



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

21 March 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

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

20 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Jacques & Rita Pierce – WB
21 Sun <i>RCIA Third Scrutiny</i>	9.00	Margaret Grogan – RIP (<i>P Grogan</i>)
	11.00	Theresa & Val Middleton (<i>Stella T</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

WEEKDAY OF LENT (*PASSIONTIDE*)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

22 Mon <i>Feria of Lent</i>	9.30	Rajani Reginald – RIP
23 Tues <i>Feria of Lent</i>	9.30	Temp & Sp WB of all Priests
	19.00	Angela Grey – RIP
24 Wed <i>Feria of Lent Evening: Vigil of the Annunciation</i>	9.30	Gladys Millard – RIP (<i>S Howe</i>)
	19.00	Mrs Savoy – WB (<i>P Menezes</i>)
25 Thurs <i>Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord</i>	7.00	Freda Sirmon – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
	9.30	Patrick Kelly's Intentions (<i>Menezes</i>)
26 Friday <i>Feria of Lent</i>	7.00	Nancy Conolly – WB
	9.30	Matthew Crucshank – WB
27 Sat <i>Feria of Lent</i>	9.00	Louise Lewis & Family – WB

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

27 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Patrick & Ellen Farrell – RIP (<i>M Farrell</i>)
28 Sun <i>Beginning of Holy Week</i>	9.00	Rajani Reginald – RIP
	11.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish
	18.00	Sean Spellman – RIP (<i>M Hill</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

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.

EMBRACING THE PARADOX OF THE CROSS

We are steadily coming close to the end of Lent. The fifth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called *Passion Sunday* partly because it sets the stage so to speak for the Lord's passion into which we will enter fully next Sunday with the commemoration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem and the commencement of Holy Week. So, today's biblical readings, especially the second reading (Hb 5:7-9) and the Gospel (Jn 12:20-33) draw our attention not only to the passion of the Lord but also to its purpose and significance.

The passion expresses simultaneously the humanity and the divinity of Christ. His humanity is manifested in his vulnerability and in his humble acceptance of it with all that goes with it – fear, anxiety, pain, etc. His divinity shines forth through his absolute trust in the Father and fidelity to his will which, in turn, empowers him as it were to embrace his humanity heroically. As truly human, he “*offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard.*” Apparently, Hebrews is alluding here especially to the *prayer and agony in the garden* after the Last Supper (Lk 22:42-44). Ironically, ‘*his prayer was heard*’ not by the ‘*cup passing him by,*’ but by his drinking it by totally surrendering himself to the will of the Father.

It is particularly through this complete self-emptying of himself which climaxes in his death on the cross, that the son of man is vindicated by his resurrection and supreme exaltation as the Son of God (see Ep 1:2). Similarly, the evangelist John describes him pray as ‘*the hour*’ (his passion) draws near: “*...Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!*” Therefore, the Son's supreme obedience unto death glorifies the Father who, in turn, glorifies the Son by raising him up from the dead and giving him the name that is above all other names (Ph 2:5-11). In other words, ‘*made perfect*’ (in his humanity) through suffering, as the second reading explains, Jesus “*became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.*” The salvific nature of his suffering is clearly underlined here; in fact, it re-echoes the declaration of Jesus in the Gospel: “*...And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.*”

This is the paradox of the cross, namely, that the crucifixion is not only a key moment of glorification of the Father by the Son and of the Son by the Father. It is also *the hour of salvation* for fallen man and woman who, by the merits of the paschal mystery and the power of the Holy Spirit, are drawn into the new covenant with God. Unlike its predecessor, and as prophesied in the first reading by Jeremiah (31:31-34), this new covenant is written no longer on the tablets of stone but on our hearts, no longer by human hands but by the Holy Spirit. It reminds us of the gifts of the Holy Spirit without whom we cannot know God or confess Jesus as the Lord (1 Co 12:3). Sacramentally, we receive the Holy Spirit first in Baptism which makes us God's sons and daughters, a new creation, clothed in Christ. The same Spirit continually cleanses us of our sins, especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Jn 20:22-23), re-creating in us a *pure heart* and *steadfast spirit* after we have gone astray like David in the Responsorial Psalm. And in Confirmation the Spirit empowers us to embrace and witness to the paradox of the Cross like *the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies in order to yield a rich harvest*, so that, by ‘*hating*’ our life in this world we will keep it for eternal life. © IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 50:4-7
2ND READING	Philippians 2:6-11
GOSPEL	Mark 14:1-15:47

