden (1862-1942). In her diaries she refers to the rural character of the area round St James's. She had corresponded with Patrick Pearse, a prime mover of the Irish Easter Rising, who was shot by the British in 1916. She was friendly with Canon English and visited him at St James's. There is some suggestion that English spent some time in Australia, and it is presumed that he *was related* to Fr Thomas Hayden, since the central high altar window is named as being in memory of the latter. Hayden was Vicar-General of Maitland Diocese, New South Wales.



*Elise Chambers*



*The town hall is the building on the far right. Lunch was served there to celebrate the consecration of St James's in 1887. From the Twickenham and Teddington Facebook page.*

*Photograph uploaded by Kenneth Lea and dates to 1904.*

35. Thomas Devitt, *The Parish of St James, Twickenham, UK, 1885-2000* (Twickenham, 2008), p. 22.

36. *Thames Valley Times*, 27 July 1887.



Among the paintings in the church are a copy of the Madonna and Child by Raphael, given by the Liberal MP and former Governor of Madras and Under-Secretary for India Sir Elphinstone Mountstuart Grant Duff (1829-1906.) The latter lived at York House. There is also a painting of St James 'Matamoros' (conqueror of the Moors). This was executed by Vicente de Arroyabe in 1995 and donated by parishioner Mrs Evelyn Dunning<sup>37</sup>. The Raphael copy now hangs behind the organ, and the Arroyabe hangs over the entrance to St Joseph's chapel. In a side entrance on the west side of the church there is a painting of the church by Hilda van Stockum (1908-2006), the Dutch-born writer and artist who was a friend of Fr Tony Potter, parish priest in the 1980s. On the immediate left-hand side of the porch as you enter, there is a pre-Raphaelite painting on slate of St John and Our Blessed Lady at the foot of the cross. The origins of the work have yet to be established.

In the early years, the congregation was not nearly as numerous as it was to become, even though it included at least part of the present-day parishes of Whitton and St Margaret's. In 1905, according to the Diocesan visitation of that year, mass attendance of adults was recorded as 230, with 11 infant baptisms, 4 marriages, and one conversion. 245 made their Lenten confession and 144 children attended the school (St James's). Of the one hundred and forty-four pupils, 70 were Catholic and 74 non-Catholic pupils. Fifteen Catholic children attended non-Catholic schools. For 1910, the number of adults recorded was 230, although 313 made their Lenten Confession! By the end of the First World War, adult attendance had risen to 500, but only 100 received Holy Communion. It must be borne in mind that in those days, because of the strict rules concerning fasting, it was mainly at the early mass when many received the sacrament. In 1907 Fr English began a fundraising programme in order to expand the church. Unfortunately, we do not know what he had in mind since no plans seem to have survived. Whatever they may have amounted to, the fundraising does not seem to have been very successful. By 1915 about £800 had been raised since the start of subscriptions in 1908.

The First World War, which commenced on 28 July 1914 with the Austro-Hungarian invasion of Serbia, exposed British opinion to a great deal of anti-German feeling. This was hardly surprising, since Germany emerged as the principal enemy, following its declaration of war on France 3 August. This was exacerbated by the German invasion of Belgium, a neutral country, on 4 August. Britain was bound to Belgium by the Treaty of London of 1839 which had been signed by the great European powers. After the invasion many Belgians were evacuated to Britain bringing with them tales of German atrocities. About six thousand evacuees ended up in Richmond and Twickenham, and many were employed in a munitions' factory built in what is now Cleveland Park by Richmond Bridge<sup>38</sup>.



*The Belgian 'Dept,' Orleans Elementary School in 1918*







At least eighty-five Belgian children were pupils in a special 'Belgian Dept' at Orleans Elementary School in Twickenham (not to be confused with the present-day Orleans Park Secondary School,) and at least one religious order of nuns was involved. The school was situated in Napoleon Road, off Crown Road. To begin with there were also Belgian children at St James's School<sup>39</sup> and St Catherine's School<sup>40</sup>. Since St Margaret's, East Twickenham, had not then been established as a parish, a number of Belgians were married at St James's during the Great War, including members of the Belgian Army. There were also baptisms from amongst Belgian families. On occasions Belgian priests officiated at baptisms, and also at weddings.

The anti-German feeling affected Queen Victoria Augusta of Portugal, a German-born kinswoman of the German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, when she lived in Twickenham with her husband, King Manuel II. The presence of so many Belgians in Twickenham with their tales of German wrong doings cannot have helped. It was a painful time for her and she was reputed to have been seen crying during the eight o'clock mass, which both she and her husband attended<sup>41</sup>. One can only speculate about the cause of this for her lot was not an easy one. It must have been a mixed blessing for her when she and King Manuel were invited by King George V to attend the victory parade in London on 19 July 1919.

For several months in 1917 Canon English was away from the parish, though the reason for his absence is not recorded. There were nine weddings between March and November 1917 at which Canon English did not officiate. A number of these involved Belgian couples. At two of the weddings, one of the witnesses was named as Elizabeth McEvoy of 61 Popes Grove (the address of the presbytery). The most likely explanation is that she was the live-in housekeeper, a practice which was very common in the past.

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37. Youngs, *ibid*.

38. 'How Belgians became refugees during the First World War', *The Brussels Times*, 30 December 2018.

39. St James's School log book. Information provided by Janet Thomas.

40. Mary Ryan in conversation with Fr Ulick Loring 2022

41. Reported by Nick Reynolds to Fr Ulick Loring 10th December 2017.





#### 4. KING MANUEL II OF PORTUGAL IN TWICKENHAM



*King Manuel and Queen Augusta Victoria leaving St James's following their arrival in the parish in 1914*

The deposed King Manuel II and Queen Augusta Victoria lived in Fulwell Park (where Fifth Cross Road and Staines Road now meet). This was a fifty-acre estate which bordered the River Crane<sup>42</sup>. Its entrance was in Mill Road. The mansion had been built in 1623 and acquired in 1871 by Sir Charles Freake, a well-known London property developer. He also founded the National Training School for Music (later The Royal College of Organists.) Fulwell Park was only one several properties acquired by him. He renamed Fulwell Park, Fulwell Lodge. Freake also owned the site of the Fulwell golf course which is set diagonally opposite the site of Fulwell Lodge. After Freake's death in 1884 the building passed to his widow, Eliza, and after her death in 1900 to an American millionaire and papal count, Reginald Ward, who was known as 'The Copper King.' He sold it to King Manuel in 1913<sup>43</sup>. There is confusion here because it has also been asserted that the estate was rented to King Manuel, who did not buy the property until 1926<sup>44</sup>.

After the King's death and the departure of the Queen, Fulwell Park was acquired by Edward Wates, a building company. This is presumably the construction company of the same name founded in 1897. The names of Manoel Road, Augusta Road, Portugal Road and Lisbon Avenue, are a reminder of the Portuguese connection<sup>45</sup>.

42. The large extent of the estate can be gauged from [http://www.martinwatson.co.uk/fulwell\\_park.html](http://www.martinwatson.co.uk/fulwell_park.html)

43. 'House and heritage, London lost houses, Fulwell Park' Retrieved 2019

44. Twickenham 1600-1900: People and Places, Twickenham Local History Society, 47 (1981), p. 46.

45. Poole, *ibid*





Manuel is seated far right at the front at the opening of the new Twickenham Town Hall in 1924. Next to him is Elizabeth, Duchess of York, later queen, and mother of Queen Elizabeth II. On the far left is Queen Augusta Victoria (only part of her left arm is visible). She sits next to Prince Albert, duke of York (later King George VI, 1936–1952). King Manuel's mother Queen Marie Amelie was born at York House in 1863.



