



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LIVESIMPLY and FAIRTRADE PARISH

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SUNDAY, 16 JANUARY 2022 – 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 2, Lectionary Cycle C

DIALOGUE, EDUCATION & JUST WORK - A PATH TO PEACE & JOY

"*They have no wine!*" Many of us have felt the power of these words at some point in these last two years. I'm not talking about whether our cellars have run dry (I suspect that local consumption of the fruit of the grape may have gone up, rather than down ...) but about that sense of the 'fizz' having gone out of life, our energies being spent. The Mother of Jesus noticed that experience (and the social catastrophe that this might represent for the families of the bride and groom) at a wedding feast two thousand years ago. She continues to say to us what she said to the servants then: "*Do whatever he tells you.*"

In his message for *World Peace Day* (which our Bishops invite us to reflect on this weekend) Pope Francis notices the very different reactions to the pandemic which have become evident since 2020. Some have retreated into their own little private worlds, while others (especially the elderly) have known a different sort of isolation, that of abandonment. Some have been provoked to outbursts of anger and even violence. He detects among young people a sense of helplessness and a loss of confidence in the future. But he also highlights the acts of kindness and the selfless service which we have all witnessed during these difficult times.

How can we move forward? How can we hope for a lasting peace, both within our own culture and between societies? Pope Francis suggests 3 'tools' we can use to "*break up the hard and barren soil of conflict and indifference in our world in order to sow the seeds of a lasting and shared peace.*" Firstly, dialogue between the generations: the elderly need the vision and energies of the young, while the young need the wisdom and understanding of the old. Secondly, redirecting our economies, diverting the vast (and growing) defence budgets to the proper funding of education, the aim of which must always be that of forming mature human beings committed to caring for the earth. Thirdly, tackling the vast inequalities between rich and poor in our world, ensuring that all have access to systems of social protection and that the right to meaningful work and to human dignity are protected for all.

Let us start that conversation about hopes and dreams now, listening not only to people who share our own views but especially to those whose experiences have been different; linking the young and the old, the rich and the poor; listening also to the voice of the Spirit at work in the world. To our amazement we may find that the best wine has indeed been kept till last.

- **Fr. Rob**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Streamed Masses can be viewed at:

<https://bit.ly/2Lu1sN4>

Sat 6pm Edna McLaughlin RIP

Sun 9am People of the Parish

10.45am Greta Fowler Int.

Mon 9.15am Ursula Prince RIP

Tue 9.30am Kate Merrigan RIP

Wed 9.30-10am *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary*

Thu 9.30am Edna McLaughlin RIP

Fri 9.30am Holy Souls

Sat 6pm *Victoria Rocha RIP*

Sun 9am *Special Intention*

10.45am *People of the Parish*

We commend to the Lord Edna McLaughlin, Ursula Prince and Aline Bennett who died recently, and Anthony McCaffery, Lino D'Mello, Kate Merrigan, John Driver, Richard Waters and Mona Taylor, whose anniversaries of death fall this week.

Bereavement Ministry: If you would like to learn more about becoming involved with this ministry (either now or later), e: bereavement@olchurch.org.uk or contact the parish office.

Parish Prayer Intentions For January: For our parish as we prepare for a new stage in our mission and new ways of ministering to each other; for the Universal Church on the 'Synodal Path' – listening together to the Holy Spirit at work in our lives; for Christian Unity; for Pope Francis' prayer intention for January: "*For True Human Fraternity: for those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; that their rights and dignity be recognized.*"

This Sunday, the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time is celebrated as Peace Sunday in England & Wales: The Pope's Message for World Peace Day, together with other resources and reflections and details of the work done by the international Catholic peace movement, *Pax Christi*, can be found at <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>. There will be a **retiring collection** in aid of *Pax Christi*, which is very dependent on this annual offering to fund its important work.

Read Fr. Rob's blog on the Pope's World Peace Day Message and the urgency of working for peace today at <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/blogs/1/1964/do-look-up-unfriending-war-and-making-friends-with-peace>

'The Synodal Path' (which means 'walking together') is the name given by Pope Francis to a two-year journey of listening to the Spirit and to each other at every level of Church life to discern the way forward for our mission and ministry. We are **all** invited to take part in this conversation (**especially** those who feel that they are on the margins of the Church and those no longer sharing regularly in our community life). At our Eucharists over these 3 weekends we are exploring the main questions raised by Pope Francis about **Communion, Participation & Mission**. Hand-outs will be issued each week (and available online – the preferred way of giving feedback - at <https://bit.ly/3t0dukG>) or for you to bring to mass the following weekend. You can find out more about the synodal process at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>.

