



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church  
**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

23 AUGUST 2020

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG

Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: [tolworth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworth@rcaos.org.uk) + [www.olionline.co.uk](http://www.olionline.co.uk) + **Parish Office:** Mon-Fri from 10am to 2pm **(BY PHONE)**

**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

<b>MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS</b>		
<b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</b>		
<b>YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE VIA ONLINE LIVESTREAMING AT <a href="https://www.olionline.co.uk">https://www.olionline.co.uk</a></b>		
22 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Madeleine Graells – RIP ( <i>D'Aguiar</i> )
23 Sun	09.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People
	11.00	<i>Barbara Niedzielak</i> – RIP
	18.00	Gladys Cameron – RIP ( <i>Trutwein</i> )
<b>21ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE II)</b>		
<b>EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am</b>		
24 Mon <i>St Bartholomew</i>	9.30	Edith Winifred Eales – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
25 Tues <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Maggie Ravenhill –RIP ( <i>D Kidd</i> )
	19.00	Darmel Fernandes – RIP ( <i>J Fernandes</i> )
26 Wed <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Joseph Edet – RIP ( <i>D Kidd</i> )
	19.00	Mary Tong – RIP
27 Thurs <i>St Monica</i>	7.00	Sheila Bruscelas – RIP ( <i>Hemsley</i> )
	9.30	Terri Titcombe – RIP ( <i>10th anniv</i> )
28 Fri <i>St Augustine</i>	7.00	Doris Swash – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
	9.30	Fr Columbanus Udofia – RIP
29 Sat <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	9.00	Lucy Mulcany – RIP ( <i>M. Kinahan</i> )
<b>22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)</b>		
29 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Paul Joseph – RIP ( <i>Family</i> )
30 Sun	9.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People
	11.00	Russel David Jones – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
	18.00	Marjorie Brown – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )

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

**LIVESTREAMING CONTINUES**

The dispensation from Sunday obligation granted by the Bishops at the onset of the lockdown is still in place till further notice. Livestreaming of all weekday and Sunday Masses will also continue so that those who may not yet consider it safe for them to attend Mass in person, especially over the weekend, can participate virtually

**“BUT YOU ... WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”**

The Christian faith is not rooted in assent or subscription to doctrinal propositions, but in a living relationship with a person, that is, Jesus Christ. Thus, Benedict XVI writes in his first encyclical letter: “Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (*Deus Caritas Est* – On Christian Love, §1). This truth is demonstrated in today’s Gospel as Jesus asks his disciples not only about the views of others, but also – in a more personal way – their own opinion(s) about him or his identity.

The setting of this episode is important; not at the beginning of their relationship with him, but after they had followed him maybe for a considerable period and had even been sent out on a mission (see Matt 10:1-16). The initial question, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” does not appear difficult to them. So, they readily volunteer some of the prominent opinions about Jesus: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Though based mainly on the ministry of Jesus, these ideas failed to unveil his real identity. However, the disciples seem mystified as Jesus turns to them and puts the same question to them, this time more directly and personally: “But you, he said ‘who do you say I am?’” He puts them squarely on the spot! From what follows after Simon Peter ‘spoke up’ – “You are the Christ... the Son of the living God” – it is apparent that, as yet, they too did not know his true identity. Why? They had been with him all that time (see Jn 14:9), witnessed his many miracles (see Matt 9:18-37; 12:9-14, 22-32; 14:13-36; 15:21-39), enjoyed an insider privilege of receiving explanations to his parables (see Matt 13:10-17), and yet they did not know who he truly was?







The answer is provided by Jesus as he commends Peter: “Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.” Then follows the promise and mission to Peter – upon this rock I will build my Church and I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven; the latter re-echoing God’s promise to Shebna in the first reading (Is 22:19-23). The relationship between Peter’s *confession of faith* so to speak and the privilege bestowed on him by Jesus is evident. However, the confession of faith in itself is noteworthy – and also relevant for understanding our Christian identity and mission today.

Like the disciples, it is not just enough for us to be associated with Jesus – sacramentally, religiously, or spiritually. We must go beyond mere external manifestations of religiosity, piety and spirituality. Our Christian / Catholic identity (and mission) must be rooted in an interior conversion to God through a living and transforming encounter with Jesus Christ. This can only come about through an openness to the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, without which we cannot confess and witness to Jesus – like Simon Peter – as the Christ, the Son of the living God (see Jn 6:67-69; 1 Co 12:3; cf. Jn 20:28-29).

To be sure, Jesus is constantly putting the same question to us, calling each one of us by name, “—, who do you say I am?” To be authentic and efficacious, my answer, your answer to this important question cannot be based on hearsay or mere intellectual processes. It must come from an encounter with the *person of Jesus* in the depths of our hearts and being.

