



Parish News

PARTNER IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



OUR LADY IMMACULATE PARISH

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Presentation of the Lord

Tomorrow in the Church's calendar of feasts (2nd February) we celebrate a fascinating feast day, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

We remember how the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, went up to the temple in Jerusalem to fulfil the laws of Moses. Mary had to offer a sacrifice as a sign that the period of her ritual purification after giving birth was over (Leviticus 12). Jesus, as Mary's first and only son, had to be redeemed (Exodus 13:12-15).

Forty days after his birth Jesus would have been 'presented', and so, forty days after Christmas we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord, finally closing the devotional Christmas season. In some places Christmas decorations will remain in place until this feast.

Now, it might be a temptation for us to think "ok, another event that happened to Jesus" and move on with our lives. But, that is a temptation that should be resisted, because the more we learn about the life of Jesus, the more we understand it's meaning, the more we understand the love God the Father has for us, and the projects and plans of love he has for us.

The rituals of the Presentation were simple ceremonies carried out in the Jerusalem temple, and we can imagine that the Holy Family were not there alone, but surrounded by other families with their first born, an waiting as part of an even bigger crowd of people waiting for the sacrifices to begin.

Now, we know more about this little family than those around them, than those who know them, and those waiting in the temple with them.

We know about the visit of the angel to Mary, we know about the dream of Joseph, and of course, we know about the true, divine nature of Jesus.

Some people might have pushed forward in line, drawn attention to themselves, made use of their blessing: "excuse me please, I'm the mother of God, please move out of the way". "Of course we should go first, don't you know whose Son I've fostered?"

Think about how many people use their wealth. Being ostentatious, flashy, attention seeking, but also desiring and able to avoid the difficulties of everyday life.

In our day that means having an expensive watch, a big car, a huge house, or any of the other luxuries that call attention to us and our wealth.

But, this little family, don't do that, they remain little, with the poor. Mary, Joseph and Jesus are hidden and quiet. Mary and Joseph wait like everyone else, and Jesus is presented just like everyone else.

In fact, it is their poverty, expressed in simplicity and hiddenness, which makes Mary, Joseph and Jesus very attractive to us.

Now, the Son of God has been born into a human family. But, we can continue to welcome him, every day, and every moment of the day.

These virtues of poverty and humility give us a way to welcome Christ. The proud have no need of Jesus, the rich have little space in their lives. But the poor and the humble, who come to the sanctuary of the Lord, amongst them, within them, the Lord Jesus can be found.

Fr. Tom Lynch

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 31st/1st February 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
(Education Sunday)**

Sat 6.30pm Holy Souls
Sun 9am People of the Parish
11am Holy Souls
12.30pm **No Baptisms**
6.00pm In Thanksgiving (Anne Tissera)

Daily Masses

2nd February 2015—31st January 2015

Mon 2nd The Presentation of the Lord
7.00am Una Annett (Rosemary Durkin)
9.30am Charley Lee
Tues 3rd Feria
7.00am Maria Feliciane Gilkes
9.30am Flavel Hutchinson (Verna Hutchinson)
Wed 4th Feria
7.00am Kevin O'Connor (Welfare of Baby)
 (John Brooks)
9.30am Elizabeth Lee (J Tanousis)
 (Rosemary Durkin)
Thurs 5th St Agatha
9.30am Mary Ryan
Fri 6th St Paul Miki and Companions
7.00am Dan Dooley
9.30am Michael Ryan
Sat 7th Feria
9.00am Holy Souls

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 7/8th February 2015
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
(Day for Victims of Trafficking)**

Sat 6.30pm Welfare & Health of Fr Ed Hartley
 (Manche Family)
Sun 9am Rosaria Papa & Velia & Beniamino Perillo
 RIP (Mrs D'Agustino)
11am People of the Parish
12.30pm **No Baptisms**
6.00pm Nuala Ennis RIP (Keely Family)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 9.30am to 10am and 5.30pm to 6pm

Last Sunday's Collection

£1990

Thank you for your continued generosity - the money is used for the maintenance and upkeep of the church and parish.

Cash counters

This week: Barbara Buchinger and Bernie Turkington
 Next week: Rob Estall and Roman Szymanski

Next Sunday's Readings:

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introduction

When we gather for the Eucharist, we gather to celebrate the reality of God's love for us, the nearness of God's kingdom. Let us give thanks for the salvation that the Lord offers.

