



OUR LADY IMMACULATE
TOLWORTH

No: 3312 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C)

3rd April 2016

Parish News

PARTNERS IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



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HEADTEACHER: Mr Tim Sheehan

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

As we continue to celebrate the central mystery of our faith—the resurrection of the Lord, it is useful to reflect somewhat on our faith. In a sense, our whole lives pivot (should?) on faith. We are all perhaps familiar with those beautiful words of today's gospel—words from the apostle, Thomas—My Lord and My God!

Like most, perhaps all of us, we are at times like Thomas, we want to see for ourselves. This is very much part of how we live today—science as we know it wants tangible evidence—that can be seen and tested in that kind of way. So it seems very natural that we might occasionally be a bit like Thomas—unless I see! It is possibly what leads many of us to Lourdes, Fatima, Knock and other such places—we are looking for miracles—clear evidence that the faith stuff is not all make-belief. At the same time, some among us may indeed have witnessed powerful moments which we could identify as miracles in this sense but for most of us, this is not true.

However, what perhaps we need to focus on are the less dramatic wonders of our own lives. It is often on looking back we recognize how God was at work—at the time all seemed so hopeless and we may have felt very much alone. Yet, as the years go by we can see that there was providence at work. It may be worth recalling that one of the gospel passages at least notes that it is when we are weakest we are strong. In other words, through our weakness, God's power can manifest itself. However,

unless we have faith and take time to reflect on our faith we will miss so much of where we were touched by God. In modern jargon, they talk of graced experiences. So, at this time, it is useful to thank God for our faith and perhaps realize that God has been with us when we did not notice—we thought we were on our own. This is still true. God is with us and the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass) keeps reminding us of this—that God is with us. Our morning after morning challenge is to acknowledge this and live as people of God—children of God in fact. This is a challenge—it means putting aside those moments of darkness and unbelief and embracing the consolation and light which the Resurrection of the Lord signals.

Pope Francis has reminded us that we can live all too easily as if the Resurrection did not take place. We can be messengers of despair, of 'how terrible things are,' how wonderful it all was in the past and this kind of unreality; no, that is not how children of light should live—we should be prophets of hope, of seeing the light even in and perhaps particularly in the darkest night. This can be hard. Let's not underestimate the struggle. However, let's not underestimate the power of the Resurrection! It is my hope and prayer that you may often during the day say with Thomas: My Lord and my God!

Fr Brendan Carmody SJ

2nd/3rd April 2016
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year C)
Divine Mercy Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Gladys Millard (Mrs S. Howe)
Sun 9.00am People of the Parish
11.00am Mary Hunt RIP (Mr & Mrs Smallwood)
12.30pm **Baptisms: Josh Desai**
6.00pm Alan Mundow (Mundow Family)

SECOND WEEK OF EASTER (Year C)
4th—9th April 2016

Mon 4th 9.30am **The Annunciation of the Lord**
Ann Groves (Rosemary Durkin)
Tues 5th 9.00am **Feria**
Keith Haran RIP (Rosemary Durkin)
Wed 6th 9.30am **Feria**
Gibbey Family (Maureen Brunker)
11.00am **Funeral Mass for Isidorio Rodrigues**
Thurs 7th 9.30am **Saint John the Baptist de la Salle**
Welfare of Timothy O'Sullivan
(Rosemary Durkin)
Fri 8th 9.30am **Feria**
Gretta O'Reilly
Sat 9th 9.00am **Feria**
Kathleen Parker (Rose Comey)

9th/10th April 2016
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year C)

Sat 6.30pm Holy Souls
Sun 9.00am People of the Parish
11.00am Mary Estall (Bob Estall)
12.30pm **Baptisms: No Baptisms**
6.00pm Special Intention of G & H Trutwein
(G & H Trutwein)

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

Next Sunday's Readings— 3rd Sunday of Easter (C)

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32. 40-41
Second Reading: Apocalypse 5:11-14
Gospel John 21:1-19

Thank you very much for your generous Easter Offerings, Gifts and Greetings. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Good Friday Collection for Holy Places £353.39.
The places connected with Our Lord's Passion have always been centres of veneration and pilgrimage. This Good Friday collection is sent for their upkeep, and to maintain Christian schooling in the area.

