



# Parish News

PARTNER IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



## OUR LADY IMMACULATE PARISH

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG Tel: 020 8399 9550 Email: [info@olionline.co.uk](mailto:info@olionline.co.uk) website: [www.olionline.co.uk](http://www.olionline.co.uk)

PRIESTS OF THE PARISH: **Canon Edward Perera, Fr Tom Lynch**

Deacon: **Rev. A Callan**, 59 Princes Avenue, Tolworth KT6 7JL Tel: 020 8399 9862

## OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

399 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG Tel: 020 8399 9854 Fax: 020 8399 8582 [www.oli.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.oli.kingston.sch.uk)

HEADTEACHER: **Mr Tim Sheehan**

Though still in the Season of Easter, we are fast approaching its end next Sunday, when we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. We will mark that Feast, as we have done many times, with the arrival of Bishop Paul Hendricks, who will lead us in celebrating the confirmation of many of our young people on the Saturday morning at 11am.

However, today we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. It is a vital precursor to Pentecost: indeed, a vital part of Pentecost. Had Our Lord Jesus not 'ascended into glory', the Holy Spirit could not have come down on the Mother Mary and the apostles. In the Gospel of John, we have Christ's word thus: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

The Feast of the Ascension draws our minds and hearts upward, heavenward. We share that with the apostles who are described in the Acts of the Apostles as 'staring into the sky' as Jesus was 'lifted up while they looked on and a cloud took him from their sight'. The Feast calls out of us the three spiritual gifts which St. Paul, in Corinthians, speaks of so eloquently: faith, hope and love, the three virtues which unite us intimately with God.

The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus strengthens our faith. St. Leo proclaimed, "He who did not leave his Father by descending to us has not departed his disciples by ascending". He is with us, though unseen: our faith assures us of this.

The Ascension lifts up our hearts, gives us hope. We have those words from St. John,

often read at funerals but which apply to any stage of life, "I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you to myself, so that where I am you may be too".

Drawing on that faith and hope, the Ascension calls us to be witnesses, to be active in believing that the God-given gifts and talents we have are not kept for ourselves, but used for the good of all. We live in a world that has sleep-walked into selfishness of all kinds: we can help our world counter that selfishness by doing our best to be good neighbours, good friends, good workers, remembering that Our Lord is with us, constantly by our side, encouraging us in every good way.

In the Gospel of Matthew, the infant Jesus is referred to as Emmanuel, meaning 'God with us'. The One who was born to be Emmanuel was true to his name. The very last words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew are: "And know that I am with you always: yes, to the end of time".

Emmanuel. God with us. Let us give thanks and rejoice!

Deacon Al Callan

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 16th/17th May 2015  
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR B)**

**World Communications Day**

**Sat 6.30pm** Tom Kelleher and Family  
**Sun 9.00am** Albert, Josephine and Ellen Brown  
(Margaret Bradford)  
**11.00am** People of the Parish  
**12.30pm** Baptisms: No Baptisms this week

**SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER**

**18th— 23rd May 2015**

**Mon 18th Feria**  
**7.00am** Tim Clifford RIP (Waldron Family)  
**9.30am** John and Alice Burton RIP  
(Caterina Burton)  
**Tues 19th Feria**  
**9.30am** Wellbeing of Mrs Debrou  
**Wed 20th Feria**  
**7.00am** Sally O'Sullivan  
**9.30am** Michael Kocherry RIP (Simon and family)  
**Thurs 21st Feria**  
**7.00am** Holy Souls  
**9.30am** Alexius Yap RIP (Catherine Yap)  
**Fri 22nd Feria**  
**9.30am** Francesco, Alberico, Ermando and Silvia  
Perillo RIP (Mrs D'Agostino)  
**Sat 23rd Feria**  
**11.00am SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 23rd/24th May 2015  
PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR B)**

**Sat 6.30pm** Kathleen Hogan (Peter Hogan)  
**Sun 9.00am** Arthur and Eleanor Moody  
(Margaret Bradford)  
**11.00am** People of the Parish  
**12.30pm** Baptisms: Amara Johnson and  
Juan Miguel De La Cruse  
**6.00pm** Welfare and health of Day, Doyle,  
McFadden and Manche Family

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION THIS WEEK  
Saturday 5.30pm to 6.00pm**

**Last Sunday's Collection £1605**

**Cash counters**

This week: Elizabeth and Ray Lewry  
Next week: Barbara Buchinger and Bernie Turkington

**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY - World Communications.** This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN) the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The CCN seeks to be of service both to Church and the world in offering professional channels of communication, and provides support for the wider Church in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues.

