

8th December 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

Second Sunday of Advent: Bible Sunday

Eating your words is a metaphorical description for taking back something you may have said. Usually, when you eat your words, you most likely regret having uttered the statement in the first place.

In the bible there are instances of people eating words but not their own words. It means something very different. In the second chapter of Ezekiel a mysterious hand offers the prophet a scroll and commands him to eat it. The scroll tastes like honey and Ezekiel was told to speak to the house of Israel. In the book of Revelation John the Seer is told to eat of the scroll and then he is sent to prophesy to the nations.

In the early Church, monks used the scriptures as the foundation of their prayer. They gathered together in the chapter room each morning and the Scriptures were read to them. When a word, phrase or sentence struck them they left that place and walked the cloister in silence pondering that word or phrase.

This is the beginning of a process called Lectio Divina. The Benedictine, Luke Dysinger, writes "once we have found a word or a passage in the Scriptures which speaks to us in a personal way, we must take it in and "ruminate" on it. The image of the ruminant animal quietly chewing its cud was used in antiquity as a symbol of the Christian pondering the Word of God. Christians have always seen a scriptural invitation to Lectio Divina in the example of the Virgin Mary "pondering in her heart" what she saw and heard of Christ (Luke 2:19). For us today these images are a reminder that we must take in the word - that is, memorize it - and while gently repeating it to ourselves, allow it to interact with our

thoughts, our hopes, our memories, our desires. This is the second step or stage in Lectio Divina - meditatio. Through meditatio we allow God's word to become His word for us, a word that touches us and affects us at our deepest levels."

The other steps in Lectio Divina are prayer and contemplation. This is a great way of praying and we can use the readings from Mass on Sunday as a basis for this prayer



LECTIO DIVINA

Reading the Scripture
Reflecting on the Meaning
Responding through Prayer
Resting in God
Responding in Action

Last week we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican document on the Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium. It laid out the principles of the reform of the Liturgy. Concerning scripture

it said, "The treasures of the bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word. In this way a more representative portion of the holy scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years." We now have a lectionary read on a three year cycle. This has exposed us to much more of the Bible.

In order to make Scripture a more important part of our life we could take a copy of The Wednesday Word available at the back of the church, that is a help to us in praying next Sunday's gospel using Lectio Divina. You could buy a copy of "Bible Alive" each month that gives daily reflections on the Scriptures read at Mass. This is also at the back of the church. Finally here is a prayer we can say before we read the scriptures.

O Lord, you have given us your word for a light to shine upon our path. Grant us so to meditate on that word, and to follow its teaching, that we find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Based on a prayer of St Jerome (c. 420)

Anthony Charlton

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 7th/8th December 2013

Second Sunday of Advent (A) Bible Sunday

Sat 12.30pm Baptism: Thomas Hartley Cowell

2pm Baptism: Gabriel Nicholas Brown

6.30pm Deceased Members of the Kenny Family
(Maureen & Alf Kenny)

Sun 9am People of the Parish

11am Domingo Paedade Cruz RIP (Francisca Rodrigues)
Church Parade- **Toy Sunday**

3pm **Italian Mass**- Celebrant Fr Giandomenico Ziliotto

6pm All Subscribers to OLI Church (FM)

Daily Masses 9th-14th December 2013

**Mon: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

7am Welfare of the Doherty Family

9.30am Pozella Family & Teresa Creta (Tina Pozella)

8pm Welfare of Joanne D'Costa-Manual (Thelma Staussi)

Tues: Feria

7am Holy Souls

9.30am Welfare of Theodore Farr (Family)

Wed: Feria

9.30am Terry George RIP (CAFE)

Thurs: Our Lady of Guadalupe

7am Anne Williams RIP (Bridget Lawlor)

9.30am Maureen Carslake RIP (Family)

Fri: St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

7am Holy Souls

9.30am Terry George RIP (Marie Turnpenny)

10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat: St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9am Deceased Members of the Pozella Family
(Tina Pozella)

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 14th/15th December 2013

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Sat 6.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 9am Keith Bater RIP (Elsbeth Casey)

11am Ottavio D'Agostino RIP (Mrs D'Agostino)

6.00pm John Cruse RIP (Family)

Last week's Offertory Collection £ 1,867

(For the maintenance and upkeep of the church)

St George's Cathedral £ 401

We thank you for your continued generosity.

(Cash counters this week: Eileen Kaye & Elizabeth Christmas

Next week: Allan & Marie-Helene Cook)

**WE REGRET WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY FOREIGN CURRENCY
IN THE COLLECTION.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturdays 9.30am to 10am and 5.30pm to 6pm



We welcome into the Church **Wreighlyn Anne
Hodgson San Juan** who was baptised last Sunday.

READINGS

This week: 2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Even when everything around seems full of upheaval and threat, the Lord's justice and love for his people promises hope, and a future of peace and knowledge of his friendship.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-9

Hope in God's great love for us is the foundation of a deep security, which frees us to offer true friendship to all people, regardless of how different they seem from us.

