



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church

03 JANUARY 2021

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (B)

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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

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

2 Sat Vigil	18.30	Malkiat Chitta – RIP (<i>P Townsend</i>)
3 Sun	09.00	Mijaka Tsuji
	11.00	Fr Mike Gwinnell – RIP (<i>T Rutter</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

WEEKDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

4 Mon <i>Feria of Christmas</i>	9.30	Meta Bevento
5 Tues <i>Morning – Feria Vigil of Epiphany</i>	9.30	John Tumilty – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
	19.00	Nora Dawson – RIP
6 Wed <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9.30	Joan Bulley (<i>UCM</i>)
	19.00	Tessa & John Rutter – WB (<i>Szymanski's</i>)
7 Thurs <i>Feria of Christmas</i>	7.00	Philomena Eweh – RIP
	9.30	Elizabeth & Thomas Wilson – Anniv (<i>Liz Jones</i>)
8 Friday <i>Feria of Christmas</i>	7.00	Paul & Phyllis Barry
	9.30	Anne Finnegan – RIP (<i>K Fox</i>)
9 Sat <i>Feria of Christmas</i>	9.00	Margaret Thomas – WB (<i>T Rutter</i>)

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9 Sat Vigil	18.30	Anna Szymanska – WB (<i>Maria</i>)
10 Sun	9.00	Verna Hutchinson – RIP (<i>Jankowski</i>)
	11.00	Gisela Daum – RIP (<i>Hatt Family</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

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 WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND LIVED AMONG US

*“The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth” (Jn 1:14).*

This is how John the evangelist describes the mystery of the Incarnation, the mystery of God becoming man in the person of his Son, Jesus of Nazareth. There can be no better summary of the Christmas story, namely that God, who *“at various times in the past and in various different ways,”* revealed himself to humanity, especially through the prophets, has *“in our own time, the last days,”* revealed himself to us through his Son (Hb 1:1-2).

Unlike Matthew the evangelist who traces the genealogy of Jesus to the Patriarchs starting with Abraham down to Joseph through David, thereby establishing his Davidic lineage (Matt 1), the evangelist John traces his origin to the eternal Word. Similarly, unlike Luke the evangelist who presents a detailed account of his conception and birth (see Lk 1-2), John goes back beyond the time of his conception and birth, to *before the beginning of the beginning: “In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”* He also emphasises the creative power of the Word: *“Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him.”* Here, we are reminded of the account of creation in Genesis 1. God created mainly by his word: *“God said, ‘Let there be ...’ and there was ...”*

Notice that the Word by which all was created is not only uncreated but is also identical with God. Evidently, by emphasising the Word’s uncreated and performative nature and identifying the Word with God, the author of the fourth gospel is highlighting the eternal existence and divinity of the Word. God’s Word is God! And, therefore, reliable! It does what he promises; it does not return empty (see Is 55:10-13). It manifests God’s being and manifold attributes – power, love, mercy etc.

But God’s Word is not only identical with God and performative, but also a concrete person, Jesus Christ, thanks to the mystery of the Incarnation. *“The Word became flesh, became human, became one of us, and lived with us!”* The Incarnation is therefore the climax of God’s self-disclosure of Godself in and through his divine Word. He takes on a new nature (humanity) and a new address (among us). As proclaimed in the *Preface of Christmas II*, *“For on the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine nature, he has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages, he has begun to exist in time...”* Jesus is, therefore, the fullness of divine revelation. By virtue of his Incarnation, he brings together in a mysterious way both the heavenly and earthly realm, *“so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom”* (Preface of Christmas II).

At Christmastide we continue to celebrate this divine humility, self-emptying (*kenosis*) and gift par excellence. We pray for greater openness on our part to the *Word-among-us*. He is always at the door of our hearts, life, home and community, waiting to be recognised, welcomed, listened to and accepted. He alone has and speaks the Word that can and will renew and recreate us, giving us a new beginning like in the first creation. © IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 55:1-11 / Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7
2ND READING	1 John 5:1-9 or Acts 10:34-38
GOSPEL	John 1:1-18

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died , especially Verna Hutchinson, Ida Upham, Milly Leightley, Fr. Mike Gwinnell and Canon Frank O'Sullivan, and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.	CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS Sunday (3/01): 2pm – 3.30pm Monday (4/01): 10.15am – 11.15am & 5pm – 6pm Tuesday (5/01): 10.15 – 12pm; 4pm – 7pm Wednesday (6/01): 10.30am – 1pm Thursday (7/01): 10.30am – 12pm Friday (8/01): 10.00am – 12pm Saturday (9/01): 9.30am – 10am (<i>During Confessions</i>)	
	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, and Claire Pender.	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – 6 JAN The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord will be celebrated on Wednesday, 6 January. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be three Masses in the Parish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Tuesday, 5 January – Vigil Mass (7pm) o Wednesday, 6 January – 9.30am o Wednesday, 6 January – 7pm 	
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS		THANK YOU AND NEW YEAR WISHES On behalf of Father Joseph and myself, I want to thank all parishioners and visitors to our parish during this holy season for your kind Christmas wishes and gifts. Thank you for all your invaluable support and collaboration in the pastoral ministry of the parish and pastoral care of our people and community in 2020 especially during the deadly Covid-19 pandemic. Finally, may I also use this opportunity to wish you all and your families and loved ones a happy, joyful, safe, successful and prosperous New Year – 2021. <i>Fr. Ignatius</i>	
	<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> 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.	COVID-19 ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING SUPPORT With Volunteering Kingston: Please see the detail of this volunteer role which you may be interested in. Find out more about this opportunity and sign up now with Volunteering Kingston 54TH WORLD DAY OF PEACE – 1 JANUARY 2021 In the wake of the current Covid-19 pandemic and its manifold impacts, both positive and negative and/or challenging, Pope Francis has emphasised in his message to mark the 54th World Day of Peace, “a culture of care as a way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time.” Full text of “A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace” at http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html 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	
INFANT BAPTISM		† Verna Hutchinson – RIP A devoted parishioner who died on Christmas Day, aged 87 years. Funeral: TBA. Please, remember her in your prayers.	
	Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. Next course: TBA	† Leslie Feast – RIP † Former Headmaster of OLI Primary School from 1976 to 1988, who died peacefully in his sleep aged 94 years, at Kingston Hospital on Monday 21st December. Please remember him in your prayers.	
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION		† Canon Frank O'Sullivan – RIP Former Parish Priest of St Joseph's New Malden died peacefully on 22 December, aged nearly 100 years. Please, remember him in your prayers.	
	Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.	Fr Michael Gwinnell – RIP Former Parish Priest of St Ann's, Kingston Hill (1992-2001) who died peacefully in the early hours of Sunday, 13 December at St Teresa's Home (Wimbledon), aged 96 years, and after 68 years of priestly life and ministry. Please, remember him in your prayers.	
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020			
	Candidates Meeting: Next date TBA		
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.			