



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

20 DECEMBER 2020

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG
 Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: tolworth@rcaos.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 Pr

MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS		
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE VIA ONLINE LIVINGSTREAMING AT https://www.olionline.co.uk		
19 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Bridie McNulty - WB (<i>J. Friell</i>)
20 Sun <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	09.00	T. T. Paul – RIP (<i>B Roy</i>)
	11.00	Katherina Dunseath (<i>J Dunseath</i>)
	18.00	Holy Souls
FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT		
EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am		
21 Mon <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Alexius Yap (<i>C Yap</i>)
22 Tues <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Holy Souls (<i>J Fevri</i>)
	19.00	Freda Cantwell (<i>J. Dunseath</i>)
23 Wed <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Bro Anthony Brockman
	19.00	Hutchinson Family – RIP (<i>R Lee</i>)
24 Thurs <i>Feria</i>	9.30	John Walsh – RIP (<i>J. Dunseath</i>)
	16.00	Jane Kibirango – RIP (<i>J K & Family</i>)
	19.00	Keith Savage – WB (<i>S & I Houston</i>)
	22.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People
25 Friday <i>Feria</i>	8.00	Monica Tett – WB
	9.15	Family and Friends
	11.00	Barbra, Chris & Rosie–WB (<i>Maria</i>)
26 Sat <i>St Stephen</i>	9.00	Margaret & Bill Wills – WB
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY		
26 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	D'cd of Albert & Sebastian Families – RIP (<i>Joe & Antionette</i>)
27 Sun	9.00	Peg McCusker – RIP (<i>E McCusker</i>)
	11.00	27 th Wedding Isac & Lucy George
	18.00	Eddie Savage – RIP (<i>J Savage</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	
LIVINGSTREAMING 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.		

BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD!

The fourth and last Sunday of Advent brings us steadily closer to the great feast of the birth of Christ at Christmas. It is fitting that the liturgy turns our focus to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the woman through whom God accomplished the mystery of the Incarnation. Mary is certainly the epitome of divine election. She was chosen by God for a unique role in both human and salvation history even before she was born. According to Justin Martyr (AD 160), Irenaeus (AD 180) and other Church Fathers, Mary's role was already prophesied immediately after *The Fall*. Beyond the pronouncement of judgement against Adam and Eve, Genesis 3 contains a message of redemption particularly in verse 15 where God says to the serpent: *"I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel."*

In the light of the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption, the Fathers of the Church considered this text, especially the phrase, *"It [her offspring] will crush your head and you will strike its heel,"* as *protoevangelium*, the first good news or gospel in the Bible. They also identified the *offspring of the woman* with Jesus and his mother Mary as the *new Eve*, following the lead by St Paul in 1 Co 15:45 where he describes Jesus as the *second Adam*. This typological or allegorical comparison between Eve and Mary (the *new Eve*) and Adam and Christ, highlights, among others, both the pre-eminence and the salvific character of God's choice of Mary. But why did God choose her?

Sheer grace! It was neither a reward for her good deeds nor an answer to her prayer. It was based on God's free decision. This is emphasised twice in today's gospel (Lk 1:26-28) by the Angel Gabriel, as he says to her: *"Rejoice, so highly favoured" ... 'you have won God's favour.'"* Thus, rather than being chosen because of any merit on her part, God's election makes her indeed 'worthy' before God and deserving of being revered by all generations. As she acknowledges in the *Magnificat*: *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit exults in God my saviour, because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name"* (Lk 1:47-49).

Does this mean that Mary was completely lacking in merit? Not at all! What then was her 'merit'? One way of looking at this is to return to the above comparison between her and Eve to find out the main thing that was lacking in (Adam and) Eve but found in abundance in Mary (and Jesus). The answer is obedience to God's will! Mary's response to God's choice of her is simply outstanding. Though *she was deeply disturbed* by the angel's word and candidly queried the prospect of giving birth as a virgin, she believed that *"nothing is impossible to God."* Consequently, she surrendered herself completely to God's will: *"I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me"* (Lk 1:38). Besides, she remained faithful to her Yes to the end. Therefore, she was not just a passive vessel at the disposal of God. She was an active collaborator with God in bringing about the fulfilment of God's plan for humanity and the world.