King Manuel and Queen Augusta Victoria boating on the River Crane.  
Reproduced by kind permission of the Fundação da Casa de Bragança







The King acquired fishing rights from the duke of Northumberland who owned Syon House further down river. Dennis Foreman, who lived in Campbell Road, records that when he was a boy he met King Manuel, who talked about fishing to him and to his young friends. The king was a prominent parishioner at St James's church, regularly attending mass, and was active in local affairs. During the First World War he supported the Allied cause and the entry of Portugal into the war in 1916<sup>46</sup>. He was engaged in various activities to alleviate the suffering caused by the war, including sponsorship of the orthopaedic hospital where Hammersmith Hospital now stands. He and his wife, Queen Augusta Victoria, were godparents to many children at their Confirmation at St James's. This is recorded in the parish registers. The late Doris Bligh (1915-2017), a pupil at St Catherine's School, remembered being taken to meet Queen Augusta at Fulwell Park. King Manuel comes over as a friendly man more interested in books, music and the sporting life than in being king of Portugal.

The two windows at the front of the church were donated by King Manuel. One is dedicated to St Anthony, patron of Lisbon, and bears the royal crest in the bottom left hand corner. This was unveiled in April 1932 in the presence of Cardinal Bourne. The other is dedicated to St Edmund of Abingdon, archbishop of Canterbury from 1234 to 1240, and is in memory of Canon Edmund English who was Parish Priest from 1886 until his death on 8th March 1924 from what was described on his death certificate as 'senility pneumonia'<sup>47</sup>. The St Edmund window was unveiled by King Manuel in September 1925. Both windows were designed by Arthur Orr. After Canon English's funeral mass his body was taken in procession through the town, and he was interred at St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green.

Soon after his appointment Fr O'Brien became engaged in a dispute with Cardinal Bourne over Canon English's will. It may well have been difficult for him to follow in English's footsteps since the latter had been in place for many years, almost from the opening of the church, and he comes across as an eclectic and sophisticated personality. On behalf of Cardinal Bourne, Mgr W. E. Carton de Wiart (Financial Secretary to the Archdiocese) wrote to Fr O'Brien in June 1924 to say that £150 had been allocated to the parish from the Canon's estate, to pay for (unspecified) work to be carried out. Subsequent documents referred to 'enlargement' and to the installation of a boiler, but there is no indication of what 'enlargement' was envisaged; and nothing was added until Fr Potter's time.

What happened after this incident is unclear, but Fr O'Brien maintained that Canon English had made a bequest to the parish, and was rebuked by Cardinal for his temerity. Bourne wrote, "I am very sorry you have thought well to write to me in the way that you have. I have been at pains to read Canon English's will and there is no mention in it of the rector or the parish of Twickenham"<sup>48</sup>.



*Canon English's funeral procession through Twickenham*





*The side chapel, with the confessional, where King Manuel and Queen Augusta Victoria of Portugal attended mass. There was a corresponding confessional on the opposite side of the church.*

In January 1934, Fr O'Brien referred in the parish newsletter to disagreements he had with the Portuguese king and with parishioners generally<sup>49</sup>, but he attended the ceremonies for the deceased king at the Catholic Church at Weybridge. At this time, Twickenham was not the well to do dormitory suburb that it is now. James de Wilde, the parish accountant, recalls a family anecdote from this time, that Fr O'Brien visited his impoverished grandparents on Christmas Eve with 10/6d for their Christmas dinner. Life was generally more brutal in those days than in the present era, both in terms of religion and secular society. De Wilde recalls that his father was given the job of going around the streets looking for truanting pupils<sup>50</sup>.

King Manuel was a major collector of Portuguese books and employed a librarian, Marjorie Withers. Collecting books seems to have provided him with some solace as he endured a painful and unfulfilled life. He wrote. "Books are silent and faithful friends, and through them we may learn to read life". In 1929 the first volume of a catalogue of his collection running to 633 pages was published<sup>51</sup>. Eventually his collection found its way back to Portugal. However, on the king's death it transpired that he was heavily in debt to Maggs Brothers, dealers in antiquarian books and documents, and it was necessary to sell royal property in Portugal to meet the debts<sup>52</sup>. In England the king's estate amounted to £26,447<sup>53</sup> and one might reasonably assume that he had other debts apart from that which he owed Maggs.

46. Malcolm Howe, Dom Manuel II of Portugal, his life and Reign (London, 2009), p. 67.

47. Certified copy of Canon English's death certificate.

48. Cardinal Bourne to Fr O'Brien: 24 February 1925.

49. John C. O'Brien, 'Parish Notes', St James Parish Magazine, IX (January, 1934), 108 p. i

50. James de Wilde in conversation with Fr Ulick Loring, December 2022

51. Clara Macedo Cabral, The Last King of Portugal and Maggs (privately published, 2015), p. 25.

52. *ibid.*, pp. 32-33.

53. Poole, 'Fulwell House' (above, n. 42).



King Manuel died suddenly in 1932 as a result a throat infection caught while watching tennis at Wimbledon. Following his death his body was taken through the streets of Twickenham, the procession flanked by children from St Catherine's and St James's Schools. After a requiem mass at Westminster Cathedral, his body was taken first to Weybridge where his mother's family had associations, and thence to Lisbon. There he was interred in the former monastery of São Vicente alongside other members of the House of Braganza, including Queen Catherine of Braganza, wife of King Charles II. Later the Queen Mother Marie Amelie, would join her son there, following her death in France in October 1951. Neither the Queen Mother nor Queen Augusta Victoria attended the King's obsequies in Lisbon, and to the best of our knowledge the Queen never visited Portugal.

Fr O'Brien described the king as follows: "Ploughing his lonely furrow all too inadequately describes the life of one who attended the parish Mass like the simplest peasant, confessed his sins to that priest to whose charge the bishop had committed the flock, knelt at the rails to receive with unassuming piety the same God that died for prince and peasant"<sup>54</sup>.

The parish acquired various sacred vessels from Queen Augusta Victoria including silver cruets embossed with the king's monogram. She also gave the parish the organ which King Manuel had played in his house, and which had been made in England and installed in Fulwell Park in 1919. In 1933 the Queen left Fulwell Park and returned to Germany. She went initially to Freiburg im Breisgau, and in 1939 she married Robert, Count Douglas (1880-1955), a German nobleman of Swedish and Scottish extraction. It is said that she helped to care for his children from a previous marriage to a Norwegian lady, Sofie de Fine Blaaw<sup>55</sup>. Queen Augusta Victoria died on 29 August 1966 at Eigeltingen, Baden. She was buried at Schloss Langenstein, near Lake Constance. This was the Douglas residence at the time. According to Margery Withers, the King's librarian, Queen Augusta Victoria replicated Fulwell Park as far as was possible during the time she lived in Umkirch<sup>56</sup>.

