

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

The Second Sunday of the Year
17th January 2010



204, High Street
Waltham Cross
Herts EN8 7DP
01992 623156
www.walthamcrossrc.org.uk

One Hundred and Fifty Years!

Archbishop Vincent Nichols will be coming to celebrate Mass with us at 6.30pm on Saturday 6th February 2010 to celebrate our anniversary, and launch The History of the Church which has been written by Geoff Kinton at the Social Gathering in Eleanor Hall after Mass.

There will be a "bring and share" supper during the Social, so we are appealing to everyone to share their culinary skills and bring a plate (or two) of something to eat. It would help if people let the Parish Office know what they are bringing, we will then be able to arrange for the gaps to be filled in!

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

To become one of the Altar Servers in the Parish, you must have received your First Communion, and be attending Mass here. If you celebrated your First Communion last year or have recently moved into the Parish, and would like to join the Altar Servers, please see Fr John.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHESHUNT AND WALTHAM CROSS

The annual Service of Prayer for Christian Unity will be on Sunday 24th January at 3.00pm in St James's Church in Goff's Oak.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Dr David Black will be coming to our Parish on the 23rd and 24th January 2010 to talk at the Masses on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need. He looks forward to telling us about the work of this Catholic charity throughout the world, and appealing for your support.

MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Saturday 13th February World Day of Prayer for the Sick. 3.00pm at Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street, SW1P 1QW. Celebrant: Archbishop Vincent Nichols. The sacrament of the sick will be administered. All are welcome. If you are bringing a wheelchair, please tell your parish priest so that he can reserve space for wheelchairs and carers.



Someone once said that the definition of a Puritan is a person who has a constant nagging feeling that someone, somewhere, is enjoying themselves! We laugh, but actually it's quite easy to be taken for a Puritan when in fact you're simply a Christian. That's because we Christians have sometimes allowed ourselves to be painted into a corner where we're thought of as stuffed shirts or kill-joys. Rightly or wrongly we've taken on the image of censorious people who view pleasure with suspicion and whose first words are usually "Thou shalt not..." rather than "Oh, that looks good; can I have a go?"

Why should we be thought of as disapproving when our saviour was quite clearly at home eating and drinking, singing and dancing? Why should we want to reduce the glorious Middle Eastern nuptial festivity to a grape-juice Temperance affair?

Could it be because at heart we find it hard to believe fully in the incarnation? Yes, we accept that God took flesh in the person of the baby Jesus. But to accept that Jesus was identical to us in that he enjoyed a good day out, singing and dancing, eating and drinking...? Are we going too far here?

Are we uncomfortable thinking that Jesus actually provided more wine when the guests had already quaffed what the family had provided? Wasn't that a bit irresponsible, encouraging alcoholism perhaps? Are we put off by the tone of voice that Jesus uses for his mother, something that only a son would be allowed to get away with, something that demonstrated familiarity and mutual understanding?

Once God became a human being there was nothing about our human nature that was left unredeemed. The incarnation means that by becoming a man Jesus shows us how to become fully human. Jesus is God's way to be a man, God's way to be a woman.

Sometimes we need to open our eyes wide to the good things that God has put around us. We need to thank God for the wonder of life and love, for the many gifts that bless our rising and resting. Sometimes we need to take off our hair shirts, to set aside our dictionary of disapproval and simply take pleasure in what God wants us to enjoy. Why drink only water when your God wants to give you wine?

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia
Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS: NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:

Isaiah 62:1-5 Nehemiah 8:2-6.8-10
Psalm 95 Psalm 18
1 Corinthians 12:4-11 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
John 2:1-11 Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21
Mass Times

SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday	Wulstan	10.00am
Wednesday	Fabian	10.00am
Thursday	Agnes	10.00am
Friday	Vincent	10.00am
Saturday	Blessed Virgin Mary	6.30pm
SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 11.00am 12.30pm & 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: £1,401.54

plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

SVP

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

RCIA

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

LINE DANCING

Every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm in Eleanor Hall.

LEGION OF MARY

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

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation Preparation is at 8.00pm on Thursday evenings in the Church.

ST JOSEPH'S FITNESS CLUB

Could this be your chance to lose the extra pounds gained over Christmas!! Anybody interested in joining please ring Stewart 01992 634445 or email stewartbrodiesykes@yahoo.co.uk. Times and dates have still to be arranged.

ST PAULS' SUNDAY MISSAL

St Paul's 2010 Sunday Missal is now on sale in the shop, priced £4.50. Please note that the Missals are free to those who are on the Readers' Rota.

DIARY 2010

The 2010 Diary for Mass Intentions is now open.

MONEY ROTAS

The new Banking and Gift Aid Entering Rotas are available, and can be collected from the Parish Office.

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION – VOLUNTEER FOR CAFOD

Do you have good public speaking skills and want to help tackle poverty and injustice? CAFOD needs volunteers to speak in parishes or visit youth groups to talk about its work in the developing world. For further information or to book a place on the next "Understanding CAFOD" training day on Saturday 30th January, call CAFOD on 0208 449 6970 or email Westminster@cafod.org.uk

'EVANGELISATION: A ROUTE TO DISCERNING OUR PERSONAL VOCATION'

A talk for young adults aged 18-38 by Fr. Nino Vinciguerra of the Sion Community on Friday 22nd January 2010, 7.30 – 9.00pm in the Hinsley Room at Westminster Cathedral (off Morpeth Terrace). For further details visit www.free2become.org or call 01277 373848.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

A team of the Broxbourne Street Pastors will be walking the streets of Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Cheshunt and Waltham Cross on Friday 29th January, meeting at Wormley Free Church. Please remember them in your prayers.

FR. JOHN

Fr John will be away on Retreat until Monday 25th January. Fr John Miller will be here while he is away. Fr Michael Stewart will be here to help on the Sunday.

