



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

13 DECEMBER 2020

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG  
 Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: [tolworth@caos.org.uk](mailto:tolworth@caos.org.uk) + [www.olionline.co.uk](http://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

<b>MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS</b>		
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE (B)</b> <b>YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE VIA ONLINE LIVINGSTREAMING AT <a href="https://www.olionline.co.uk">https://www.olionline.co.uk</a></b>		
12 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Dec'd of Pawlowicz & Galinowski families ( <i>Szymanski's</i> )
13 Sun	09.00	Ottavio D'Agostino ( <i>Franco</i> )
	11.00	James Dunseath ( <i>J Dunseath</i> )
	18.00	Holy Souls
<b>THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT</b>		
<b>EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION:</b> Monday – Friday at 8.30am		
14 Mon <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30	Denis Peiris ( <i>D &amp; A Peiris</i> )
15 Tues <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Thomas McGahon ( <i>K Fox</i> )
	19.00	Majorie & Pam ( <i>S &amp; B Batty</i> )
16 Wed <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Vincent Dall ( <i>P &amp; K Dall</i> )
	19.00	Thanksgiving ( <i>Lynette Confait</i> )
17 Thurs <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Holy Souls
	9.30	Florence Hong – RIP ( <i>Cook</i> )
18 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Holy Souls
	9.30	Fr Ambrose Walsh – RIP ( <i>T Rutter</i> )
19 Sat <i>Feria</i>	9.00	Thanksgiving for the Gift of Our Lady ( <i>Abigail</i> )
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b>		
19 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Bridie McNulty – WB ( <i>)</i>
20 Sun <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	9.00	T. T. Paul – RIP ( <i>B Roy</i> )
	11.00	Katherina Dunseath ( <i>J Dunseath</i> )
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People
<b>OTHER SERVICES</b>		
<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	Saturday: 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.15pm	
<b>St Anthony of Padua</b>	<b>Tuesday:</b> after morning and evening Masses	
<b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</b>	<b>Wednesday:</b> after morning and evening Masses	
<b>Our Lady of Fatima</b>	1st Saturday of the month	
<b>LIVINGSTREAMING CONTINUES</b>		
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.		

<b>REJOICE, THE LORD IS NEAR!</b>	
<p>The third second of Advent is traditionally called <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>. The name is derived from the opening Latin word in the Entrance Antiphon: “<i>Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Dominus enim prope est</i>” – “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (Ph 4:4-5). Clearly, the reason for joy is the nearness of the Lord whose first coming we celebrate at Christmas while also anticipating, like Paul and the early Church, his second coming at the <i>Parousia</i>, the end of time. This theme resonates in the liturgical prayers and biblical readings of today’s Mass. In the <i>Collect</i> (Opening Prayer), we pray that God may enable his people who “<i>faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity... to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.</i>” Addressing the people of Israel after the Babylonian Captivity, the Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading (Is 61:1-2.10-11), tells them about God’s <i>anointed one</i> who is endowed with the Spirit in order to bring healing, deliverance, redemption and restoration to God’s people, especially the poor, the sick, and the vulnerable. This provides the background for the jubilation of the people: “<i>I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation...</i>” Jesus is the fulfilment of this messianic prophecy and hope. We can establish a link here between Isaiah and Luke the evangelist’s account of the <i>Annunciation</i>. The first word of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary was, “<i>Rejoice</i>” (Lk 1:28). Mary could not hide this joy to herself. Hence, her immediate response after her <i>Fiat</i> (<i>Yes, Amen</i>) – “<i>I am the handmaid of the Lord, let be done to me according to your word</i>” (v.38) – was to “set out as quickly as she could” to share the good news of salvation with our kin. During the <i>Visitation</i>, John the Baptist, a baby in Elizabeth’s womb, “<i>leaped for joy</i>” (Lk 1:47), and thereby led her to encounter him too. In response to Elizabeth’s admiration, Mary proclaims God’s greatness (<i>The Magnificat</i>): “<i>My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.</i>” Her joy epitomises the fulfilment of the messianic joy promised to the people of Israel. Fittingly, the evangelist Luke recounts how Jesus appropriated the messianic prophecy in today’s first reading, after he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah to read in a synagogue on a sabbath day (Lk 4:16-22). Then, he said: “<i>This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen</i>” (v.21). Again, St Paul in the second reading (1 Th 5:16-24), exhorts us, “<i>Be happy at all times.</i>” Of course, Paul is not unaware of the difficulties, challenges and anxieties experienced by the early Christians in Thessalonica. That is why he prays that “<i>the God of peace</i>” may keep them “<i>safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.</i>”</p> <p>Christian joy is guaranteed by faith in God. As Paul puts it, “<i>God has called you and he will not fail you.</i>” It is a joy that comes from our encounter with Jesus Christ – through his word, the sacraments especially the Holy Eucharist, and through his brothers and sisters especially the poor, the needy and the stranger (see Matt 25). As Pope Francis reminds us: “<i>The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew</i>” (§1). Besides, encounter with him sets us (like Isaiah, Mary, John the Baptist, and St Paul), on fire for mission, to witness to Christ and his Kingdom in the world. Jesus says, “<i>No one lights a lamp to cover it with a bowl</i>” (Lk 8:16). ©IAE</p>	
<b>NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS</b>	
<b>1ST READING</b>	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
<b>2ND READING</b>	Romans 16:25-27
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Luke 1:26-38

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE	
	<b>Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died</b> , especially Ida Upham, Milly Leightley, and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time, especially Jane Nalule Kibirango (10 <sup>th</sup> annv.). May they rest in peace. Amen.
	<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, 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, and Claire Pender.