First Reading Job 7:1-4. 6-7

Job finds nothing to relieve his suffering or alleviate his sadness.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23

Paul makes himself all things to all people – to be able better to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

Gospel Mark 1:29-39

The kingdom of God enters our world through the healing ministry of Jesus

Please remember in your prayers those who have died, especially those who have died recently; Ernie Brown (Cindy Owen's father), Sadie Merri-field (mother of Janet Mulholland), Nuala Ennis (mother of Kevin Ennis) and Mr. Paulose and and We pray for all those who mourn and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

We remember all those who are sick, those in hospital, the housebound and all who care for them: Josephine (Jo) Bull, Reynario Diaz, Evie Durkin, Thomas Haley, Roisin Loftus, Canon John Naughton, and Chris Wade.

Updating the Sick List

Thank you for your support in updating the sick list. If you wish to have the names of loved one and friends including in the newsletter please ask the sick person his or her permission and hand in to presbytery marked 'Sick List'.

TODAY is EDUCATION SUNDAY

and there will be a Second Collection for the Catholic Education Service which acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education.

Tomorrow, Monday 2nd February

Our first of two **Welcome Ministry Evenings** is tomorrow at 7.30pm in the school hall. I look forward to welcoming all those who are already involved in the Welcome Ministry and all the new volunteers. Thank you for your support.

Parish Liturgy Group

The parish liturgy group will meet on Tuesday 3rd February at 8pm in the presbytery.

WELCOME MINISTRY

Welcome Ministry is an important Ministry within every worshipping community. I thank all of you, who are involved in the Welcome Ministry in our parish and thank you for your dedication and willingness. With the help of the Stewardship Ministry we want to strengthen our Ministry of Welcome.

Whilst thanking all those involved and those who showed interest in involving in this important Ministry in the parish, I would like them to keep the two evenings free to look at the Welcome Ministry.

The two evenings are on Monday 2nd February and Monday 2nd March at 7.30pm. If anyone else would like to be part of this Ministry they too are very welcome for the two meetings. Thank you for your support and help.

In the words of Pope Francis, *"May the Church be a place.....where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel."*

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Thank you to all those who have shown interest in re-starting St Vincent de Paul Society in the parish, and for giving me their contact details. I will be in touch with you soon with possible dates for our initial meeting. Thank you for your support.

READERS AT OLI CHURCH FAMILY MASSES

We are looking for children in Year 3 to Year 6 who would like to read at a Family Mass at OLI Church. Family Masses take place at the 9.00 Mass on the last Sunday of each month. Children are given a week to practice their readings and then have the opportunity to practice in Church before the Mass. Please encourage your child to volunteer and send contact details to Elspeth.casey@rbs.com. Many thanks. Children's Liturgy team

Quick Journey into the Bible

Thursday 5th February - in the RDJ Room
10 am Coffee & Tea
10.30 Projection of the DVD

THANK YOU

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS:

Thanks to everyone who supported our Bring and Buy Sale. Your generosity raised £67.60 for the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust. All ladies are invited to join us for our next meeting on Tuesday February 3rd at 8pm in the old chapel when we shall enjoy a Games Evening. Refreshments for all and prizes for the winners.

Quality Bric-a-brac Sale

The Knights thank everyone who took part in the Quality Bric-brac Sale last weekend. The sale raised £190 for the Old Chapel Appeal Fund.

PARISH MEAL

Our annual Parish Meal will take place on Friday 24th April. Please keep the date free. More details to follow.

Lenten Project 2015

TABLE TOP SALE—HELP NEEDED

For some years a popular and successful event (thanks to all in the parish) has been the Table Top Sale. A small group run the main areas each year but in 2015 we need someone to co-ordinate the input. As I am no longer able to do this I am happy to 'hand over' contacts and a plan that works (usually!). And new ideas are always welcome.

If you are interested/willing to look at this please give me a ring. The timetable of events is being prepared now. Janet 0208 397 7733 Thank you!

GM Babies

The Government announced just before Christmas that it is shortly going to ask Parliament to legalise the production of human beings who, in order to eliminate some rare but very serious diseases, have had part of the ova (their mother's eggs) from which they themselves came replaced by material taken from other ova. These re-constructed ova would have then been fertilised artificially (i.e. by In vitro fertilisation – IVF). This process is known as mitochondrial donation, and would result in babies having, in effect, three parents. If the process is allowed it will for the first time allow the alteration of the DNA of future generations. It is essentially a form of genetic modification (GM), which was banned by Parliament in 2008. But in order to legalise it the Government is trying to redefine the process as genetic 'donation'. This would mean that the change in the law would not have to be debated by Parliament. Several prominent genetics experts have argued that the redefinition of GM is dishonest. They also warn it could undermine public trust in medical experts arguing for its introduction in the UK, the only country where it will be permitted in law if legislation is passed.

