



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

29 NOVEMBER 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
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		
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE VIA ONLINE LIVESTREAMING AT https://www.olionline.co.uk		
28 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Deceased Members of Belo Family – RIP (<i>H. Fox</i>)
29 Sun	09.00	Cancelled!
	10.00	Robin Jackson – RIP (<i>Ghislaine</i>)
	18.00	Paul Joseph – RIP (<i>Family</i>)
FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT		
EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am		
30 Mon <i>St Andrew</i>	9.30	Holy Souls
	19.00	Advent Service (<i>Livestreamed</i>)
1 Tues <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Thomas & Margaret Kane & Family (<i>K. Jankowska</i>)
	19.00	Nick Mitchem – RIP (<i>J. Brooks</i>)
2 Wed <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Carlotta Fernandes (<i>J. Fernandes</i>)
	19.00	Suresh – BD (<i>Mary</i>)
3 Thurs <i>St Francis Xavier</i> Day of Prayer for Migrants	7.00	Priests in Purgatory
	9.30	Edward Howe – RIP (<i>S. Howe</i>)
4 Friday <i>Feria – First Friday</i>	7.00	Fr Ignatius & Fr Joseph – WB
	9.30	T & J Rutter – WB (<i>Szymanski's</i>)
5 Sat <i>Feria</i>	9.00	John Frederick & Margaret Growers – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)		
5 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	John & David Doyle (<i>D & H Families</i>)
6 Sun Bible Sunday	9.00	Linford Fuller (<i>L. Lewis</i>)
	11.00	Joe & Bertha D'Costa – RIP
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People
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.		

WAITING FOR THE LORD	
We begin the season of Advent today. It is also the start of a new Liturgical Year (Year B) during which the Gospel according to Mark will be mainly read on Sundays.	
Advent prepares the Christian people ultimately for the second coming of Christ (<i>the Parousia</i>) at the end of time and proximately for the celebration of his first coming (his birth in Bethlehem) at Christmas. Advent is, therefore, a season of waiting for the Lord with expectation and hope, prayer and faith, and thanksgiving and love.	
The Lord whose coming in glory we await with hope during Advent, is neither absent nor distant from us. He is not a 'complete stranger' or an alien. He is <i>The Immanuel – God-with-us!</i> He is always with us not only through divine grace, the scriptures and sacraments, especially in the Holy Eucharist, but also in the gathering of the holy people in his name (Matt 18:20), in our encounter with one another (Matt 10:40), and in creation. The expected Lord is <i>"the same yesterday, today and forever"</i> (Heb 13:8). He reassures us constantly of his abiding presence – <i>"Lo, I am with you always to the end of time"</i> (Matt 28:20). Therefore, in this holy season, the Christian people await a coming that is both <i>present</i> and <i>not yet definitively present</i> .	
Waiting requires, among others, openness, trust, patience, vigilance and preparedness. It also involves anxiety, difficulties and even pains. Think of parents or spouses who wait for the safe return of a son or partner serving in the army in war-torn places (like Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.). Or students / pupils or applicants waiting for their results after a test or interview. What about ourselves in recent weeks, as we waited for the latest Government decision about the resumption of public worship after the recent Covid-lockdown? These rather banal experiences can help us to appreciate the intensity of the spiritual dispositions that we should cultivate or adopt and practise in our journey with the Lord this Advent (And beyond!).	
Today's first reading reminds us of the importance of faith (Is 63:16-17,64:1,3-8), especially when the Lord's final coming may appear remote. That was the feeling of the people of Israel after their return from exile in Babylon. Confronted with various challenges and setbacks in their effort to rebuild the temple and their lives in Jerusalem, they began to feel that their messianic hopes (see Is 40-55) were futile, but they did not give up. Instead, they remembered what Yahweh had done for them in the past, and renewed their trust in him: <i>"You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name...you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand."</i> And acknowledging their sins, they rekindled their hope, in expectation of the Messiah, their Redeemer: <i>"Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance."</i>	
Advent is also a time of conversion. This is conveyed by Isaiah and the Psalmist (Ps 79[80]): <i>"God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved."</i> Though not as rigorously as Lent, the quasi-penitential character of Advent is expressed in one of the prominent figures of Advent, John the Baptist and his proclamation of <i>"a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins"</i> (see Mk 1:3-4). And in the liturgy, purple vestments are worn, the <i>Gloria</i> is omitted, and no flowers in the sanctuary or incidental music.	
Again, waiting upon the Lord requires vigilance because of the unpredictability of his coming. Hence, Jesus admonishes us in the Gospel (Mk 13:33-37): <i>"Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."</i> Prayer, the sacraments, good works, and striving to live a holy life are central to this call. Put otherwise, it means living a <i>life in the Spirit</i> as St Paul says in the second reading (1 Co 1:3-9), <i>"so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ...."</i> ©IAE	
NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS	
1ST READING	Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
2ND READING	2 Peter 3:8-14
GOSPEL	Mark 1: 1-8

