



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)

15 December 2019

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG
 Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: tolworth@rcaos.org.uk www.olionline.co.uk **Parish Office:** Mon-Fri from 10am to 2pm
Parish Priest: Fr. Ignatius Edet + **Curate:** Fr. Joseph Edem + **Deacon:** Rev. Al Callan + **Secretary:** Mrs Denise Kidd
School: Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School + **Headteacher:** Mrs. Frances Robertson

MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS		
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
14 Sat Vigil	18.30	Violet & Laurence Seager and Gwen & Kenneth Batty – RIP (<i>Bev & Sandra Batty</i>)
15 Sun	9.00	Ottavio D'Agostino (<i>F. D'Agostino</i>)
	11.00	Peter & Jessie Dzvimbo – WB
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i>
WEEKDAY MASSES		
EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am		
16 Mon <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Thanksgiving for Medjugorje
17 Tues <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Thanksgiving for Good Health (<i>S. Tremenheere</i>)
	19.00	Anita, Jaygath, Vincent & Mickel – RIP (<i>Tissera</i>)
18 Wed <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Blessings for Ubald Family (<i>N. Ubald</i>)
	19.00	Deceased Members of the Rooney & Keegan Families
19 Thurs <i>Feria</i>	7.00	
	9.30	Dee Talbot & Family - WB
20 Fri <i>Feria</i>	7.00	
	9.30	Tina Ravenhill - RIP
21 Sat <i>Feria</i>	9.00	Winnie Groves
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
21 Sat Vigil	18.30	Alexius Yap - RIP
22 Sun <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i> Baptism	9.00	Chris McColter – RIP (<i>Seamus & Irene</i>)
	11.00	Betty Konneh – WB
	12.30	<i>Ryan Nichols</i>
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i>

OTHER SERVICES	
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Saturday: 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.15pm
St Anthony of Padua	Tuesday: after AM & PM Masses
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Wednesday: after PM Mass
Our Lady of Fatima	1st Saturday of the month

JOY AND A SENSE OF HUMOUR (POPE FRANCIS)	
<p>The Christian life is “joy in the Holy Spirit” (<i>Rom14:17</i>), for “the necessary result of the love of charity is joy; since every lover rejoices at being united to the beloved... the effect of charity is joy”. Having received the beautiful gift of God’s word, we embrace it “in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit” (<i>1 Thess 1:6</i>). If we allow the Lord to draw us out of our shell and change our lives, then we can do as Saint Paul tells us: “Rejoice in the Lord always; I say it again, rejoice!” (<i>Phil 4:4</i>).</p> <p>The prophets proclaimed the times of Jesus, in which we now live, as a revelation of joy. “Shout and sing for joy!” (<i>Is 12:6</i>). “Get you up to a high mountain, O herald of good tidings to Zion; lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem!” (<i>Is 40:9</i>)... “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!” (<i>Zech 9:9</i>). Nor should we forget Nehemiah’s exhortation: “Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!” (<i>8:10</i>).</p> <p>Mary, recognizing the newness that Jesus brought, sang: “My spirit rejoices” (<i>Lk 1:47</i>), and Jesus himself “rejoiced in the Holy Spirit” (<i>Lk 10:21</i>). As he passed by, “all the people rejoiced” (<i>Lk 13:17</i>). After his resurrection, wherever the disciples went, there was “much joy” (<i>Acts 8:8</i>). Jesus assures us: “You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy... I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you” (<i>Jn 16:20-22</i>). “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (<i>Jn 15:11</i>).</p> <p>Hard times may come, when the cross casts its shadow, yet nothing can destroy the supernatural joy that “adapts and changes, but always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved”. That joy brings deep security, serene hope and a spiritual fulfilment that the world cannot understand or appreciate.</p> <p>Christian joy is usually accompanied by a sense of humour. We see this clearly, for example, in Saint Thomas More, Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Philip Neri. Ill humour is no sign of holiness. “Remove vexation from your mind” (<i>Ecc1 11:10</i>). We receive so much from the Lord “for our enjoyment” (<i>1 Tim 6:17</i>), that sadness can be a sign of ingratitude. We can get so caught up in ourselves that we are unable to recognize God’s gifts.</p> <p>With the love of a father, God tells us: “My son, treat yourself well... Do not deprive yourself of a happy day” (<i>Sir 14:11-14</i>). He wants us to be positive, grateful and uncomplicated: “In the day of prosperity, be joyful... God created human beings straightforward, but they have devised many schemes” (<i>Ecc1 7:14-29</i>). Whatever the case, we should remain resilient and imitate Saint Paul: “I have learned to be content with what I have” (<i>Phil 4:11</i>). Saint Francis of Assisi lived by this; he could be overwhelmed with gratitude before a piece of hard bread, or joyfully praise God simply for the breeze that caressed his face. This is not the joy held out by today’s individualistic and consumerist culture. Consumerism only bloats the heart. It can offer occasional and passing pleasures, but not joy. Here I am speaking of a joy lived in communion, which shares and is shared, since “there is more happiness in giving than in receiving” (<i>Acts 20:35</i>) and “God loves a cheerful giver” (<i>2 Cor 9:7</i>). Fraternal love increases our capacity for joy, since it makes us capable of rejoicing in the good of others: “Rejoice with those who rejoice” (<i>Rom 12:15</i>). “We rejoice when we are weak and you are strong” (<i>2 Cor 13:9</i>). On the other hand, when we “focus primarily on our own needs, we condemn ourselves to a joyless existence”.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Apostolic Exhortation <i>Gaudete et Exultate</i> – On the Call to Holiness in Today’s World (2018), §§122 - 128</p>	
NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS	
1ST READING	Isaiah 7: 10-14
2ND READING	Romans 1: 1-7
GOSPEL	Matthew 1: 18-24

