



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

21 FEBRUARY 2021

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 Primary School + **Headteacher:** Mrs. Frances Robertson

MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

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

20 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	James Thomas – WB (<i>Rosamma & Family</i>)
21 Sun	9.00	Dec'd of F A D'Agostino & Family – RIP (<i>Franco</i>)
	11.00	Mary Burt – RIP (<i>UCM</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

WEEKDAY OF LENT

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

22 Mon <i>Chair of St Peter</i>	9.30	Rajani Reginald – RIP
23 Tues <i>Feria of Lent</i>	9.30	Jimmy Griffin – RIP
	19.00	Ray Wong – RIP (<i>J Wong</i>)
24 Wed <i>Feria of Lent</i>	9.30	Imelda Hutchinson – RIP (<i>R Lee</i>)
	19.00	Holy Souls – Departed Priests
25 Thurs <i>Feria of Lent</i>	7.00	Holy Souls (<i>K Fox</i>)
	9.30	Ethel Rose – WB
26 Friday <i>Feria of Lent</i>	7.00	John Burns – RIP (<i>K Fox</i>)
	9.30	Elizabeth Kocherry – RIP (<i>Family</i>)
27 Sat <i>Feria of Lent</i>	9.00	John & Bernadette Brooks – Wedding Anniversary

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

28 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Vincent Burrows – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
28 Sun	9.00	Jacques Pearce – WB
	11.00	
	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 Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Tuesday: after morning and evening Masses Wednesday: after morning and evening Masses
Our Lady of Fatima	1st Saturday of the month

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: FRIDAY, after 9.30am Mass

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.

REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

The beginning of Lent is marked by the solemn ritual of imposition of blessed ashes on Ash Wednesday. The rite reminds us of the central message of Lent, namely, conversion through repentance and faithfulness to the Good News of salvation. Lent, therefore, is a time of renewal, a time of favour, a time of grace. It prepares us spiritually for the celebration of our liberation and new life in Christ at Easter through his passion, death and resurrection. This is demonstrated especially during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday in the renewal of our baptismal promises and the baptism of catechumens (*converts preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist*) or the reception of already baptised converts into full communion with the Church.

Five days into our Lenten journey, the biblical readings of the first Sunday of Lent (Year B) prepare us for this solemn moment. The saving power of baptism is emphasised by St Peter in the second reading (1 Pe 3:18-22). By baptism, believers are saved through interior renewal which makes them able, through Christ, to enter into a covenant relationship with God like Noah and his sons after the flood in the first reading (Gn 9:8-15). For Christians, baptism “*is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*” This solemn pledge is summarised in the baptismal promises through which we renounce Satan and all his works and empty show and confess our faith in the Holy Trinity, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting. These promises link us spiritually to the everlasting covenant that Christ has made with his blood. However, like the people of Israel after the covenant with Noah, our relationship with God is far from perfect. We are not always faithful to our baptismal promises. Oftentimes we fall easily into temptation; sometimes we turn our backs against God. Nonetheless, despite our unfaithfulness and sinfulness, God never goes back on his promise (2 Tm 2:13). Therefore, in the fullness of time he sent his only Son, as St Peter explains, to bring us back to God through his death and resurrection: “*Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God.*”

In the light of today’s Gospel, the forty days of Lent provide us a good opportunity to withdraw into the wilderness of our souls to rediscover our true selves and the state of our relationship with God. So, Lent provides us a spiritual sacred space to take stock of our commitment to our baptismal promises and mission as Jesus did after his baptism, before starting his public ministry. Certainly, this must not happen only on individual basis. It is equally imperative for us collectively as a Christian community.

