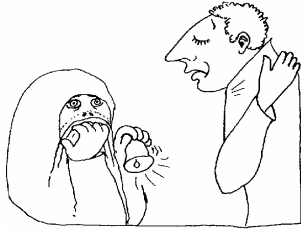


# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

The Sixth Sunday of the Year  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2009



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It's become fashionable to compare the modern-day disease of AIDS and HIV with leprosy. They're not connected medically but they sometimes have the same effect on those who suffer with the illness: they become isolated, shunned and in some cases looked down upon. Certainly lepers were despised at the time of Jesus. They were not allowed to live in the towns or to mix with other people. They carried a bell or made some noise when approaching people so that everyone had a chance to move away from them. They wore torn clothes and shielded their faces. And there was no way in which they were allowed to practise their religion like the rest of society. They were outcasts. When St Mark reports the curing of the leper in the first chapter of his gospel there is much more at stake than a simple healing of an individual. Mark is anxious to point out from the start that there is no such thing as a no-go area for Jesus, since he has come to offer salvation to all, irrespective of who they are. There are no people who are beyond the pale, no sinners who have committed such sins that they cannot hope for forgiveness, no people who don't qualify for the promises of God. So as well as looking at what happened to the leper we also have to keep in mind the effect on the crowd that witnessed the miracle. They would have been shocked that Jesus had anything to do with a man whom their law said was untouchable. And they would have been confused that a religious man, a rabbi, seemed to be acting against what their religion had taught them. Maybe today's gospel can teach us two things. The first is to ask ourselves whether we think that there are some people who are beyond forgiveness. Are there some crimes that merit permanent exclusion from society? Or maybe we are tempted to think that we ourselves have behaved in such a way that we do not deserve to have God bother about us any more? And the second thing is to be honest about the way we view other people. Our society loves to have its lepers because it makes us feel superior. We're not like them. We're clean. Are there people that we feel superior to? And if so, why?

## UKRAINIAN EVENING

The Ukrainian Community would like to invite you to an "Ukrainian Experience" on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009 from 7.30 until late in Eleanor Hall. This is a fund raising event for the St Joseph's Parish Centre. There will be food, singing, a live band – treat yourselves to a different kind of evening! Tickets are £7 for adults and £3 for OAP/Students and are available by calling Anna Boatman on 01992 635105.

## FAIRTRADE FAIR

Fairtrade Fair at Holy Apostles Church, 47 Cumberland St. Pimlico, SW1. Admission is free. Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm, come and join in the diocesan celebration World music, international talent, stalls, wine, food tasting, and more.

## THE PERMANENT DIACONTE IN WESTMINSTER

Do you want to know more? A 'Come and See Morning' is being held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 10am until 12.30pm. It is being held at Holy Apostles Church Hall, Cumberland Street, Pimlico SW1V 4LY. If you are interested in attending, please telephone Canon Pat Browne on 07988 441 691 or Deacon Jim Richards on 07977 133 572. No pre-booking is required. Just go along!

## CELEBRATION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Lourdes has a unique place in the faith and devotion of Catholics throughout the world. This is also true for the people of our Diocese who take part in the annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes in ever growing numbers. Following on from the special celebration held last year and to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady to Bernadette, an invite has been given for you all to come together as a Diocese to celebrate Our Lady and the significance of her Message at Lourdes. The Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral, together with Auxiliary Bishops and those priests who are able to come on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass. This will be a fitting preparation for the Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August. All are welcome.

## ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

All are welcome to celebrate the Feast of St Patrick on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at St Patrick's Church, Soho. There will be a Vigil Mass at 6pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March celebrated by Right Rev George Stack and then Mass on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 8am, 12.45pm and 6pm. Shamrock will be blessed and distributed at all Masses.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Parish Finance Committee on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February in the Presbytery at 8pm.

This Parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee Charity No. 233699

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
 whose sin is remitted.  
 O happy the man to whom the Lord  
 imputes no guilt,  
 in whose spirit is no guile.

But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
 my guilt I did not hide.  
 I said: 'I will confess  
 my offence to the Lord.'  
 And you, Lord, have forgiven  
 the guilt of my sin.

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
 exult, you just!  
 O come, ring out your joy,  
 all you upright of heart.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
 May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
 Enlighten the eyes of our mind,  
 So that we can see what hope his call holds for us  
 Alleluia!

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Leviticus 13:1-2.44-46  
 Psalm 31:1-2.5.11  
 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1  
 Mark 1:40-45

**NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:** Isaiah 43:18-19.21-22.24-25  
 Psalm 40:2-5.13-14  
 2 Corinthians 1:18-22  
 Mark 2:1-12

## Mass Times

SUNDAY	SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday		10.00am
Wednesday		10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday		10.00am
Saturday	Peter Damian	6.30pm
SUNDAY	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation –**

Saturday 10.30 - 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45.

**Offertory Last Week: £1,545.16**

**plus the regular Standing Orders, which in January amounted to £1,603.00. Thank You!**

**RCIA**

The RCIA Group will meet on Tuesday evening at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

**SVP**

The SVP Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Sacristy.

**LEGION OF MARY**

The Legion of Mary meets in the Sacristy at 10.45 on Tuesday mornings.

**ARCHBISHOP'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

The Cardinal will be inviting all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup>** + wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2009, to a thanksgiving Mass. This will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 3.00 pm at Westminster Cathedral. If you qualify, please don't delay in telling the parish clergy. He will need: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email if you have one (or if not, a phone no.). The address is Dept for Pastoral Affairs, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN, email [cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk), or phone 020 7931 6064.

**BAPTISMS THIS WEEK**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 12.15 Emma Ryan  
 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 1.30 Giuseppe Messina

**THE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE**

The Beginning Experience are holding a weekend for those who find themselves alone again through bereavement, divorce or separation. This will take place from March 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham. For details telephone Mary on 01296 487634.

**ST JOSEPH'S GAA CLUB**

The AGM for the GAA Club will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 8.30pm in St. Joseph's Hall.

**WEDDING THIS WEEK**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 3pm:  
 Radoslaw Iwanczyk & Magdalena Lechman

**UGANDA MARTYRS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

The Uganda Martyrs Catholic Community invite you to Mass at every last Sunday of the month. The next Mass will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 at St Gabriel's Parish Church, 15 St. John's Villas, Upper Holloway, London N19 3EE, starting at 3pm. Mass is followed by a reception. Please contact Robert on 07961 434 834 for further information.

**IN YOUR 30s**

There is a group for Catholics in their 30s. We organise a variety of social, spiritual and charitable events in London and the South East as well as weekends away, holidays, pilgrimages and retreats. If you'd like to find out more come along to Penderel's Oak, High Holborn, London (take the side exit from Holborn Tube Station, turn right and Penderel's Oak is about 300 yards along on the right-hand side) today from 1.00pm. If you can't find us ring 07977 904479. No need to book – just turn up. Or to receive 'The 30s' programme and get involved email [hugh@project2030.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:hugh@project2030.fsnet.co.uk) text Clare on 07530 926497 or see [www.project2030.org.uk](http://www.project2030.org.uk).