

No: 3245 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)
21st December 2014



Parish News

PARTNER IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



OUR LADY IMMACULATE PARISH

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Advent is nearly over, in fact, some people might only be reading this on Christmas day, in which case Advent will most certainly be over.

But, in these last moments of this season of expectation, before our advent calendars and wreaths are replaced by shepherds, kings and used wrapping paper, let's take a brief look at Advent.

Advent, we might know means "Coming" (from the Latin *Adventus*). Clearly we're talking about the coming of the Lord. In England and in the west, our focus is on that first coming of Christ, so advent prepares us for Christmas.

But in the Greek Churches, the word for coming is *Parousia*, this is the word that refers to the end of the world, when Christ will come in glory, to judge the living and the dead.

There is however, another coming of Christ, which is often overlooked. It is not a in the past, as the first coming was. It's not in the future as the second coming will be.

Rather, it is in the present, it is now. Jesus comes to us in grace through the sacraments, most especially, most personally through the sacrament of his Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

In fact, in the Eucharist we remember Christ's coming, and we prepare for his coming again. The Father's of the Church, the first generations of Christian teachers, made explicit the link between the Eucharist and the birth of Jesus.

Firstly, of course. In both these miracles Jesus comes down from heaven to earth, to first time as a flesh and blood child in a manger, and again and again onto our altars, in his flesh and blood. The Father's pointed out that the name Bethlehem comes from the Hebrew words *Beth Lehem*. *Beth* in Hebrew means house, and *Lehem* means bread.

So, the name of the town where Jesus was born, points us to the reality of who he is. Jesus who is the bread of life for us, was born into the House of Bread.

We all know that in Bethlehem, there was no room for the Holy Family, so they had to stay in the stable / cave. And that, when he was born, Jesus was placed in the manger.

But let's ask ourselves what is a manger? It is a place of food, where the animals ate their hay and straw.

The Fathers of the Church saw this as another sign that Jesus has come to earth to be our food and drink.

As we celebrate the Christmas miracle, which is, just to be clear, the birth in time and flesh, of Jesus our Lord, God and Saviour, as we attend our Christmas Mass, and celebrate with our families and friends. Let's remember that this Christmas miracle happens every day, in every Catholic Church throughout the world.

Fr Ed, myself and Deacon Al, all wish you a very happy and holy Christmas. That you may encounter Jesus, know him and love him, and see him in your friends, family and loved ones.

Fr. Tom Lynch

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 20th/21st December 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers

- Sat 6.30pm** Violet & Laurence Seager RIP and Ken & Gwen Batty RIP (Bev & Sandra Batty)
- Sun 9am** People of the Parish
- 11am** In Thanksgiving (Himali & Xavier)
- 12.30pm** **Baptisms** - Baby Juric and Nathaniel Perera
- 6.00pm** Charles Rau RIP (Pat Poulter)

Daily Masses 22nd—27th December 2014

- Mon 22nd FERIA**
7.00am Thanksgiving for the health of Sheila Walsh
9.30am Nancy and Noel Ryan RIP (Monica Tett)
- Tues 23rd FERIA**
9.30am Gladys Millard RIP (Sheila Howe)
- Wed 24th CHRISTMAS EVE**
9.30am Margaret Hague RIP (Gerry Hague)
6.00pm **Vigil Mass**
Respect and Love for our Church and our priests (anon parishioner)
11.30pm **Carols and Readings followed by Midnight Mass**
People of the Parish
- Thurs 25th THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
8.00am Private Intention
9.15am Margaret and Bill Hooper RIP
11.00am Peter Groves RIP (Ivan Flanagan)
- Fri 26th Saint Stephen**
9.30am Peter Groves RIP (Rosemary Durkin)
- Sat 27th Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**
9.00am Joseph Joseph RIP (Anniv) (Sally Mathew)

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 27th/28th December 2014

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (B)

- Sat 6.30pm** Beverley Aitken RIP (Verna Hutchinson)
- Sun 9am** People of the Parish
- 11am** Pasquale Guiseppe D'Apralio (Fagan Family)
- 12.30pm** **Baptisms** - Noemi Arcangela De Sousa and Alicia Rose Oakley
- 6.00pm** Eddie Savage RIP (Jennifer Savage)

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

Last Sunday's Collection

£1751

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

Cash counters

This week: Eileen Kaye and Elizabeth Christmas
Next week: Alan and Marie-Helene Cook

Daily Masses

29th December 2014—3rd January 2015

- Mon 29th Saint Thomas of Canterbury**
9.30am Richard Manche RIP & Phil Manche (Family)
- Tues 30th Sixth Day within the Octave**
9.30am David McCormack (Terry Clancy)
- Wed 31st Seventh Day within the Octave (New Year's Eve)**
9.30am Anne Sherdian Family's Intentions
10.30pm **Vigil of Prayer**
11.15pm Holy Souls
- Thurs 1st MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (New Year's Day)**
9.30am Bridget Cruse RIP (1st Anniversary) (Nason Family)
- Fri 2nd Saints Basil and Gregory**
9.30am Christina Olejnik (Marie Turnpenny)
7.00pm Marek Niedzielak
- Sat 3rd FERIA of Christmas Time**
9.00am Ignacio Cristobal RIP (Friends and Family)

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 3rd/4th January 2015

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- Sat 6.30pm** Maurice Felton RIP (Mary Felton)
- Sun 9am** Tony Fazaal RIP (Fazal Family)
- 11am** People of the Parish
- 12.30pm** **Baptisms** - No Baptisms
- 6.00pm** Heather Trutwein's Intentions

Baptisms

We welcome into the Church Lois Joan Kimmell and Theo Harden who were baptised last Sunday.

