



OUR LADY IMMACULATE
TOLWORTH

No: 3307 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT C)

28th February 2016

Parish News

PARTNERS IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



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OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mr Tim Sheehan

REPENTANCE

Here we are on the Third Sunday in the Season of Lent, though (as Father Brendan put it) still in 'the weary month of February'. The Gospel reiterates Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is situated on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, during which he teaches and heals. He also responds to those who challenge and question his authority and actions. We hear the parable of the barren fig tree.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds around Jesus reported to him news of a massacre of Galileans by Pontius Pilate. It seems that the crowd wanted to ask Jesus to explain why these people had suffered. Religious teaching encouraged the belief that people's suffering was evidence of their sinfulness and they could therefore be discarded or written off. But Jesus utterly challenged this interpretation and said that those who had suffered were no more or no less sinful than those in the crowd. He warned that unless the people in the crowd repented, they would all perish as the Galileans did.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. He says in essence: Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment. However, the mood changes when Jesus teaches through the parable of the barren fig tree. The fig tree was planted in a vineyard, normally reserved for vines only, but as fertile land was scarce, space was found for this fig tree. It was a very privileged tree.

In the normal course of events it takes three years for a fig tree to reach maturity. If by then it is not fruiting, it is not likely to fruit at all. This was the case with the tree Jesus had in mind. For three years the owner had observed no fruit and concluded the tree was taking up valuable nourishment from the ground and giving nothing back in return. So he ordered the gardener to get rid of it. However, the gardener who knew lots about fig trees and was a very patient man asked the owner, "Sir, give it one more year. I'll dig the earth around it and give it plen-

ty of manure. Then, if there are no figs on it this time next year, we'll cut it down". The parable contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the owner of the vineyard.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus was teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as Jesus' prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness, that is, to be lacking in fruitfulness. And yet God is merciful. We can believe and celebrate that fact in this, the Year of Mercy. God delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for constant hope. Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to stay close to us even when we are unaware of his efforts. Jesus' parable contains a warning and a threat. Its purpose is to show us what we may be missing out on, or lacking, in order that we might have a deeper, richer, and more authentic life. He says, let those who think they are safe beware lest they fall. No one can take anything for granted. No one is so secure that he cannot fall. Yet, no one is so fallen that he cannot be redeemed.

Deacon Al=

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 27th/28th February 2016
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)**

Sat 6.30pm Holy Souls
Sun 9.00am Pasqualino Pozella (Wife)
11.00am Ken Stacey RIP and Nellie Walmsey
(Mary Stacey)
12.30pm **Baptisms:** Frank Lavender and
Thiyan Jacob Sebastian
6.00pm People of the Parish

**THIRD WEEK OF LENT (Year C)
29th February-5th March 2016**

Mon 29th **Feria**
9.30am Milagnos Hernandez (Stella Brister)
Tues 1st **St David**
9.30am Thanksgiving (Carmella Nagendran)
Wed 2nd **Feria**
9.30am John Spellman (Mrs Hill)
Thurs 3rd **Feria**
9.30am Intention of Donor (S Wijesekera)
Fri 4th **Feria**
9.30am Francis Gomes RIP (Branca D'Mello)
Sat 5th **Feria**
9.00am Maria Gomes RIP (Branca D'Mello)

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 5th/6th March 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)**

Laetare Sunday

Sat 6.30pm People of the Parish
Sun 9.00am Joe Cullinan (Patrick Grogan)
11.00am Denis Deasy (Cummins Family)
12.30pm **Baptisms:** Isabella Blackwell
Joshua Berkinshaw
6.00pm Richard Trutwein (H & G Trutwein)

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

Next Sunday's Readings—4th Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12
Second Reading: Corinthians 5:17-21
Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Last Sunday's Collection £1554.41
Thank you very much for your continued generosity.

Union of Catholic Mothers

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st March in the RDJ Room at 8pm. We will have our AGM. Please can members think about coming on the committee. This will be followed by ideas for future meetings.

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, 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:** 2nd March

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.

Old Chapel Refurbishment Work

The refurbishment work on the Old Chapel is now almost finished! There are still some finishing touches to complete. However, it is proposed that there will be an Opening Event soon after Easter. More details to follow.