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died Carmela Arbia, Antionette Staunton, Tony Chesney, Derrick Butt, Stafen Ciesla, Shelia Anderson, Bernard Furlong, Archbishop Michael Bowen, Father Tom Creagh-Fuller, Sally Sheridan Loughrey, Frances Powell, Eileen Pearce, Marie Turmpenny, Ivy DeMello and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time; and all those who mourn the loss of loved ones. May they rest in peace. Amen	PARISH MAGAZINE The Parish Magazine, <i>The Grapevine</i> is back in circulation and will be available for distribution this weekend – one free copy per family. Donation towards production cost is welcome. The Parish Communication Committee is grateful to all contributors to the present issue, and to Marielen & Allan Cook for their work in editing it. Please, kindly send a feedback as requested in the inside back page.	
	Please remember and pray for the sick, the housebound and all who care for them, especially those within our own parish community: Vanessa Andrew, Martin Dray, Anthony Durkin, Sue Ewen, Pauline Ferrara, Ann Groves, Thomas Haley, , Heather & George Trutwein, Yvonne Norman, Esme Mills, Sharon Kelly, Irene Keane, Frances Cox, Mary Ryan, Betty Harte, Michael Emmett, Frances Sullivan, Michael Pearson, Antonio Ciaiola, Joan McGovern, Rita Reginald, Angelica D'Agostino Jan Leightley, Elizabeth Saunders,. Thomas O'Connor, Jimmy Simon, & Ron Malone.	OLI CHRISTINGLE SERVICE -- Wednesday 18 th December at 5.30pm in the Church. This Service is a special Church Service that is held for children during Advent and celebrates Christ, who is the Light of the World. Children (and adults) are invited to bring a Christingle to the Service. Instructions on how to make a Christingle can be found on the Parish website http://www.olionline.co.uk . A candle will be provided when you arrive at the Service.	
WEEKLY COLLECTION		VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES Volunteers are needed for all our Christmas Masses i.e. 6.30pm & 11.00pm Christmas Eve; 8.00am, 9.15am & 11.00am on Christmas Day: <i>welcomers, readers, altar servers, collectors, gift-bearers, and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion</i> . If you can help at any of these Masses, please add your name to the appropriate sign-up sheet in the RDJ room.	
	LAST WEEKEND Cash: £896.90 Gift-aid: £766.20 Total: £1,663.10 2nd Collection for Flowers Total: £728.65 <i>Thank you for your generosity to your parish.</i>	REPOSITORY NEWS - Christmas is nearly here, and we are stocked with 2020 calendars, Christmas cards and many gift products such as beautiful pins, ornaments and nativity set. Please come visit us. The repository is open the first Saturday of every month after the 6:30 pm mass and the first Sunday after the 11 am mass. It is open every Sunday after the 9 am mass, excluding school holidays.	
INFANT BAPTISM		UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS Our Advent Celebration will be on Tuesday December 17 th at 7.30pm in the old chapel. Please bring some finger food to share. And bring a friend. There will be refreshments, entertainment and a free raffle. For those who have ordered diaries these will be available price £1.80. Wishing all our members a happy and peaceful Christmas.	
	Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. Next course: 5 and 12 January 2020 at 10am	CRIB OFFERING 2019 This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund. This fund provides emergency grants for children and families in our Archdiocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be given out via these grants.	
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION		NEW VOTIVE LIGHT STANDS As indicated last weekend, two new votive light stands have been installed in front of the Sanctuary at the mini shrines of the Sacred Heart and St Joseph. The new stands are safer and will make our Church neater. Please, kindly use the candles provided and the lighters to light them. The glassware should not be moved for any reason. The stands in the Lady Chapel will be upgraded soon.	
	1. Next Children's Session: Saturday, 11 January 2020 - 10.30-11.30am 2. Next Parents' Session: Monday, 3 February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Catholic Hall.	THE LENTEN PROJECT 2020 The AGM was held on Sunday 24 th November 2019. At this meeting the charities proposed for support from the Parish during Lent 2020 were chosen. A copy of the minutes is on the parish Website (Community/Lenten Project). There was a discussion regarding all projects nominated and information circulated. As always, it is difficult to choose between such worthwhile causes. A vote was taken and the four Charities with the most votes were: 1. Antonympuram (Sri Lanka). 2. Divya Chhaya Society Subir, Gujarat (India) 3. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Pilgrimage Centre (Nigeria) 4. Let the Children Live (Colombia) If you would like to organise or participate in an event during Lent 2017 please contact Phil Townsend on 8399 3481 or email Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk	
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020		CHRISTMAS OFFERING By custom in the diocese, the Christmas offering will be your personal gift to Father Ignatius and Father Joseph. Envelopes are available in the Narthex if you would like to use them. Together with the Easter offering, the Christmas offering constitutes the main income of priests who serve in parish ministries.	
	Candidates Meeting: Tuesday 14 January at 7.30pm in the Catholic Hall.		
MORNING PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH 9.00AM – MONDAY TO FRIDAY			
	Please join us every morning at 9.00am, from Monday to Friday, to pray the Morning Prayer of the Church, from the Divine Office, during the daily Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction before Mass.		
CHRISTMAS MASSES			
Christmas Eve	6.30pm, Carols:10.30pm, 11.00pm		
Christmas Day	8.00am,9.15am & 11.00am		
Boxing Day	9.30am		
New Year's Eve	11.00pm		
New Year's Day	9.30am		