In July 1933 two stained glass windows, donated by Freddie Chambers in memory of his late wife, Elise, were installed in honour of Blessed John Fisher and Blessed Thomas More, a dedication which anticipated by two years their canonization (1935) by Pope Pius XI. It was on this occasion that Fr O'Brien was received in a semi-private audience by Pope Pius XI, before he left Rome to return to St James's. This honour was due to the intervention of the superior of the Christian Brothers, who had a house in Strawberry Hill. The Pope came to greet everyone and '... gave us his ring to kiss'. He then moved on to the next room to greet another audience<sup>57</sup>.

There is reference in 1935 to restoration work being undertaken. This included the re-facing of all the stone work<sup>58</sup>. In September 1935 Fr O'Brien was joined by a curate, Fr Flood. Very early on the latter was nearly moved, and O'Brien had to fight to retain him<sup>59</sup>. The appointment of a curate may indicate that Fr O'Brien was in poor health. In 1936, he moved to Chiswick, where he died of pleurisy in 1939, and was buried at St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green.

54. St James Parish Magazine, VII (August 1932), 92.

55. History of Royal Women (retrieved 2023)

56. Margery Withers, 'Working for King Manuel at Twickenham,' The British Historical Society of Portugal 25th Annual Report and Review, 1998, pp. 13-22, at p. 22.

57. St James's Parish Magazine, X, 126, June 1935.

58. Richmond and Twickenham Times 1935 (no further details)

59. St James's Parish Magazine, X, 130, October 1935.





## 5. CANON WILLIAM GORDON

Fr O'Brien was succeeded by Fr (later Canon) William Gordon, who was parish priest for nearly thirty years, dying in 1975. The new priest encountered an early challenge in relation to the Parish Hall. In August 1936 a group of residents complained inter alia that "The annoyance caused by ... the ribald conduct of these young revellers is intense. Complaints to the hall have no effect, and householders who attempt to deal with the rowdy persons at the time are met with abuse and continued noise"<sup>60</sup>. Father Gordon was subsequently summoned to an annual licensing meeting of the County Licensing Authority to discuss the renewal of the Hall's license. There is no record in the parish records as to the outcome.

Under Gordon electric lighting was installed in the church as an act of thanksgiving for Gordon coming in the night to baptise a sick baby, Anne Marie Mlarinic (1937–2015), at her home. This was in late 1937<sup>61</sup>. It has been said that in 1945 a Catholic priest was drowned while swimming in the Thames at Twickenham, but there is no evidence that this tragedy was connected with St James's<sup>62</sup>.

The Second World War affected Twickenham as it did the whole of the country. There was a hostel for children from at least one *kindertransport* in Lebanon Park<sup>63</sup>. Nearer the church there was a shelter by the railway bridge in Popes Grove, and the Parish Hall became a rest centre<sup>64</sup>. St Catherine's School (then on the site the present-day Radnor House School) provided an air raid shelter in the form of Alexander Pope's Grotto. This linked the two sides of Cross Deep in the form of a tunnel<sup>65</sup>.

Being beside the Thames, places like Twickenham were easy targets for German bombers and later of flying bombs. Amongst the many bombs dropped in the area were those which fell on Michelham Gardens, just behind Cross Deep, and on St Mary's College. In September 1940 a bomb landed on the already dilapidated Radnor House on the site of Radnor Gardens. "It penetrated the cellar, exploded two hours later and reduced the mansion to a heap of rubble"<sup>66</sup>. In October 1940 a bomb which failed to explode landed in the garden of 56 Popes Grove opposite St James Church. It was 38' in length and made a crater as long as a double decker bus!<sup>67</sup>

At the time of the Dunkirk evacuation boats from along the River assisted in saving the many thousands of troops from the beaches. This is evocatively illustrated in the 1959 film *Dunkirk* with its shots of Twickenham and Teddington, and the emotional images of boats making their way down the Thames to Sheerness to be handed over to Royal Navy crews. Tough's boatyard in Teddington received a call from the Admiralty on 27th May 1940 asking them to work for Operation Dynamo and help to evacuate the troops from the beaches around Dunkirk. It has been said that 120 boats went from the Teddington area<sup>68</sup>.

On 24th June 1944 a V1 flying bomb hit Popes Grotto pub and, "... there was a total devastation. Number 2 and Number 4 Holmes Road were just a pile of rubble and a broken gas main in the road was alight. ... The high wall between the pub and number 2 had been blown away"<sup>69</sup>.



*The unexploded bomb in Radnor Road passage.  
Reproduced from 'Borough of Twickenham Local History Society Newsletter, December 2018, No 179'*





St Catherine's School had to be closed briefly, since the explosion caused roof tiles to be blown off and windows broken. "Sister Ignatius [†1946] was nearly killed when a shell (sic) landed in the middle of the playing field. She went to examine the damage and the shell exploded. Fortunately, she escaped injury but was left quite shaken<sup>70</sup>." It is said that pupils at St Catherine's used to watch as General Eisenhower was driven from Supreme Headquarters Allied Forces in Europe (SHAEF) in Sandy Lane Bushy Park to London each day<sup>71</sup>. The headquarters was knocked down in the 1960s, but is commemorated by the Shaef Gate at Bushy Park.



*A still from 'Dunkirk' (1958), shot on the footbridge over the River Thames at Teddington lock*

60. Letter from G. W. Ford and others, 30th August 1936; notice of intention to oppose renewal: 28 October 1936.

61. Eulogy at the funeral of Ann Marie Mlarinic delivered at St James's Church, 2015.

62. Oral evidence by Michael Woodward

63. Stephen Oryszczuk, 'The Twickenham Kinderhostel,' repr. in Borough of Twickenham Local History Society Newsletter, 183, April 2020.

64. Paul Barnfield, *When the bombs fell, Twickenham, Teddington and the Hamptons under aerial bombardment during the Second World War* (Borough of Twickenham Local History Society, 2001), pp. 18-19.

65. St Catherine's School, Twickenham, first hundred years 1914-2014, undated: no pagination.

66. Barnfield p 11

67. Mike Cherry 'The Radnor Road bomb,' Borough of Twickenham Local History Society Newsletter, December 2018, no 179

68. 'The Ballad of Teddington's Dunkirk Little Ships, a piece of history in film and song' (2017).

69. Cited in Mike Cherry 'The Radnor Road bombing,' Part 2, The Borough of Richmond Local History Society Newsletter, April 2029, No 180

70. St Catherine's School, Twickenham, Our First 100 Years. n.d.

71. Sr Paula Thomas in conversation with Fr Ulick Loring 2022





## 6. AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

After the War, work, which had fallen into abeyance, was carried out in the parish. The hall in Radnor Road was renovated and for a time was used by St James's School Primary School. Improvements were made to the school to which the parish contributed. In the church, remedial work was done on the heating, and the interior of the church was redecorated at the cost of £700. Renovation was undertaken on the stone work, and the organ restored at the cost of £200. From the end of 1951 parishes had to contribute to a newly established central school fund. The charge on St James's was £750 a year. £15 from each weekly collection was set aside for this<sup>72</sup>.

Canon Gordon was unusual in having a brother Leonard (†1972), as well as his mother, Mary (†1959), living with him in the presbytery. There was a second brother, James (†1970), but it is not clear whether he also lived in the presbytery. The late Susan Smith (†2016), who was Gordon's housekeeper, remembered his mother calling out from upstairs when someone came to the door. Leonard and Mrs Gordon are remembered respectively through a painting of Our Lady and the priest's sedilla which bears Mrs Gordon's name. There is anecdotal evidence that part of the role of the altar servers before the 8am mass was to throw a stone at Canon Gordon's window to remind him of the mass! A former altar server recalls being allowed by the Canon to drain the bottles of communion wine<sup>73</sup>.