Lenten Project Boxes

Please be good enough to return the Lenten collection boxes. Thank you for your support.

Lenten Project Raffle Draw

After 11am Mass on Sunday 17th April.

Please remember in your prayers all those who have died especially those whose anniversary falls at this time. We 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, especially those within our own parish community:

Vanessa Andrew, Arthur Bailey, Christina Beyer, Joan Bulley, Jim Creighan, Reynario Diaz, Martin Dray, Anthony Durkin, Tony Fisher, Geoff Grenade, Anne Groves, Thomas Haley, Jan Leightley, Roisin Loftus, Frances Powell, 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: 6th April

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

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.

Cafe: Every Wednesday after the morning mass in the RDJ room.

Union Of Catholic Mothers - Next Meeting

Tuesday 5th April @ 8pm in the RDJ Room. Please share your amusing family stories with us this evening.

Bible Study

There will be no regular Bible Study on Tuesdays during the next few months. However, a new Bible Study Group may start in September.

Liturgy Meeting

This Tuesday, 5th April, at 8pm.

Parish Library

The Parish Library will be open on the **week-end of 23/24 April.**

Blessing of The Old Chapel

This will take place on Saturday 30th April after the evening Mass. The Old Chapel will be open after the Sunday Mass for the parishioners to see. More details will be shared after Easter.

Paul: apostle of forgiveness

Before the war in Afghanistan that began in October 2001, news media around the world were carrying stories that the ruling party, the Taliban, were destroying anything from their pre-Islamic past, particularly images of the Buddha. We watched the Taliban destroy the great art of a modest religion. More recently we watched members of the so-called Islamic State destroy archaeological treasures in the ancient city of Palmyra.

That systematic destruction of images seems strange to modern ears; it is not as bad, however, as what Saul did at the beginning of his public career. Saul first appears as an accomplished persecutor not of images but of people, committed to destroying the followers of Jesus. Putting together religion and violence, Paul passionately believed in ethnic cleansing. As Luke tells us, "Saul worked for the total destruction of the Church" (Acts 8:3). In spite of his violent past, Paul is chosen

by Christ to be his apostle to the Gentiles. Paul goes to Jerusalem to share his experience with the apostles, but he stayed for only fifteen days. Luke tells us why: when Paul arrived "he tried to join the disciples, but they were afraid of him; they could not believe he really was a disciple" (Acts 9:26)

Unsurprisingly, Paul has real trouble in being accepted by the people he was persecuting; but he perseveres. As his new vocation began in the experience of the Lord's mercy, so that experience will dominate his life and thinking: "Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same" (Colossians 3:13).

For Paul, the experience of the Lord's mercy obliges us: what we have received freely we should give freely.



El Greco, Saint Paul (detail)

PRAYER

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

"Our prayer also extends to the saints and the blessed ones who made divine mercy their mission in life. I am especially thinking of the great apostle of mercy, Saint Faustina Kowalska. May she, who was called to enter the depths of divine mercy, intercede for and obtain for us the grace of living and walking always according to the mercy of God and with an unwavering trust in his love." Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, 24

SACRAMENTS and LITURGY in the Parish

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 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 12th April at

7.00pm in the church hall.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Sessions continue on Mondays at 6.30pm in the presbytery.

First Holy Communion

Next Meetings

Parents: Monday 11th April at 7.45pm
Children: Sat. 16th April at 10.30am.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Scripture Study Day with Fr Denis McBride cssr

We are delighted to welcome Fr Denis McBride, cssr next Saturday, 9th April. Fr Denis is a distinguished international scripture scholar and director of Redemptorist Publications. He will speak on The Mercy of God in the Old Testament. The talk will start at 10.30am and finish at 3.00pm. Tea and coffee available from 10am onwards. Please bring a packed

lunch. There is a Sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Lenten 'Life in the Spirit' Groups

All who participated in one of these Lenten groups are invited to a celebration at 6.30 pm on Sunday 10th April at St Mark's church, Surbiton.

