

No: 3136 Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

7 October 2012



OUR LADY IMMACULATE
TOLWORTH

Parish News

PARTNER IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



OUR LADY IMMACULATE PARISH

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OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mr Tim Sheehan

Today the Pharisees ask Jesus in their usual barbed fashion, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus' answer is a resounding 'no!' "What God has joined together, let no one separate." At a time when divorce was rife, this must have been a difficult thing for Jesus' audience to digest. It isn't much easier for our twenty first century ears.

What should we take from this gospel? What should church goers who have been through painful divorces make of these words? What should church goers who have suffered unhappy first marriages and then remarried make of Jesus' teaching?

One thing is for sure. Any interpretation of this gospel should err on the side of compassion rather than condemnation. Another thing is for sure, without twisting Jesus' words to suit our own modern lifestyle, we have to look at why Jesus spoke these words in the first place and the spirit in which they were spoken. At the time Jesus spoke these words marriage was very one sided. It was the man's prerogative to choose divorce and he could choose this option for little or no good reason. At a time where women were financially dependant on their husbands, divorce could leave them pretty much destitute. Marriage was something easily entered into and easily broken. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees in today's gospel he was doing something groundbreaking. He was elevating the importance of marriage and raising the status of women.

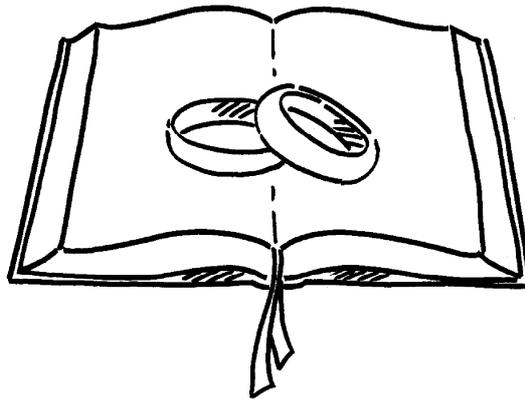
So were Jesus' words relevant then but not now? Well no! Marriage is still something that many don't take seriously. Many go into mar-

riage without really considering their vows. Many go into marriage not thinking much beyond the big white dress or the fabulous reception. There are far too many who are ready to give up on marriage at the first hint of hard times or at the onset of boredom. There are far too many quick to bury a marriage that is only sick or injured. It is to these people that Jesus is speaking in today's gospel.

On the other hand, if Jesus was here today could he really condemn people to stay put in marriages where physical or mental abuse threatens the well-being of a spouse or a child? Would Jesus insist on people soldiering on in

loveless or deeply unhappy marriages? Some people choose divorce as an easy option, but for the majority divorce is rarely embarked upon happily. It is nearly always painful for all involved. Could Jesus really condemn these people?

"What God has joined together, let no one separate." It has the ring of law, yet as with all laws, it is the spirit of the law that is all important. We find the clue to Jesus' words in his declaration that Moses permitted divorce "... because of the hardness in man's heart." The answer to the debate is held in our own heart. If we make decisions based on our own self gratification or self interest we become hard hearted and are in real danger of making poor decisions. If we make decisions grounded in love and compassion, God will surely be there to help us through.



SATURDAY/SUNDAY 6th/7th October 2012
Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

ROSARY SUNDAY

- Sat 6.30pm** Welfare of Claude Jacob (Heather Trutwein)
Sun 9am Elizabeth Mortali RIP (Mr & Mrs Clifford)
11am Michael Greenan RIP (Keely Family)
12.30pm **Baptisms: Charlotte Patricia Ann Hodgson,
Erin Louise Hall & Leonardo Silva Santos**
6pm People of the Parish

Retiring Collection for Family Fast day

Daily Masses 8th-13th October 2012

Mon: Feria

9.30am Mary Clifford RIP (Dominic Clifford)

Tues: SS Denis, bishop & companions, martyrs

7am Welfare of Elizabeth Doherty

9.30am Fr Anthony's Intention

Wed: Feria

9.30am Matthew Hayes RIP (Mary & Eddie Ryan)

Thur: Feria

9.30am Vincent D'Costa RIP (Ivy & Michael De Mello)

Fri: St Wilfrid, bishop

9.30am Welfare of Joanne D'Costa (Thelma Staussi)

10am Exposition and Benediction

Sat: St Edward the Confessor, king

9am Mary Crinnigan RIP (Norah)

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 13th/14th October 2012
Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Sat: 6.30pm People of the Parish

Sun: 9am **Tomas Casey RIP** (Pat & Elspeth Casey & Family)

11am Grace Antnypillai RIP (Genny)

12.30pm **Baptism: Charlie Patrick Hennings**

6pm Welfare of Molly Dupartt (Heather Trutwein)

Retiring Collection- Needs of the Diocese

Last week's Offertory Collection

for the upkeep of the church : £ 2,049

We thank you for your continued generosity .
(Cash counters this week: Susan & Stephen Fleming
Next week: Allan & Marie-Helene Cook)



We welcome into the Church **Charlie Daniel Lavender** and **Chloe Grace Serdet** who were baptised last Sunday.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.30am to 10am and

Saturday 5.30pm to 6pm

READINGS

This week : 27th Sunday in OT (B) page 141

First Reading Genesis 2:18-24

At the summit of all creation God forms man and woman.