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

The coming of Jesus is a moment of promise but a moment, too, of a difficult message for those like the Pharisees. The promise of God's love in Jesus calls for repentance, a change of life built on an honest humility about who we really are.

Next week: 3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

A wasteland in flower, blind people whose eyes are opened – these are among the joyful wonders that will accompany the coming of God.

Second Reading James 5:7-10

The practical example of a farmer waiting patiently upon the weather without losing heart is given as a model for the Christian life.

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Jesus' deeds are signs of the coming of God as foretold by Isaiah in the first reading.

We pray for all the **faithful departed** who have recently died. We pray especially for:-

Bernadette Cannon, Kathleen McGivern, Terry George, Clint Sampson, Canon John Redford, Baby Ella Hayes and Tony (Joseph) Coutinho. 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: Lisa Borg, Rose Gleeson, Breda Mitten, Louis von Malaisé (brother of Fr Nicolas), Guy Green, Pedro Castrence, Eleo Kayrouz, Sean McAleenan, James McGee, Myles Humphrey, Andrea Shepherd, Susan Cooney, Maria Simmonds, Elizabeth Doherty, Michael O'Brien, Maureen Kerr, Suzanne Godwin, Jim Spillane, Geoff Grenade (father of Debbie Dray), Azita Sohadi, Evie Durkin, Rouben Sarkissian, Francisco Dirago, David Moss, Frank McCabe, Jan Lewandowski, Tom McGlone, Emma Rees (daughter of Sue Rees), Rhian Knapgate, Brenda Killeen, Peter and Ann Groves, Amandina Marsella, Stephen Fleming, Roisin Loftus, Theresa Keys, Felicia Nazareth, Mary McDonnagh, Thomas Haley, Anna Maria Maini, Elizabeth Joège, Francis Nazareth, Sergio Della Grotta, Marie Bast, George Matthew, Odile Froger, Jenny Sathirasegaram, Eileen Rosenberg, Bridget McNally, Brenda Flaherty, Rowan Wolsgrove, Marcus Bird, Sandra Burlinson, Sophie Burrige, Sam Hitchin, Rene Boffa, Nicky Bushell, Tom Tyler, Finn Jordan, Margaret Inskip, Giancarlo Palermo, John Gleeson, Jeffrey D'Cruz, 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 and Vic Carrion.

CONFIRMATION 2014:

If your son / daughter is in year 9 or above and they would like to be confirmed next year, please visit the parish website, go to Sacraments, then Confirmation, and then read the contents of the page. Please download the application form, and bring it with you (along with your son / daughter) on one of the following sign up dates (the last sign up date is the absolute closing date for next year's course):

Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th December from 6-7pm
Monday 16th December from 7-8pm

Confirmation for Older Teens and Adults

If you would like to be confirmed next year, and are aged 16 or above, please speak to one of the priests.

FAMILY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

We will be having our Family Christingle (Christmas Carols) in preparation for Christmas on Wednesday 18th December at 5.30pm.

We are looking for volunteers for reading- so if you would like to be involved please contact either Fr Anthony or Fr Tom.

WEBSITE UPDATE:

- ◆ A page for the work of the Friends of the Holy Land added (Community)
- ◆ 2014 Lenten Project charities added (Community)
- ◆ Odyssey annual Advent Retreat picture added (Gallery)

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8th

The dogma of Mary being conceived without sin was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Mary was chosen for her innocence and goodness to be the mother of Jesus. But the Church teaches that she is our heavenly mother too. We can pray to Jesus through Mary. We can pray to her as a powerful intercessor, highly favoured by God ... immaculately conceived. We have Masses on Monday 9th December at 7am, 9.30am and 8pm, to celebrate our church's Feast Day.

MARK CROSS REUNION

A reunion open to all past students and staff – lay and ordained - of St Joseph's College, Mark Cross, is being planned for Wednesday 19 March 2014 on the Feast of St Joseph. The College closed as a junior seminary in 1970. The reunion will take place at the Amigo Hall (adjacent to St George's Cathedral, Southwark), Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HR between 11.30am and 4pm. The full programme for the gathering will be announced later. If you are interested, curious or would like further information, please contact Sean Dunne at seandunne@yahoo.co.uk

PRIMARY SCHOOL Priest Supplementary Forms

Please note that Fr Anthony will be signing the priest verification forms for primary schools on **Tuesday 10th December from 6pm to 7pm**. Please check the newsletter each weekend for dates and times when Fr Anthony is available for form signing.
Thank you

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Volunteers are needed for all the Christmas Masses i.e. Christmas vigil, 6pm, Midnight, 8.00, 9.15 and 11.00 am Masses. We need Readers, Gift Bearers, Collectors, Welcomers, Eucharistic Ministers and of course Altar Servers. If you can help please sign up on the relevant sheet in the RDJ room. **It is important that we also have ushers, particularly at the 6pm Vigil Mass.**
Many thanks.

