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Newsletter 22nd March 2024

Palm Sunday

Dear Parishioners

It's 'end of year performance reviews and objectives setting' time at work. We have a strange end of year - end of February. It's actually a good time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the next one, without the hubbub of New Year in a calendar sense. Every year, the conversations are a mix of celebrating what people have done well, and agreeing to work on some things that could be better. For me, it seems I am all too often looking to work on improving some of the same things! Many people don't focus on the good, only on their improvements needed. Of course we should never stop trying to be better, but we should also never stop valuing what we do well. Lent and Easter are periods of reflection that signal and can lead to a feeling of renewal. As we make new promises, let's also remember to celebrate what we are and what we have. And to try to treat renewal as a daily, optimistic mindset that is with us all year.

Bart Michels

Mass Times this Week: 23rd – 31st March 2024			
Day/Feast Day	Time	Church	Intention
Saturday 23 rd	5.30-5.50pm 6pm	Reconciliation at OLOL Our Lady of Lourdes	Maisey Stevens RIP
Sunday 24 th Palm Sunday	9am 11am 5.30-5.50pm 6pm	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes Reconciliation at Holy Name Holy Name	Hugo & Angela Pini RIP Private Intention People of the Parish
Monday 25 th	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Alan Miller RIP
Tuesday 26 th	9.30am 10-11am	Holy Name Adoration at Holy Name	Andy McKenna RIP
Wednesday 27 th	10.30am 12 noon	School Mass at OLOL Holy Name – Funeral of Marie Lee RIP	
Thursday 28 th Holy Thursday	8pm	Holy Name - Mass of the Lord's Supper	Richard Sullivan RIP
Friday 29 th Good Friday	9.45am 10.30am 3pm 3pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes – The Passion Holy Name – The Passion	Family Stations of the Cross/hot cross buns Family Stations of the Cross/hot cross buns
Saturday 30 th Holy Saturday	11am 8pm	Holy Name – Blessing of the Easter Baskets Our Lady of Lourdes – Easter Vigil	
Sunday 31 st Easter Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Name Our Lady of Lourdes	Hull family intentions People of the Parish

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK FROM OLOL TO HOLY NAME – Tomorrow - Saturday 23rd March 9.30am start

All are welcome, including dogs, to walk from OLOL to Holy Name – hot cross buns, refreshments, dog biscuits etc on arrival. Or just come for the refreshments at the end (note there is a Lenten Reconciliation service at 11am for anyone who wishes to tag that on). Donations will go to CAFOD supporting their seasonal appeal on the Church's development agency's support for fishermen in Liberia, providing education, skills and technology which are all bringing very real improvements to the local economy and community. Transport back to OLOL will be provided if needed.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Saturday 23rd March – 11am at Holy Name

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CAKE SALE THIS WEEKEND– after Masses 23rd/24th March

Please support this sale and buy some cakes after masses this weekend provided by our First Holy Communion children, proceeds will go to Kingston Churches on Action against Homelessness (KCAH)

OLOL BIG CLEAN FOR EASTER – Monday 25th March at 10am

If you are able to come along and help our team, please feel free to do so. Thank you

GOOD FRIDAY UNITED SERVICES – 10.45am Giggs Hill Green

Christians from the local churches will gather at 10.45am near the war memorial on Giggs Hill Green, Thames Ditton. All welcome.

VISITING OF THE HOUSEBOUND

Fr Sebastian is available to visit any housebound visitors the week after Easter. If you would like to be visited please contact either parish office

SOCIAL**SUMMER CONCERT – 15th June 2024 at OLOL****OLYMPIC CHARITY EVENT - Sunday 23rd June 2024**

For all Parishioners with an Olympic Gold medallist Sunday 23 June 2024 after 11am Mass - details to follow.

RACE NIGHT – Saturday 29th June at Holy Name

(please save the new date)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LAWN MOWING AT HOLY NAME

We have a small group of parishioners who help on a rota to keep the lawns mowed at Holy Name during summer months. We would really like some more to join us. Our group is called the “Holy Mowers” and it’s a commitment to mow the lawns, in pairs. We mow once every couple of weeks so with more people on the rota, it is only required every 6-8 weeks. Further details via the parish office with a link to join the Holy Mowers group on WhatsApp straight away!

EASTER OFFERINGS ARE YOUR PERSONAL GIFT TO FR SEBASTIAN. Priests have no salary, therefore their personal income is derived from your contributions at Christmas and Easter and for mass intentions. GiftAid envelopes are available in the church porches for your Easter gift. Thank you.

YOUTH

NEXT YOUTH GROUP – 22nd March, Holy Name

Our next youth group for ages 13 to 17 will be on 23rd February at Holy Name. All are welcome

NEXT FUN FRIDAY – 10th May, OLOL

Pizza, games, crafts and an opportunity to hang out with friends. For Years 3-6, siblings welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The next First Holy Communion classes will be 23rd/24th March

CONFIRMATION

Year 10 Confirmation class – Sunday 24th, 6pm at OLOL

SONGBIRDS

Songbirds will be resuming rehearsals from Monday 15 April 8.15-9.30pm and most Mondays until our Summer concert on Saturday 15 June 2024 all at OLOL Church Hall with professional musical director and parishioner Mary McIntyre. New choir Members and musical friends always welcome for further information get in touch with karen@Haizelden.com

RETURN TO OUR LADY – SPECIAL NOVENA PRAYER REQUEST FROM CARDINAL BURKE

Starting on March 12th each month and ending on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 12th) In a world grappling with great disease, a war rages on in Europe. After years of truce, a new invasion of Palestine threatens to unsettle the Middle East. Theological debates are politicized and lead millions of believers to abandon the faith. How can we help? We can join in prayer. For further details [Return to Our Lady \(cardinalburke.com\)](http://cardinalburke.com)

A MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL OF JOY IN BETHLEHEM (a charity we support)

“How is Easter going to look like, in Bethlehem, and Jerusalem this year 2024?