First Communion: Children meet this Saturday and next at 4.50pm as they continue their journey of preparing to share in Holy Communion. Fr. Rob will talk to the children at the 6pm mass which follows.

The Journey Of Preparation For Confirmation begins **this Sunday, January 16**, with a meeting for parents and young people in church at **6pm**. Please pray for our young people as we invite them to grow in their relationship with Christ Jesus, in their understanding of the joy of the Gospel and in their own sense of their calling to be his disciples.

Junior Church continues at our 10.45am mass each week.

Coffee After Mass is available after both morning masses (ensuring that the space is well-ventilated – please be Covid-aware). Please sign up to take a turn preparing this.

The Week of Prayer For Christian Unity runs from January 18-25 every year and our local celebrations will begin here at OLOL with an **evening prayer using the music of Taizé on Tuesday, January 18 at 7.30pm**. An excellent opportunity to find some quiet space for reflection – and to invite non-Catholic friends to join us in prayer. Other local times of prayer are Silent Worship at 12.30pm the Friends' Meeting House, Esher on Wednesday (please e-mail stellaeusebio@talktalk.net if you wish to attend); Morning Prayer at St. Nicholas C of E, Thames Ditton at 9am on Thursday; 9.15am at St. Mary's, Long Ditton, on Friday, 10am at St. Christopher's, Hinchley Wood on Saturday. Next Sunday at 4pm there is a United Service at St. Mary's, Long Ditton.

Church Car Park Works: Please note that on **Wednesday** various patches of the car park that have suffered from the weight of Chelsea Tractors in recent years are being repaired at a cost of £7,000. **Parking for the school run will be limited that day.** New bike racks will arrive shortly!

Do you have a Red Box? Jon Brooker, who has generously organised the emptying of the famous *Missio* (previously *APF*) 'Red Boxes' raising funds for the Church's missions in developing countries, is no longer able to continue due to work commitments. If you have a box at home, please bring it in for emptying. We are also looking for a **new Missio contact** to encourage interest in the work of missionaries. Could you take this on?

Alpha Course: Due to the very high covid numbers, we have decided to postpone the alpha course for a few weeks. This will hopefully allow us to meet face to face more confidently and explore the big questions of life in a relaxed and friendly space. Email alpha@olchurch.org.uk to find out more.

Taketime meditations are a calm, compassionate space to meet God. Our Taketime group also offers the opportunity to explore your faith with others. 8-8.45pm **every Wednesday** via zoom. Please email meditations@olchurch.org.uk for the zoom link. Go to <https://taketime.org.uk/> to try the meditations at home.

Keeping Covid-Secure: A reminder that **Face-masks** are mandatory in enclosed public spaces such as churches, unless you are exempt. **Sanitise** your hands on entry, **wear a mask** unless exempt (especially when singing) and **give people space**. And please get a booster jab if you are eligible. You can read diocesan guidelines at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/covid-19-omicron-variant-updates-for-parishes> If you have any concerns e: office@olchurch.org.uk / t: 020 8398 2191

Creating Space for Presence: A retreat at the House of Prayer, led by Jill Benet. Friday 21 - Sunday 23 January. A time to connect and rest in the presence that 'surpasses all understanding'. This weekend is an opportunity to refresh our commitment to our Centering Prayer and supporting practices. This retreat is suitable for those establishing a practice of Centering Prayer and those who wish to spend time in quiet practice. There will be some teaching, extended periods of prayer and silence. Arrive in time for supper at 7pm on Friday and depart by 4pm on Sunday. Cost: £180. For details of this and the full programme of retreats at the House of Prayer, see www.christian-retreat.org/our-programme or contact admin@christian-retreat.org / 020 8941 231.

Catholic Papers: The Tablet, which provides not only up-to-date news of the Catholic community at home and abroad but also high quality reflection on world news, ethics and the arts is available in the narthex. (You can take one of the previous week's issues to have a look for free!) It is an important part of our faith that we should nourish it with reading and reflection.