



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Year A)

5 January 2020

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		
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD		
04 Sat Vigil	18.30	Angela & Nicholas Hoey – RIP (<i>Hoey Family</i>)
05 Sun	9.00	John Tumilty – RIP (FM)
	11.00	Mark Muzariri – WB
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i>
WEEKDAY MASSES		
EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am		
06 Mon <i>Feria of Christmas Time</i>	9.30	Billy & Margaret Doyle - RIP
07 Tues <i>Feria of Christmas Time</i>	9.30	Gerald Hague (<i>M & S Hague</i>)
	19.00	
08 Wed <i>Feria of Christmas Time</i>	9.30	John Walsh – RIP (<i>J. Walsh</i>)
	19.00	
09 Thurs <i>Feria of Christmas Time</i>	7.00	
	9.30	Stephen Fleming – RIP (<i>S. Fleming</i>)
10 Fri <i>Feria of Christmas Time</i>	7.00	
	9.30	Alistair De Castro – Sp Int.
11 Sat	9.00	
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD		
11 Sat Vigil	18.30	Gracie Webb – WB (<i>Hoey Family</i>)
12 Sun	9.00	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11.00	Reginald Muzariri - WB
	18.00	
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	

GOD'S GENTLE LIGHT SHINES IN HUMBLE LOVE	
<p>The light of God shines on those who receive it. Isaiah, in the first reading (cf. 60:2), tells us that that light does not prevent the darkness and the thick clouds from covering the earth, but shines forth on those prepared to accept it. And so, the prophet addresses a challenging summons to everyone: "Arise, shine" (60:1). We need to arise, to get up from our sedentary lives and prepare for a journey. Otherwise, we stand still, like the scribes that Herod consulted; they knew very well where the Messiah was born, but they did not move. We also need to shine, to be clothed in God who is light, day by day, until we are fully clothed in Jesus. Yet to be clothed in God, who like the light is simple, we must first put aside our pretentious robes. Otherwise, we will be like Herod, who preferred the earthly lights of success and power to the divine light. The Magi, instead, fulfil the prophecy. They arise and shine and are clothed in light. They alone see the star in the heavens: not the scribes, nor Herod, nor any of the inhabitants of Jerusalem.</p> <p>In order to find Jesus, we also need to take a different route, to follow a different path, his path, the path of humble love. And we have to persevere. Today's Gospel ends by saying that the Magi, after encountering Jesus, "left for their own country by another road" (Mt 2:12). Another road, different from that of Herod. An alternative route than that of the world, like the road taken by those who surround Jesus at Christmas: Mary and Joseph, the shepherds. Like the Magi, they left home and became pilgrims on the paths of God. For only those who leave behind their worldly attachments and undertake a journey find the mystery of God.</p> <p>This holds true for us too. It is not enough to know where Jesus was born, as the scribes did, if we do not go there. It is not enough to know that Jesus was born, like Herod, if we do not encounter him... Today we are asked to imitate the Magi. They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the centre but bow down before the One who is the centre. They do not remain glued to their plans but are prepared to take other routes. Their actions reveal a close contact with the Lord, a radical openness to him, a total engagement with him. With him, they use the language of love, the same language that Jesus, though an infant, already speaks. Indeed, the Magi go to the Lord not to receive, but to give. Let us ask ourselves this question: at Christmas did we bring gifts to Jesus for his party, or did we only exchange gifts among ourselves?</p> <p>If we went to the Lord empty-handed, today we can remedy that. The Gospel, in some sense, gives us a little "gift list": gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold, the most precious of metals, reminds us God has to be granted first place; he has to be worshiped. But do that, we need to remove ourselves from the first place and to recognize our neediness, the fact that we are not self-sufficient. Then there is frankincense, which symbolizes a relationship with the Lord, prayer, which like incense rises up to God (cf. Ps 141:2). Just as incense must burn in order to yield its fragrance, so too, in prayer, we need to "burn" a little of our time, to spend it with the Lord. Not just in words, but also by our actions. We see this in the myrrh, the ointment that would be lovingly used to wrap the body of Jesus taken down from the cross (cf. Jn 19:39). The Lord is pleased when we care for bodies racked by suffering, the flesh of the vulnerable, of those left behind, of those who can only receive without being able to give anything material in return. Precious in the eyes of God is mercy shown to those who have nothing to give back. Gratuitousness!</p> <p>In this Christmas season now drawing to its close, let us not miss the opportunity to offer a precious gift to our King, who came to us not in worldly pomp, but in the luminous poverty of Bethlehem. If we can do this, his light will shine upon us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">© Pope Francis, Homily on Epiphany (Rome, 2019)</p>	
NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS	
1ST READING	Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
2ND READING	Acts 10: 34-38
GOSPEL	Matthew 3: 13-17

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died Janaki Jebamalai, Paul Joseph 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	SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2020 The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual White Flower Appeal in our parish next weekend. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Please be as generous as you can help us defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers	
	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, Una Midford and Rosemarie Butcher.	REPOSITORY NEWS 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.	
WEEKLY COLLECTION		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.	
	LAST WEEKEND Cash: £740.15 Gift-aid: £619.57 Total: £1,359.72 Christmas Offering £5,890.36 <i>Thank you for your generosity to your parish.</i>	THE NEW VOTIVE LIGHT STANDS 1. Please FOLLOW the instructions posted beside the stands. 2. Kindly make use of the candles provided 3. Use the lighters provided to light the candles after placing them in the glass socket 4. DO NOT move the glassware for any reason. 5. DO NOT place any other candles or votive lights on them.	
INFANT BAPTISM		THE LENTEN PROJECT 2020 The Lenten Project 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. <i>Antonyapuram (Sri Lanka)</i> The aim is to improve the nutritional standards of the 55 children who attend Evening Classes conducted by the Parish priest of Oorani. 2. <i>Divya Chhaya Society Subir, Gujarat (India)</i> The Carmelite Sisters of Charity are actively involved in education and health care. The need is for an ICU bed for critical cases and medicines for poor patients because people can hardly afford to pay for the services. 3. <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Pilgrimage Centre (Nigeria)</i> The Shrine was donated in 1999 to the Church and has served as a place of pilgrimage to Catholics across three nearby Dioceses. The Sanctuary provides counselling and spiritual accompaniments to the Catholics and non-Catholics in the area, especially sick people. The need is to provide basic hygiene facilities. 4. <i>Let the Children Live (Colombia)</i> Let the Children Live! is a charity that works in Colombia with children from the streets and shantytowns of the city of Medellín. Let the Children Live! is at present working with 320 very vulnerable boys and girls in this city. For most of them it is their last hope. If you would like to organise or participate in an event during Lent 2020 please contact Phil Townsend on 8399 3481 or email Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk .	
	Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. Next course: 5 and 12 January 2020 at 10am		
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION			
	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.		
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020			
	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.		
THANK YOU!		† PAUL JOSEPH - RIP	
Many thanks for your good wishes and generous Christmas gifts! With pledge of prayers and best wishes for the New Year 2020. Fathers Ignatius and Joseph.		Please pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Joseph who died on 29 December. His funeral will take place on 13 January, 11.00am. Our heartfelt condolences to Stella and family.	