

6th January 2013



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

The Epiphany- a feast celebrating the manifestation of Jesus Christ. A celebration of how all Humanity's longing to have a God to love, to be loved by and to belong to was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus.

For the chosen People of Israel, the longing became focussed on their expectation of a Messiah. That Messiah (saviour) did come and we celebrate His coming on the Feast of the Nativity. But it is on the Feast of the Epiphany, with the arrival of the Magi, that mankind's longing for a God of love is demonstrated and fulfilled totally- and in such a revolutionary fashion. The Christmas story is incomplete without the Epiphany and the arrival of the Magi. Today, our crib scene shows this.

The Magi, the three wise men - perhaps from Persia or Arabia, represented the world beyond the Jewish people. They were learned, constantly seeking to understand the wonder of creation- on the earth and in the heavens. Using their human wisdom they followed a star whose nightly movement led them to Jesus.

They brought three gifts:-

Gold- the King of Metals, acknowledging Jesus' kingship- willing him to be a Ruler who would rule with Justice and bring Peace.

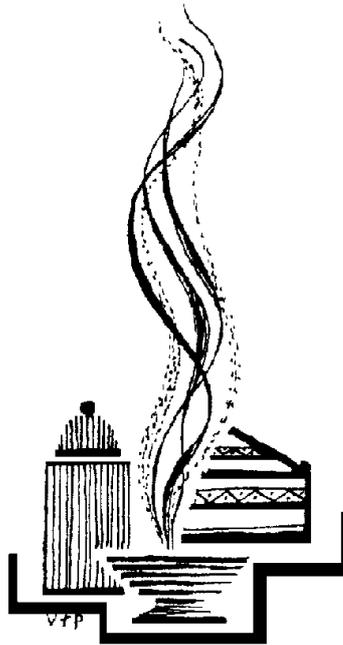
Frankincense- significant in the offering of sacrifice and prayer to God- acknowledging His priesthood, willing him to be a bridge between God and all people, one who would open the way to the presence of God, one who would intercede for us.

Myrrh- used for embalming the dead- acknowledging his human nature and that he would die. Even at his very birth place, Jesus' mission was being laid out- to come into the world to live and in the end to die. But through his death - and Resurrection- the way would be opened up to eternal life for all of us.

They undertook this journey- faced many difficulties and dangers- for themselves and for us. In doing so, their appreciation of the world and creation would have been changed utterly. They had found 'Emmanuel'- "God with us". And they did him homage. They believed. Their lives were changed: no need to return to Jerusalem; they went home by a different route.

Each year: Each day- the Church invites us to make our way to marvel and pay homage to that infant child- Emmanuel (God with us)- so that we may have our hearts and minds renewed and refreshed; that we may be enabled to be more open to the Word of God- and respond to it in our own journeys through life.

Al Callan



PARISH DINNER

25th January 2013 at the Sorrento Restaurant

It's that time of year again! Our Parish Dinner will be taking place on **Friday 25th January 2013** at The Sorrento Restaurant, Ewell Road, 7.30pm for 8pm. Join us for a three course meal for £15 per head. Includes service charge. Drinks and coffee extra.

There are still places available, so please contact Elaine at the Presbytery on 020 8399 9550, or email info@olionline.co.uk to purchase your tickets.

Please arrange your own groups in advance if you would like to sit on the same table.

Italian Mass at OLI

We will be having an Italian Mass here at OLI on Sunday 10th February at 3pm by one of the Scalabrini Fathers. Please bring a plate of food to share in the Old Chapel afterwards.

Domenica 10 febbraio alle 15,00 si terra' una messa in italiano presso la chiesa Our Lady Immaculate 401/403 Ewell Road Tolworth Surrey KT6 7DG

Dopo la messa ci sara' la possibilita' di socializzare nei locali adiacenti alla chiesa. Portare del cibo italiano o inglese da condividere con i presenti.

Deacon Nicolas von Malaisé

Deacon Nicolas is being ordained to the priesthood on Saturday 19th January at 12.30pm at St George's Cathedral. Fr Nicolas will be celebrating his first Mass the next day at 11am Sunday 20th January, which will be followed by a social event in the Catholic Hall. We will be holding a short meeting on **Wednesday 9th January at 7.30pm** in the Presbytery for those who would like to help with providing food and refreshments on the day.

Pope Benedict's Prayer Intention for January 2013



Jesus commissioned Simon Peter to 'strengthen' his brothers and sisters. Pope Benedict, the successor of St Peter, is doing just that by calling upon the Church to observe the Year of Faith, which began on October 11th 2012, and which concludes on

November 24th 2013. While the church is growing in some parts of our world, in many others it seems that men and women have forgotten all that our faith has to bring. It seems that in societies which were once traditionally Christian, the following of Christ is no longer the path we follow. The closing of churches, the decline in the number of those attending Mass regularly, the scarcity of vocations to the priesthood and religious life are symptoms of a deeper erosion of faith. No wonder 'Peter' looks to 'strengthen' his sisters and brothers. During this Year of Faith the Holy Father invites each one of us to ask ourselves how our faith affects our every day decision making. This month we are invited to join in Pope Benedict's prayer intention " **that in this Year of Faith Christians may deepen their knowledge of the mystery of Christ and witness joyfully to the gift of faith in him.**"

OUR LADY IMMACULATE PRIMARY SCHOOL Admission arrangements for the academic year 2014/2015

In accordance with The Education and Skills Act 2008 **admission arrangements for the academic year 2014/2015** are currently being consulted upon.

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames will issue a public notice making details of consultation for community schools available in local newspaper and online. *These details will be displayed on the church notice board and in the newsletter once they are published.*

As Our Lady Immaculate Primary School is a voluntary aided school, draft copies of the Admissions policy and the supplementary information form (SIF) for 2014 are

available at the school office (0208 399 9854) where there is a response form if required.

The draft Policy and SIF can also be found on the school website (*address on front of this newsletter*)

Any response to these documents should be returned through that office by Monday 21st January 2013.

School of Faith

A twelve week series of study seminars on the first part of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, with nationally acclaimed speakers, including Archbishop Peter. The series begins on Wednesday 9th January, at 7:30pm, at the diocesan Centre for Catholic Formation, (next to Tooting Bec tube), SW17 8BS. £50 per person for all lectures or £8 per lecture, including a light meal. To register for all or some of the lectures, visit www.ccfootingbec.org.uk.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please note that we have had to postpone the Eucharistic Ministers' retreat day which was booked for Saturday 12th January 2013. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Ancient Texts Online.

The Cambridge Digital Library has just made available thousands of pages from fragile religious manuscripts for Internet users' perusal, including a 2,000-year-old copy of the 10 Commandments, known as the "Nash Papyrus."

Before the Dead Sea Scrolls were found by a Bedouin shepherd in 1947, the "Nash Papyrus," also called "The Ten Commandments," was the oldest known manuscript containing a text from the Hebrew Bible. It gets its name from the Egyptologist Walter Llewellyn Nash who purchased the manuscript from an antiquities dealer in 1902. The text is among several important religious documents that were made public in a series of high-quality zoom-friendly images by the Cambridge Digital Library, which draws on the British university's vast collection of manuscripts.

Other texts posted include an ancient copy of the New Testament, called the "Codex Bezae," which contains all four Gospels (though the only complete one is the Gospel of Luke) and the Acts of the Apostles in both Greek and Latin. The Codex Bezae, thought to date from the late fourth or early fifth century, includes the oldest copy of the story of the adulterous woman (John 7.53-8.11). The phrase "let him who is without sin, cast the first stone" comes from that story.

You can explore some of the library's ancient texts at <http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/>.