Next Sunday's Readings:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Introduction

The presentation of Jesus in the Temple brought joy to Simeon and Anna and a promise of pain to Mary and Joseph. Family life will always be a mixture of joy and sorrow, but the Holy Family show us the way to be united in all the ups and downs that we experience

First Reading Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

God promised Abraham that he would have a son and countless descendants. Although it seemed unlikely, Abraham trusted in God's word.

Second Reading Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

From the beginning of the human race, we have examples of people who remained faithful to God in good times and in bad.

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to present him to God. For Simeon and Anna, Jesus was the long-awaited promise of hope. For Mary and Joseph, their moment of celebration was also a discovery of anxiety and pain to come.



*Fr Edward , Fr Tom
and Al and Trudie wish
you all a very happy
and holy Christmas,
and thank you for all
your good wishes,
cards and gifts.*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

The Christmas offering envelopes are now available at the end of the church benches. The Christmas and Easter offering are traditionally your personal gift to your clergy. If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme, please use the special 'Christmas Offering' envelope at the back of your box of envelopes.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Volunteers are needed for all our Christmas Masses i.e. 6.00 pm Christmas Eve and Midnight, 8.00 am, 9.15 am and 11.00 am on Christmas Day. We need Altar Servers, Readers, Gift Bearers, Collectors, Welcomers and Eucharistic Ministers. If you can help at any of these masses please add your name to the appropriate sign-up sheet in the RDJ room. We need a lot of people to ensure these masses are successful so please help if you can and thank you in advance for your assistance. Jacques Lambert Parish Master of Ceremonies."

Christmas Crib Offerings

Usually the Crib Offerings were sent to Cabrini Children's Society. Following their request earlier in the year not to take the crib offerings for the them, and at the request/suggestion of Archbishop Peter Smith, the Crib offerings will be sent to Friends of Holy Land. The Friends offer help to the poorest families in Bethlehem, contributing to their medical costs and paying for school and university fees.

OLI OLD CHAPEL APPEAL

We are pleased to announce that we have now reached our **£70,000** target for the renovation of the Old Chapel. This is due to the truly amazing generosity of parishioners. Many many thanks to **all** those who have donated to the Appeal.

The sale of boxes of Christmas cupcakes has raised £320! As planned the Christmas Cup Sale will take place tomorrow, Sunday 21st December, after the 9am and 11am masses. (cost £2 each). Well done to Shinta for working so hard and baking the beautiful cupcakes

Please continue to bring in your Old Chapel Appeal Boxes and please do make any promised donations. Any extra money raised will be used for finishing touches and unforeseen eventualities.

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

Peter Groves, Warami Tuoyu, Miriam Argeullo, Tony Ambroselli (Gaetano), Desmond Neligan, Leroy George Hue, Eilish Mulholland, Edward Maryniak,

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: Simon Andrew Shayo (brother of Fr Arbo), Philip Mooney, Sue Jones, Shirley Rutter, Chris Wade,, Bernie Dark, Catherine Spain, Ken Hammerton, Elizabeth Ciano, Rachapally Laxminarayana, Arthur Bailey, Cesare Cavazzi, Andrzej Domagalski, Margarita Mickericiene, Yvonne Faulds, Sheila Walsh, Pat Fulford, Guy Green, Eleo Kayrouz, James McGee, Andrea Shepherd, Elizabeth Doherty, Michael O'Brien, Maureen Kerr, Suzanne Godwin, Geoff Grenade (father of Debbie Dray), Evie Durkin, Rouben Sarkissian, Francisco Dirago, Frank McCabe, Jan Lewandowski, Emma Rees, Rhian Knapgate, Brenda Killeen, Amandina Marsella, Roisin Loftus, Theresa Keys, Felicia Nazareth, Mary McDonnagh, Thomas Haley, Anna Maria Maini, Elizabeth Joège, Francis Nazareth, Sergio Della Grotta, Marie Bast, George Matthew, Jenny Sathirasegaram, Bridget McNally, Brenda Flaherty, Rowan Wolsgrove, Marcus Bird, Sandra Burlinson, Sophie Burridge, Sam Hitchin, Nicky Bushell, Tom Tyler, Margaret Inskip, Giancarlo Palermo, John Gleeson, Jeffrey D'Cruz, Michael Byrne, Martin Dray, Seema Day, Graham Taylor, Samantha Nosalik, Manual Pillai, Fay Kearney, Winna Duncan, Jennifer McIntyre, Carl Williams, Bridie O'Driscoll, Christine Keane, Josephine Bull and Vic Carrion.

