



OUR LADY IMMACULATE  
TOLWORTH

No: 3300 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

10th January 2016

# Parish News

PARTNERS IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



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OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Baptism of the Lord.

As we enter a new year, the liturgy brings the Baptism of the Lord to our attention. Strangely perhaps, Jesus was not baptized as a child like most of us. His was an adult baptism as related in the scriptures. Interestingly too, it was done by John the Baptist.

What is the significance of the Lord's baptism? Scripture scholars as you might guess have different perspectives on this as indeed they have on most elements of the life of Christ.

In any event, it appears that Jesus is accepting John the Baptist's approach to salvation while at the same time bringing a fundamentally new horizon to John's message. There is for instance a focus upon Jesus' relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. This would not have been familiar to John's audiences. It is being said that Jesus is led by the Spirit on a path of fidelity to his Father's will.

Jesus is presented as being aware of the significance of his mission as Messiah and because of this he is alert to its magnitude and challenge. Let us not forget that Jesus was human like any of us while also God—let's not forget his limitations as a human person. In this context we find him praying. This is seen to characterize much of Jesus' life especially at moments of decision or struggle. Yes, struggle!

Perhaps, as we celebrate this event, we, too, could keep before us the commitment we

made or was made on our behalf at baptism. Through it we became children of God and given a share in Christ's mission. This should at times appear to be an awesome calling for any of us and it would not be surprising if at times our response to it may cause us some anxiety.

In a sense, this may be a valuable time to reflect on how we see this call in our lives. It might even lead us, like Christ, to pray—pray for ever greater fidelity to our original promise at baptism to witness to Christ by the way we live.

Witness to Christ may not be seen with favour in much of today's world. It can even be viewed with suspicion or downright disdain.

So, perhaps we could pray at this time that we may live our Christian commitment more fully and avoid devious and sinful ways—the lure of Satan. If our Christian calling presents no challenge, it is likely that it is paper-thin. We are Christians in name but not in truth. Being truly Christian should always have elements of Christ's cross even if within the horizon of his resurrection.

*Fr. Brendan Carmody sj*

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 9th/10th January 2016  
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Year C)**

- Sat 6.30pm** Stephen Fleming (Susan Fleming)  
**Sun 9.00am** People of the Parish  
**11.00am** Deceased Relatives of Maria Simmonds  
(Maria Simmonds)  
**12.30pm** **Baptisms:** Oscar Wakefield  
**6.00pm** Intention of Mr and Mrs Paul Lavelle

**FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)  
11th—16th January 2016**

- Mon 11th 9.30am** **Feria**  
Intention of Ann Martin  
**Tues 12th 9.30am** **Feria**  
Theresa Udeh  
**Wed 13th 9.30am** **Feria**  
Margaret Holden (Kathleen Kelleher)  
**1.00pm** **Funeral Mass for Rosaleen Duke**  
**Thurs 14th 9.30am** **Feria**  
Holy Souls  
**Fri 15th 9.30am** **Feria**  
Mary Clifford (Dominic Clifford)  
**Sat 16th 9.00am** **Feria**  
Lily Grace (Angela Sebastian)

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 16th/17th January 2016  
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)**

- Sat 6.30pm** John Morello RIP  
**Sun 9.00am** Deceased member of Punter Family  
(Margaret Radford)  
**11.00am** Holy Souls  
**12.30pm** **Baptisms:** Rose Harriet Hunter  
**6.00pm** People of the Parish

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION THIS WEEK  
Saturdays 9.30-10.00am and 5.30 to 6.00pm**

**Next Sunday's Readings—2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- First Reading:** Isaiah 62: 1-5  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
**Gospel:** John 2:1-11

**Last Sunday's Collection** **£1808. 45**  
**Thank you for your continued generosity.**  
**TODAY - White Flower Appeal**

**Crib Offerings.**

This year, with the encouragement of Archbishop Peter, this parish will be sending crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health or housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. For further information, please take away the leaflet by the crib and keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

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

**Please remember and pray for the sick, the housebound and all who care for them, we remember especially those within our own parish family:**

Vanessa Andrew, Arthur Bailey, Christina Beyer, Joan Bulley, Jim Creighan, Reynario Diaz, Martin Dray, Anthony Durkin, Tony Fisher, Geoff Grenade, Thomas Haley, Ken Hammerton, Jan Leightley, Roisin Loftus, Simon Munnery, Pat Parker, Lewis Penn, Allen Phillips, Rouben Sarkissian, Peter Summers, Cerys Sullivan, Roman Szymanski, Chris Wade and Mrs Wallace.

**REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH**

**SVP** meet fortnightly on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in RDJ Room. **Next meeting:** 20th January. **To contact SVP please ring 07427922420.**  
**Junior SVP** meets at 6.30pm.

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

**St Vincent de Paul Coffee/Tea in the Old Chapel**  
Every 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** meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month (except August) at 8pm in the RDJ room until further notice.

**Knights of St Colomba** every 3rd Monday at 8pm in RDJ Room.



**Death**

With sadness we announce the death of Alan Mindow and also Corrine Mannings father who died on Tuesday 5th January. The funeral arrangements will be notified later. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

**Bible Study**

The next Bible Study will take place on Tuesday 19th January 10.15 to 11.15am in the RDJ Room

**Lent 2016**

The Churches Together Lent Course will be based on the Cafe DVD 'The Gift' - a life in the Spirit course. We are looking for parishioners to lead the course. If anyone is will please contact Fr Edward.

## SACRAMENTS and LITURGY

### Baptisms in the Parish

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 parish hall.

**Please speak to the priests first and then register for the sessions as early as possible.** Parents need to attend both sessions.

Once they have completed the preparations, the parents can discuss the date of the baptism and collect the Baptism Registration Forms and the forms to be completed by the Parish Priest of the God Parents. No dates for baptism can be arranged until both preparation sessions are completed.

### Sacrament of Confirmation 2016

For those who have registered there will be a Confirmation Parents Meet-

ing on Tuesday 12th January at 7pm.

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The next session is on Monday 11th January 6.30pm in the presbytery.

### First Holy Communion

Parents Meeting Monday 11th January at 7.45pm.

Children meet next on Saturday 16th at 10.30am.

## YEAR OF MERCY - PARISH EVENTS



### Day of Recollection

This Day of Recollection is especially for all the Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and the Catechists, the day is open to all parishioners also. The day will be led by Bishop Patrick Lynch ssc the Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark on **Saturday 20th February** starting at **10.30am**. The theme for the day is 'Mercy of God in the New Testament'. The day will end with a

Penitential Service led by Bishop Pat Lynch.

### Passion of Christ in Art

Fr Geoffrey Wheaton will be back with us to lead a reflection on the Passion of Christ in Art on **Saturday 12th March at 7.45pm** in the parish hall.

### Scripture Study Day with Fr Denis McBride cssr

The Mercy of God in the Old Testament. Saturday 9th April

## DIARY FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY - JANUARY 2016 - Reflections by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R

### Jesus' mission of mercy

Luke begins Jesus' public ministry with his return to Nazareth, his own home place. When he left home to travel south and meet John the Baptist, Jesus was known locally only as the son of Joseph the carpenter. When he returns, after his baptism by John and anointing in the Spirit, Jesus reveals a new identity to his people. Will the locals accept him?

When Jesus goes into his local synagogue on Sabbath as he usually did, this time he is invited to preach. He chooses a passage from Isaiah which gives a graceful summary of the programme of his new mission: to announce good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and to proclaim a jubilee year of favour. His mission of mercy begins in his own home town.

Pope Francis comments on this scene: "A 'year of the Lord's favour' or 'mercy': this is what the Lord proclaimed and this is what we wish to live now. This Holy Year will bring to the fore the richness of Jesus' mission" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 16)

Jesus' first mission, however, ends in disaster. While the locals' initial reaction is approval, they move quickly to rejection, insisting: "This is Joseph's son, surely?" They close out his message of mercy as they focus on the Jesus they know: they won't allow Jesus to become more than their frozen familiarity knows of him.

Jesus will always be much more than we can know of him; and he calls us beyond what we know of ourselves. Jesus' message will always call us beyond familiar boundaries, to a new generosity and mercy.



James Tissot, *Jesus Unrolls the Book in the Synagogue*

### PRAYER

*Have mercy on me, God,  
in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot  
out my offence.  
O wash me more and  
more from my guilt  
And cleanse me from my  
sin.*

Psalm 51:1-2

**"I think we too are the people who, on the one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: mercy. I think - and I say it with humility - that this is the Lord's most powerful message: mercy."**

*Pope Francis -The Church of Mercy*

## OTHER PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

**The next Bible Study** will take place on Tuesday 19th January 10.15 to 11.15am in the RDJ Room

### Parish Library is taking stock

Please return all your books, CDs and DVDs as soon as

possible. Leave them labelled "library" in the RDJ Room at any time.

