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OUR LADY IMMACULATE
TOLWORTH

Parish News

PARTNER IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



OUR LADY IMMACULATE PARISH

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG Tel: 020 8399 9550 Fax: 020 8399 3291 Email: info@olionline.co.uk

www.olionline.co.uk

PRIESTS OF THE PARISH: Canon Anthony J Charlton, Fr Arbo Lekule

Deacon: Rev A Callan, 59 Princes Avenue, Tolworth KT6 7JL Tel: 020 8399 9862 Parish Administrator: Mrs Elaine Intranova

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

399 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG Tel: 020 8399 9854 Fax: 020 8399 8582 www.oli.kingston.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mr Tim Sheehan

How do you introduce yourself? At parties you might give you name and your job. In business meetings or job interviews you might list some recent achievements, but very rarely do we give away anything more.

Today John the Baptist points Andrew and a fellow disciple in Jesus' direction. Jesus turns and asks them, "What are you looking for?"

It's an odd question. We might have expected, "What do you want?" but "What are you looking for?" is far more pertinent. It seems as though Jesus instinctively knows that his followers are looking for a deeper meaning in life.

"What are you looking for?" Imagine being faced with the same question. Perhaps we would have great difficulty in answering it. Perhaps it's a question we've never addressed. More worryingly if we never address the question we will never get anywhere. After all how can we get anywhere if we don't know where we are going?

Andrew was so impressed with his encounter with Jesus that he hurried away to introduce his brother Simon. Jesus looked at Simon and said, "Simon, Son of John, you are to be called

'Cephas'." (Which is translated as Peter). Was it that Jesus could see something in Peter that Peter could not see in himself? Initially a fisherman, we know that Peter was to redefine his identity as one of the Church's first and greatest leaders. There is a strong message in today's Gospel reading. The message is that in our relationship with God, we can find our true

identity and purpose.

John the Baptist led Andrew to Jesus and in turn Andrew led Peter, and each who found Jesus found a new future. Each of us was introduced to Jesus by a parent or a teacher, a friend, a minister or even by a book, and our lives have been altered as a result. In turn we are asked not to keep quiet, but to bring others to Jesus, so that they too might discover their true identity.