Canon Gordon, Leonard, and their mother are buried in Twickenham Cemetery, which is on the Whitton side of the A316. Canon Gordon was regarded as something of a 'character'. "He... did not care for change for its own sake, and one of his disappointments must have been to rebuild his beloved St James's school in the grounds of Fortescue House, instead of on a site opposite the church in Bonser Road"<sup>74</sup>. The site he had in mind may have been on the site of what became the relatively modern houses in Abbotsmeade Close. These had not been constructed by the time of Canon Gordon's death. They included a few modern buildings in Bonser Road itself.



*The funeral cortege of Canon Gordon proceeding up Pope's Grove*

72. 'Catholic Church of St James': The Catholic Year Book, 1955-6.

73. Twickenham and Teddington history, Facebook page, April 2023, contributed by Graham Lea

74. Richmond and Twickenham Times, 7 November 1975.







## 7. FATHER KENNETH DAIN



*Father Dain with First Communion children*

After Canon Gordon died in 1975 he was succeeded as parish priest by Fr Kenneth Dain, who had been assisting in the parish during the canon's illness. For a time, he had as an assistant Fr Vincent Crewe, who died in 2021. It was said that parishioners complained to the then Auxiliary Bishop Mahon about the conditions under which Fr Crewe was expected to live in the parish house<sup>75</sup>.

Fr Dain was born in Hornsey in 1922 and educated at the Stationer's Company School. To begin with, he was an office clerk and a trainee draughtsman. During the Second World War he served as a Private in the Royal Armoured Corps. He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1952 but was received into the Catholic Church in 1955 and ordained as a Catholic Priest in 1960. Before moving to St. James's he had served in the parishes of Acton, Maiden Lane and Kensington<sup>76</sup>.

In 1980-81 the church was re-ordered in accordance with changes introduced as a result of the Second Vatican Council. The altar rails were taken down and a platform in the front of the undertaken by the architects Broadbent, Hastings Reid and New Project architect, B. C. Brown<sup>77</sup>.

At present the church has no confessional and it is said that it was removed because parishioners' confessions could be overheard! One of the confessionals was situated on the site of the present organ (the other was situated directly opposite). It was presumably at this time that the church acquired the additional altar on the sanctuary, so that Mass could be celebrated with the priest facing the people. This was according to the norms of the Second Vatican Council. The new altar was acquired from St Mary's College and had been in their crypt chapel, where it was used for weekday masses. It was designed by Sam Holland of Sir Albert Richardson's office.

On leaving St. James's, Fr Dain moved to St Paul's, Cheshunt as Priest-in-Charge. He died on 24th October 2010 and the funeral took place at Our Lady Queen of All Creation, Hemel Hempstead, on 4th November.

75. Informal discussion with Fr Vincent Crewe by the author.

76. Mgr Seamus O'Boyle, Vicar General, 27 October 2010.

77. <http://taking-stock.org.uk/building/Twickenham-st-james> (retrieved 2022).

78. *ibid*.





## 8. FATHER TONY POTTER

Father Dain was succeeded as parish priest by Fr Tony Potter. The latter was born in Buxton, Derbyshire in 1931. He was educated at Prior Park the Catholic boarding school near Bath, and trained as a teacher at St Mary's College. He had graduated from Birkbeck, the college for working men and women and part of the University of London. Birkbeck had originally been a working man's institute. Although a college for part-time students, it was unusual in that the degrees acquired there were internal and not external degrees. It was and is a fully functioning college of the University of London, situated next to the Senate House. As a young man Fr Potter travelled in South Africa. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1963. He taught at St Hugh's Preparatory School from 1963 to 1979. "His innate sense of humour came through in his anecdotes of school life ... In many ways these years defined the rest of his life and his priesthood ... It was at the school that he developed his fund of stories, which he used to put people at their ease"<sup>79</sup>. He was no doubt helped in his style through his attraction to the charismatic movement<sup>80</sup>.

Under Fr Potter a porch was built which connected the church building with the presbytery. It was also at this time that 59 Popes Grove, next to the presbytery, was disposed of. This house had been acquired in Fr O'Brien's time, but according to Tom Bligh (1920-2010), who was in charge of finances in the time of Fr Potter, the latter was short of liquidity in his capacity as parish priest. According to Tom Bligh, Number 59 was auctioned at a local pub<sup>81</sup>.

Fr Potter had to deal with a sensitive problem in 1990, when it was found that the organ which King Manuel had played, was too expensive to repair, for the cost would have been between £15,000 and £20,000<sup>82</sup>. The connection with the king was important for some parishioners but Fr Potter felt that was no alternative but to discontinue its use. This was a long-standing problem, for in 1984 he had offered the organ to both the Portuguese Embassy and to the Gulbenkian Foundation, but neither showed any interest<sup>83</sup>. Some repairs were undertaken in 1988, but eventually the organ was partly dismantled because, according to the late David Fenner (1934-2018), it occupied too much space<sup>84</sup>. The main pipes and the upper woodwork bearing the Portuguese royal arms can still be seen in the old choir loft<sup>85</sup>. Other pipe work was placed on ledges inside the front of the church in either corner.



Fr Potter had to resign from St James's in 1992 due to ill-health, but when he was sufficiently recovered, he was appointed Parish Priest of Tring, where he died in 2003. His funeral took place there.

A memorial Mass was later celebrated at St James's Church in June 2003. During his illness at St James's, Father Potter was assisted by a Maltese priest, Fr Alfred Xuereb SJ. The latter later worked at the church of St Anselm and St Cecilia in Holborn and also in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

*Mass commemorating Fr Potter's Silver Jubilee 1988*

79. Rev. Canon John MacDonald, 7 May 2003.

80. Ibid.

81. Tom Bligh in conversation with Fr Ulick Loring.

82. Undated and unsigned note in the parish archives, presumably by Fr Potter.

83. Ibid.

84. David Fenner in conversation with Fr Ulick Loring

85. 'Church Memorial recalls links to an exiled king', *Richmond & Twickenham Times*, 2, 2 October 2009





## 9. AFTER FATHER POTTER



*Palm Sunday process from the parish hall 1998. Eric Smith holds the thurible, and Alan Green, the processional cross. Behind them are Douglas Blackie serving as acolyte, Mgr Tancred and Helen Strutton the choir mistress.*

Fr Potter was succeeded by Mgr George Tancred. The latter came from a theatrical background, his mother, Hilda Tancred, having danced with the Tiller girls. He was born in Manchester in 1932 and Ordained for the Diocese of Salford in 1958. He was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Westminster in 1991. He built the conservatory at the back of the presbytery. The centre at St James's School for children suffering from Autism was named after him in 2004. Mgr Tancred retired to Ireland in 2001 and died barely a year later at Bogotstown, Co Louth on 15th December 2002. "It is impossible to think of him without picturing his smile. This was his most distinctive feature – a life enriching smile that could manifest warmth, compassion, mischief or delight, and sometimes all together"<sup>86</sup>. His funeral was at St Michael's Church, Clogherhead, Drogheda. He was buried in the grounds of the nearby Cistercian Abbey of Mellifont. A requiem mass was celebrated at St James's on 23 December by the then Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, Rt Rev George Stack.

