



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

2 May 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 EASTER (B)		
YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE VIA ONLINE LIVESTREAMING AT https://www.olionline.co.uk		
01 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Ivan Flanagan – RIP (1 st Anv)
02 Sun	9.00	Fr Thomas Kocherry –RIP (7 th Anv)
	11.00	Rajani Reginald – RIP
	18.00	Dennis Peiris – RIP (M Peiris)
FERIA OF EASTERTIDE		
EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am		
03 Mon <i>Ss Philip & James</i>	9.30	Theo Fernandes – RIP
04 Tues <i>The English Martyrs</i>	9.30	Keith Lewis (L Lewis)
	19.00	Robert Hicks – RIP (D Mulcany)
05 Wed <i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.30	Joseph Joy – RIP (Smitha & Family)
	19.00	Temporal & Spiritual WB of Priests
06 Thurs <i>Feria of Easter</i>	7.00	Mary Ramsden – RIP
	9.30	James Thomas – RIP (Rosamma, Simon & Family)
07 Friday <i>Feria of Easter</i>	7.00	Tim & Joan Wood – RIP (FM)
	9.30	Nicholas Reginald – RIP
08 Sat <i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.00	Linda Kirk – RIP (J Lambert)
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
08 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish
09 Sun	9.00	Penelope Brooks – WB (J Brooks)
	11.00	James Thomas – RIP (Rosamma, Simon & Family)
	18.00	

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.

GRAFTED TO THE TRUE VINE

In today's Gospel (Jn 15:1-8), Jesus describes himself *the true vine*. Like the shepherd-metaphor of last Sunday, today's vine-metaphor reflects the cultural experience of Jewish agricultural economy, where planting, tending, and processing of grapes into wine was a major source of food and income. Beyond its economic importance, the vineyard also took on important social, cultural and religious significance among the Jews. Little wonder it became a prominent symbol for the people of God in the Old Testament (see below)! Prominently, the prophet Isaiah uses it to highlight, on one hand, the unconditional love and extraordinary care of God for the people of Israel and their failure, on the other:

"My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes... For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry" (Is 5:1-7; See Ps 80; also, Ez 15).

The adoption of this symbol by Jesus in John 15, presupposes the above background, but also goes beyond it. Jesus is not only the vine; he is *the true vine*, the real, perfect vine – that is, compared to the decadent vineyard that was the people of Israel. Through his paschal mystery, Jesus has established himself as the fruitful branch from *"the shoot from the stump of Jesse"* (Is 11). He overcomes the failure of the past and at the same time gives the vine-metaphor a new and deeper mystical meaning. For as the perfection of Jesus the true vine flows from his intimate adherence to the Father – *"I and the Father are one"* (Jn 10:30) – and his commitment to his will – *"I came not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me"* (Jn 6:38), so does the identity and mission of the Christian people depend on their adherence to Jesus. As he states clearly: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing."* The awareness of our 'mystical union' as *branches of the true vine* has concrete impact on our Christian life and mission. First, it gives us hope. Provided we cooperate with his grace, it guarantees our fruitfulness since God from whom comes our sufficiency (2 Co 3:5-6; see 1 Co 4:7) is always faithful. Second, it humbles us and challenges us to always strive to stay grafted to Christ since "it is in him that we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). Third, maintaining communion with God requires constantly pruning ourselves by doing his will especially as emphasised in the second reading (1 Jn 3:18-24): *"Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him."* We are also pruned through prayers, the sacraments especially Confession and the Eucharist, scripture reading, acts of charity, bearing inconveniences or suffering on account of our faith in Christ, etc. Fourth, being constantly aware that we are grafted to the true vine strengthens us to persevere especially through trials and temptations (2 Co 12:7-10). The apostle Paul who, as we read in the first reading (Acts 9:26-31), became an outstanding apostle after his conversion on the way to Damascus exemplify this conviction and confidence when he says: *"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me"* (Gal 2:20). Like him, we can only have this confidence if we are indeed grafted to the true vine. ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS	
1ST READING	Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48
2ND READING	1 John 4:7-10
GOSPEL	John 15:9-17

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially Catherine Timoney, Mary Creighan, Philomena Eyo, 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, Claire Pender, Alison Vale, and Baby Penelope Brooks.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £424.03

Gift-aid: £389.70

Total: £813.73*

*Excluding standing orders & online payments – the monthly total of which will be published on the first weekend of every new month.

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

Kindly consider making 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.

IMPORTANT: 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: tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk or 0208 8399 4368

INFANT BAPTISM



Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course.

Next course: TBA

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Please, watch this space for information for the next programme.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020



Candidates Meeting: 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.

You can also Gift-Aid your donation directly on it.

Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS

Sunday (02/05):

Monday (03/05): 10 – 11.15am

Tuesday (04/05): 10.15 – 12pm & 4pm – 7pm

Wednesday (05/05): 10.30am – 1pm

Thursday (06/05): 10.30am – 12pm

Friday (07/05): 10.00am – 12pm

Saturday (08/05): 9.30am – 10am (During Confessions)

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

May is traditionally the month of Our Lady and the Holy Rosary. Everyone is encouraged to pray the Rosary. We will be praying the Rosary together after the 9.30am Mass from Monday to Friday. All are welcome to join!

13 MAY – ASCENSION THURSDAY

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is a Holiday of Obligation. There will be **four Masses** in the parish: 7pm (Vigil – Wednesday, 12 May); 7am, 9.30am, and 8pm.

Please, note that the evening Mass is at **8pm** (and not 7pm)!

PRIEST TRAINING FUND 2ND COLLECTION

Thank you to all who contributed last week. Donation envelopes are still available at Mass today, which can be used to Gift Aid your donation. You can also donate online via www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm, by scanning the QR code below, or via telephone on 020 7960 2504 (office hours Monday – Friday).



Thank you for your prayers and generosity



RETURNING OF BOXES

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.

LENTEN PROJECT SPONSORED WALK

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:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Our-Lady-Immaculate-Church>

Many thanks for your support!

WEEKLY ROSARY GROUP

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 mrmdvd@protonmail.com if you wish.

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.