

No: 3249 THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

18th January 2015



Parish News

PARTNER IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



OUR LADY IMMACULATE PARISH

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I often hear criticisms of religion in general, and of Catholicism in particular, and as a Catholic I find myself getting more and more frustrated. I'm sure you also hear these criticisms, and perhaps you get as frustrated also.

So, I'd like to counter some of these criticism, to vent my frustration, to answer the critique, and perhaps even to empower you to speak up when you hear them also.

A comment I hear often in the media is that religion is a crutch, a support for weak people. The idea is that religion and the idea of God have been invented to help people cope with the difficulties of life. That God, therefore doesn't exist, and that religions are for weak people unable to face the harsh reality of life.

So, according to this idea religious men and women are weak, clinging to false gods and false religions hoping for protection and comfort in an unkind world, hedging our bets on the life to come.

How can we answer this criticism? There are a great many things which comfort us, which act as a crutch in our everyday lives. Things which everyone needs, atheists and Christians alike.

Some of these things are made by humans, for example, friends, family, the comfort of a good meal, or even a good TV show. But, for the religious person, an added support, and added comfort is their faith. And is it bad that a religious person is supported and strengthened by their religion, of course not.

But, to go further into the critique. Is religion actually a crutch for the weak? Are we religious people weaker than anyone else? Do we seek protection and comfort in an unkind world?

Actually, I would say, no. We don't hide from the

difficulties of living in the world. We don't hide from the horrors and evils of the world.

Poverty, homelessness, people-trafficking, you'll find religious people at the forefront of fighting and tackling these evils, these evils and many more. Just as throughout history religious people have fought against the evils of the world. Just one example of this is St. Maximilian Kolbe imprisoned at Auschwitz for writing against Nazism, and ultimately, because of the Gospel, gave his life in place of another prisoner.

If we look at the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46), the Son of Man (which is another name for Jesus himself) rewards those who seek out and help and support those in need, those who are naked, hungry, thirsty, imprisoned etc.

This requires that we look at and recognise problems and difficulties, and go about serving those affected by them.

The history of Catholicism is punctuated by great saints who faced the harsh reality of life, and by doing so transformed it.

Think about Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who, impelled by the love of Christ, went to serve the poorest of the poor. Think of Dorothy Day, or Archbishop Romero. These are not people who hide from suffering, but people who recognise it, and fight against it.

We ourselves might not be asked to make these heroic acts of love, but we are asked by God, to look for opportunities to serve those most in need, to look for those in difficulty and serve them.

We need the help and strength of God. But, Catholicism doesn't help us hide. Our faith gives us strength and confidence to face the problems of the world. And that strength, given from God, is a sign of his continued love for the world.

Fr. Tom Lynch

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 17th/18th January 2015

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Peace Sunday

- Sat 6.30pm** Morello John RIP Anniversary (Family)
Sun 9am Anita, Jagath, Vincent & Mickel RIP
(Anne Tissera)
11am Intentions of the Secular Franciscan Order
(Jim Ballesteros)
12.30pm **No Baptisms**
6.00pm People of the Parish

Daily Masses

19th January 2015 – 24th January 2015

- Mon 19th Feria**
7.00am Ava Shaw RIP
(Anne Sheridan & Family)
9.30am Peter Groves RIP (Robert Estall)
- Tues 20th Feria**
7.00am Patrick Gowers
9.30am Michael & Ortanza Aletrari RIP
(J Tanousis)
- Wed 21st Saint Agnes**
7.00am Welfare of the Choi Family
(Rosemary Durkin)
9.30am Alexius Yap RIP (Catherine Yap)
- Thurs 22nd Feria**
9.30am Edwin Manche RIP (Family)
- Fri 23rd Feria**
7.00am George & Patricia Buggie RIP
9.30am Vincent Short RIP (B & D Marley)
- Sat 24th Saint Francis de Sales**
9.00am Raffaele & Antonio Ambrocelli (Gaetano)
RIP (Family)

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 24th/25th January 2015

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

- Sat 6.30pm** Alice Durkin RIP (Rosemary Durkin)
Sun 9am People of the Parish
11am Richard Roy (birthday) (Family)
12.30pm **No Baptisms**
6.00pm George & Heather Trutwein's Intentions

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

Last Sunday's Collection

£1992

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

Cash counters

This week: Pam Ford and Vivian Phillips
Next week: Elizabeth Ray and Lewry

Christmas Crib Offerings came to £647 and as requested by Archbishop Peter this will be duly sent to Friends of the Holy Land. Thank you for your generosity.

Next Sunday's Readings:

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introduction

In today's Gospel we learn of Jesus' first words and deeds as he begins his public ministry.

First Reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10

At Jonah's preaching the people of Nineveh repent and the Lord withdraws the punishments he had threatened.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

This world is passing away, time is short; Paul tells us to get our priorities right.

Gospel Mark 1:14-20

The heart of Jesus' preaching – the kingdom of God and the call to repentance and belief – and his first disciples.

Please remember in your prayers those who have died, especially those who have died recently; Celia Pollock, James O'Neil and Kitty Doherty
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, Evie Durkin, Thomas Haley, Roisin Loftus and Chris Wade.

Updating the Sick List

Please be good enough to send the names of your loved ones and friends who are ill to be included in the newsletter and prayed for, to the presbytery marked 'Sick List'. Can I also ask you to ask the sick person his or her permission for the name to be included in the newsletter. Thank you for your support and kindness.

Death

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Anthony Ritchins who died on 3rd. January 2015. His Funeral Mass will be on 27th. January at 2.00p.m. at St. George's Cathedral. May he rest in peace.

