

JULIAN'S LONDON

WEST SQUARE, LONDON SE11 4SN

13 West Square

Julian Edmond Tenison Woods was born on 15th November 1832 in West Square London, the fifth surviving child, and fourth surviving son of James Dominic Woods, a barrister who worked as a parliamentary reporter for *The Times* newspaper, and Henrietta St Eloy Tenison, whose ancestral family included Thomas Tenison, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1694 to 1715, and Edward Tenison, Bishop of Ossory, Ireland from 1731 to 1735.

James and Henrietta were married in London in 1819 and lived in West Square, in the Borough of Southwark and although they moved quite often during the next eighteen years, it is known that they lived at 13 West Square for seven years, and also for a time at 45 West Square. In his memoirs Father Julian says the family moved to Number 13 West Square in 1840, when he was about eight years old, and that he lived there for seven years, making him around fifteen when the family next moved. The 1841 UK Census records the family living there – James, a lawyer, is recorded as the head of the household, with his wife Henrietta and children Edward 15, James 15 (sic), Henrietta 13, Nicholas 11, Julian 9, Albert (Terence Albert) 6, and John 5.

West Square originally was part of the extensive open spaces that lay to the south of the city of London. Enclosure and development began in the late 1700s. Most of the houses in the Square were built by 1794. The Square's garden was laid out by 1799, and after at various times being at risk of being taken over for housing development, the garden was acquired in 1909 by the London County Council and the Borough of Southwark which ensured that it remained an open space. The enlarged and restored garden was opened to the public in 1910.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, LAMBETH ROAD, LONDON SE1 7HY

St George's Cathedral is situated on the corner of Lambeth Road and St George's Road in South London. It is a near neighbour to the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth Road, and an easy walk from the Woods' home.

The first Catholic chapels since the time of the Reformation began to appear after the Catholic Relief Act of 1778 brought Catholics some limited freedoms in living out their faith. In 1793 a large chapel dedicated to St George was opened on the London Road, quite near to where the present Cathedral stands.

By 1829 when the Catholic Emancipation Act removed almost all the legal restrictions on Catholic practice, the Chapel in London Road had grown too small for the needs of the large number of Catholics who had moved to the area, and the community began to search for another site.

Julian's baptism by Father White is recorded as occurring on 1st February 1833 at St George's Church. By 1839 enough money had been raised to buy the present Cathedral site, then an open space in St George's Fields. A.W.N. Pugin, the noted architect of the Gothic revival, was commissioned to design the Church. His original design proved to be beyond the means of the parish and work began in September 1840 on a less ambitious plan.

The Church of St George was opened by Bishop Wiseman on July 4, 1848. 1848 was a significant year in the life of Julian Woods. In the summer of that year the newly ordained Father Frederick Oakley was appointed to the parish of St George, just as the new Church was opened. Julian went to Father Oakley for weekly Latin and Greek lessons, to which was added much religious teaching and advice. At Christmas 1848 Julian and his sister Henrietta made their First Communion together in the new Church. Once Julian had made his first Communion he became an altar server and an incense bearer and attended all the liturgies and ceremonies he could in St George's Cathedral.

3.

In 1850, when Pope Pius IX restored the English hierarchy, St George's was chosen as the Cathedral Church for the new Diocese

of Southwark. It was the centre of Catholic life in London until Westminster Cathedral opened fifty years later.

Later in that same year Julian was an acolyte in the parish when the Passionist Fathers came to preach a mission in the new Cathedral. The three missionaries were led by Fr Ignatius (the Hon. George) Spencer. In 1851 Julian left London to enter the Passionist Novitiate in Broadway Worcestershire.

On April 16 1941, during World War II air raids on London, an incendiary bomb set the Cathedral roof alight and in minutes the whole Cathedral was ablaze. Only a few parts of the original building were sound enough to be incorporated in the reconstructed Cathedral. The restoration began in 1953 and the new Cathedral was opened and blessed on July 4 1958, 110 years to the day since it was originally blessed and opened.

THE WOODS FAMILY OF NEWINGTON CRESCENT

Julian says in his memoirs that when he was about 14 years old most of the family moved to the Island of Jersey when his mother's health deteriorated. Julian at first remained in London as he was apprenticed to the printer at *The Times*, but after a few months his mother took him to Jersey. He spent about sixteen months on the island. His mother's condition worsened and she died there in November 1847. His father returned to England and the family followed several months later.

The family's circumstances had become straightened, partly through the loss of Mrs Woods' income and partly because James Woods was now retired on a pension of about two thirds of his former salary. Edward was now married and James Jnr was about to marry, all in all necessitating a reduction in what could be provided for the family. A residence was taken up at 28 Newington Crescent Newington. Newington Crescent, between Penton Place and Kennington Park Road, was built between 1834 and 1835 and was described as containing 'grimly utilitarian working class dwellings.'

4.

Julian returned to work at *The Times* office in Printing House Square, which he described as being *the dreariest and most gloomy part of London*. He walked to work along Walworth Road, London Road, Blackfriar's Road and across Blackfriar's Bridge over the Thames.



Newington Crescent, Surrey

THE FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY AT 13 CHARLTON CRESCENT ISLINGTON

In 1850 Fr Frederick Oakley was transferred from St George's Cathedral to the Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington. There he established a community of the Third Order of St Francis made up of young men who desired to follow a religious life, but who for various reasons were unable to do so.

Julian joined this community and lived there for nearly a year. *The members went everyday to their secular employments ... they recited the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, engaged in other pious exercises and study, besides maintaining a night school, visiting the parishioners, the sick, and bringing negligent Catholics to the Sacraments.* (Julian's Memoirs)

Julian described the community as being very successful and his time with the community as being very happy. *I assisted in teaching in the night school. We were able to do an immense amount of good in teaching schools, the visitation of the sick and poor, organising sodalities and in general co-operating with the parish priest and his curate in the parochial work. There can be no doubt that the religious life according to a rule was an immense advantage for us all and formed us for better things. I am sure it helped to mould my character considerably and give me a great love for the monastic life.*

(Memoirs)

His desire to join the Passionists continued to grow stronger and in February 1851 he left London and travelled by train and coach to Broadway in Worcestershire and entered the Passionist Novitiate at St Saviour's Retreat, Broadway.