Parish Dinner—Friday 29th April

Once again we have organised the Parish Dinner at Restaurant Sorrento on the 29th April. The cost for the meal is £17.55.

We are now taking bookings. If you like to book a table, or a seat, please post your name, contact details and the full payment for the meal in an envelope marked "Parish Meal" and addressed to Andrew Richardson through the presbytery door. Also if you wish to sit with specific people, please indicate the names of the people.

The cost includes a full three course meal (service charge included) but does not include the price of drinks.

For more details please contact Andrew Richardson at; andrew@andrewkrichardson.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

Mon	11th	7.30pm	First Communion Parents Meeting
Tues	12th	7.00pm	Confirmation Candidates Session
Sat	16th	10.30am	First Communion Children Session
Mon	18th	8.00pm	Stewardship Meeting
Tues	19th	7.00pm	Confirmation Candidates Session
Sun	24th	6.00pm	Mass of Acceptance-Confirmation
Tues	26th	7.00pm	Reconciliation—Confirmation
Fri	29th	7.30pm	Parish Meal
Sat	30th	Blessing of Old Chapel after 6.30pm Mass	

May

Wed	4th	7.00pm	Finance Meeting
Tues	10th	8.00pm	Meeting of Parish Council
Sat	14th	11.00am	Confirmation
Mon	16th	7.30pm	First Communion Parents Meeting
Sat	21st	10.30am	First Communion Children Session

Thank You

On behalf of my daughter Veronica and son Adrian I would like to thank the U.C.M. members, friends and parishioners for their expression of sympathy for the loss of my dear husband Alan Phillips who passed away on the 12th of March. May he rest in peace.
Vivien Phillips

Pilgrimages

Pilgrimage to Holy Land—Following in the Footsteps of Our Lord Jesus Christ. From 6th to 14th September 2016 including all excursions for £1,169, flying from London Heathrow.

Pilgrimage to Fatima

From 20th-26th November 2016 including all excursions for £639, flying from London Heathrow. For further information on both the above call Mrs Mozzi on 0208 472 0843 or 07859 027301

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.

Marriage and Family Life

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

Celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or later wedding anniversary? Archbishop Peter invites you to renew your vows and celebrate a Mass at 3pm on Saturday June 18th at St George's Cathedral. Your family are welcome too. Sign your name on the form at the back of the church to receive a personal invitation.

Marriage Preparation Days 2016

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

Faith and Fun for all the Family

'Celebrate' is an exciting opportunity for Catholic families. Celebrate Twickenham is on weekend 18th/19th June (non residential) at St Mary's University, Twickenham TW1 4SX. Faith filled and fun event combining good Catholic teaching, inspirational speakers and Celebration of the Liturgy. More information plus booking form from www.celebrateconference.org/weekends/twickenham/

Southwark Catholic Youth Service

contact info@scys.org.uk

1227 272900.

I Believe - 24th April

Join Archbishop Peter Smith at St George's Cathedral for an afternoon of catechesis, testimony, prayer and music 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.

'Joel Community Services is looking to recruit a Fundraiser

15 hours a week including occasional evenings and some weekend work. £25,000 (pro rata) depending on experience. For application form and job spec. please email: beckymills@joelcommunityservices.org.uk Closing date: Saturday 16th April 2016.

DEANERY /DIOCESAN / LOCAL EVENTS

Saints of Mercy

A series of talks by expert speakers on well known saints of mercy. These talks will take place during Eastertide, in the Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, on the six Thursday evenings from 7th April until 12th May, time 7.30pm.

The Labyrinth—Led by Dr. Martin Garsed

Saturday, 9 April: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

House of Prayer, 35 Seymour Rd, East Molesey, KT8 0PB
The Labyrinth is an ancient symbolic pattern, across all faiths, civilisations and cultures. This day is an opportunity for spiritual renewal and encouragement on your journey. Cost: £20 each. Please bring a packed lunch.

Please contact us on: 020 8941 2313 or e-mail: houseofprayer@hotmail.co.uk to reserve a place.

Love Heals—Body Mind and Spirit Ministry

7 Day Retreat in Portugal at Castle De Vide Retreat House. 9th-15th June. See notice board for details.