



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

20 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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

**YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE VIA ONLINE
 LIVESTREAMING AT <https://www.olionline.co.uk>**

19 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Tam Doherty – RIP (<i>M. Conors</i>)
20 Sun	09.00	Dec'd of Angelica De Stasio & Family – RIP (<i>Franco</i>)
	11.00	Father Andrew Mitchell – RIP
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People
25TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE II)		
EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am		
21 Mon <i>St Matthew</i>	9.30	Dennis Peiris – RIP (<i>M. Peiris</i>)
22 Tues <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Thanksgiving (<i>k. Jankowski</i>)
	19.00	Frederick & Dolly Sirmon (<i>FM</i>)
23 Wed <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina [Padre Pio]</i>	9.30	Barbara Jean – Thanksgiving
	19.00	Raquel, Annabel & Vally – WB
24 Thurs <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	7.00	Ubong Udongwo – WB
	9.30	Anto Thelapilly – RIP (<i>R. Thomas</i>)
25 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	
	9.30	Holy Souls (<i>J. Fevri</i>)
26 Sat <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Special Intention – Loretta Fernandes
26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)		
26 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Patrick Friel – RIP (<i>J. Friel</i>)
27 Sun	9.00	Damian Maranzano – RIP
	11.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People
	18.00	May Phillips – RIP (<i>FM</i>)

OTHER SERVICES

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.

THE LOGIC OF GOD'S LOVE

Today's Gospel (Matt 20:1-16) offers us a wonderful insight into Jesus' vision of the *Reign (Kingdom) of God*. The extraordinary generosity of the landowner skilfully highlights, on the one hand, the inclusive character of the kingdom of God and on the other hand, the common end of all who place themselves at its service. All are invited to the service of the kingdom and are promised the same reward (eternal life, salvation) by God (see 1 Tm 2:4; Jn 17:24).







Like the generous landowner, God has no favourites (see Acts 10:34; Rm 2:11; Job 34:19), nor does he set any limit in space or time to his relationship with us. According to the prophet Isaiah in the first reading, God's thoughts and ways are radically different from humans' (Is 55:6-9). Compared to human logic, which is generally selfish, calculative and sometimes manipulative, God's logic is always characterised by unconditional and selfless love, kindness and mercy. Human logic is displayed in the parable by the early comers, the workers who were hired at daybreak: *"The men who came last' they said 'have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat."* Are they justified to complain about the landowner? Obviously, their grouse is not about the adequacy or otherwise of their wage. They are furious with him for rewarding them and the latecomers who only did an hour's work equally. Who knows whether they would have grumbled if the latter were paid less? In a way, they are questioning the integrity of the master and his sense of justice. Ironically, by demanding more than their mutually agreed "fair wage," they are the ones who are actually unfair.

Like in the case of the older son in the parable of the prodigal son (Lk 15:29), self-righteousness is at work here too; and it gives rise to, enables and sustains a sense of entitlement. Both explain the judgemental attitude imbedded in the early comers' grievance. Self-righteous, entitled and judgemental, they are, unfortunately, trapped in a narrow-mindedness that ultimately prevents them from recognising the opportunity to work in the master's vineyard for what it really is, namely, a privilege, an honour bestowed wholly at the initiative of the one who goes out to invite and bring each group of workers to work in his vineyard. In other words, the privilege of working in the vineyard does not depend on their ability or credentials, but completely on the landowner's generosity (Eph 2:8-9). Therefore, rather than complain about him and/or what they perceive as *unearned generosity* towards the latecomers, they should be thankful for the opportunity given them and others (see Lk 17:7-10). This is where and why charity is very important and also necessary. Without it, gratitude is very difficult if not impossible; grumbling becomes the norm and, with it, jealousy and envy. The good news for us is that these can be overcome especially by charity which, "is always patient and kind," and "never jealous" (1 Co 13:4).

The logic of divine love thus manifests itself and its power vis-à-vis human logic. It is exceptional, for it not only transcends, overcomes and upturns, but also transforms human selfishness. It is mirrored in the landowner who constantly goes out to look for, reach out to and invite potential labourers to join his workforce – at daybreak, and the third, sixth, ninth and eleventh hours – *"You, go to my vineyard too"* – because he wants everyone to be involved. He does not want anyone to be idle, doing nothing. It reminds us that God is constantly calling us to labour in the building up of his kingdom here on earth. This call is for all and the reward is priceless – happiness in this life and eternal salvation in the next. Sadly, sometimes (oftentimes?) we tend to lose sight of this great privilege and opportunity because we are too preoccupied with our human logic or trapped in selfishness. Let us thank God for making us worthy to serve him and pray for the grace to strive to imbibe and practice the logic of his love. ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Ezekiel 18:25-28
2ND READING	Philippians 2:1-11
GOSPEL	Matthew 21:28-32

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>DO YOU HAVE GREEN FINGERS (or a pair of gardening gloves)? We are looking for people to join a rota to look after the parish gardens. You don't have to be an expert and you would only have to spend a couple of hours once a month doing a bit of weeding, pruning and grass-cutting. Days and times to be agreed. Please phone Rosemary McDermott 07557057083. Thank you, Rosemary</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>CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS Sunday (20/09): 2pm – 3.30pm Monday (21/09): 5pm – 6.30pm Tuesday (22/09): 3pm – 7pm Wednesday (23/09): 10.30am – 1pm & 3pm – 5pm Thursday (24/09): Volunteers needed! Friday (25/09): 10am – 12pm Saturday (26/09): 9.45am – 10.45am</p> <p>STEWARDS NEEDED TO KEEP OUR CHURCH OPEN 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>	
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS		THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO YOUR PARISH	
	<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>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> <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>	
INFANT BAPTISM		FATHER JOSEPH'S RETURN: UPDATE	
	<p>Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. Next course: TBA</p>	<p>Father Joseph was unable to return to the UK, as expected, last week, due to changes in travelling arrangements. He will be back as soon as possible.</p>	
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION		FROM THE PARISH LENTEN PROJECT COMMITTEE	
	<p>Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.</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/oliltlentenproject 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>	
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020		DONATIONS TO FOODBANK	
	<p>Candidates Meeting: Next date TBA</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. NB: This week, donation of items for a baby-girl (clothing & toys), 6months to 1 year would be appreciated.</p>	
MESSAGE FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) SOCIETY			
<p>There are 4 vacancies coming up in Our Lady Immaculate conference by the end of this year: <i>President, Secretary, Treasurer and Youth Group Coordinator</i>. If you are interested in the work of SVP and feel you have the leadership skills to take on any of these roles, a member of SVP will be available outside Masses during the month of October offering information about the roles and highlighting the work of SVP in our local community. For more information, please visit svp.org.uk or contacted me by phone 07402327177. Helen Emmett, SVP President, Our Lady Immaculate Conference</p>			