Newsletter

I will very grateful if items for the newsletter could reach the presbytery by 6.00pm Wednesday evening. Thank you. Fr. Edward

Parish Magazine

Those who could not get Grapevine in December can ask Marie-Helene on 020 8399 4368 for a spare copy.

Coffee Morning

This Sunday, 18th January, after 9am mass in the Old Chapel.

PEACE SUNDAY

Today, 18th January, we celebrate Peace Sunday, a Day of Prayer for Peace on Earth. Envelopes are available for donations to the work of Pax Christi, the Catholic Movement for Peace in England and Wales.

**‘Slaves no more,
but brothers and sisters’**
Pope Francis World Peace Message 2015

In his message Pope Francis reminds us that many think that slavery is a thing of the past. In fact, this social plague remains all too real in today’s world and he describes slavery as ‘an open wound on the body of the human family - a running sore on the flesh of Christ’.

Pax Christi says ‘we see slavery as being linked to issues of poverty, indebtedness and conflict, as many are forced into violence of war to leave everything behind and seek refuge elsewhere.’

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. It is good for us to meet together to talk things through. Therefore I am planning a meeting as soon as possible. Can I ask those who have shown interest to let me have their names and contact numbers in order to plan the meeting. Thank you for your support.

Repository

If any ladies would like to help out on our rota we would be very pleased. Pat Buchanan 0208 399 2300

Parish Library

The Parish Library will open again on the weekend of 24th/25th January 2015.

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 Lit-

New Year’s Sale

Beautiful good quality ornaments, china and glassware will be on sale in the Old Chapel after all Masses on the weekend of 24th/25th January. Collectors and bargain hunters are invited to browse and purchase items from the collection. Sale proceeds will go to the Old Chapel Appeal Fund.

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!

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.

Altar Servers

Would all Altar Servers Please collect their new Rotas from the RDJ room as soon as Possible. This includes those who went through the training course in the autumn. Thank you.

KINGSTON FOODBANK COLLECTION

Our next Foodbank collection is due to be after all Masses next weekend (24/25 January) – 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 continued support.

**Churches Together in Surbiton
Unity Week Services 18-25 January 2015**

Sunday 18th January—6.30pm

Covenant Service—Surbiton Hill Methodist Church

Tuesday 20th January—12 noon

Prayer Service followed by lunch—Tolworth URC

Friday 23rd—12.30pm

Soup Lunch—St. Matthews

Friday 23rd—7.30pm

Taize Service—Our Lady Immaculate Church

Saturday 24th January—7.30pm

Quiz Night—St. George's Church, Hamilton Avenue

Collection in Aid of the 'Well'. Tea/Coffee provided.

Please bring own nibbles. Contact Shirley Hayward on 8241 9235

A brief update on the CTS Covenant service on 18 Jan (6.30 pm at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church) to be filmed by Songs of Praise... We still don't have all the details from the BBC (Producer has been ill!), but it seems prudent at this time to make these provisions:

Those who usually attend the CTS services are most welcome to attend this service and to bring a friend or family member, HOWEVER, due to constraints on space (and sensitivity to the current state of public religious affairs!), it would be helpful if we had an idea of who is coming/how many to expect. If you announce this to your congregation tomorrow (11 Jan), perhaps you could also ask that those who are interested in coming to give their names to a CTS rep (clergy or lay as is best for your situation) who will then let me know names/numbers in the next few days

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.

LOVE HEALS

BODY MIND AND SPIRIT TEAM

A one day Retreat of quiet Reflection

Saturday 31st January 2015

10.30am - 4.00pm

The Catholic Church of our Lady of Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick Street, Picadilly Circus exit 2 (Down Regent St, turn right into Regent Place)
For programme see notice board.

Vocations Weekend for Older Men

The diocesan Vocations Centre in Whitstable is hosting a weekend for men over forty to give them the chance to learn more about a vocation to the diocesan priesthood. It will take place from the evening of Friday 23rd and will end with lunch on Sunday 25th January. Places are limited and it is essential that those participating book beforehand.

To book a place or for more information please contact the Vocations Director info@southwarkvocations.com.

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 13th January Is there life after death? *Fr Stephen Dingley*

Tuesday 27th January Scandals in the Church: A way forward. *Mgr Keith Barltrop*

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*

BORN TOO SOON

The charity Born Too Soon are in desperate need of knitters who are able to knit tiny little clothes for premature babies. If you can help, please call Joan McCutcheon on 020 8399 9844 who has the patterns. Thank you.

Epsom & District Irish Association are holding their **first dance of the new year** at the Rhodrons Club, Rhodrons Avenue, Chessington KT9 1BA phone 0208 397 2683. Its on 30th January 2015 dancing from 8.30pm until 11.30pm featuring Mary & New Counties with local parking, a raffle and licensed bar. Tickets £5.00 on the door

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

Head Teacher Vacancy

'HEADTEACHER REQUIRED for SEPT 2015 at The John Fisher School in Purley. Please see the school website for details. www.johnfisherschool.org

Community Fundraiser, 36 hours per week—£24,892 plus Outer London Weighting, 2 year contract

Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH) is at the forefront of tackling homelessness in the borough of Kingston upon Thames. If you wish to apply for the role, please find more details at www.charityjob.co.uk and send an up-to-date CV with a covering letter providing evidence that you have the qualities to meet every point of the Personal Specification of the job to: Matt Hatton, Operational Director: matt.h@kcah.org.uk

If you wish to discuss the role, please email and provide your telephone number and we shall contact you. Closing Date : Monday 9th February 2015 at 12pm. Interview : Week commencing Monday 16th February 2015