

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

21 NOVEMBER 2020

No. 3

*We hope this new bulletin will encourage
our parish's spiritual life in disorienting times,
as well as communicating events & news —
Feedback and submissions welcome!*

Upcoming Week

- ❖ Sunday 10.30–12.30, Church open for private prayer
 - ❖ Sunday [Reader's Service](#) for home use
 - ❖ Archdiocesan [Sunday bulletin](#)
 - ❖ Saints' days in [Greek](#) and [English](#)
 - ❖ Online [9.30 Sunday Matins & Liturgy](#) at Holy Wisdom Cathedral, London
 - ❖ Online [10.30 Sunday Liturgy](#) at St Nicholas Parish, Oxford
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Events & Announcements

22 November, you are invited to join the **rescheduled** Joint Parish Newcomers' Zoom at 4.30pm. Please email events1@holyltrinityoxford.org.uk for log-in details.

29 November, the delayed Parish [AGM](#) will be held at 4pm. To RSVP and receive a Zoom link for the meeting, please send an [email](#).

30 November, a virtual tour of St Nicholas of Myra (Bari, Italy) will be hosted by Fr Stephen at 7pm. Please see the OFSJB [website](#) to register and receive Zoom details.

From Fr Ian

Dear Friends,

If all goes as we have been promised we are at the halfway point in our second national lockdown. The first lockdown began in Spring, as the days were lengthening and while we were experiencing a period of very fine weather. We remarked to each other on how bearable these conditions made it. This lockdown takes place at a very different time. The days are naturally gloomy and getting darker, and the weather is not of the kind to encourage us outdoors. We find ourselves thrown back on our own resources.

In some ways this may lead us to a greater honesty about our condition than we could share in the Spring. Many people find themselves naturally low in spirits in Autumn and Winter, even without the threat posed by a global pandemic. It is entirely natural that we should sometimes feel helpless and look for support. But let us remember that our Christian conviction is that we are never truly alone. Every time we pray we begin with a prayer which tells us God is “everywhere present and filling all things.” As the psalm puts it:

Where can I go from your spirit: And where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there. If I descend to Hades, you are present.
If I were to take my wings at dawn and dwell in the deepest parts of the sea, there too your hand will guide me and your right hand hold me fast. (Psalm 138/139:7-10)

Every time we look at the Resurrection icon which we see at the centre of our church each Sunday we are reminded that nowhere is there a place untouched by God’s presence. And what is true of the places we find ourselves in is even more true of our inner life. Through our Baptism, and through the Sacraments of the Church, the life of Christ has become our life, too, and he says to us, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

As we remind ourselves that Christ is always supporting us, let us also remind ourselves that we are to be the support of Christ to each other. Let us not be afraid to ask for help or to offer help. May we be known to be followers of Christ through the love we show for his brothers and sisters.

With my love to you all,
Fr Ian

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Please remember our parish in your prayers!