His successor Fr Terence McGuckin was from Cork where was born in 1950. He was educated at the North Monastery Catholic School in the city. He joined the Dominican order and evangelised and taught, in amongst other places, the Philippines and Louisiana. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Westminster in 1980. He had a strong academic background having studied at Trinity College, Dublin, University College, Cork, the Pontifical College of St Thomas Aquinas and held a Licentiate from the Gregorian College in Rome. He had been a lecturer at the Beda College for late vocations in Rome. However, he was in poor health and he was advised to retire from the parish in August 2002. He moved initially to the parish of Queensway as Parish Priest. At the time of his transfer he estimated the mass attendance as being about 400<sup>87</sup>.

Fr McGuckin was succeeded by Fr Ulick Loring. The latter was a former civil servant in the Department of Trade and postgraduate in history from Fr Potter's old college, Birkbeck. There Loring studied diplomatic history under a distinguished scholar, Professor Douglas Dakin, who was a Foreign Office expert and a Hellenist. Loring was born in St Leonard's-on-Sea in Sussex in 1946. He came to St James's having taken a sabbatical at the Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, near Oxford. Before then he spent six years in Hastings and St Leonards-on-Sea in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Cardinal Hume had given him permission to work in another diocese in order to be close to his elderly mother and aunts. The Cardinal spoke to the then Bishop of Arundel & Brighton, Cormac Murphy O'Connor, on Loring's behalf. After he joined St James's Fr Loring gained a diploma in therapeutic counselling from Richmond College of Further Education. He practised counselling for a number of years both privately and at what became the Phoenix centre in Feltham.

<sup>86</sup>. Denis Tuohy, The Irish Times, 4 February 2003

<sup>87</sup>. Archdiocese of Westminster, parish handover document (July 2001).







## 10. LINKS WITH MOLDOVA



*Parish group in Bender, Transdniestria by the site of centre being supported by the St James's Parish. Fr Ulick Loring the parish priest is far left. Second from the end on the right is Derek Watson, Chairman of the Parish Council.*



*Sam di Matteo, Tom Didiot-Cook and Tom Haworth our youth group who visited Moldova. They are waiting at the border crossing with Transdniestria for permission to cross into the breakaway part of the country.*

In 2004 a link was established with the Catholic Diocese of Chisinau in Moldova, when Deacon Peter Coates (1940-2020), a former Methodist minister, who was ordained for the diocese of Chisinau, came to live in St James's parish. He had had to return to England because of ill health and the security situation in Moldova<sup>88</sup>. Fr Loring and Deacon Coates visited Moldova in 2004. With the encouragement of Bishop Anton Cosa of Chisinau, they began a fundraising programme to support the construction of a children's centre in the town of Bender in the breakaway part of the country, Transdniestria<sup>89</sup>. They also arranged for support for other Church projects in Moldova. In 2008 a group of young people were taken to Moldova to tour the country and to see how the local people lived. They assisted in the summer camp of the local Catholic church in Stăuceni a small town outside of Chisinau. This made a considerable impression on them as they encountered real poverty only a few hundred miles from their own homes.

Bishop Cosa himself visited St James's in 2004 and 2009. At that time, he inaugurated a charity 'Moldova Not Forgotten', which eventually closed down, due to the loss of its principal backer. Deacon Peter was also instrumental in setting up a system of lay visits to Feltham Young Offender Institute, where he was a chaplain, as well as a support system for ex-offenders. His wife Kathleen, was for a time chaplain at HMP Bronzfield, the women's prison in Ashford, Middlesex.

88. Peter Coates to Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, 26 March 2001.

89. Ulick Loring. 'Parish brings hope to a forgotten corner of the world', Catholic Times, 4 June 2006.





## 11. RECENT TIMES

A survey conducted in 2004 illustrates changing opinions in the area. Amongst the feedback, 133 favoured married men being ordained and 43 were against. The figures for ordained priests being allowed to marry were 124 to 56; the statistics on the ordination of women were 90 for and 86 against. In 2006 Fr Loring recorded that 615 attended Mass, 69 children made their First Holy Communion, and 25 were Confirmed. In 2014 the Archdiocese of Westminster launched a fundraising programme called 'Growing in Faith'. All parishes were to take part and the Diocesan head of finance, Paolo Camoletto, visited parishes to explain the programme. Priests were summoned to Archbishop's House for lunch with Cardinal Nichols. As part of the programme they were asked to interview selected parishioners and invite them to contribute financially. According to parish records, nineteen parishioners took part. The bait for parishes was they would receive back a proportion of funds raised for their own use.

The changing environment of the area led to a need to expand the church and after much struggle and local opposition planning permission was obtained to build a parish centre on waste ground behind the church, to replace the porch, and to add a side chapel for use by small children and their parents, dedicated to St Joseph. Permission was obtained only after Fr Loring and Grainne O'Keefe, the architect, addressed Richmond Borough Planning Department. The former was coached for this presentation by parishioner, Colin Brazier, who was then a presenter for Sky News and later joined GB News.

In July 2009 Compton Fundraising Ltd issued a resources study with a view to raising £500,000 for the development. Although their research highlighted one or two potential obstacles to the project, by and large, the findings were positive. For example, it was agreed that, since the parish was 'growing and vibrant', St James's current space and facilities were inadequate. "Most interviewees appeared to be keen and ambitious to improve, not only the physical infrastructure of the church, but also the attendant pastoral activities"<sup>90</sup>. The report concluded that the parish had the capacity to raise the sum required.

In September 2009 a team was assembled to raise funds. The parish negotiated a loan from the Diocese of Westminster, under the provision that the parish would find the balance. An accountancy firm was engaged to do a feasibility study which demonstrated that the parish had the resources<sup>91</sup>. An extensive fund-raising programme was initiated. Many parishioners offered short term standing orders; May Balls were celebrated at St Mary's College; a steady income came in from post-mass refreshments; a team took part in the Great River Race from the Isle of Dogs to Ham; and an 'Olympics' was held on playing fields of St Catherine's School. Fr Loring had his beard shaved off and wrote a book of memoirs, *Mission Impossible*. These projects raised several thousand pounds. Another initiative he undertook was to have his beard shaved off in June 2010. This raised about £3,000<sup>92</sup>.

The building site was blessed by Archbishop Vincent Nichols when he visited St James's in July 2010 on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the church. To mark the event, a special chasuble was ordered from Arras, a workshop for disabled craftsmen in Venice. This was undertaken with the help of Linda Walker (née Lorenzon) who came from Treviso near Venice.

The new centre was named the Emmanuel Centre in deference to King Manuel and Sister Emmanuel O'Donoghue SM (1935-2010) who worked for many years in local education and in parish life. These buildings were completed in 2013. The architects were Grainne O'Keefe Ltd of Hampton and the building contractors Ryan & Collins of Feltham. The Centre is characterised by 'a striking central steel hub' or cupola 'over the main space', which was constructed in The Netherlands<sup>93</sup>. As a part of the renovation of the church, fourteen pews originally donated from St Catherine's School chapel were removed. These were replaced by benches made in Poland, but assembled at St James's. These were exact replicas of the original pews, made of varnished oak, which dated back one hundred and thirty years<sup>94</sup>. The benches were sponsored by parishioners for £700 each.