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died , especially Bella Fernandes, Lillian Young, Bridie Keane, Angelica Viscido, and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.	CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS Sunday (29/11): 2pm – 3.30pm Monday (30/11): 10.15am – 11.15am & 5pm – 6.30pm Tuesday (1/12): 10.15 – 12pm; 4pm – 7pm Wednesday (2/12): 10.30am – 1pm Thursday (3/12): 10.30am – 12pm Friday (4/12): 10am – 12pm Saturday (5/12): 9.30am – 10am	
	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, Frances Cox, Mary Ryan, Betty Harte, Antonio Ciaiola, Joan McGovern, Rita Reginald, Elizabeth Saunders, Thomas O'Connor, Jimmy Simon, Ron Malone, Sarah Mills, Samar Staussi, Annita Smith, Ann-Marie Deasy, Shirlene A., Ida Rebello, Kathleen & Chris McGuinness, Kathleen O'Connell, Fr Arbo Lekule, Fr Guy Noonan, and Claire Pender.	ADVENT SERVICE To mark the start of Advent, there will be a service (Virtually) on Monday, 30 November at 7pm. All are warmly welcome! ARE YOU CONSIDERING BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Then, consider joining the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) programme. Baptised adult Catholics who have not yet made their First Holy Communion or been confirmed are also welcomed to join the programme. CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS: Who carries cash these days? Most retailers don't take it anymore! Yet for many, we come to Church and get "caught out" by the collection bags at the end of Mass. Great news! You will find contactless payment machines from this week in the narthex: select the amount you wish to give, tap your payment card on the reader, and the payment will come through to the parish. This will be available for use at any time the Church doors are open. Thank you for your generosity. DONATIONS TO FOODBANK: Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the Old Chapel (9am – 6pm). <u><i>Urgently Needed Food Items:</i></u> cereals, instant mash, juice, tinned meat, fish & spaghetti, biscuits, noodles, rice, pasta, tea and coffee. Thanks. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON FAITH ENGAGEMENT: Officials of the MHCLG have asked for individual Catholics to respond to this open consultation on the way Government engages with faith communities. The link to the online submission is: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence This call for evidence aims to collect views to underpin the Faith Engagement Review. This call for evidence opened on 13th November and will run for a period of 4 weeks closing at 11:45pm on 11 December 2020. The Catholic Union with Catholic Voices are organising a webinar on "how the government should engage with faith groups" on Wednesday 2 December at 7pm. Colin Bloom, the Faith Engagement Adviser at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, will present and promote the government consultation on the issue. Link and registration: https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/events/independent-faith-review	
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS			
	<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>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> 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. Any queries? Please contact Allan Cook, email: tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk or phone: 020 8399 4368 Thank you for your generosity to your parish.		
INFANT BAPTISM			
	Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. Next course: TBA		
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION			
	Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.		
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020			
	Candidates Meeting: Next date TBA		
RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION IN LOCKDOWN			
For those who wish to, and who have attended Mass virtually on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, there will be an opportunity to receive Holy Communion between 11am and 11.15am this Sunday. This is private prayer time and not a public liturgy. Please arrive during this 15-minute period whenever you like by the front door of the Church (a queue may have to form outside if many take up this opportunity). Stewards will usher you forwards when it is safe to do so, you will receive, and then exit via the side door (depending on numbers, you may be able to stay for a short time in private prayer).		Our Lady Immaculate Church Parish Lenten Project The Parish Lenten Project has been running successfully since 1971 so in 2021 the Parish will be celebrating its 50th anniversary . During this time the Parish has raised over £441,000 for worthy causes all over the world. Since 1971 the aim of the Project is to give the parish a charitable focal point during Lent and give everyone (all groups, clubs and societies) in the parish the opportunity to take part in fundraising for projects in the developing world. The Lenten Project AGM will be held on Sunday 29th November 2020 at 7.00pm. Owing to the restrictions this year's meeting will be held by Zoom. Please email Phil Townsend on townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk for the meeting I.D. if you wish to attend the AGM. At that meeting we will select the charities which we will be supporting during Lent 2021. We are now actively seeking parishioners to nominate suitable charities. LENTEN PROJECT RAFFLE 2020 The annual Lenten Project Raffle for 2020 had to be cancelled due to coronavirus. The tickets went out in the school bags, as usual, and a small number of counterfoils were returned before the school was closed. As the raffle was never drawn those who returned counterfoils are entitled to a refund unless they would like to donate the amount to the Lenten Project. If you would like a refund please contact Phil Townsend. Please have your ticket numbers available for verification. RETIREMENT OF BISHOP PATRICK LYNCH: With gratitude for his ministry as Auxiliary Bishop in charge of the South East Area of Southwark. See the website for Archbishop Wilson's message.	