The library will not be open until we have recovered all the missing items, which now amounts to over 120 books and 17 DVDs.

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## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS continued

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### Lenten Project

The Lenten Project AGM was well attended. It was reported that during Lent last year a total of £16,276.45 was raised. This, although not the highest annual total, was excellent when the Old Chapel appeal was running concurrently. Each of the four charities supported will or has received £4,050.

At the same meeting, nine charities were nominated for support 2016. After presentations on each proposal, it was decided that our charities for the 2016 Lenten Project will be:- Iraqi Christians in Need, John Lyall Charity, Madhya Pradesh Viklang Sahayata Samiti (MPVASS), Ugandan Children's Trust. Please see the notice board for full details.

### OLI JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB – Years 7 and 8

Dates for this term are: Friday 15 January, 12 February and 11 March in the Parish Hall from 7.15-8.45pm. If you are already a member, you should have received a letter with a payment slip for the new term. If not, just come along to the first session and complete a form then (or you can download it in advance from the Parish website – [www.olionline.co.uk](http://www.olionline.co.uk)). Membership Fee for term is £5.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-24 January

Mon 18th—Taize Service 7.45pm -Our Lady Immaculate  
Tues 19th—Prayer Service and buffet lunch— 12noon—URC  
Wed 20th—

### Feast of the Sto. Nino

We will celebrate in our parish the Feast of Sto Nino with the Filipino community on Sunday 17th January at 11am mass with Procession/Sinulog dance. We invite the community to bring a plate of food to share after the mass. The full Sinulog dance will be in the hall during the sharing of the food. The diocesan celebration will be on Saturday 16th from 2.30pm—7pm, St George's Cathedral.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016

#### January

Tues	5th	8.00pm	Liturgy Meeting
Mon	11th	7.45pm	First Communion Parents Mtg
Tues	12th	7.00pm	Confirmation Parents Meeting
Sat	16th	10.30am	First Communion Children
Mon	18th	8.00pm	Unity Taize Service at OLI
Mon	25th	7.30pm	Stewardship Meeting
Tue	26th	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting

#### February

Mon	1st	7.45pm	First Communion Parents Mtg
Sat	6th	10.30am	First Communion Children Lenten Project Quiz Night
Sat	20th	10.30am	Day of Recollection with Bishop Pat Lynch
Sat	27th	10.30am 12.30pm 2.30pm	First Reconciliation

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## DEANERY /DIOCESAN AND OTHER EVENTS

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### World Youth Day Pilgrimage—23rd July-1st August

As you are aware, Southwark Catholic Youth Services are organising the diocesan pilgrimage led by Archbishop Peter. We still have places available. We are aiming to pay deposits for travel to be paid before the end of December. Contact: [info@scys.org.uk](mailto:info@scys.org.uk) or call 01227 722900 for more information. Booking form [www.scys.org.uk/wyd](http://www.scys.org.uk/wyd)

### Calling All Married Couples

A Marriage Encounter weekend is an opportunity for a husband and wife to deepen and renew their relationship. February 13/14 there will be a Marriage Encounter weekend (not residential) in Purley. More details from Philip & Mary Pond on 020 8651 2477 or by email: [marriage2014@virginmedia.com](mailto:marriage2014@virginmedia.com)

### Volunteer Opportunities

Have you ever longed to make a difference to society? Do you believe healthy relationships can lead to a better society? Would you like to gain skills and experience whilst helping others build better relationships? Then Marriage Care has the opportunities you are looking for!

Marriage Care is a faith-based organisation that draws on its Catholic Christian tradition and contemporary research to help couples in both good times and bad. We provide marriage preparation courses and relationship counselling for couples across England and Wales.

Our centre in the Wimbledon area, which covers all of South West London, is looking for:



marriage  
care

· **Marriage Preparation Course Facilitators** (training is provided)

· **A Head of Centre** to lead and support the team in providing services locally

· **A Communications Officer** to help promote services and volunteering in the local area

· **Qualified counsellors** to provide relationship counselling to those in need (BACP endorsed training in Relationship Counselling is offered to counsellors not trained as relationship counsellors)

For more information, without any commitment, or to apply visit: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) or email [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk).