

# Mr Ryan Langford Head Teacher Holy Innocents' Primary School Induction Mass 20th February 2011



The Mass chosen for the induction was the 10.00am when the Church has many young children present. It was an ideal opportunity to introduce Mr Langford to the parishioners.

Father Victor Vella welcomed Mr Ryan, his wife and children, staff members and governors.

For his homily Father chose the 2nd reading of the day, St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians 3.16-23...in particular the verses..

*"Didn't you realise you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the Temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple."*

Father told the children they were that Temple. He explained Paul wrote two letters to the Corinthians, (Corinth in Greece.) The Christians had been arguing with each other and there were three leaders, Paul, Appollos and Cephas(Peter). Father showed the children a picture of the Temple in Jerusalem in the time of Jesus. He explained the Jews worshipped there because God was present.



Paul saying that God was in the pagans was quite shocking for the Jews to accept. Paul said they must work together for Christ. *"You have God in you!"*

Father said once a parish is established then a school is built and many of the schools were built by poor Irish people. The Church is there to nurture faith and so is the school, establishing the presence of God in Orpington. The Parish and school are harmonious and the link is always there between the Church and school. For this reason no one from the parish can say they are not interested in the school, and parents of children at the school cannot say they are not interested in the parish. The Church and School plant, nurture and water the faith.

If this is not done then we destroy the presence of God.

At the conclusion of Mass Mr Langford spoke to the parishioners thanking Father, the staff and everyone for their welcome and great support of him.

In conclusion Father said planning permission had been given for a new school building and he thanked the previous Head Teacher, Mrs Kerr, and previous Governors who had all worked hard for this to come to fruition.

Mr Langford had the opportunity to speak to parishioners after Mass.

Holy Innocents' parishioners wish him every success in his post.