"I am with you" Scripture reflections for married couples based on the Sunday readings. Year A. "£6 Available from the Repository. The purpose of the book is to help married couples to relate God's word in the Sunday Readings to their main vocation: to love one another as deeply as they can and to share the fruits of that love with any children they may have, their wider family, our Church and society as a whole.

LALEHAM LEA INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, Purley.
Head Teacher Vacancy. Closing date: Monday, 13 January 2014.

The Governors are seeking to appoint an outstanding leader to build on the achievements of Mrs Johanna Staunton, who will be retiring in the summer after a happy and long association with the school. Information available from Sara Chesterman, 020 8660 3351, secretary@lalehamlea.co.uk. Please see poster in the Church porch.

PARISH LIBRARY

Please note there will be no library at the end of this month.
Next date: weekend of 25/26 January 2014

CHRISTMAS POSTERS AND CAR STICKERS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH- PLEASE TAKE ONE TO DISPLAY

MASS INTENTIONS 2014

If you would like a specific date early in 2014 for a Mass Intention, it would be advisable to book it as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME TO THE OLI SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. WE HOPE YOU HAD LOTS OF FUN AND CAME AWAY WITH MANY GOODIES! WE ARE DELIGHTED TO INFORM YOU THAT INITIAL ESTIMATES INDICATE WE HAVE RAISED OVER £10,000 FOR THE SCHOOL! **There are a number of individual Christmas puddings by the Ultimate Plum Pudding company** left over, which the PTA will be selling after the 9am Mass for £2. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT. OLI PTA



Christmas Tree Festival

OLI will be taking part in a Christmas Tree Festival at the United Reformed Church, Elgar Avenue on **Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December from 10am to 4pm**. Our tree will be supporting the HCPT charity, so please take time out to view all the trees and support the various charities chosen by different churches. There will also be a carol service at the United Reformed Church on **Sunday 15th December at 6.30pm. ALL WELCOME!**

Fr Nicolas von Malaisé

Father Nicolas is settling in at St Elizabeth's in Richmond. We have invited him back to say thank you for his work as a deacon and priest in our parish. There will be a special Mass on Friday 17th January 2014 at 7.30pm with refreshments in the Hall afterwards. Everyone is invited!

Papal Prayer Intention for December 2013



It is estimated that some 200 million children all over the world live or work on the streets. In a world of violence, hunger and abuse these children have to use any means they can to survive. At worst this might include prostitution, carrying drugs or pick pocketing. This month Pope Francis invites us share the Papal Prayer Intention, **"...That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need."**

King's College Cambridge Celebrate Britten's 100th Birthday

"Britten: St Nicolas" (2013). The Choir of King's College celebrate Benjamin Britten's 100th birthday with the release of a new recording of Saint Nicolas. This recording closely follows the staging and instrumentation of the première of the work at the first Aldeburgh Festival in 1948.

The recording is the third release on the King's College label, and the first to be released in surround sound, capturing the unique acoustics of King's College Chapel.

Available online at www.shop.kings.cam.ac.uk/cd-s

Join a global wave of prayer - Caritas Internationalis. One Human Family, Food for All

Did you know that it is not only CAFOD that is campaigning for a fairer food system? The campaign has also been taken up by Caritas Internationalis, the global network of Catholic relief and development agencies. Caritas have named their campaign 'One Human Family, Food for All'.

The campaign **launches on Tuesday 10th December** to coincide with World Human Rights Day as an opportunity to highlight that food is a basic human right. The campaign will be launched by a **wave of prayer**. Starting in Oceania, Caritas organisations around the world will pray for an end to hunger and reflect on issues around hunger at midday their time (see prayer below).

We would like to invite you to be part of this great global wave of prayer.

We will be holding a prayer service at 12 noon on Tuesday 10th December at St Edmund of Canterbury Catholic Church, 20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP. All are welcome to join us so please do come along and bring a friend or two.

If you are unable to join us on the day, why not pause in whatever you are doing at 12 noon on Tuesday 10th and say the prayer below in solidarity with our global family, one in eight of whom still go hungry every day?

Campaign Prayer

O God, you entrusted to us the fruits of all creation so that we might care for the earth and be nourished with its bounty.

You sent us your Son to share our very flesh and blood and to teach us your Law of Love. Through His death and resurrection, we have been formed into one human family.

Jesus showed great concern for those who had no food – even transforming five loaves and two fish into a banquet that served five thousand and many more.

We come before you, O God, conscious of our faults and failures, but full of hope, to share food with all members in this global family.

Through your wisdom, inspire leaders of government and of business, as well as all the world's citizens, to find just, and charitable solutions to end hunger by assuring that all people enjoy the right to food.

Thus we pray, O God, that when we present ourselves for Divine Judgment, we can proclaim ourselves as "One Human Family" with "Food for All". AMEN.

APPEAL FROM LIFE:

Baby clothes and equipment are urgently needed at our Life Caring Centres in London and Hounslow. If you have any items you no longer require we should be grateful to receive them to distribute to mothers who have need of them. Please contact Therese on 020 8390 1080 who will arrange collection. The LIFE charity exists to help unsupported mothers and their babies. Thank you.