Parish Office

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed for Christmas Holidays from Wednesday 24th December to Friday 2nd January 2015. Re-opens Monday 5th January 2015

Repository

Our Repository will be closed now until after Christmas. With thanks to all the ladies who open up at Saturday and Sunday Masses. I shall be ordering on Wednesday 7th January, any requests please let me know before that date. If any ladies would like to help out on our rota we would be very pleased. Pat Buchanan 0208 399 2300

Quick Journey into the Bible will take place on **Thursday 8th of January**

In the RDJ Room: 10 am Coffee & Tea 10.30 Projection of the DVD

AFTERNOON CLUB- TEA, COMPANY & CHAT!

We meet on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 2pm in the RDJ Room. Why not pop along for a slice of cake, a cuppa and a nice chat. All are welcome.

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH PARISH LENTEN PROJECT

The Lenten Project AGM was well attended last Sunday, 7th December. It was reported that the total raised during Lent this year was a record £21,164.72 was raised. Thanks was given to all those who made this possible. Each of the five charities supported by the 2014 Lenten Project received £4,225.

At the same meeting, seven charities were nominated for support in 2015. It was decided that our charities for the 2015 Lenten Project will be:-

Hope Romania, a charity that was set up in 1991 to work with orphaned and abandoned children in Romania and brings them up in a secure Christian environment. The charity has gradually moved from the care and education of children to that of teenagers and young adults including outreach work. Financial support from the Lenten project will help Hope Romania continue its important work amongst those enduring terrible poverty.

Let the Children Live! is a charity that works with 600 boys and girls from the streets and shanty-towns of the city of Medellín, Colombia. You may recall the visit of Fr. Peter Walters earlier in the year who explained that these children whose ages range from 6 to teenage are called 'the disposable ones'. The Lenten project is being asked to the charity financially so that they can continue to safeguard the lives of these children by giving them love, education and a future.

The Preda Foundation works for the implementation of laws that will empower the poor and protect their rights. This specifically includes protecting the weak and the defenceless especially children and women exploited in demeaning labour. The funds we raise will help the charity to run a new anti-trafficking scheme to save the children who in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan are trafficked from the Philippines and sold into child sex slavery.

Rakshabhavan Charitable Society is a home for the elderly men, the vulnerable and parents who have been abandoned by their children. This home provides shelter, food, and medical care for these people and spiritual support. They are caring for 50 people in this home. Our support will help fund construction of a hall that will house a further 15-16 people and an area where handicapped residents may relax.

Lenten Project 2015

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!

Parish Library

On 27/28th December, the Parish Library will not be open. Next opening weekend Sat 24 Sunday 25 January 2015.

JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

If you're in Year 7 or 8 we have some membership spaces available for the OLI Junior Youth Club. For next term this will meet once a month on a Friday evening from 7.15 until 8.45pm in the Parish Hall.

Dates for next term are: **16 January, 13 February and 6 March**. Parents will need to complete a membership form on arrival, or in advance by downloading the membership form from the Parish Website at www.olionline. The fee for the term is £5 (50% discount for siblings; guests £1.50 per session). There are lots of things to do – music, games, table tennis, table football, karaoke, snooker/pool, a tuck shop and time to chat with friends. We hope to see you there!

Help needed

You will see that we are only able to run the club once a month next term because we are still short of people to be part of the core team and regular parent helpers. If this is something you feel you would like to be involved in and could, either commit to coming every week that the youth club runs and be part of the core team, or help once a month, please drop a note into the Presbytery marked for the attention of the Junior Youth Club, including your name, phone and email details. It would be lovely to have enough people to enable us to go back to running the club every other week.

Jackie Murphy, Anne O'Brien, Sinead Strong and Alison Vigor

KINGSTON FOODBANK COLLECTION

Apologies for the double request for Foodbank this month – we put it in the newsletter last week by mistake, but are very grateful for all donations, especially at this time of year.

Our next Foodbank collection is due to be after all Masses next weekend (20/21 December) – so do please remember to bring donations, even if it is one item, it really does help to make a difference. We need new, in-date, undamaged, non-perishable food, and donations can be left in a box in the church porch.

Food they particularly need at the moment is milk (long life or powder), fruit juice (long life or squash), vegetarian meals (tins of macaroni cheese, vegetable curry, vegetable chilli, ratatouille etc), noodles (packets or pot noodles) and steamed puddings.

Many thanks for your help.

Helen Emmett, Jackie Murphy, Anne O'Brien, Ruth Oliver (OLI Foodbank Coordinators)

Telephone: 0208 399 9550

Website: www.olionline.co.uk

APPEAL FROM LIFE:

Baby clothes and equipment - especially double buggies - are needed for our Caring Centre at Hounslow. If you have any items you no longer require please contact Therese on 020 8390 1080 for collection. Thank you for your generosity in the past. It is much appreciated. Life is a national organisation which helps unsupported mothers to keep and care for their babies.