**Introduction to Next Sunday's Readings:  
Pentecost Sunday**

**Introduction**

Today the Holy Spirit gathers us to be Church, to praise the Lord's love for us in calling us to be the pilgrim people of God. We give thanks that the same Holy Spirit who first came to the apostles is present here among us today.

**First Reading Acts 2:1-11**

On the day of Pentecost the Gospel is preached to all nations.

**Second Reading Galatians 5:16-25**

The Spirit is our guide and our life.

**Gospel John 15:26-27; 16:12-15**

The Spirit continues to lead us into the fullness of truth.

**Please remember in your prayers those who have died and all whose anniversary falls at this time. We pray also for all those who mourn the loss of loved ones.**

**We remember and pray for the sick, the house-bound and all who care for them, we remember especially those within our own parish family:**

Arthur Bailey, Josephine (Jo) Bull, Reynario Diaz, Martin Dray, Evie Durkin, Geoff Grenade, Thomas Haley, Ken Hammerton, Roisin Loftus, Philip Mooney, Simon Munnery, Canon John Naughton, Rouben Sarkissian, Cerys Sullivan, Chris Wade and Mrs Wallace.

**Baptisms in the Parish**

All parents who want to have their children baptised are expected to follow the Baptism Preparation Sessions. These sessions are held on the First and Second Sunday of the month (except in the month of August) between 10.00am –11.00am in the Old Chapel. Before following the preparation sessions please be good enough to speak to the priests and register for the sessions, so that the Catechists can be informed of the names of those who are attending. Parents need to attend both sessions. Once they have completed the preparations, the parents can discuss the date of the baptism and fill in the Baptism Registration Forms and collect the forms to be completed by the parish priest of the God Parents. For more details please speak to one of the priests.

**Regular events in the parish**

**SVP** meet fortnightly on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in RDJ Room

**Justice & Peace Group** meet on the second Monday of each month at 7.45 in the RDJ Room, except July, August and December.

**Coffee and Tea in the Old Chapel:**

3rd Sunday of every month after the 9am mass.

**Afternoon Tea and Chat in the RDJ Room**

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 2pm.

**Monthly Syro Malabar Mass** is on the third Monday of each month at 5.30pm

**Bible study:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 10.15am to 11.15am (RDJ Room, before the sacristy)

**Library:** last Sunday of the month - after all masses (RDJ Room)

### **Union of Catholic Mothers**

Our next meeting is on 19th May in the Old Chapel at 8pm when Father Edward will enrol new members. Please could members bring their badges for the blessing

**PARISH COUNCIL AGM:** This will be held in the Catholic Hall on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. Reports will be made by the Chair, Parish Priest, Finance Committee, Maintenance Committee, and Liturgy Committee. This is an opportunity for you to come along and hear what has been going on over the past 12 months, and also have an input into what is done / discussed over the coming 12 months

### **Change of day for Bible Study**

We will meet on **1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 10.15am to 11.15am**

Next Session: "Egypt & Exodus - God leads Israel out of bondage - What it means for us today" on **Tuesday 19th May**.

### **The Justice & Peace Group**

**Thank you** to everyone who supported the 'Big Breakfast' on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Your generosity raised £84 towards the **Lenten Project**. Special thanks to Margaret and Christine who provided an appreciated extra pair of hands!

### **Coffee Morning**

The Justice & Peace Group is holding a coffee morning and plant sale on 31st May, after the 9 am Mass, in the Old Chapel. Bargain plants, including vegetables, herbs and annual flowers. Proceeds in aid of the Nepal Earthquake appeal, through Avaaz, a small locally based charity. Please support this worthy cause.