Second Reading Hebrews 2:9-11

God not only created us but, in his Son, took on our human nature.

Gospel Mark 10:2-16

The Lord teaches us the equality of woman with man, and the true greatness of children.

Next week : 28th Sunday in OT (B) page 144

First Reading Wisdom 7:7-11

The Wisdom of God helps us to discover what is truly valuable.

Second Reading Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God penetrates the hidden depths of our hearts.

Gospel Mark 10:17-30

The rich man discovers the cost of discipleship. The challenge is for all of us to discover a new scale of values and live by them.

We pray for all **the faithful departed** who have recently died. We pray especially for **Father Josef Gula S.Chr, Sheila Cook**, (sister-in-law of Eileen Sullivan), **Barbara Coombes** (mother of Debbie Board), **Dennis Conroy, Helen O'Brien** and **Frederick Larnar**

We pray for all those who mourn and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

We remember all our **sick and elderly parishioners**, those in hospital, the housebound and those who care for them:

Evie Durkin, Clint Sampson, Ralph Cooper, Rouben Sarkissian, Francisco Dirago, David Moss, Linda Kirk, Bishop Patrick Lynch, Frank McCabe, Sheila Doyle (sister of Philomena Olliffe), Jan Lewandowski, Tom McGlone, Jean Studham, Emma Rees (daughter of Sue Rees), Elizabeth Gillman, Michael O'Brien, Rhian Knappgate, Brenda Killeen, Barbara Stevenson, Peter and Ann Groves, Baby Ella Hayes, Amandina Marsella, Mora Witton, Stephen Fleming, Derek Wells, Roisin Loftus, Theresa Keys, Maureen Dillon, Felicia Nazareth, Mary McDonnagh, Fr Simon Peat, Thomas Haley, Anna Maria Maini, Veronica Heaton, Elizabeth Joège, Joan Lancaster, Francis Nazareth, Sergio Della Grotta, Marie Bast, George Matthew, Odile Froger, Jenny Sathirasegaram, Eileen Rosenberg, Bridget McNally, Brenda Flaherty, Rowan Wolsgrove, Marcus Bird, Charles Thurley, Sandra Burlinson, Sophie Burrige, Sam Hitchin, Rene Boffa, Nicky Bushell, Shirley Enright, Tom Tyler, Finn Jordan, Margaret Inskip, Giancarlo Palermo, John Gleeson, Jeffrey D'Cruz, George Hayes, Michael Hoskins, Michael Byrne, Martin Dray, Seema Day, Graham Taylor, Freda Sirmon, Samantha Nosalik, Manual Pillai, Fay Kearney, Winna Duncan, Jennifer McIntyre, Carl Williams, Bridie O'Driscoll, Christine Keane, Josephine Bull, Vic Carri-on and Norma Latham .

Secondary School Priest Supplementary Forms

Please note that Fr Anthony & Fr Arbo will be available to sign the priest verification forms for secondary schools on **Monday 8th October from 3pm to 5pm** and **Tuesday 9th October from 7pm to 8pm**.

There will be at least two form signing sessions each week until the end of October, so please don't all rush at once to get your forms signed next week- there is plenty of time!

Please check the newsletter each weekend for dates and times when the priests are available for form signing. Thank you



The Parish Lenten Project has been running successfully for over 40 years. The aim of the project is give the parish a charitable focal point during Lent and give everyone (all groups, clubs and societies) in the parish the opportunity to take part in fund raising for third world projects.

The Lenten Project Committee will be meeting shortly to agree which charities will be supported for Lent 2013 and we are now actively seeking parishioners to nominate suitable charities.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A CHARITY:

1. Charity or organisation needs to be based in the third world
2. Direct help – we looking for small charities/ organisations rather than large established charities - no intermediate organisations or government agencies
3. Christian based
4. Confidence in the recipient – we need to know that the money will be going directly to the charity
5. Value for money – small and professionally run charity/ organisation in the third world
6. Organisations that have small overheads – we want to make sure that our money will make a real difference
7. Only one charity will be supported per country per year
Only four charities will be supported per year

If you have a charity you would like the parish to support in Lent during 2013 then please complete the charity nomination form which can be found at: <http://www.olionline.co.uk/parish-groups/lenten-project/>

You can also find blank copies of the form at the back of Church or obtain one from the Parish Office.

Once you have completed the form please either email it to info@olionline.co.uk or place it through the Presbytery letter box. If you would like any more information please contact Phil Townsend on 8399 3481 or email Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk.

Thank you.

VOCAL COACHING

Affordable vocal coaching classes available for adults and children aged 5+. Also available one-to-one classes in the comfort of your own home. Call Gia for more information and to book your free initial assessment on **07767 145 821** or email gia.borgdarcy@gmail.com

HOLY LAND

On Wednesday, 34 pilgrims led by Fr Anthony will depart for the Holy Land. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we journey in the footsteps of Christ, as indeed we will keep you in our prayers as we celebrate Mass in the Holy Places.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day (England and Wales)

Friday October 1st was CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day. Once again, supporters around the UK came together to raise money for people hungry for change.