It is noteworthy that, for Jesus, the desert was not only a place of testing by Satan. It was also a place of encounter with the Father through prayer and fasting. In fact, Jesus was never afraid of the desert or lonely places; “*he frequently withdrew to the wilderness to pray*” (Lk 5:16). Moreover, the wilderness was a place of victory over Satan and his empty show (see Matt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-12). Hence, “*armed with weapons of self-restraint [prayer, fasting and almsgiving], we aim for victory as we prayed in the Collect of Ash Wednesday, “as we take up battle against spiritual evils.”*”

Jesus’ first public proclamation – “*The time has come ... and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News*” is a clarion call addressed to all of us this Lent and always and requires our immediate response and action. © IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18
2ND READING	Romans 8:31-34
GOSPEL	Mark 9:2-10

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died , especially Heather Trutwein, Jimmy Costello, Verna Hutchinson, Hannah Oddy, Josephine Maria Philips, and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.	CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS Sunday (21/02): 2pm – 3.30pm Monday (22/02): 10 – 11.15am; 5pm – 6pm Tuesday (23/02): 10.15 – 12pm; 4pm – 7pm Wednesday (24/02): 10.30am – 1pm Thursday (25/02): 10.30am – 12pm Friday (26/02): 10.00am – 12pm Saturday (27/02): 9.30am – 10am (<i>During Confessions</i>) CAFOD FAMILY FAST: Friday, 26 February. You can use envelopes provided or contribute online at www.cafod.org.uk/lent	
	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, 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.	 Our Lady Immaculate Church Parish Lenten Project	
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS		We are now in Lent 2021 and by now the usual events would start taking place by the Lenten Project Committee. Unfortunately, these have been curtailed by the lockdown and the on-going pandemic. We are absolutely determined however, not to let the pandemic derail the Parish Lenten Project particularly in our 50th anniversary year. So, in our Golden Jubilee Year, we intend to bring a full programme of events – they just will not all be in Lent. The sponsored walk is going ahead, and other events will take place when circumstances allow. If you do not have a Lenten Box you may make a donation via the Justgiving page below which has been set up for sponsorship for the sponsored walk (<i>please see article below</i>). https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Our-Lady-Immaculate-Church Please support the Parish Lenten Project. Thankyou. Any question? Please contact Phil Townsend on 8399 3481 or email Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk .	
	<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@caos.org.uk or phone: 020 8399 4368 Thank you for your generosity to your parish.	SPONSORED WALK This year, due to COVID restrictions, we cannot have a sponsored walk event where we walk as a group. Instead, we are asking Parishioners to commit to walk either individually, or as a family, a certain number of miles during the period of Lent. Given that this year is the 50th Parish Lenten Project, a number of Parishioners have committed to walking 50 miles; however, one individual has committed to 500 miles! Please contact Elspeth (elspeth.casey@virginmedia.com) if you are interested in taking part, as it would be lovely to calculate the total walked by Parishioners. If you would like to sponsor us, please either pop some money in an envelope and post through the Presbytery door or use the above Justgiving site. Many thanks for your support!	
INFANT BAPTISM		DONATIONS TO FOODBANK Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the Old Chapel (9am – 6pm). <u>Urgently Needed Food Items:</u> cereals, instant mash, juice, tinned meat, fish & spaghetti, biscuits, noodles, rice, pasta, tea and coffee. Thanks.	
	Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. Next course: TBA	HEADTEACHER VACANCY – OLI RC Primary School, Tolworth (<i>Closing date Noon, Wednesday 3 March</i>) Following the imminent retirement of our current Headteacher, the Governing Body are seeking to appoint a Headteacher who is capable of continuing the positive journey we have been on over the past 5 years and who has the capacity to lead the school from very good to exceptional. If you are interested in the position or know someone who might be then please direct them to the school website for further details https://www.oli.kingston.sch.uk/vacancies/	
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION		ONLINE RETREAT FOR LENT Archbishop John and the Diocesan Spirituality Commission are offering a Retreat for Lent, which you can follow in your own home. Using the link below, you can watch a short video reflection each week, download prayer materials and other resources which can help you make the best use of whatever time and opportunity you may have during your week. If you are looking for a way to deepen your life of prayer this Lent, click on http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme where you can also sign up to receive materials directly to your email.	
	Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.	† Josephine Maria Philips – RIP A devoted parishioner who died on Sunday, 17 January, aged 100 years. Funeral: Monday, 22 February at 1pm. May she rest in peace.	
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.			