90. Compton, report of a fundraising resources study, 31 July 2009, pp. 7-8.

91. Paul Hurst interviewed by Tom Devitt, *The Parish of St James, Twickenham 2008-2013*, pp. 18-21.

92. Richmond and Twickenham Times, 18 June 2020, p. 11.

93. Grainne O'Keefe, 'St James Church, Twickenham,' *Church Heritage and Building Review*, July-Augus2013, pp. 56-59 (Twickenham, 2013).

94. Thomas O Devitt, *The parish of St James 2008-2013*, p. 21.





*Parishioners gather at Strawberry Hill Station in join Pope Benedict in prayer at Hyde Park*

This was also time of financial reform. A paid accountant was appointed. There was a drive to encourage offertory contributions by standing orders, and later contactless payments were encouraged. For her contribution to the financial well-being of the parish the Chair of the Finance Committee, Jane Leigh, was decorated with the Bene Merente medal awarded by the Holy Father.

In September 2010 Pope Benedict XVI paid a state visit to the United Kingdom and he came to Strawberry Hill on the occasion of liturgies held at St Mary's College. Parishioners including many school children took part in this event. Others travelled to Birmingham for the Beatification of John Henry Newman; still more attended Benediction celebrated by the Pope in Hyde Park.

A further sign of the changes of the parish was the increase in the number of young families attending St James's. One of the consequences of this was that the parish produced its own DVD on baptismal preparation, entitled *Our Child's Baptism, the Water of Life*. Directed by Edward Wright, it was narrated by the actor and producer Paul Foster, who had played roles inter alia in *Foyle's War*<sup>95</sup>. Copies were sold to many parishes.

In September 2009 the Portuguese connection was renewed when a memorial to King Manuel and Queen Augusta Victoria was installed on the right-hand side of the Sanctuary. It was unveiled by Councillor Celia Hodges, the Mayor of Richmond, and dedicated by Bishop George Stack, auxiliary bishop of Westminster. Dom Miguel of Portugal, a kinsman of the late king, and the then Portuguese ambassador, Antonio Santana Carlos, laid a wreath in memory of the Portuguese dead of the First World War<sup>96</sup>.

Thanks to the initiative of Malcolm Howe, the memorial was paid for by the Order of St Michael of the Wing, a Portuguese house order. Beneath the King Manuel memorial there is a small plaque dedicated to Lily Carter (1918-2011), believed to have been the last surviving goddaughter of Queen Augusta Victoria. She had been station mistress of Kew Station for a time.

95. Ulick Loring, 'Tailor-made catechesis', *The Catholic Herald*, 22 April 2011.

96. Idem, 'The King who waited in line for Confession', *The Catholic Herald*, 25 September 2009.





In 2015 in collaboration with the Anglo-Portuguese Society a project was launched to install stained glass windows celebrating the Portuguese dead of the Great War and the humanitarian work of King Manuel. Originally only one window was proposed but a second window was proposed by Anthony Bailey. Funds were raised through the enthusiastic Chairman of the Anglo-Portuguese Society, Bernard Hornung, parishioners and other supporters. A special Mass was celebrated to commemorate the Portuguese war dead. This took place at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Warwick Street, the main celebrant being Fr Nicholas Gosnell, administrator of the Military Cathedral, Aldershot. In his homily Fr Gosnell spoke of his experiences while serving in the Royal Navy in the Falklands War. After the mass there was a special gathering at the Portuguese Embassy hosted by the ambassador, João de Vallera. He presented Fr Loring with a copy of The sermon of Saint Anthony to the fish and other texts, by the missionary and diplomat António Vieira (1608-1697.) St James's church would be redecorated and, in a separate enterprise, a statue of King Manuel was planned for erection in Twickenham.

Caroline Benyon (1948-2021) a well-established stained-glass designer, with much experience in church work, was commissioned to design the windows. She had the advantage as being a resident of Hampton, where she had her studio. Steps were taken to have the windows recognized as an official war memorial by the Imperial War Museum. Redecoration of the church began in June 2017 and was completed in August. It was carried out by J. Clark, a firm with much experience of work in Catholic churches. Associated work was carried out on the fabric of the church at the same time. This included installing an arch over the interior of the main doors, and work on the electrics and the flooring. New benches had already been installed so that all the benches were matching.

The restoration of the flooring was undertaken by Wood on the Floor. Antanas Panov and Yordan Shopov from the company, commented: "... one can only marvel at the skill of the craftsmen who installed this floor all that [sic] years ago, and ponder the technology and the tools they used resulting in the amazing job they have done<sup>97</sup>." Paul Hurst, who acted as property manager to the parish, added, "The finished floor renovation was incredible. Bearing in mind it was laid in 1885, you would think it had only just been commissioned<sup>98</sup>."



*The guard of honour for the unveiling of the new windows awaits distinguished visitors including the Portuguese ambassador, Prince Sebastian of Luxembourg, Sir Vince Cable MP and the Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Benedict Dias. The latter was also a parishioner.*





The windows were unveiled by Manuel Lobo Antunes, ambassador of Portugal, and Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank, on 9 April 2018. The latter was a former Chief of the General Staff and Chief of the Defence Staff. The windows were blessed by Bishop John Wilson, titular bishop of Lindisfarne and auxiliary bishop of Westminster. Prince Sebastian of Luxemburg, youngest son of Henri, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, and a kinsman of the Portuguese royal family, also attended. Cardinal Vincent Nichols was unable to attend because the date coincided with the inauguration of the new bishop of Lancaster. A film of the occasion was made by Michael Martin, a film producer and member of the parish. On 9 April in the following year (2019) an official plaque was unveiled by the ambassador in the alcove on the right of the church as you enter through the main doors. Manuel Lobo Antunes again attended, along with a group of Chelsea pensioners from the Royal Hospital.



*Members of the Royal Hospital Chelsea who attended the blessing of the new plaque in April 2019*

Later in 2018 the parish became the beneficiary of a substantial legacy from Patrick Rogers (1944-2017) the author of many books and articles about Westminster Cathedral. He was in particular an authority on the Cathedral's marble. The legacy enabled the parish to consider further expenditure on the church premises, including a set of altar frontals designed and executed by a local textile designer, Ann Keay, and a plaque was put up in Patrick's memory by the altar of the Annunciation.

Like all parishes St James's had to endure the Covid virus which broke out in the Spring of 2020. The church was closed at times, but initiatives were taken to keep the parish alive, such as 'a thought for the soul' sent out each day by Fr Loring via e-mail and Facebook. (The parish by now had its own Facebook page with well over 470 members.) The Alpha ministry which had been established in the parish continued to meet through Zoom. An analogous group, 'Connect', and another on-line group on Bible Study was set up, 'Return', and a support group was set up for parents was established. Because of Patrick Rodgers' legacy, the parish was able to install a permanent professional live streaming of the Mass. This was in November 2020 and the innovation was invaluable during the pandemic when the public celebration of mass was curtailed. It was especially popular when there were funerals, marriages and baptism, and friends and family could not be present.

