



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church  
**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY (B)**

25 April 2021

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG

Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: [tolworth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworth@rcaos.org.uk) + [www.olionline.co.uk](http://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**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)**

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

24 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People
25 Sun <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	9.00	Rosemary Cuniffe – RIP ( <i>Cahill</i> )
	11.00	Severine Rodrigues – RIP
	18.00	Patrick & Helen Clifford - RIP

**FERIA OF EASTERTIDE**

**EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am**

26 Mon <i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.30	Karen Lau – WB ( <i>J Wong</i> )
27 Tues <i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.30	Ottavio D’Agostino ( <i>F D’Agostino</i> )
	19.00	Frederick Reutter & Family ( <i>P Jeannet</i> )
28 Wed <i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.30	James Thomas – RIP
	19.00	Bridget & Dec’d Fam & Friends ( <i>FM</i> )
29 Thurs <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	7.00	Roisin Loftus – RIP ( <i>52<sup>nd</sup> P-H BD</i> )
	9.30	Francis & Magdalena D’Souza –RIP
30 Friday <i>Feria of Easter</i>	7.00	Temp & Sp WB of all Priests
	9.30	Mary Linstead – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
01 Sat <i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.00	McDonnagh Family – WB ( <i>Fahy</i> )

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

01 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Ivan Flanagan – RIP ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> Annv</i> )
02 Sun	9.00	Fr Thomas Kocherry –RIP ( <i>7<sup>th</sup> Anv</i> )
	11.00	Rajani Reginald – RIP
	18.00	Dennis Peiris – RIP ( <i>M Peiris</i> )

**OTHER SERVICES**

<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	Saturday: 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.15pm
<b>St Anthony of Padua</b>	<b>Tuesday:</b> after morning and evening Masses
<b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</b>	<b>Wednesday:</b> after morning and evening Masses
<b>Our Lady of Fatima</b>	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.

**LIKE CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

The Gospel reading of the fourth Sunday of Easter is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel according to the evangelist John. The first half of the chapter (vv. 1-21) focuses on the discourse of Jesus about himself as the Good Shepherd. Further, the Gospel acclamation is also drawn from this passage (v.14). The ‘shepherd motif’ is, furthermore, reflected in both the Collect (*a.k.a. Opening Prayer*) and Post-Communion Prayer (*a.k.a. Concluding Prayer*) as well as the Communion Antiphon of today’s Mass. Hence, the name, *Good Shepherd Sunday*.

As pastoralists, the image of the shepherd was very familiar to the people of Israel. It was one of their favourite imageries for God whom the psalmist, for example, prayerfully invokes as “*shepherd of Israel*” (Ps 80:1) or “*my shepherd*” who leads his people to verdant pastures (Ps 23). The imagery was also shared by Israel’s rulers, judges, prophets etc. To them, God had entrusted his holy people. Oftentimes, however, they failed in varying ways in their vocation and mission and were therefore rebuked by God (see Jr 23:1-8 & Ez 34:1-16, 23-31):

*“Well then, shepherds, hear the word of Yahweh... since my flock has been looted and for lack of a shepherd is now the prey of any wild animal, since my shepherds have stopped bothering about my flock...I am going to call the shepherd to account. I am going to take my flock back from them and I shall not allow them to feed my flock ...”* (Ez 34:7-10).

The failures of Israel’s shepherds, highlights, among others, the fact that only God is and can be the true shepherd of his holy people. Thus Ezekiel: “*For the Lord Yahweh says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view ... I shall be a true shepherd to them*” (vv.11-16). How will this come about? Explaining this, Ezekiel conveys a messianic announcement from God: “*I mean to raise up one shepherd, my servant David, and put him in charge of them and he will pasture them; he will pasture them and be their shepherd*” (v.23). Evidently, this promise is at the background of the evangelist’s account of Jesus’ declaration, twice in today’s gospel: “*I am the good shepherd....*” The comparison between the shepherd and the hired person illustrates this point further. These words were certainly audacious and “caused disagreement” among the Jews (vv.19-21). Besides, in the second half of the chapter (vv. 22-39), they sought to arrest him for blasphemy, but he escaped from them.

Celebrating Good Shepherd Sunday, we are reminded that, through baptism, we are not only constituted into the flock of God with Christ as our shepherd but are also called to be shepherds of God’s flock in different ways – as priests/pastors, parents, teachers, brothers/sisters, friends, etc. Christ remains the model for us in this regard. To be sure, we cannot be both flock and shepherds without being open and docile to Christ and his mission. But we must also, like Christ, be connected to the flock placed under our care: “*I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.*” Hence, Pope Francis rightly insists on what he calls ‘the shepherd having the smell of the sheep.’

