



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

13 SEPTEMBER 2020

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG
 Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: tolworth@caos.org.uk + 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

| MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS | | |
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| TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) | | |
| YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE VIA ONLINE LIVESTREAMING AT https://www.olionline.co.uk | | |
| 12 Sat <i>Vigil</i> | 18.30 | Charles Augustus Sillem – RIP <i>(FM)</i> |
| 13 Sun | 09.00 | Mary Flynn – RIP <i>(P. Grogan)</i> |
| | 11.00 | Thelma D'Costa – WB |
| | 18.00 | Catherine Seaward – RIP <i>(FM)</i> |
| 24TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE II) | | |
| EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am | | |
| 14 Mon <i>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i> | 9.30 | Michael & Catherine Burrows – RIP <i>(FM)</i> |
| 15 Tues <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i> | 9.30 | Don Paul Ramanayake –RIP |
| | 19.00 | Monica & James Anderson <i>(FM)</i> |
| 16 Wed <i>Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian</i> | 9.30 | Alexius Yap – RIP <i>(C. Yap)</i> |
| | 19.00 | |
| 17 Thurs <i>Feria</i> | 7.00 | |
| | 9.30 | Michael Conors – RIP <i>(M. Conors)</i> |
| 18 Friday <i>Feria</i> | 7.00 | Clement Raphael – 13 th BD <i>(Mary)</i> |
| | 9.30 | Mary & Michael Barry – RIP <i>(Batty)</i> |
| 19 Sat <i>Our Lady</i> | 9.00 | Cecilia Saverimuttu – RIP <i>(C.Nagendran)</i> |
| 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) | | |
| 19 Sat <i>Vigil</i> | 18.30 | Tam Doherty – RIP <i>(M. Conors)</i> |
| 20 Sun | 9.00 | Dec'd of Angelica De Stasio & Family – RIP <i>(Franco)</i> |
| | 11.00 | <i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People |
| | 18.00 | |

| OTHER SERVICES | |
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| Sacrament of Reconciliation | Saturday: 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.15pm |
| St Anthony of Padua | Tuesday: after morning and evening Masses |
| Our Lady of Perpetual Help | Wednesday: after morning and evening Masses |
| Our Lady of Fatima | 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.







LET US LEARN TO FORGIVE!

"Mercy," says Pope Francis, is not just "the first attribute of God;" it is "the name of God." Thus re-echoing Benedict XVI: "Mercy is in reality the core of the Gospel message; it is the name of God himself, the face with which he reveals himself in the Old Testament and fully in Jesus Christ, the incarnation of Creative and Redemptive Love" (Divine Mercy Sunday, 2008). Because God is mercy, Francis explains: "God forgives everyone, he offers new possibilities to everyone, he showers his mercy on everyone who asks for it." The trouble, however, is that, oftentimes, we human beings are the ones who "get tired asking for forgiveness" and/or worst still, "do not know how to forgive." Unforgiveness makes us ungodly. It contradicts our nature as 'God's image and likeness' (see Gen 1:26-27).

Today's biblical readings invite us, in different ways, to mirror God's life and way of relating with and acting towards us in our relationships with others. They challenge us to forgive others as we ourselves are forgiven by "the Lord [who] is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy... [and] does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults." For Ben Sirach, the author of the first reading (Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9), forgiving others is a precondition for divine forgiveness: "*Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?*" This is reiterated by Jesus in the Gospel (Matt 18:21-35) through the parable of the unforgiving servant which superbly demonstrates, above all, that forgiveness imposes a duty to forgive on the one who is forgiven. To the servant who was forgiven so much by his master but failed to reciprocate by forgiving a fellow servant, the king says, "*I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?*" Thus, in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray – "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" (Matt 6:12).

The importance of forgiveness is not only restricted to the spiritual life. It cuts across all aspects of life and society – personal, social (family/friends, school, groups), communal (communities, nations, etc.), cosmic, and spiritual. At the personal level, forgiveness is liberating at least in two ways. First, it frees the one who forgives from toxic emotions such as anger, resentment, hatred and violence without which the one will remain imprisoned by both realisable and unrealisable vengeful desires that would, in turn, undermine their physical and mental health. Second, when the self is the beneficiary, forgiveness liberates the one who forgives oneself from an obsession with guilt and, as a result, enhances self-esteem, self-confidence, happiness, mental health as well as their social relationships and spiritual life. Nothing within an individual seems as self-sabotaging to one's self-esteem as an unhealthy sense of guilt. And there can be no way around or out of it without an honest self-acceptance rooted in unconditional forgiveness. In fact, personal forgiveness is so integral to the experience of forgiveness from others, both human and divine, that without it the latter becomes essentially ineffective. In a way, this is partly what was lacking in the unforgiving servant in Jesus' parable. Although he was forgiven so much, he remained interiorly untouched – and, therefore, unchanged – by the king's forgiveness. The consequent reversal of the master's initial benevolence cannot, therefore, be seen as a punishment as such by an irate king but, essentially, as a confirmation of a self-inflicted sentence by virtue of his refusal to learn to forgive (see Jn 3:17-18). Certainly, "God never tires forgiving us." So, let us learn to forgive as we are always forgiven by God. **IAE**

| NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS | |
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| 1ST READING | Isaiah 55:6-9 |
| 2ND READING | Philippians 1:20-24,27 |
| GOSPEL | Matthew 20:1-16 |

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| PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE | | PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS | |
|  | <p>Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, 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</p> | <p>CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS Sunday (13/09): 2pm – 3.30pm Monday (14/09): 5pm – 6.30pm Tuesday (15/09): 3pm – 7pm Wednesday (16/09): 10.30am – 1pm & 3pm – 5pm Thursday (17/09): Volunteers needed! Friday (18/09): 10am – 12pm Saturday (19/09): 9.45am – 10.45am</p> | |
|  | <p>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, 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.</p> | <p>STEWARDS NEEDED TO KEEP OUR CHURCH OPEN I want to thank all who have been so kind to volunteer to serve as stewards in order to keep our Church open for private prayers / visits for the past ten weeks. To continue providing this service to parishioners and the wider community and to avoid cutting down our current opening times/days, we'd need more volunteers. Please, send an email to tolworth@rcaos.org.uk if you can help. Thank you.</p> <p>THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO YOUR PARISH I would like to thank all (parishioners and non-parishioners) for your generosity to the parish financially and otherwise since the Covid-19 lockdown began at the middle of March. From the records, the following is the breakdown of income from offertory / donations to the parish from 13 March to 31 July:</p> | |
| WEEKLY COLLECTIONS | | | |
|  | <p><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 am grateful to those of you who have started to make your regular contribution to the Church via standing order (form available at olionline.co.uk), or by online banking: RCAS Our Lady Immaculate Church, Account Number: 06467032; Sort Code: 60-21-05.</i></p> <p>IMPORTANT: 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.</p> <p>Any queries? Please contact Allan Cook, email: tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk or phone: 020 8399 4368</p> <p>Thank you for your generosity to your parish.</p> | <p>A. Gift-Aided Donations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cash via envelopes: 6,310.00 Bankers Orders: 5,777.00 Online transfers: 5,263.00 <p>B. Non-Gift-Aided Donations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Loose Cash: 3,340.00 Online transfers: 1,275.00 <p>Total: £21,965.00 (£31,650 same time last year).</p> <p>FATHER JOSEPH EXPECTED BACK SOON All things being equal, Father Joseph will be returning to the UK later this week after being held back at home in Nigeria due to Covid-19 lockdown. In line with Government and Archdiocesan regulations, he will be on self-isolation for 14 days before he will be able to be involved in parish activities or meet with any parishioner. Contact details of where he will self-isolate may be provided on request if necessary.</p> | |
| INFANT BAPTISM | | FROM THE PARISH LENTEN PROJECT COMMITTEE | |
|  | <p>Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. Next course: TBA</p> | <p>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, please, use any of the following methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Online donation at https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oliltentenproject 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. Placing a donation into an envelope marked 'Lenten Project Donation' and place through the Presbytery letter box. <p>Parish Lenten Project Committee.</p> | |
| FIRST HOLY COMMUNION | | | |
|  | <p>Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.</p> | | |
| SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020 | | | |
|  | <p>Candidates Meeting: Next date TBA</p> | | |
| ADMISSION OF TONY SIMON TO CANDIDACY | | DONATIONS TO FOODBANK | |
| <p>Our Seminarian, Tony Simon will be admitted to candidacy, a formal rite of induction to begin theological studies towards ordination to the sacred priesthood. This will take place on Sunday, 13 September at 10:00am at St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Cathedral, Preston. It will be presided by Mar Joseph Srampickal, Bishop of the Syro Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain. Let us remember him in our prayers as we congratulate him for this major step in his vocation.</p> | | <p>Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the following locations: The Old Chapel (9am – 6pm). URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS: cereals, instant mash, juice, tinned meat, fish & spaghetti, biscuits, noodles, rice, pasta, tea and coffee. Thank you for your generosity.</p> <p>NB: This week, donation of items for a baby-girl (clothing & toys), 6months to 1 year would be appreciated.</p> | |