Apart from the serious damage that could be suffered by children produced by genetic manipulation, and on their descendants, this process is also objectionable because it ignores the possibility of curing or alleviating the serious diseases it pretends to target. Resources that could be spent on research into these diseases are instead being diverted into unnecessary and horrifying experimentation on human beings.

The petition and the signing form is at the back of the church for your support.

OLI PTA Quiz Night

This year's very popular **OLI PTA Quiz Night** will take place at the **Broadway Bar, Tolworth** on **Saturday 7th February at 7.30 (8pm start)**. It is a fun evening, where parents, teachers and parishioners compete to win the coveted title of '**PTA Quiz Night Team of the Year**'. Tickets are £6.00 per person, with a maximum of 8 people per team. Tickets can be bought at the School Office

TODAY

Pray and Fast for the Climate with CAFOD and Justice and Peace at Romero House today, February 1st 7-9pm.

We will pray and share a simple soup and bread meal, then explore our CAFOD Climate Campaign and what steps we can take leading up to the Paris Climate Talks in December this year.

Contact Maria Elena Arana, tel; 02077337900, CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB Nearest tube, Lambeth North

The civic commemoration for Holocaust Memorial Day will be held today, Sunday 1st February 2015 at The Council Chambers, Guildhall, High Street Kingston KT1 1EU from 2 30 - 4 00 pm. All are welcome.

St Joseph Vaz, Apostle of Sri Lanka and son of Goa- PRESENTATION

You are invited to a Presentation on the life and work of this recently canonised missionary priest;

Place: St Catherine of Siena Church, 100 Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey. KT9 2HY

Date: Monday 16 February 2015

Time: 7.30 pm.

By : Cecilia Suarez

Ample parking is available. Refreshments in Sacristy from 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Contact Parish Office; 0208 397 4499 email office@stcatherineofsiena.org.uk.

St. Philomena's Catholic School for Girls Examination Invigilators—Immediate Start

Examination Invigilators required throughout May and June 2015 to invigilate public exams at St. Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls. The position would suit mature, responsible and flexible individuals. Please contact Ms M. Adams on recruitment@stphils.org.uk

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje this Easter.

Departing 1st April with British Airways, 7 nights Half Board accommodation, guide and transfers for £499. Or join 50,000 young people for the Medjugorje Youth Festival departing 30th July. Contact Jonathan on 02032892627

Lantern Arts Centre presents **The Crucible** by Arthur Miller. 7.30pm Tues 17th—Sat 21st March. Sat Matinee at 3pm.

EVENTS / COURSES RUN BY CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC FORMATION

21 Tooting Bec Road, London , SW17 8BS

Tel: 020 8672 7684 Email: office@ccftootingbec.org.uk

Website: www.ccftootingbec.org.uk

Bookshop: bookshop@ccftootingbec.org.uk

Rite of Election Preview Evenings

For all catechists and clergy involved in RCIA, and also for catechumens and candidates themselves. Wednesday 4th February, 7 for 7.30– 8.30pm at Amigo Hall, Lambeth Rd, SE1 6HR

The Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated on Saturday 21st February at 12.30pm at St George's Cathedral.

Dementia & Disability At the Heart of the Church

A day of study and reflection on disability and inclusion for parishioners, carers, Eucharistic ministers, those who suffer and their loved ones. Saturday 14 March from 2-5.30pm at Our Lady of Crays, 312 High St, St Mary Cray, Orpington BR5 4AR

Church and State

A conference to mark the signing of the Magna Carta. 27th March, 11am—3.20pm at CCF. £5 includes lunch.

Preambles to Faith

Two talks exploring the importance of reason and philosophy in the New Evangelization. Mondays 23rd Feb and 2nd March 7.45-9pm at St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, 1 Montem Rd, New Malden, KT3 3QW.

Makaton Training Course

A 2 day Foundation Makaton training course using signs and symbols to communicate. Weds 4th & 11th Feb from 9.30am-4pm at CCF. £85 including all materials.

Faith Movement London Talks: **'The Church and other beliefs'**

All are welcome to our series of talks on 'The Church and other beliefs' on selected Tuesdays at 7:30pm from 13th January 2015. Talks are held in the basement of 24 Golden Square, London W1F 9JR (Tube: Piccadilly Circus). Details and titles are below and at www.faith.org.uk/events/evenings-of-faith)

Tuesday 10th February Are all religions equally valid? *Anna-Marie Treloar*

Tuesday 24th February Can I love Christ but not the Church? *Sr Andrea Fraile*

Tuesday 10th March The cosmic meaning of the Eucharist. *Fr Roger Nesbitt*

Tuesday 24th March Should the Church impose lifestyle choices? *Edward Hadas*