



OUR LADY IMMACULATE
TOLWORTH

No: 3317 ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

8th May 2016

Parish News

PARTNERS IN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SURBITON



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ASCENSION OF THE LORD

As we today watch with the disciples as the Lord ascends to the sky, we are remembering that day now long past as the feast of the Ascension which was Thursday in past times. It seems to have been the last time when Jesus showed himself to the disciples and so it has a note of closure. It brings to an end the earthly life of Jesus as well as his post-resurrection appearances to various people. In that respect, it probably, like any farewell had a note of sadness for those men and women who had walked the roads, shared meals with him, and been through his ordeal. In a way, it was all history for them now.

As he soars into the air, we may assume that tears came to their eyes for parting with someone we treasure and love is always a bit difficult. Then as he disappears, they are confronted with what do we do now? They were a bit confused even if Jesus had done much to reassure them that they would not be alone. Besides that, there were many of their fellow Jews who were furious with what they were doing as part of a new way. We know that Saul had no time for this kind of carry-on and was ready to persecute them basically for undermining Judaism. In any event, the disciples went back to the city in a sad, frightened, mood. This sounds like a very strange ending but they were reminded that in fact it was not the end, it was the beginning of their mission to their fellow Jews and then to the Gentiles.

I suppose we all have the kind of tendency that we see with this group—a natural inclination to get locked in the past. However, for the disciples the past was to be the launching ground to the future. For us, too, what has happened should not enslave us.

In reflecting on this episode of the Lord's Ascension, we might wonder why the Lord did not leave his followers and disciples in a better place for leading and evangelizing. In today's world, we hear of church leadership programmes, stewardship, and all sorts of courses even in theology and psychology to enable the pastor to be better equipped. Yet, Jesus did not seem to have taken this route.

What it may say is not so much that modern science and knowledge are not precious. They are and we need to benefit from much that is taking place in the so-called secular world in terms of accountability, leadership, communication and all that. However, at the same time, we need to be careful that we do not confuse secular leadership and organization theory with church organization and leadership. They are grounded differently as is success in the mission. Sometimes, what seems failure is precisely success in the religious sense. Think of Christ on Good Friday—what a disaster it would seem—but yet this was his hour of glory. So, as we recall the Ascension, we remind ourselves that the first Christians were weak and worried like we so often are but they went back to Jerusalem trusting that the Lord would not leave them alone. As we live our lives, too, perhaps we need to keep this also in view, no matter how hopeless it all may seem, we do not walk alone.

Fr Brendan

7th/8th May 2016

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Year C)

World Communications Day

Sat 6.30pm Nicholas Reginald (Maria Sebastian)
Sun 9.00am Holy Souls
11.00am People of the Parish
12.30pm **Baptisms:** Harry Stimpson
6.00pm Holy Souls

SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER (Year C)

9th—14th May 2016

Mon 9th **Feria**
9.30am Thomas Ritchins

Tues 10th **Feria**
9.30am Thanksgiving to St Anthony

Wed 11th **Feria**
9.30am Margaret and Peter Crawford

Thurs 12th **Feria**
9.30am K C Joseph RIP
K A Kuriakose

Fri 13th **Feria**
9.30am Michael Hills
James Daly

Sat 14th **Saint Matthias**
9.00am Joe Nason (Nason Family)
Mr Abraham
11.00am **CONFIRMATION**

14th/15th May 2016

PENTECOST SUNDAY (Year C)

Sat 6.30pm Kathleen Hogan RIP (Anniversary)
(Peter Hogan)

Sun 9.00am Intention of Donor (Shanthi and Sutha)
11.00am Welfare of Yvonne Fox (Cecilia Hatt)
12.30pm **Baptisms:** No Baptisms
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— Ascension of the Lord (C)

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-17

Gospel John 14:15-16. 23-26

Last Week's Collection: £1902. 42

Special Collection for Ukraine: £336. 57

Thank you for your continued generosity.

TODAY is World Communication Day and there is a Second Collection for Catholic Communications Network (CCN) the media office of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.

Prayer cards are available at the back of the church.

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, Jim Creighan, Martin Dray, Anthony Durkin, Tony and Mavis Fisher, Geoff Grenade, Anne Groves, Thomas Haley, Jan Leightley, Roisin Loftus, Frances Powell, Simon Munnery, Pat Parker, Lewis Penn, Cecelia Russell, Ruben 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: 25th May.**

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.

Death

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Louis Lewis who died last Wednesday. Please remember his family also in your prayers. Funeral arrangements will be notified later.