Greetings from Birth place of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Bethlehem & from School of Joy for special needs. I am Father Mamdouh AbuSada the director of School of Joy for slow learners, and special needs in Bethlehem. As we move into spiritual preparations for Easter, I invite you to use this time to remember your brothers and sisters in crisis in The Holy Land, and especially in the birthplace of Christ, Bethlehem. They need your prayers now more than ever. In lent we remember all the way to the cross, 14 stations, we are carrying the cross for long time, we are getting tired. The war is making our life so difficult. We remember the poorest of the poor in such terrible critical situation more than any time, we pray together, and we act, and offer what we save in lent to the poor. We are in great need for your solidarity and support in such critical situation in the sorrow land Bethlehem, because of the war at this terrible and tragic time as no more pilgrims, and no tourist visiting The Holy land, life is totally paralyzed, no income for our people to survive. Workers are not allowed to cross check points to work in Israel, they need special permissions, since the war no permissions!

It is very hard to travel from city to city, movement is hard. Many students can not attend their schools, but the schools are open, and the students who can not come, we teach them on line. Please show your solidarity and support to our poor orphan special needs students at school of Joy, and to their poor families who are looking for food to survive. We are all shortage of food and many other important things, such as medications, extra.

I wish for you Blessed Lent, and Happy Easter in advance. Please keep us in your prayers, and act for us.

Christ is Resin He is truly Resin

God bless”

DIOCESAN EVENTS <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

Mental Health Awareness Seminar – Saturday 13 April in Crawley or Saturday 15 June in Burgess Hill.

Cost £30 (subsidised by Diocese) The course is led by a Member of the Mental Health First Aid England team and is suited to those involved in pastoral activities, leading events and those who work and support

youngsters. The aim of this seminar is to help you to understand the impacts and realities of mental health on the individual. To help you identify the early signs and symptoms and to signpost the individual effectively.

Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead – Wednesday 26 June

A day of sharing and prayer with other Grandparents led by Bishop Richard to include Mass, Benediction, Rosary, tours of the secret chapel and lots of chat.

Save the date - Worth Abbey & School - Saturday 21 September

For all Catechists and those involved in Children's Liturgy and Adult Formation - a day of reflection and formation

REGULAR EVENTS		
Divine Mercy Chaplet: All welcome to pray the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy, which Our Lord encouraged St. Faustina to say.	Weekly - Sundays after 9am Mass in the Lady Chapel	Holy Name
TakeTime Meditations: A calm, compassionate space to meet God with the opportunity to explore your faith with others.	Weekly - Mondays at 8pm on Zoom	Email parish office for Zoom link
Playgroup and Café: A cuppa and a chance to catch up with friends every Friday. Playgroup for babies and pre-schoolers too.	Weekly - Fridays 9-10.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes
Sew 'N So's: Complete your craft projects with a warm welcome, friendly chat and suggestions about anything you are "stuck" on.	Weekly - Fridays 11am-1pm	Our Lady of Lourdes
Fun Fridays: Pizza, games, crafts and an opportunity to hang out with friends. For Years 3-6, siblings welcome.	Monthly – 3.30pm Look out in newsletter for next one	Our Lady of Lourdes
Youth Group: Ages 13-17. Come along for food, games and fun	Every other Friday (see newsletter)	Holy Name
Holding Hands Play Café A new playgroup and café. Toy areas for young ones to explore, alongside tables and seating for parents/ caregivers. Light menu available	Weekly on Mondays and Thursdays 9.15-1.00pm (Commercial venture)	Our Lady of Lourdes
Drinks and games after Saturday and Sunday evening Masses: come along after the 6pm Mass to meet fellow parishioners	Monthly – first Saturday of the month Next: 6th & 7th April	Our Lady of Lourdes
Rosary: All welcome, especially anyone who would like to learn the Rosary or anyone who needs a refresher in a peaceful environment.	Weekly - Friday 7pm Monthly - 1st Saturdays at 9.30am Weekly term time Monday 7.30pm	Holy Name Holy Name OLOL
Bereavement Coffee Morning: Anyone enduring the pain and loss of bereavement is welcome to attend this caring, supportive gathering.	Monthly - 1st Tuesdays at 10am	Holy Name
Grandparents and Elderly Group: Open to all grandparents and elderly in the parish. Come along for a chat and a cuppa.	Monthly - 3rd Tuesdays at 10.15am Next: 16th April	Our Lady of Lourdes
Bible study group: Come along for coffee, prayer and discussion: Have you ever thought about what you read in the Bible? Is it true? In what ways is it true? Is it a myth? Who says so? A small group who meet regularly to study and pray the bible together. Informative, useful, and fun	Fortnightly – Wednesdays at 10am Call: John Merrigan (07949 913487).	Our Lady of Lourdes
Parish Soups: A delicious selection of homemade soups served with bread and cheese. Come along and bring a friend!	Monthly - 2nd Wednesdays at 12pm Next: 10th April	Our Lady of Lourdes
Taizé Evening: A short service of meditative and reflective prayer, combining periods of silence, readings from Scripture, and Taizé music based on Psalm.	Monthly - Thursdays at 7pm (Please check newsletter for next)	Holy Name
Esher Catenians: open to all practising Catholic men looking for a local, national and international social network	Monthly – generally 2 nd Tuesdays at 7:00pm for 7:30pm Email: Andrew_burton33@aol.com	Various, including Surbiton Golf Club, The Angel, TD