As the parish gradually recovered from Covid the news came from Rome that Pope Francis wished to call Synod for 2023, and that the Church throughout the world would be consulted. In October 2021 the Archdiocese of Westminster issued guidelines about how this would be carried out. In St James's all church going parishioners were invited to take part, and thirty-two responses were received. These covered a wide range of topics, including the role of women, the state of an ageing priesthood, gay issues, education, youth and liturgy. In February 2022 the parish findings were forwarded to the commission appointed to assimilate the responses and they issued their own report. The responses did not express one view on a topic but rather varying opinions were expressed.

97. <https://www.woodonthefloor.com> p 1 (retrieved 2022)

98. Ibid p 2



## 12. PARISH SCHOOLS



*Children at St Catherine's School in 1919. Sr Ignatius is seated in the middle row*

Catholic education played a huge role in parish life both in the past and present. A constant concern of clergy was fund-raising for schools, and it was not uncommon for clergy to visit homes for contributions towards school building. St James's Parish was no exception to this custom.

Unlike nowadays, in the past Parish Priests played a big administrative role and were often the Chairs of Governors. Beryl Lane, who was head of St James's Primary School from 1979 to 1994, recalls meetings of governors taking place in the presbytery in Popes Grove. She wrote that 'The majority of governors were men of the parish and unfortunately, they smoked. It was a dark dingy room with very old chairs on which we sat. The leatherette seat and webbing were disintegrating leaving the governors to sit in the hollow of the chair'<sup>99</sup>.

The Parish expanded from an early time due to the establishment of Catholic schools. As time went by, the attraction of Twickenham as a dormitory suburb increased, with easy access to Central London, and to Heathrow and Gatwick Airports. St James's Primary School was opened in 1893 and St Catherine's Girls Independent School in 1914. For most of its existence St Catherine's School was managed by the division of the Sisters Mercy known as the Union. The last sister from the Union was Sister Sheila Crumlish (1940-2005.) However, Sister Paula Thomas from another division of the Sisters, known as the Federation, was head from 2007 to 2018. She was succeeded by a lay head, Johneen McPherson who had been Academic Head at St Mary's, Ascot.



*Pupils and the head teacher from St James's School posing on the roof playground of the school in Holly Lane. The teacher in the centre is believed to be Mrs Broderick. The child fourth from the right on the ground in the front is Valerie Trent, a present parishioner.*







In the early part of its life St James's School was situated in Grosvenor Road behind Twickenham Police Station. It was unusual in having a playground for senior children on the roof. In 1976 the school was moved to its present site at the top of Stanley Road. It was subsequently extended to a three-form entry from Reception to Year 6, and on 17 December 2002 Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor laid the foundation for a new building on the same site. The new school was officially opened by Princess Anne on 18th January 2006. The school serves four parishes – Hampton, Hampton Hill, Twickenham and St Margaret's.

St Richard Reynolds Catholic College provided a much-needed Secondary School when it was opened in September 2013 by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, archbishop of Westminster and Archbishop Peter Smith of Southwark. The college includes a one-form primary school. The college serves parishes throughout the Borough of Richmond, which straddles both Westminster and Southwark dioceses.



*Opening of St Richard Reynolds Catholic College.  
From left to right: Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop Peter Smith of Southwark and Archbishop George Stack of Cardiff (previously Auxiliary of Westminster)*

Most of the drive for this much needed voluntary aided school came from local parents, and in particular Andy Cole, the first Chair of Governors, played a huge role in this programme, despite opposition from local humanists and residents fearful about how this development might affect their children's access to local schooling. 'Opposition to the proposed voluntary aided Catholic Secondary School appeared from groups opposed to all faith schools (from the British Humanist Association to the Richmond Inclusive Schools Campaign [RISC]). On at least four occasions ... the parents, were called in to give visible support at Council meetings. Eventually on 18 May 2012, the Council gave the project the green light. Then began the legal challenge which was not resolved until 23rd November 2012'<sup>100</sup>. Andy Cole was later appointed a Knight of St Gregory for his services and in 2020 the college sports hall was named after him. Gary Sloan, representing local Catholic parents through his Chairmanship of the St James's Board of Governors, also played a huge role in rallying support. The tenth anniversary of the college was marked in 2023 by a mass celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson at Southwark Cathedral.

St Mary's University is situated in the parish, and Pope Benedict XVI visited St Mary's in 2010. The University is adjacent to Strawberry Hill House, Horace Walpole's eighteenth-century Gothic folly. Opposite the University, a house of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Assumption was established in 1916. No 7 Waldegrave Gardens was owned by the Christian Brothers for many years. After they left, it was for a relatively short time a centre for a joint community of religious men and women. Subsequently it became Pope Benedict House and a residence for students at St Mary's. More recently it has become the home of the Loretto Home Mission, a charismatic movement which works amongst young Catholics assists in local parishes, and other centres of education. It was founded in Austria in 1997 and now has members in Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, as well as in Austria and England.

99. Private information by Beryl Lane, October 2019.

100. Gary Sloan interviewed by Tom Devitt, 'The campaign for the St. Richard Reynolds Catholic College', in Thomas O. Devitt *The Parish of St James Twickenham 2008-2013* (Twickenham, 2013), p. 23.



## 13. CONCLUSION

History is never static. The past is alive and changes all the time. What we believe to be true about the past, changes throughout according to changes in attitudes and the discovery of new information. For example, at the beginning of this booklet I had little understanding of the political status of Alexander Pope. If he was opaque about his political views this was because of discrimination against Catholicism and Jacobitism. A false move could lead to the gallows. In the same way Maria Fitzherbert adhered to her principles as to the sacrament of marriage.

What does the future hold? The traditional migration of Irish who came to England to build the railways and work its early modern industries, is no more. This migration created a ghetto Catholic Church. Catholicism in England is no longer in a ghetto. Catholic Schools founded for the children of Irish labourers, are still an attraction, but not as a vehicle for Irish cultural unity, but as a general part of the national school system. Nowadays, there is a shortage of priests and mass attendance has gone down hugely in the last thirty years. Many people have been blind to this, but change is creeping up on us. To ignore it is a wilful dereliction of duty. The future is uncertain. We are in uncharted seas.

In writing history, a separate issue is the extent to which the writer includes modern material. Douglas Dakin maintained that there was no such thing as contemporary history. This is simply because it is impossible to approach recent events with a detached attitude. However, I have included contemporary material because so much has happened in the parish during last twenty years. I feel that to leave out recent events would leave open a lacuna which should be covered. Future reviewers of the history of the parish may look at events from another angle.