The Blessing of the Old Chapel

The Blessing of the Old Chapel takes place after the 6.30pm Mass. Parishioners are welcome to see inside Old Chapel after all Sunday Masses this weekend.

Pentecost Vigil

As announced last week the Pentecost Vigil begins at 8pm next Saturday. During the Vigil at the top of every hour we will pray the Litany of the Holy Spirit and the Rosary followed by prayer to the Holy Spirit. Tea and coffee will be available in the RDJ room all through the night. Come as individuals or as a family or as a group to pray and invoke the Holy Spirit to renew us in a special way during this Year of Mercy.

SACRAMENTS and LITURGY in the Parish

Confirmation Preparation

Reconciliation is on Tuesday 26th April at 7.00pm

Candidates next preparation session is on Tuesday 10th May at 6.30pm.



Sacrament of Confirmation

Next Saturday, 14th May we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in our parish when 18 of our young people will be making their

Confirmation. We welcome Bishop Paul to our parish on this occasion. Please remember our candidates, their sponsors and their families in your prayers. We thank all the Confirmation Catechists for all the hard work they have done in preparing our

young people to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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.

First Holy Communion

Next Meetings

Parents: Monday 16th May at 7.45pm
Children: Sat. 21st May at 10.30am.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Next sessions is on Monday 9th May at 6.30pm in the presbytery.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Bedding Plant Sale

If you wish to order bedding plants, please place your order and payment in an envelope marked "Bedding Plants" and post through the presbytery door by **11th May**.

Big Breakfast and Plant Sale

The Justice & Peace Group are holding another big breakfast, combined with a plant sale on Sunday 22nd May, in the parish hall, after the 9.0 Mass, until about 12.30. We hope to be selling courgettes, tomatoes, lettuces, morning glory, sunflowers, and some indoor plants. Please come along and grab a bargain, enjoy breakfast and support the Lenten Project. This may be your last chance to do so!

OLI JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

Dates for Youth club (for children in Years 7 and 8) for the rest of this term are: Friday 20 May, 24 June, 1 July - in the Parish Hall 7.15pm-8.45pm.

Parents and carers are also invited to our Annual General Meeting at 6.30pm on Friday 20 May (just before youth club meets). Please come along if you are interested in being involved in the youth club in future. We are very short of helpers and have to make a decision at that meeting whether we are able to continue to run the club the following year (from September) – if more people aren't able to help then we may have to close the club which would be very disappointing and such a shame for all the children who enjoy coming along.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May

Tues	10th	6.30pm 8.00pm	Confirmation Candidates Session Meeting of Parish Council
Sat	14th	11.00am	Confirmation Pentecost All Night Vigil
Mon	16th	7.45pm	First Communion Parents Meeting
Sat	21st	10.30am	First Communion Children Session
Sun	22nd	10.00am	Big Breakfast/Plant Sale

June

Mon	6th	7.45pm	First Communion Parents Meeting
Tues	7th	8.00pm	Liturgy Meeting
Sat	11th	10.30am	First Communion Children Session
Mon	13th	7.00pm	Mass—Feast of St Anthony
Tues	14th	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sat	18th / Sun	19th	First Holy Communion Weekend
Mon	20th	7.30pm	First Communion Parents Meeting
Tues	21st	8.00pm	Parish Council AGM
Sat	25th	10.30am	First Communion Get-together
Sun	26th	2.00pm	Baptism Get-together

DEANERY/DIOCESAN/LOCAL EVENTS

Pre-Pentecost Celebration

at St Joseph's Catholic Church, New Malden, KT3 3QW on Saturday 14th May from 10am—3pm. Please see notice board for details.

Mass for New Catholics

Saturday 14th May, 11am at St George's Cathedral. After Mass there will be a Q & A session with the Archbishop. Godparents, sponsors, family, clergy, cate-

chists, parishioners and friends are also warmly invited.

Study Day for New and Potential Catechists

The day will comprise 4 sessions including input and discussion on: The vocation of the catechist, First Holy Communion, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Baptism, the Liturgy, RCIA,

prayer, safeguarding advice and practical guidance on working with adults and children.

Time and Venue: Saturday 11 June, 10am for 10.30am -4.00pm at Catholic Formation, Tooting Bec Road, SW17 8BS. Cost: £10 includes a light lunch.

An evening with Cardinal Bo

St Joseph's Pastoral Centre on Friday 13th May @ 7.30pm, in association with Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) & Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, Burma/Myanmar's first ever Cardinal, has long been one of the most outspoken voices for Human rights, religious freedom, inter-religious harmony, peace and justice in the country. He will speak about the situation and challenges in Burma and hope for the future.