The importance of this encounter has recently been underscored by Pope Francis as a precondition for evangelisation. That is why he insists that all be open to it: “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since ‘no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord’” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, §3). **IAE**

<b>NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS</b>	
<b>1ST READING</b>	Jeremiah 20:7-9
<b>2ND READING</b>	Romans 12:1-2
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Matthew 16:21-27

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	<b>Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died</b> , especially Leonora D'Mello, Catherine Thérèse Dulac, Diane Mazza, Maureen Richardson, and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen	<b>CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS</b> <b>Sunday (23/08):</b> 2pm – 3.30pm <b>Monday (24/08):</b> 5pm – 6.30pm <b>Tuesday (25/08):</b> 3pm – 7pm <b>Wednesday (26/08):</b> 10.30am – 12pm & 3pm – 5pm <b>Thursday (27/08):</b> 3pm – 6pm <b>Friday (28/08):</b> 10am – 12pm <b>Saturday (29/08):</b> 9.45am – 10.45am	
	<b>Please remember and pray for the sick, the housebound and all who care for them, especially those within our own parish community:</b> 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, Antonio Ciaiola, Joan McGovern, Rita Reginald, Jan Leightley, Elizabeth Saunders, Thomas O'Connor, Jimmy Simon, Ron Malone, Sarah Mills, Samar Staussi, Annita Smith, Ann-Marie Deasy, Shirlene A., and Ida Rebello.	<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST</b> The parish office will be closed from <b>Monday, 3 August till Monday, 31 August</b> . While Father Ignatius is available in the parish and will continue to provide pastoral care to parishioners, he would appreciate if non-essential and non-urgent matters are kept until September. Please, kindly see the parish website <a href="http://www.olionline.co.uk">www.olionline.co.uk</a> for information on Mass and Confession times, etc. You can also send an email to <a href="mailto:tolworth@rcaos.org.uk">tolworth@rcaos.org.uk</a> Thank you for your understanding.	
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS		<b>SEASON OF CREATION: 1 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER</b> This annual celebration takes place from 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Marking <i>Laudato Si'</i> Special Anniversary Year, Pope Francis encourages all Catholics to join our ecumenical brothers and sisters to “work towards the renewal of our Earth and the precious relationships we share.” For more information, click <a href="https://seasonofcreation.org">https://seasonofcreation.org</a>	
	<i>Due to current social distancing measures at Mass, the weekly collection will be taken as you leave the church or in an envelope through the Presbytery door or through bank transfer.</i> I am grateful to those of you who have started to make your regular contribution to the Church via standing order (form available at <a href="http://olionline.co.uk">olionline.co.uk</a> ), or by online banking: <b>RCAS Our Lady Immaculate Church, Account Number: 06467032; Sort Code: 60-21-05.</b> <b>IMPORTANT:</b> If you would normally have given by Gift Aid envelopes, please include your Gift Aid number in your online instruction to your bank. If you are not in the Gift Aid scheme, please include the letters NGA in the instruction to the bank. Any queries? Please contact Allan Cook, email: <a href="mailto:tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk">tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk</a> or phone: 020 8399 4368 <b>Thank you for your generosity to your parish.</b>	<b>FROM THE PARISH LENTEN PROJECT COMMITTEE</b> Due to Covid-19, we are not able to complete the events we had planned. We are still keen to support the charities we adopted this year and so, if you would like to make a donation equivalent to what you would have spent at the events, or on the raffle, you will see below the various methods by which you can do so. <b>Methods of making a donation:</b> 1. Online donation at <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/olitentenproject">https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/olitentenproject</a> 2. Making a donation through the Lenten Boxes. To do this you will need to put the contents of your box into an envelope, carefully flatten the box and place that in the envelope too and put through the Presbytery letter box. The envelope needs to be marked 'Lenten Project Box'. If Gift-aiding the donation the label on the box needs to be completed. 3. Placing a donation into an envelope marked 'Lenten Project Donation' and place through the Presbytery letter box. The Parish Lenten Project began in 1971 as the focal point to assist parish groups with Lenten observances. Many charities have benefited from the £427,300 raised to 2019. Next year is our 50th anniversary. If anyone has any ideas how we can mark our anniversary, please email Phil Townsend at <a href="mailto:townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk">townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk</a> <b>Parish Lenten Project Committee.</b>	
INFANT BAPTISM		<b>DONATIONS TO FOODBANK</b> Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the following locations: <b>The Old Chapel</b> (9am – 6pm). <b>URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:</b> cereals, instant mash, juice, tinned meat, fish & spaghetti, biscuits, noodles, rice, pasta, tea and coffee. Thank you for your generosity.	
	Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. <b>Next course:</b> TBA	<b>OLI COVID-19 VOLUNTEER GROUP</b> Please if you need help in this difficult time contact: <b>07384276821</b>	
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION		<b>STEWARDS NEEDED FOR WEEKEND MASSES</b> Volunteers are still needed as stewards for each of the four weekend Masses. Please, kindly send an email to <a href="mailto:tolworth@rcaos.org.uk">tolworth@rcaos.org.uk</a> to let us know if you can help. Thank you.	
	Congratulations all who received the Lord in the Holy Eucharist for the first time last two weeks.		
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020			
	<b>Candidates Meeting:</b> Next date TBA		
<b>† MAUREEN RICHARDSON – RIP</b> Please pray for the repose of the soul of Late Maureen Richardson (mother of Andrew Richardson) who died on 2 August. Our condolences to Andrew, Collette and Matthew. <b>Funeral Mass:</b> Tuesday, 8 September, 12pm at Holy Family Church, Langley. <b>Burial:</b> Wexham Cemetery. May she rest in peace. Amen			