Preparing to welcome Christ when he comes, we remember that like Mary, each of us is chosen by God and has found favour with him. We remember also that, sadly, oftentimes, unlike her, we are hesitant to say Yes to him and/or are unfaithful to our Yes to him. Trusting in her maternal care, we pray to be inspired by her example and helped by her intercession ©IAE

1ST READING	Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
2ND READING	Colossians 3:12-21
GOSPEL	Luke 2:22-40

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



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



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, Sarah Mills, Samar Staussi, Annita Smith, Ann-Marie Deasy, Shirlene A., Ida Rebello, Kathleen & Chris McGuinness, Kathleen O'Connell, and Claire Pender.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS

Sunday (20/12): 2pm – 3.30pm

Monday (21/12): 10.15am – 11.15am & 5pm – 6.00pm

Tuesday (22/12): 10.15 – 12pm; 4pm – 7pm

Wednesday (23/12): 10.30am – 1pm

Thursday (24/12): 10.30am – 12pm

Friday (25/12): *Christmas Day*

Saturday (26/12): 9.30am – 10am (*During Confessions*)

ADVENT SERVICE

Monday, 21/12 at 7pm. The service will be livestreamed, and all are welcome to participate virtually.

ADVENT CONFESSION

In preparation for Christmas, additional opportunity for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered after morning Mass from 10am to 10.30am from Monday 21 to Thursday 24 December.

REMEMBERING THE UNBORN THIS ADVENT

"We pray for all expectant mothers. We pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities, as the journey through this life changing experience. Lord hear us" – see www.righttolife.org.uk

CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) will be celebrated as follows in the parish this year. There will be **3 Masses** on the Eve of Christ and **3 Masses** on Christmas Day as listed below.

To comply with public health requirements due to Covid-19, **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.** Please, kindly take note of the following requirements:

1. The use of appropriate facial covering throughout Mass.
2. All to be seated as will be directed by the ushers. No standing!
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.
4. There will be no congregational singing.

A. CHRISTMASS EVE

1. 4pm – First Vigil Mass
2. 7pm – Second Vigil Mass
3. 10pm – Mass during the Night (*formerly Midnight Mass*)

B. CHRISTMAS DAY: 8am, 9.15am, and 11am

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

The collection taken at all Christmas Masses is your gift to our priests, Fr Ignatius and Fr Joseph. As usual, envelopes are available in the Narthex and in the benches.

If you are a member of the parish Gift Aid scheme please enter your gift aid number on the envelope to enable tax to be reclaimed for the benefit of the parish. If you do not know your gift aid number, Allan Cook (email tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk or phone 020 8399 4368) will be happy to give it to you.

If you are giving by bank transfers please distinguish your Christmas offering from your weekly or monthly donations by including the reference 'Xmas' in addition to your gift aid number, if any.

The details for online giving are: **RCAS Our Lady Immaculate Church, Account Number: 06467032; Sort Code: 60-21-05.**

DONATIONS TO FOODBANK: Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the **Old Chapel** (9am – 6pm). Urgently Needed Food Items: cereals, instant mash, juice, tinned meat, fish & spaghetti, biscuits, noodles, rice, pasta, tea and coffee. Thanks.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE TABLET: Only £30 for 12 issues and you will also receive a free Tablet 2021 calendar worth £9.99. For more details, email: ifarrar@thetablet.co.uk

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



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.***

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.

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



On behalf of Fr Joseph and Dcn Al, I would like to wish all parishioners and visitors to our parish a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Buon Natale * Joyeux Noël * Fröhliche Weihnachten * Felix Natal * Vrolijk Kerstfeest * Krismasi Njema * Krisamas Kee Badhaee * Suba Naththalak Wewa * Felix Navidad!

Fr Ignatius, PP