Church Cleaning

I would like to thank all those who have carried out this duty over the years as I will no longer be preparing the roster, fortunately Tessa McLeod has agreed to take over this work and it will be very helpful if all those on the existing list can confirm that they can carry on. Also we need new helpers, the more people we have the less often we have to work. It involves a couple of hours, working in pairs, cleaning equipment is available in the church. Existing and New Helpers please contact Tessa on 8399 4789 as soon as possible. Once again many thanks to all who help. Gerry Hague.

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 prepa-

rations, 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 and the God Parents. No dates for baptism can be arranged until both preparation sessions are completed.

Sacrament of Confirmation 2016

Next preparation session for the candidates is on Tuesday 8th at 7.00pm in the church hall.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Sessions are held on Monday at 6.30pm in the presbytery.

First Holy Communion

Next Meetings

Parents: Tuesday 1st March at 7.45pm
Children: Sat. 5th March at 10.30am.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



PARISH LENTEN PROJECT 2016

Union of Catholic Mothers

Table Sale - This weekend after all Masses.

LENTEN PROJECT SPONSORED WALK

This weekend, the Tolworth Trekkers are embarking on another epic 104 km (!!!) walk to raise money for the Lenten Project. On Saturday 27 February, we plan to walk from OLI Church to the Thames and (following the south side of the river) walk the 52 km (32.5 miles!) to Greenwich. Then, on Sunday 28 February, we will retrace our steps, aiming to get back to Tolworth in time for Sunday evening Mass.

Please sponsor the Tolworth Trekkers!!! The easiest way to do this is to use the Justgiving site for the Lenten Project <https://www.justgiving.com/OLITLentenProject>. Alternatively, please pop a cheque / cash through the Presbytery door. Many thanks in advance for your kindness and generosity - it will make all our blisters worthwhile!!

Table Top Sale

This will take place after the 9.00 and 11.00 Masses on **Sunday 13th March**. Items sold will include china and kitchen items, jewellery, good quality clothing, plants, toys, books and games and much more! Teas, coffees and cakes and biscuits will also be on sale.

We are looking for items to sell and raffle prizes (e.g. unwanted gifts, good bric-a-brac, jewellery, household items, toiletries and chocolates). Please contact Elspeth (Elspeth.casey@rbs.com) to organise collection.

Lenten Project Grand Draw

This year, the Lenten Project is organising an exciting Grand Draw. Sponsored by Greenfield Estate Agents, we have the following amazing prizes: iPad mini (value £200), John Lewis Vouchers (£100), M&S Vouchers (£75), 5 x £25 M&S Vouchers.

Tickets will be distributed for sale after all Masses on the weekends of 5th & 6th March and 12th & 13th March. Parishioners are kindly asked to take a couple of books to support the Lenten Project by selling to friends and family.

Cash and counterfoils need to be returned in the envelope provided by Sunday 10th April at the latest by placing through the presbytery letterbox.

THE LENTEN PROJECT— AMOUNT RAISED SO FAR	
Quiz Night	500.00
OLI PTA	200.00
Just Giving site	250.00
Krispy Kreme doughnuts sale	149.00
TOTAL So Far	1099.00



YEAR OF MERCY EVENTS

Passion of Christ in Art

Once again we welcome Fr Geoffrey Wheaton sj to the parish. He will lead a reflection on the Passion of Christ/ Mercy of God in Art on **Saturday 12th March at 7.45pm** in the parish hall. Please sign the form at the back of the church if you intend to come.

Scripture Study Day with Fr Denis McBride cssr

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

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March, 10.30am St Mark's Church, Surbiton. Please see notice board for details.

Kingston Foodbank Collection - This Weekend

Foodbank collection after all Masses thisweekend (27/28 February) - so do please do bring donations, even 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 continue to 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 (packet or pot noodles) and steamed puddings.

Many thanks for you continued support.
OLI Foodbank Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016

March

Tues 1st	7.30pm	First Communion Parents Mtg.
Wed 2nd	8.00pm	Liturgy Meeting
Sat 5th	10.30am	First Communion Children
Mon 7th	7.00pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Tue 8th	7.00pm	Confirmation Candidates Session
Sat 12th	7.45pm	Passion of Christ in Art
Sun 13th	9 & 11am	After Mass Table Top Sale
Tues 15th	7.00pm	Confirmation Candidates Session
	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Tues 22nd	7.00pm	Confirmation Candidates Session

Thur 24th—Sun 27th Easter Triduum

Southwark Catholic Youth Service Year of Mercy Events

contact info@scys.org.uk 1227 272900.