This weekend or soon after, please return your donation envelopes. If you are a UK tax payer don't forget to fill out the gift aid slip on the back

THE PAX CHRISTI PEACE ICON

On 13th October our parish will be receiving the Pax Christi Peace Icon, which will be displayed on the altar for one week. This is part of the 100 days of peace celebrations around the Olympic Games. We are the last of the 7 Southwark parishes chosen to host the icon for one week, after which it will spend a week at St Georges Cathedral before being handed over to the Brazilian authorities.

From 15th-19th October, after the 9.30 Mass each day there will be a short session of prayers for peace, followed by coffee/tea in the Old Chapel or RDJ room.

At **7.30 pm on Friday 19th October** there will be an Ecumenical Service, to which all the Churches in Surbiton, as well as other parishes in our own deanery, are being invited, followed by refreshments.

It is hoped that as many OLI parishioners as possible will attend this occasion, or take the opportunity to visit the icon at any time during the week. The church is open from 7 am to 7 pm.

On Saturday 20th October the icon will be removed and taken to St Georges Cathedral.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Our Lady Immaculate Church & School for your Harvest Festival gifts. Your donations enable us to provide a breakfast and cooked lunch for 150 to 200 homeless and needy people every day (7days a week).

From The Manna Day Centre

World Mental Health Day is held on **10 October** each year to raise public awareness about mental health issues across the globe. This event promotes open discussion of mental health problems, as well as investment in prevention and treatment services.

Mental health in all its forms can have a huge impact on individuals, families and communities, leading to everything from relationship breakdown to time off work and in the worst scenario, suicide. **As many as one in four of us** will have some sort of mental health problem in our lives, yet it's still a taboo subject. It's important to make sure you keep your emotional and mental health in check and recognise if there's a problem.

In the UK today there are around 1.5 million carers; people who are the mainstay of practical and emotional support to someone affected by mental health problems. Every year hundreds more become carers to a partner, family member or friend, so it's important that society understands mental illness. There are a number of ways to practically support those with a mental health diagnosis. As a first step, seek out professional help to gain a greater insight and understanding into the particular condition.

It may be worth considering professional support in the form of a therapist, counsellor or support group. Talking to people who are experiencing feelings similar to your own can bring welcome relief and understanding.

Rethink, a national mental health charity, works to support both those suffering from mental illness and their carers. If you are a carer, aged 16 or over, you have the right to an assessment to consider your needs as well as the person you care for. A number of concessions may apply, including a carer's allowance, council tax concessions, financial help, time off work and flexible employment options, breaks and general advice and support.

Finally, it's important to remember that someone experiencing mental health difficulties is usually able to live a full, successful life, particularly if they're receiving help to manage their illness. Staying positive yourself can be a great help to everyone.

Often, people with mental health difficulties worry that people will tease or treat them differently; so it's important that you listen to them without judgement. For example, if a loved one has hallucinations or delusions don't make fun, criticise or argue with them. The calmer and more accepting you can be the less alarming it is for them.

In our parish we have many people who suffer from some form of mental illness as well as those who suffer from physical disabilities. As a Christian family we welcome all those who suffer in whatever way alongside the more able. Many find our church a place of respite and peace.

At times, concerns are raised about the behaviour of certain persons around the church complex. These people may or may not have Mental Health issues. If you are threatened directly then call 999 or use the non-emergency number 101. All incidents should be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Representatives Kate Kelk & Monica Tett and/or one of the Clergy as soon as possible. Vigilance is needed to safeguard any vulnerable child or person along with compassion for anyone suffering from mental illness.

Useful websites:

<http://www.rethink.org/> <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mentalhealthinfo.aspx>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/health/emotional_health/mental_health/

Ten Bridges Walk

Thanks to everyone who sponsored walkers on the Ten Bridges walk for LIFE. Rain poured and winds howled but did not deter the walkers who completed the course - and stayed smiling! We shall be collecting sponsorship money after all Masses this week-end and next. Thank you for your generosity.

WEBSITE UPDATES

- Page created to provide information on The Year of Faith

KINGSTON FOOD BANK

Thank you to all of our parishioners who gave so generously last weekend- especially in light of the fact we had our own harvest festival collection the weekend previously.

OLI Foodbank Team

Social Evening for the Year of Faith

We advertised Sunday 14th October as the first of the monthly socials for the Year of Faith in last weekend's calendar for October. However, this has had to be rearranged for a later date- which will be confirmed in next weekend's newsletter.

THE CATHOLIC FAITH TALKS

The next topic will be 'ARE THE GOSPELS RELIABLE?' Talk to be held at St Catherine of Siena Church, Leatherhead Road, Chessington in the Sacristy in the church on Monday **29 October at 7.30pm.**

OUR AUTUMN ASSEMBLY – HOW TO PROMOTE PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE YEAR OF FAITH

Saturday 3rd November 10.30 to 4.00 in Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral
More details of this and other events are on our web site www.southwarkjandp.co.uk