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	<p>Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially Elsa Quinn, Maria Luisa Ferreira, Andrea Arbia, Paul Bullen, Sr Chimaoge Mahakwe, Philomena Eyo, and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.</p>	<p>CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS Sunday (21/03): 2pm – 3.30pm Monday (22/03): 10 – 11.15am & 5pm – 6pm Tuesday (23/03): 10.15 – 12pm & 4pm – 7pm Wednesday (24/03): 10.30am – 1pm Thursday (25/03): 10.30am – 12pm Friday (26/03): 10.00am – 12pm Saturday (27/03): 9.30am – 10am (<i>During Confessions</i>)</p> <p>THE SEVEN 'LAST WORDS' OF JESUS In lieu of the Lenten Service this year, Fr Ignatius will be offering short meditations on the Seven 'Last Words' of Jesus on the Cross during the 9.30am weekday Mass this week, Monday to Friday and next week, Monday and Tuesday.</p> <p>SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION: 25 MARCH Vigil will be celebrated on Wednesday, 24 March at 7pm Mass.</p> <p>HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME Please, collect a leaflet as you leave the Church after Mass. It is also available on the parish website.</p> <p>EASTER COLLECTION Traditionally for the support of parochial priests. Envelopes are available as you leave Mass and on the desk in the narthex.</p> <p>YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH (8 DEC 2020 – 8 DEC 2021) As previously announced, to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as the <i>Patron of the Universal Church</i>, Pope Francis has proclaimed 8 Dec 2020 – 8 Dec 2021 as the Year of Saint Joseph, with the Apostolic Letter <i>Patris corde</i>. We will mark the Year by reciting the Prayer to St Joseph after the Post Communion Prayer, before the final blessing. Text will be made available in the weekend Mass sheets / parish website.</p> <p>PARISH LENTEN PROJECT 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!</p>	
	<p>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.</p>	<p>WEEKLY COLLECTIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <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 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. Any queries? Please contact Allan Cook, email: tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk or phone: 020 8399 4368 Thank you for your generosity to your parish.</p>	
INFANT BAPTISM		VIDEO REFLECTIONS ON STATIONS OF THE CROSS	
	<p>Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. Next course: TBA</p>	<p>The students and staff of Richard Challoner Chaplaincy Team are creating short (2 or 3 minute) video reflections for each Station of the Cross. They are being posted online twice a week and should be complete by Holy Week. Each reflection has either been chosen by a student from resources online, or were written by the member of the community: www.richardchalloner.com/prayerfulpause</p>	
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION		WEEKLY ROSARY GROUP	
	<p>Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.</p>	<p>Saint Louis Marie de Montfort said it is better to pray the Rosary with a group, rather than alone. For those interested, a parishioner would like to organise a group to meet every Tuesday before Evening Mass in the Church (18.20-18.50) and pray a full, five-decade of the Rosary. You can contact him at mrmdvd@protonmail.com if you wish. We will meet for the first time (in the nave, not Lady Chapel) on Tuesday 23rd March.</p>	
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020		DONATIONS TO FOODBANK	
	<p>Candidates Meeting: Next date TBA</p>	<p>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.</p>	
CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS			
<p>Who carries cash these days? Many 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! Contactless payment machines are available in the narthex whenever the Church doors are open: Select the amount you wish to give, tap your payment card on the reader, and the payment will come through to the parish. You can also Gift-Aid your donation directly on it. Thank you for your generosity.</p>			