

FAITH IN FOCUS: AN ALL-SINGING ALL-DANCING SAVIOUR

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?

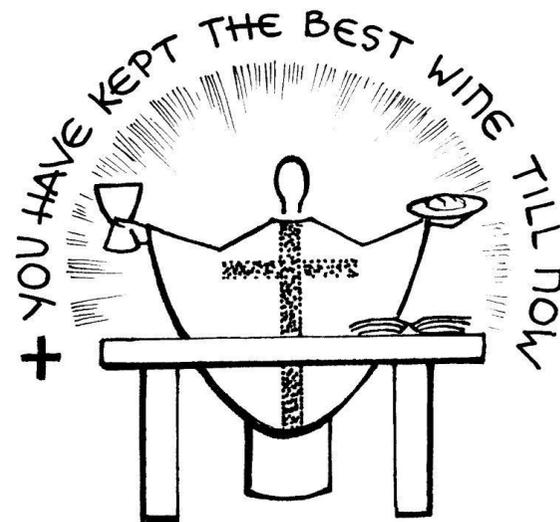
Once God became a human being there was nothing about our human nature that was left unredeemed. The incarnation means that by becoming a man Jesus shows us how to become fully human. Jesus is God's way to be a man, God's way to be a woman.

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?

St Anne's Catholic Church, Newsletter

16th January 2022
2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year C

(Prayer of the Church Week 2)



Sunday Masses
8:30am & 11:30am

Parish Clergy - Salesians of Don Bosco

Fr Michael Hynes
10 Highfield Road, KT16 8BU
Tel: 01932 562375

Web: www.stanneschertsey.org.uk
email: Chertsey@abdiocese.org.uk
Deanery website: www.veybridgedeanery.org/

Sunday

8.30am, 11.30am Mass

We welcome **Oliver Mizani and Callie Riches**, through baptism, into our faith community.

Monday

St. Anthony

9.30am Mass

Tuesday

9.30am Mass

7.30pm Baptism Preparation online

Wednesday

9.30am Mass

7.30pm Legion of Mary Meeting in Savio Centre

Thursday

9.30am Mass

Friday

St. Agnes

9.30am Mass

Saturday

10.00am Morning Mass

Next Sunday

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year C

Sunday Mass Times from August 28th

No Saturday evening Mass at St. Anne's.

6pm Mass at Holy Family,

Addlestone instead.

Sunday St. Anne's 8.30am,
11.30am
Holy Family 10am

Confirmation

Our Parish Confirmation programme will begin in February 2022 and will run for approximately 7 sessions. This is open to all baptised Catholic teenagers aged 14+.

Please find the link herewith to fill in the required details for the course.

<https://stanneschertsey.wufoo.co.uk/forms/m1rcmzyw1wmeq7k/>

Please remember to have the baptism details with you as you fill in the form.

Ministries in St. Anne's

These last two years have been a challenge for ministry in St. Anne's. Some ministries have come back to a semblance of normal. Other ministries have remained dormant. These ministries include catechists of any age group. For the benefit of the parish office and parish council, could I ask any active (or people who would like to be) ministers to give in their names either by email or post. This is very important for our parish and diocese. Many thanks.

Covid 19—a very challenging time for many marriages.

So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time, brings different challenges. You wonder would we be better apart?

Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples, it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriageand you don't need to leave home, it comes to you!

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing 3rd - 6th March 2022 Call or text +44 788 729 6983.

Email: retrouvailleuk@gmail.com
- or visit www.retrouvaille.uk

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission

Synod 2021-2023 begins in our Diocese next month with the deadline for group and individual responses 4 February 2022. People from across our community are invited to consider and respond -

online or in writing - to the questions posed by the Holy Father, exploring their response to the Synod within their parish, alone, or with friends or family. To access the questions, online Synod Response Form, and supporting resources, please [visit our website](#) and download the **Participant and Group Leaders' Guide**. Contributions from across our Diocese will be collated during February 2022, with Bishop Richard presenting a summary of the feedback received during an online meeting 9 March at 7.30pm. To register to attend this meeting, visit abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/8yaw6pon

Online donations

The diocese now has its own online giving page that is easier to use, has lower transaction fees and is free for parishes to use.

It can be found here under parish giving on the donate page. [Donate · ChurchSuite Donate](#)

There is now the drop-down list which is easier than the message box as no donations will be missed. We are planning on phasing out Just Giving in favour of this new site. It would be great if you could use the new site for online donations.