Finally, as we mark World Day of Prayer for Vocations, we ask the Lord to raise up from among us good shepherds who will lead us to “*where the brave Shepherd has gone before,*” Amen. ©IAE

**NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS**

<b>1ST READING</b>	Acts 9:26-31
<b>2ND READING</b>	1 John 3:18-24
<b>GOSPEL</b>	John 15:1-8

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	<b>Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died</b> , especially Catherine Timoney, Mary Creighan, Philomena Eyo, and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.	<b>CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS</b> <b>Sunday (25/04):</b> 2 – 3.30pm <b>Monday (26/04):</b> 10 – 11.15am & 5pm – 6pm <b>Tuesday (27/04):</b> 10.15 – 12pm & 4pm – 7pm <b>Wednesday (28/04):</b> 10.30am – 1pm <b>Thursday (29/04):</b> 10.30am – 12pm <b>Friday (30/04):</b> 10.00am – 12pm <b>Saturday (01/05):</b> 9.30am – 10am ( <i>During Confessions</i> )	
	<b>Please remember and pray for the sick, the housebound and all who care for them, especially those within our own parish community:</b> 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, Claire Pender, Alison Vale, and Baby Penelope Brooks.	<b>THIS WEEK: PRIEST TRAINING FUND 2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION</b> Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. As members of the Church, we are encouraged to pray earnestly for an increase in priestly and religious vocations. This week we take up the second collection in support of the Priest Training Fund, which pays for the formation of Southwark Seminarians and Deacons and the good work of our vocations team.  Please be generous to this appeal. Your gifts will support 7 men currently in formation to the priesthood in our Diocese. There will be a donation envelop available at Mass today, which can be used to Gift Aid your donation. You can also donate online via <a href="http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm">www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm</a> , by scanning the QR code below, or via telephone on 020 7960 2504 (office hours Monday – Friday).	
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS		 <p>Thank you for your prayers and generosity</p> 	
	<b>LAST WEEKEND</b> <b>Non-Gift-aid:</b> £440.23 <b>Gift-aid:</b> £320.14 <b>Total: £760.37*</b>  <i>*Excluding standing orders &amp; online payments – the monthly total of which will be published on the first weekend of every new month.</i>  <b>Thank you for your generosity to your parish.</b> <i>Kindly consider making your regular contribution to the Church via standing order (form available at <a href="http://olionline.co.uk">olionline.co.uk</a>), or by online banking:</i> <b>RCAS Our Lady Immaculate Church, Account Number: 06467032; Sort Code: 60-21-05.</b> <b>IMPORTANT:</b> Please include your Gift Aid number in your online instruction to your bank. Non-Gift Aid donors, please include the letters NGA in the instruction to the bank. Any queries? Please contact Allan Cook: <a href="mailto:tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk">tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk</a> or 0208 8399 4368		
INFANT BAPTISM		<b>RETURNING OF BOXES</b> Thank you to all who have so far returned their boxes or made donations to the Project. You may still return your boxes after Sunday Masses, or directly via the Presbytery Letter Box by collapsing and enclosing it with content into a sealed envelope.	
	Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. <b>Next course:</b> TBA	<b>LENTEN PROJECT SPONSORED WALK</b> This year, instead of a sponsored walk event where we walked as a group, we asked Parishioners to commit to walk / run / cycle either individually, or as a family, a certain number of miles during the period of Lent. Together with Frs Ignatius and Joseph, many Parishioners and their families got involved. In total we walked / ran / cycled 3,106 miles, which is almost 5,000 kilometres! What an outstanding result! It's not too late to sponsor us. If you would like to do so, please either pop some money in an envelope and post through the Presbytery door, or use the following Justgiving site: <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Our-Lady-Immaculate-Church">https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Our-Lady-Immaculate-Church</a> Many thanks for your support!	
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION		<b>WEEKLY ROSARY GROUP</b> Saint Louis Marie de Montfort said it is better to pray the Rosary with a group, rather than alone. For those interested, you're welcome to join a group that meets every Tuesday before Evening Mass in the Church (18.20-18.50) and pray a full, five-decade of the Rosary. Any query? You can contact Davido at <a href="mailto:mrmdvd@protonmail.com">mrmdvd@protonmail.com</a> if you wish.	
	Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.	<b>DONATIONS TO FOODBANK</b> Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the <b>Old Chapel (9am – 6pm)</b> . <b>Urgently Needed Food Items:</b> cereals, instant mash, juice, tinned meat, fish & spaghetti, biscuits, noodles, rice, pasta, tea and coffee. Thanks.	
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020			
	<b>Candidates Meeting:</b> Next date TBA		
CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS			
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. <b>You can also Gift-Aid your donation directly on it.</b> Thank you for your generosity.			