History, Richness and Theology of Icons

led by Sister Esther Pollak. **Venue:** House of Prayer, 35 Seymour Rd, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0PB.

Time: Saturday 28 May 10.00am-4pm. **Cost:£20** Please bring a packed lunch. *To reserve a place contact: 020 8941 2313 or e-mail: houseofprayer@hotmail.co.uk*

Martyrs' Walk - Sunday 26th June 2016

Meet 1.30pm at St Sepulchre's Churchyard (opposite the Old Bailey) to walk the Tyburn Way ending at Tyburn Convent for Confession, Benediction and reception.

A Reasonable Faith - Two Talks by Sebastian Morello
The Marriage of Faith and Reason—9 June
Atheism and the Death of Reason - 16 June
Amigo Hall, Lambeth Rd, SE1 6HR from 7.30 -8.30pm.

Living Fully 2016: Disability, Culture and Faith

'In June this year, Bishop Paul Hendricks alongside the Kairos Forum UK and in partnership with the Pontifical Council for Culture, will be coordinating two exciting events in Rome, for the Jubilee Year. These events are creative, international and ecumenical. Our celebratory activities will interweave the Gospel with the lives, stories and experiences of people of all abilities'.

1. 23 June: An academic symposium, Living Fully 2016: Disability, Culture and Faith.

2. 24-26 June: A creative and vibrant conference, Living Fully 2016: Disability, Culture and Faith: A Celebration including a differentiated, parallel programme for people who have been intellectually disabled, enabling them to celebrate and promote their vital place within the Body of Christ.

Please do share the news and join us for these events. Information and how to book can be found on www.livingfully2016.com or by calling Cristina Gangemi on 01883372114 or cgangemi.kairos@gmail.com

People with Disability at the Heart of the Church

'Celebrating who I am, unique and beautifully designed'
Sunday 3rd July 2016 12 noon-4pm at The Friars, Aylesford ME20 7BX. Contact: CCF 020 8672 7684

Pilgrimages /Retreats

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in the Year of Mercy - 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.

National Pilgrimage to Fatima 2016

7th-14th July. £639 includes flights, half board, taxes and

PACT - Can you help prisoners & their families?

You are invited to come & see the opportunities for you to volunteer to help those in prison, prisoner's families, and ex-offenders. The Catholic prison charity Pact (Prison Advice & Care Trust) works in several prisons across London and relies heavily on volunteers to help those in need.

Saturday 11th June. Drop in any time between 9.30am – 1.00pm. St George's Cathedral, Amigo Hall. For more information contact Tom:

Thomas.Brinkle@prisonadvice.org.uk or call 0203 031 6869

'Celebrate' Faith and Fun for all the Family

Celebrate Twickenham is on 18th/19th June (non residential) at St Mary's University, Twickenham TW1 4SX. Faith filled and fun event with inspirational speakers and Celebration of the Liturgy. Information/ booking www.celebrateconference.org/weekends/twickenham/

Outdoor Service at the Tennis Tournament

Surbiton Racket and Fitness Club are keen for the Churches Together in Surbiton to run a "Songs of Praise" type service as part of the community festival which opens the Aegon Tennis Tournament which they are hosting. This will take place at 9am Sunday 5th June on the main grass court, this has seating for approx 550 plus standing room, up to 1000 people could be accommodated if required. In the event of rain the large catering marquee will be used. The service will be advertised locally and the Davis Cup trophy (last won by Team GB) will be on display. Volunteer stewards will be needed to help direct people to the service etc. More information to follow.

VACANCIES

Laleham Lea School

Catholic Independent, Co-ed aged 3-11
F/T Teacher required to start September 2016
Closing Date: 18th May 2016 Details from Ms Lisa de Barra secretart@lalehamlea.co.uk or 020 8660 3351
More details on notice board

**Church of the Sacred Heart Wimbledon
Youth Minister**

JNC Youth and Community Salary Scale
Pts 11 – 14 (£21,254 - £24,243 + ILA £2,983)
We are looking for a practising Catholic to assist the Parish Priest and our team of volunteer catechists in leading, developing and co-ordinating parish pastoral programmes from five years to early adulthood.

Further information/application form from Thelma D'Costa at wimparish@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk
Closing date: 23 May. Interviews: June 2016

**Ursuline Preparatory School Wimbledon
Experienced Art Teacher** (3 days per week) Required for September 2016. Salary: £27, 819 – 37, 862
Further details/application form may be downloaded from www.ursuline-prep.merton.sch.uk or are available from the school office on 0208 947 0859 or email: recruitment@wups.co.uk.

Closing Date: 16th May 2016. Interviews: 20th May 2016