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></p> <p><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></i></p> <p><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.</p> <p>Any queries? Please contact Allan Cook, email: <a href="mailto:tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk">tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk</a> or phone: 020 8399 4368</p> <p><b>Thank you for your generosity to your parish.</b></p>

INFANT BAPTISM	
	Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. <b>Next course: TBA</b>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION	
	Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020	
	<b>Candidates Meeting:</b> Next date TBA

CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS	
<p>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.</p>	

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
<p><b>CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS</b></p> <p><b>Sunday (13/12):</b> 2pm – 3.30pm  <b>Monday (14/12):</b> 10.15am – 11.15am &amp; 5pm – 6.00pm  <b>Tuesday (15/12):</b> 10.15 – 12pm; 4pm – 7pm  <b>Wednesday (16/12):</b> 10.30am – 1pm  <b>Thursday (17/12):</b> 10.30am – 12pm  <b>Friday (18/12):</b> 10.30am – 12pm  <b>Saturday (19/12):</b> 9.30am – 10am</p>	
<p><b>REMEMBERING THE UNBORN THIS ADVENT</b></p> <p>"Yesterday we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the unborn. We ask for her guidance and inspiration as we the Church seek to support all pregnant mothers through their pregnancies, and that we would become models of support to all in society. Lord hear us" – see <a href="http://www.righttolife.org.uk">www.righttolife.org.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>SIGNING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS:</b> Monday (14/12) and Tuesday (15/12) from 3pm to 4pm. Come with your child, please.</p>	
<p><b>ADVENT SERVICE:</b> Monday, 21/12 – to livestreamed at 7pm.</p>	
<p><b>CHRISTMAS MASSES:</b> The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) will be celebrated as follows in the parish this year. There will be <b>3 Masses</b> on the Eve of Christ and <b>3 Masses</b> on Christmas Day as listed below.</p> <p>To comply with public health requirements due to Covid-19, <b>we strongly advise that all who intend to attend any of the below listed Masses should endeavour to arrive latest 10 minutes before each Mass.</b> Please, kindly take note of the following mandatory requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The use of appropriate facial covering throughout Mass.</li> <li>2. All to be seated as will be directed by the ushers. No standing!</li> <li>3. Completion of NHS Track and Trace forms (or scan QR Code with your mobile device). For those using paper forms, if possible, please kindly complete one in advance at home (Your name, contact detail, date and time of Mass) to hand in at the entrance.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>A. CHRIST MASS EVE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4PM – First Vigil Mass</li> <li>2. 7pm – Second Vigil Mass</li> <li>3. 10pm – Mass during the Night (<i>formerly Midnight Mass</i>)</li> </ol>	
<p><b>B. CHRISTMAS DAY:</b> 8am, 9.15am, and 11am</p>	
<p><b>DONATIONS TO FOODBANK:</b> Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the <b>Old Chapel</b> (9am – 6pm).</p>	
<p><b>WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR WHILE IN CHURCH IN ADVENT</b></p> <p>As you look around the Church, and take part in the Church's liturgies, you will have noticed some changes. We have an <b>advent wreath</b>. Also known as the Advent Crown, it symbolises the four weeks of advent. It is circular, representing God's infinite love, and decorated with evergreen leaves which represent the hope of eternal life. Sundays 1, 2 and 4 have violet-coloured candles, rose for the third Sunday, and white for Christmas Day, representing the joy of Christ's birth, and of course white also being a festive liturgical colour. The vestments the priest wears are <b>violet or purple</b>, representing sorrow and penitence, and the patience we must have during this season of preparation for the birth of Our Lord. There should be no <b>flowers</b> within the sanctuary as we have embarked on a solemn season of preparation for Christmas, and for similar reasons, there should be no additional incidental <b>organ music</b>: like the sanctuary decorations, it is stripped back to only that which is needed to accompany the singing. People will ask, "<i>Why are we not singing Christmas Carols?</i>" "<i>They are playing them on the radio!</i>" Christ's birth in the liturgy is celebrated on 25th December (24th for vigil Masses) so it would not make any sense whatsoever to be preparing for his coming on the one hand and celebrating his arrival (early) on the other hand! Finally, you will see another change next week as the colour purple gives way to rose and we celebrate <b>Gaudete Sunday</b> (we also have the rose-coloured candle on the wreath). The word comes from the entrance antiphon for this Mass, which is 'Rejoice!' This Sunday gives us a little bit of a break about midway through the season, which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming (a limited number of flowers are permitted to be used, and the music will also reflect this effective "light relief" halfway through our Advent preparations). ©AR</p>	