24 Hours for the Lord - 4th—5th March

Pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Mercy St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Mass at 12.30pm. 7.30pm evening prayer starts a night of music, art, film, prayer and reflection led by SCYS. Reconciliation available.

Born For This - 19th March - Aylesford Priory

A powerful and moving depiction of the Stations of the Cross presented by young people of the diocese.

Triduum Retreat - Service, Passion, Glory

at Aylesford Priory 24th-27th March 2016.

Thursday evening—Sunday morning. £55 per person (based on sharing). includes food and accommodation. Open to young people age 18+.

I Believe - 24th April

Join Archbishop Peter Smith at St George's Cathedral for an afternoon of catechesis, testimony, prayer and music with other young Catholics to reflect on the faces of mercy in our lives. 3pm -5pm. Followed by refreshments in Amigo Hall. The event is for those Confirmed or to be Confirmed in the Year of Mercy. Contact jean@scys.org.uk or above number. Under 18's need to be accompanied.

Summer Youth Day at Aylesford Priory

26th June 2016. Open to school years 7-11. Please book in advance. £10 per person.

DEANERY /DIOCESAN / LOCAL EVENTS

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in the Year of Mercy is on 19th-26th August.

This year the pilgrimage will be led by Archbishop Peter Smith. Bookings are now being accepted. Please speak to Fr Edward, Diocesan Director of Pilgrimages for booking forms. It would be great to have a group from the parish in this Year of Mercy.

Epsom and District Irish Association Dance

at the Rhodrons Club, Rhodons Avenue, Chessington, KT9 1BA on **18th March** dancing from 8.30pm—11.30pm with Kevin Keys. Local parking, raffle and licensed bar. Tickets £5 on the door. Tele. number: 0208 397 2683

“The Old Covenant”

Talk by Cecilia Suarez - Monday 29th February - 7.30pm - St Catherine of Sienna, 100 Leatherhead Rd, Chessington.

Romero Week 2016

The annual National Ecumenical Service in honour of Blessed Oscar Romero will be held at St Martin in the Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, SW1 on Saturday 19th March at 11am. Preacher: Francisco de Poux, SJ, Peace Advocate in Colombia. All welcome

Kingston Branch National Childbirth Trust Nearly New Sale

Good quality clothes including baby, toddler and maternity. Toys and equipment for baby, toddler and children

Date: Sunday 17th April 2016 2pm - 4pm

Venue: Tolworth Recreation Centre

Fullers Way North, Tolworth

Admission: £1:50 and Free Parking

Priority and early admission queue for NCT members

(1:45pm). Sellers to book a table please e-mail: nctkingstonnns@googlemail.com

Marriage and Family Life

Spreading the Good News in the Family

with Family Life Team—Evangelization Seminar 5

For members of Parish Evangelization Teams, Parish Councils, Religious, Priests and Deacons. Saturday 12th March 2016 from 2.00-5.00pm. St William of York, 4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS.

Marriage MoT - Saturday April 30th at Holy Cross School, New Malden from 9.45am-4.30pm. Come and enrich your relationship. To book contact: 0206 651 2477 or marriage2014@virginmedia.com

Celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or later wedding anniversary? If so, Archbishop Peter invites you to join him to renew your vows and celebrate a Mass for married couples at 3pm on Saturday June 18th at St George's Cathedral. Your family are welcome too. Please enter your name on the form on the parish notice board to receive a personal invitation.

Marriage Preparation Days 2016

Please see notice board for dates and venues and booking details.

Centre for Catholic Formation Events

Tooting Bec Road, SW17 8BS Tele: 020 8672 7684
email: office@ccftootingbec.org.uk

St George's Cathedral - 24 Hours for the Lord
4th-5th March. 24 hours will start with Mass at 12.30pm.

Confirmation and RCIA Catechists

New Confirmation Rite Meetings 7.30—9.00pm

Thursday 10th March, St Joseph's Parish Centre, Montem Rd, New Malden, KT3 3QW. No charge but please register.