### **"ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS**

Altar Servers are needed for the Confirmation Mass on Saturday 23 May at 11.00 am. We need a good group of Servers for this Mass as it is a very important occasion for our parish. If you can help please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the RDJ room. You will need to be there by 10.00 am as there is a lot of preparation involved and jobs will be allocated on the day. Thank You in advance for your help. Jacques Lambert Parish Master of Ceremonies."

### **New Serving Rota**

The new serving rota is now available to be collected in the RDJ room. Please be good enough to collect your rota this weekend.

### **OLI JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB**

Dates for Youth club (for children in Years 7 and 8) Friday 5 June, Friday 3 July - in the Parish Hall 7.15pm-8.45pm

**WEBSITE UPDATE:** A new gallery item entitled "*Anyone recognise this church?*" The Catholic church in Romford which bears more than a fleeting resemblance to our own - have a look and see what you think.

**Gallery of photos** from the Tolworth Tornadoes Lenten Project Bike Ride on 26<sup>th</sup> April (Gallery)

### **SVP**

#### **Can the SVP help anyone you know?**

If you know a local person who is in need and could benefit from a visit by a member of the parish's newly formed St. Vincent de Paul Society group then please pass their details to Fr. Edward. Please ensure that you have their agreement to do so beforehand.

Who qualifies for a visit? Anyone in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinion.

**First Holy Communion & Confirmation cards and goods** are on display in the repository

**Express Community Interest Company (CIC)** is a Tolworth-based, not-for-profit organisation that provides support for children and families living with autism. We have submitted an application to the Aviva Community Fund to fund Arts Therapy sessions for autistic children, as well as a support group for children that have an autistic sibling. The projects that receive the most votes online will go before a judging panel to determine whether they receive funding. Please vote for our project at: <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/3338/> Voting closes on 30th May.

### **The Africa Day Social 2015**

You are invited by Fr Arbo to the Africa Day Social organised by the charity You Touch Africa on 7th June at 12noon after the 10am Mass until 5pm at St John Fisher Church Gardens, 141 Kidbrooke Rd, SE3 0DZ. Please bring a plate and drink to share. Details on notice board.

**PILGRIMAGE TO PARIS:** We have just booked a pilgrimage to Paris for the weekend of 30th October – 1st November. Full details can be found on our parish website (there is a link half way down the centre section of the home page). We will visit The Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in the Rue de Bac, Chapel of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, Sacré-Cœur, & Notre Dame. The price is £275 per person based on two people sharing, half board. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, or earlier if the trip is full. A £100 deposit is required to book a place along with your full name, address and phone number, and email if you have one (full process on the website) and left at the presbytery for my attention. Cheque payable to OLI. If you have a query please contact Andrew on 0208 399 3466

### **Beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero May 23rd (Pentecost Sunday)**

The beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero will take place in San Salvador at a ceremony in the 'Salvador del Mundo' Plaza presided over by Cardinal Angelo Amato, who heads the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. It is scheduled to take place between 9.00 and 12.00 hours local time which is 16.00 to 19.00 British Summer Time. It should be possible to watch the service on-line at [tvcaelsalvador.org](http://tvcaelsalvador.org). Bishop John Rawsthorne will represent the Bishop's Conference in San Salvador.

**Institute of St Anselm's 30th Anniversary Celebration** Friday 29th May at St Anne's Church Cliftonville, CT9 3AF beginning with Mass at 11am. Main celebrant Archbishop Peter Smith. RSVP by 30th April via [publicity@anselm.org.uk](mailto:publicity@anselm.org.uk)

**Annual Day for Catechists**  
Saturday 27th June from 11am at St George's Cathedral.  
I encourage all catechists to attend this day. Please let me know by the 30th May if you intend to go.

**Day With Mary**  
National Shrine of Our Lady Walsingham  
Sunday 31st May. See notice board for details

**Spirit in the City Festival 10– 13th June 2015**  
supported by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, is the largest Catholic Festival in London and aims to bring Catholics together and to reach out to the general public.  
1 festival ~ 4 days ~ 4 churches ~ LIVE music ~ talks ~ workshops ~ THEATRE: Three Witnesses play ~ Masses ~ procession ~ surprises.

**Three Witnesses Play.** A remarkable narrative of The Gospel of Luke in the 21st century on Wednesday 10th June at 19.30.

**SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICES**  
**Summer Youth Day - 20th June 2015**  
Aylesford Priory, Kent. 10am–7pm. £10pp. Yr7–Y11  
To book contact: [jean@scys.org.uk](mailto:jean@scys.org.uk) or 01227 272900

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGES**  
*Please see Notice Board for details of the Diocesan and other pilgrimages to Lourdes.*

The Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage is from 21st–28th August. This year is a special year for us in the Archdiocese of Southwark, as Southwark was raised to an "Archdiocese and Metropolitan See" fifty years ago. For details of the pilgrimage, please speak to Canon Edward Perera, the Southwark Pilgrimage Director.

**Pilgrimage & Day of Celebration for People with Differing Needs**  
Sunday 5th July, 12.00 noon at The Friars, Aylesford

**SYNOD OF THE FAMILY**  
Ahead of the forthcoming Ordinary Synod on the Family in October 2015, Pope Francis has asked us all to reflect with 'true spiritual discernment' on the themes relating to marriage and family life that emerged from the extraordinary meeting of bishops held in Rome in October 2014. Please visit <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/reflect-on-marriage-and-family-2015>

A pamphlet entitled 'The Call, the Journey and the Mission - An Invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales to Reflect on the Gift of Marriage and Family Life' offers background information, Scripture passages and quotes from Pope Francis and presents a series of questions to stimulate discussion and response on the key issues.

You have the opportunity now to offer your views and feedback on these questions by visiting the website: <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/An-Invitation-to-Reflect-on-the>

## Report from Nigeria

More than 5,000 Catholics in north-east Nigeria have been killed and at least 100,000 have been displaced, according to a fresh report which highlights the scale of atrocities against Christians in the heartland of Islamist terror group Boko Haram.

The 'Situation Report on the activities of Boko Haram in the Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri' states that more than 350 churches in the diocese have been badly attacked, "a good number of them destroyed more than once."

With more than three-quarters of the diocese under Boko Haram control, the report records that 22 of the diocese's 40 parish centres and chaplaincies have been deserted and occupied by the terrorists. The report, a copy of which diocesan authorities sent to Aid to the Church in Need, the Catholic charity for persecuted and other suffering Christians, records a total of 7,000 widows and 10,000 orphans.

Commenting on the report, Father Gideon Obasogie, the Diocese of Maiduguri's director of social communications, said: "People are very scared and those who are able to return home find there is nothing left."

He stressed the extent of the suffering in the diocese which covers the whole of Borno, Yobe and part of Adamawa state: "A life lived with much fear is terrible."

But, commenting on the people's faith in the face of adversity, Fr Obasogie added: "The good Lord has always been on our side. He has seen us through thick and thin. "Our faith has been purified through persecution."

With reports on Friday (8th May), of an Islamist attack on a business college in Potiskum, in Yobe state, schools in Maiduguri diocese are at particular risk and the diocesan report records that 32 of the 40 primary schools have been deserted. Displacement of people has been very widespread in the Diocese of Maiduguri and the reports states that 26 of the region's 46 priests were currently displaced as well as 200 catechists and 30 Sisters. Four of the diocese's five convents were closed.

Aid to the Church in Need is providing emergency aid for people from Maiduguri seeking sanctuary outside the diocese. ACN has given £33,000, providing food, shelter and medicine for displaced people and also Mass stipends for Maiduguri priests taking refuge in nearby Yola diocese. The charity is also providing security for Catholic schools under threat from Islamists. St Peter's Church School near Kaduna received £10,000 from ACN, providing security lights and a sound-proof generator. You can help via [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org)

**VACANCY - St Philomena's Catholic High School Teacher of Music.** Part Time, 1.5 days a week. One year temporary appointment. Required for September. Applications to be received as soon as possible. Contact:

**Celebrate Twickenham** is happening on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June 2015 at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

The conference is a non-residential faith-filled event for all and the weekend programme includes 3 main talks, Praise and Worship, Theatre, Mass, Adoration, Prayer Ministry and a time for chatting over a cuppa. So that parents can really benefit from the weekend, there is a full programme for all from the age of 4 plus a warm welcoming crèche. To find out more please contact Anne D'Silva 07952 494120