## 14. FURTHER READING

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- J. C. D. Clark, *English Society 1688-1832* (Cambridge, 1985).
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- Sophie Gee, 'Low tricks and high arts, the unlikely making of an Enlightenment poet', *Times Literary Supplement*, 8 October 2021, pp. 3-4.
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- Thomas O. Devitt, *The parish of St James, Twickenham, 2008-2013*, (Twickenham, 2013, privately printed), 27 pp., ill.
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- Thomas O. Devitt, *125th Anniversary Commemoration of St James Church, Twickenham* (Twickenham 2010, privately printed), 11 pp., ill.
- Brian Fothergill, *The Strawberry Hill Set, Horace Walpole and his Circle* (London, 1983).
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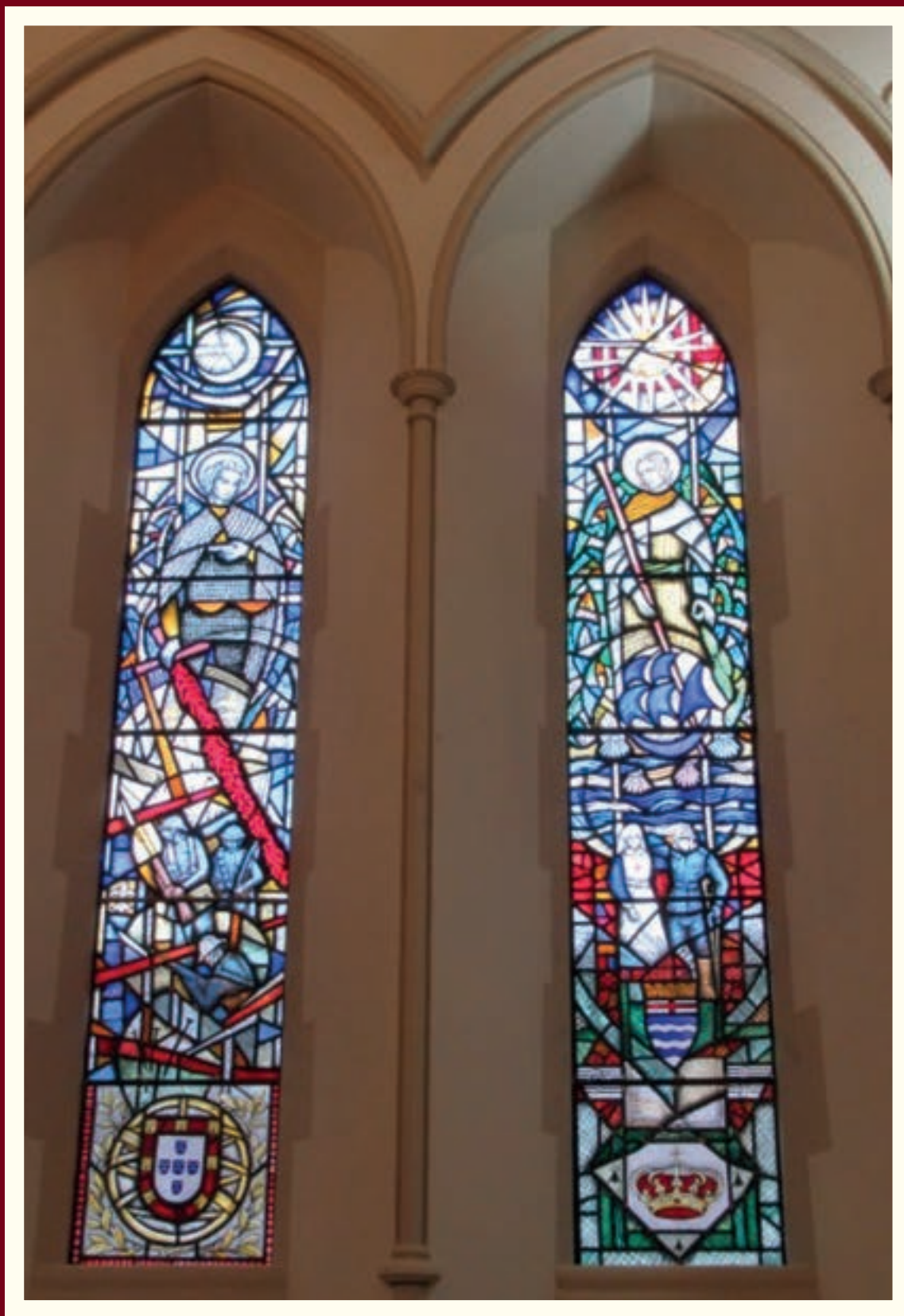
- Malcolm Howe, *The Braganza story, a visit to the Royal Pantheon of Portugal*, (Carcavelos, 1999), 200 pp., ill.
- Odile Hughson, *Royal Friendships, the life of the Royal Family of Orléans exiled in Britain*, (Peterborough, 2019), 487 pp., ill.
- Shane Leslie, *Mrs Fitzherbert, a life chiefly from unpublished sources* (London, 1939), 394 pp., ill.
- Ulick Loring, *Mission Impossible, a journey through priesthood*, (St Leonard's-on-Sea, 2011), pp 231, ill
- Fernando Amaro Montero, *D. Manuel II e D. Amélia, Caritas Ineditas do Exilio*, (Editorial Estampa), 2012, pp. 411, ill.
- Joyce Padbury, *Mary Hayden, Irish historian and feminist 1842-1942* (Dublin, 2021), pp. 362, ill.
- Jesse Pyles, *The Portuguese Expeditionary Corps in World War I: from inception to combat destruction, 1914-1918* (MA Thesis, University of North Texas, 2012).
- Pat Rogers, *The poet and the publisher: the case of Alexander Pope, Esq., of Twickenham v Edmund Currell, bookseller in Grub Street* (reaction, 2021), pp. 470.
- *Orders and Decorations, Silver, Porcelain, Glass and Memorabilia from the Collections of King Manuel II of Portugal* (Geneva, Sotheby's, 1991).
- *St Catherine's School, Twickenham, our first 100 years 1914-2014*, np, nd, ill.
- *St James's Catholic Primary School* (n.d), pp. 72, ill.
- *São Vicente de Fora, a guide to a forgotten wonder* (Lisbon, 2008).
- Margaret Stewart, *The Architectural Landscape and Constitutional Plans of the Earl of Mar, 1700-32* (Dublin, 2016), pp. 418, ill.
- Margery Withers, 'Working for King Manuel at Twickenham,' *The British Historical Society of Portugal*, twenty fifth annual report and review 1998, pp 13-22

**ST JAMES'S CHURCH** is on the corner of Popes Grove and Radnor Road. The church is about a ten-minute walk from Strawberry Hill Station and about a twenty-minute walk from Twickenham Station (South-West Trains.) Buses run nearby in Heath Road and Cross Deep. It forms part of the Archdiocese of Westminster and is in the Upper Thames Deanery of the Archdiocese. It is a building of Townscape Merit.

**ULICK LORING** comes from St. Leonard's-on-Sea in what is now East Sussex. His father James Loring came from a family of artisans, and farm labourers in Dorset. James was Director of the Spastics Society and previously had been in the RAF and with the John Lewis Partnership. He was awarded the CBE by Queen Elizabeth II for services to the disabled. Ulick's mother Roberta Young came from a family of Northumbrian blacksmiths who converted to Methodism and became prominent railway engineers. Outstanding amongst these was Timothy Hackworth who pioneered the early steam engines, and sent one of the first engines to Russia. Both of the author's parents converted to Catholicism and Fr Loring was educated at the Holy Child Jesus in Cavendish Square, St Philip's Preparatory School in Kensington, and The Oratory School in Woodcote. His elder sister Georgiana was prominent in Labour Party politics in Hastings and his younger sister Charmian was a painter who studied at the Chelsea College of Art. His brother Benedict ran his own IT company for a number of years, and he also helped to manage a diving school in Honduras.

Fr Ulick has written inter alia:-

- *Mission Impossible, A Journey through Priesthood*
- *The Quest for Timothy Hackworth*
- *James Loring, Defender of the Disabled*
- *Outsiders: Mementos of Marginal Men and Women*



*The stained glass windows designed by the late Caroline Benyon, and unveiled by  
Field Marshal Lord Guthrie GCB and H E Manuel Lobo Antunes,  
Ambassador of Portugal on 9th April 2018*

