



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

14 FEBRUARY 2021

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

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

13 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Violet & Laurence Seager (<i>Batty</i>)
14 Sun	9.00	Christi Suraco – RIP (<i>M. Guntrip</i>)
	11.00	Noreen Walsh – RIP (<i>T Hayes</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

WEEKDAY OF THE YEAR (I) / LENT

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

15 Mon <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Josie Philips – RIP (<i>Adult Afternoon</i>)
16 Tues <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Michael Aletare (<i>CJ Tanolisis</i>)
	19.00	George & Mary Ryde – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
17 Wed ASH WEDNESDAY	7.00	Jacques Pearce – WB
	9.30	Canute D’Aguiar – WB (<i>A Abraham</i>)
	19.00	Mary Tong – RIP (<i>J Wong</i>)
18 Thurs <i>Feria of Lent</i>	7.00	Michael Connolly – WB
	9.30	Theo Fernandes – RIP (<i>B/D</i>)
19 Friday <i>Feria of Lent</i>	7.00	Maria Conroy – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
	9.30	George Trutwein – WB (<i>T Rutter</i>)
20 Sat <i>Feria of Lent</i>	9.00	Heather Trutwein – RIP (<i>S Melder</i>)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

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

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.

TAKING CHRIST FOR OUR MODEL

The evangelist Mark continues narrating the healing activities of Jesus in today’s Gospel (Mk 1:40-45). This time, the disease is specifically named; he heals a man of *leprosy*.

As evident in the first reading (Lv 13:1-2,44-46), leprosy was a dreaded disease among the Jews. It was the duty of Aaron and his sons (the priests) to diagnose and place the sufferers under quarantine – and to confirm their healing and readmittance into the community: “*The priest must declare him unclean... A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ As long as the disease lasts, he must be unclean; and therefore, he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.*” This was the sorry state of lepers – including those who had any serious skin disease such as psoriasis, acne, etc. – at the time of Jesus. Severed from family and society, they were, also, exposed to personal indignity, humiliation and hardship (see Lk 17:11-14).

Like in his other encounters with people on the margins (see Matt 9:9-13; Mk 5:25-34; Lk 7:37-50; 19:1-10; Jn 4), Jesus’ attitude towards the leprosy man is outstanding. Against known social and religious conventions, Jesus allowed the leper to come to him, kneel at his feet and talk to him. He is neither afraid of the leper nor deterred by his contagious situation. Like the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37), he is overwhelmed, as it were, by his condition, affected by his suffering – and wants to help him and set him free for good. So, “*feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him*” – and cured him by saying, “*Be Cured.*” The person of the sufferer, the victim, the outcaste, is always central to Jesus’ healing and liberating ministry. Always moved by compassion, and not by any personal motives (e.g. fame or power), he fulfils the prophecy of today’s psalmist, “*You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation*” (Ps 31[32]).

Pope Francis has recently emphasised, the importance of imitating this Christ-like encounter in the care of the sick and infirm: “*If a therapy is to be effective, it must have a relational aspect, for this enables a holistic approach to the patient ... The Gospel frequently makes this clear by showing that Jesus heals not by magic but as the result of an encounter, an interpersonal relationship, in which God’s gift finds a response in the faith of those who accept it. As Jesus often repeats: “Your faith has saved you”* (Pope Francis, *Message for World Day of the Sick 2021*, §4).

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic offers us a mild experience of the plight of Israel’s lepers and also an opportunity to reflect on the impact of Jesus’ words and action. *Social distance, lockdown, self-isolation, quarantine!* These are not just buzz words. They are the new normal in our society / world for over a year now. As measures to keep everyone safe and well in very unpredictable circumstances, they require full compliance by everyone. However, from experience, it is established that they can also become a hindrance to human sensitivity and the *Charity of Christ* towards those affected and/or afflicted by Covid-19 or other illness at this time. Our society and each of us can avoid such dangers by learning to place people at the centre of our efforts to stay safe and well. Jesus provides us a perfect example to follow.

Like Saint Paul in the second reading (1 Co 10:31-11:1), we are invited and challenged today (and always) to strive to *take Christ for our model* so that we, in turn, might become a model for the people around us – and for the whole world. © IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Genesis 9:8-15
2ND READING	1 Peter 3:18-22
GOSPEL	Mark 1:12-15

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE	
	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.
	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.

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 olionline.co.uk), or by online banking: RCAS Our Lady Immaculate Church, Account Number: 06467032; Sort Code: 60-21-05.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Any queries? Please contact Allan Cook, email: tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk or phone: 020 8399 4368</p> <p>Thank you for your generosity to your parish.</p>

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION	
	<p>Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.</p>

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

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>CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS</p> <p>Sunday (14/02): 2pm – 3.30pm Monday (15/02): 5pm – 6pm Tuesday (16/02): 10.15 – 12pm; 4pm – 7pm Wednesday (17/02): 10.30am – 1pm Thursday (18/02): 10.30am – 12pm Friday (19/02): 10.00am – 12pm Saturday (20/02): 9.30am – 10am (<i>During Confessions</i>)</p> <p>LENT 2021 Wednesday, 17 February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a time of <i>prayer, fasting</i> and <i>almsgiving</i> in preparation for the celebration of Easter. There will be three Masses: 7.00am, 9.30am and 7pm. Ashes will be blessed and distributed in all three Masses. Stations of the Cross: Friday, after 9.30am Mass.</p>	
	
<p>The Lenten Project AGM was held on Sunday 29th November 2020. At this meeting the charities, which the Parish will be supporting for Lent 2021 were chosen. A copy of the minutes is on the parish Website (Community/Lenten Project).</p> <p>Three Charities were nominated and all three were adopted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St Joseph's Boys Hostel (SRI LANKA) Providing food, lodging and education to 93 students. 2. The Carmelite Sisters (SUDAN) The Carmelite Sisters are providing a medical clinic to war-torn Southern Sudan to help the poor and destitute. 3. The Cardinal Ekandem Seminary (NIGERIA) A junior seminary in the Catholic Diocese of Uyo, where Fr Ignatius & Fr Joseph studied. It presently has 300 students, in 6 year-groups. The support under the Lenten Project will provide much needed help towards building a new hostel. <p>Lenten Boxes: Distributed this weekend; you may also collect from the presbytery at your convenience or use your own box. If you would like to organise or participate in an event during lent 2021 please contact Phil Townsend on 8399 3481 or email Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>HEADTEACHER VACANCY – OLI RC Primary School, Tolworth (Closing date Noon, Wednesday 3 March)</p>	
<p>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/</p>	
<p>ONLINE RETREAT FOR LENT</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>† Heather Trutwein – RIP</p>	
<p>Please, remember in your prayers Heather Trutwein a devoted parishioner who died on Tuesday, 5 January at St George's Hospital, aged 81. Our condolences to George (her husband) and family. Funeral: Friday, 19 February at 11am.</p>	
<p>† Josephine Maria Philips – RIP</p>	
<p>A devoted parishioner who died on Sunday, 17 January, aged 100 years. Funeral: Monday, 22 February at 1pm. Please, remember her in your prayers.</p>	