



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

22 AUGUST 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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B)

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

21 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Tommy Burke – RIP (<i>J Friel</i>)
22 Sun	9.00	Dennis Fecci – RIP (<i>J Thornton</i>)
	11.00	Clare & Colin Stevens (<i>Szymanski</i>)
	18.00	Justina Joseph Edet – RIP

TWENTY-FIRST WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE 1)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

23 Mon <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Justina J Edet – RIP (<i>J Lamberts</i>)
24 Tues <i>St Bartholomew</i>	9.30	Keiko – WB (<i>M C Taylor</i>)
	19.00	Edith Eales – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
25 Wed <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Mollie O'Regan – RIP (<i>Tricia</i>)
	19.00	Thanksgiving (<i>Jacine</i>)
26 Thurs <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Thanksgiving (<i>Mr & Mrs Erman</i>)
	9.30	George Kocherry – RIP (<i>Kocherrys</i>)
27 Friday <i>St Monica</i>	7.00	Justina Joseph Edet – RIP
	9.30	Terry Titchum – RIP (<i>Heidi</i>)
28 Sat <i>St Augustine</i>	9.00	Doris Swash – RIP (<i>FM</i>)

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (B)

28 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Justina Joseph Edet – RIP (<i>K Fox</i>)
29 Sun	9.00	Bella Fernandes – RIP (<i>Basilia</i>)
	11.00	Joe Murphy – WB
	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

SUNDAY OBLIGATION / LIVESTREAMING

The dispensation from Sunday obligation granted by the Bishops Conference will end from the First Sunday of Advent (28 November). 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.

Mobile Phones in Church: Please, show reverence to the Lord and charity to other worshippers by switching off your phones or silencing them while in Church. Thanks!

A CHOSEN AND CHOOSING PEOPLE

Today we read the last of five passages on Jesus' discourse with the Jews about giving himself to them as the bread of life in John chapter six (vv.60-69). It follows from the penultimate passage (vv51-58), which would have been read last Sunday but for the Solemnity of the Assumption. In it, the Jews argue about how Jesus could give them his flesh to eat. Of course, this question is connected to their main question in the third passage (vv41-51), namely, about the provenance of Jesus: "Surely, this is Jesus the son of Joseph ... how can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Evidently, their questioning of the prospect of eating his body follows logically from their denial of the incarnation and, therefore, his divinity. Certainly, if Jesus were purely *the son of Joseph and Mary* as they thought, it would be difficult to comprehend how he could give them his flesh to eat. His emphasis, "For my body is real food and my blood real drink," would indeed be an *"intolerable language"* and unacceptable to anyone who is not keen on becoming a cannibal. But Jesus remains unfazed by their complaint. Instead, he repeats his teaching, spelling out the fact that discipleship is not merely a human initiative, since, as he emphasises in the Gospel, "no one could come to me unless the Father allows him." Now, having failed in their attempt (by their complaint) to perhaps make him alter his message to suit them, "many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him."

Jesus' response to the defection is interesting. Though he would not be delighted that they decided to leave him (see Jn 6:37-39), yet he does not try to force them to stay. Neither would he try to force the remaining twelve disciples (the apostles) to keep faith with him. Instead, respecting their freedom, he challenges them to decide for themselves whether to stay or not: "What about you," he said to them, "do you want to go away too?" Responding on their behalf, Simon Peter declared: "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God." Thankfully, they did not disappoint him! By this confession of faith, the twelve make their own God's election of them. It is no longer the case that they are chosen by God (Jn 15:16), but that they too have chosen God, that is, by freely accepting God's choice of them. Theirs is a considered choice based on their openness to the teaching and example of their Master. This resonates the experience of the people of Israel in the first reading (Jos 24:1-2,15-18).

Towards the end of his life, Joshua the leader who led the Israelites to the promised land, gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. There in the presence of their elders, leaders, and judges, he challenged them to decide for themselves whether to serve Yahweh, the God of their ancestors or the gods of the original inhabitants of Canaan. The great prophet Elijah did likewise at mount Carmel (1 Kgs 18:21-22). Like Jesus, Joshua did not only affirm their free will. He also offered them a good example by declaring his absolute loyalty, together with his household, to Yahweh: "As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord." Inspired by his teaching and example, the people were motivated to commit themselves to the Lord also: "We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods!"

Through baptism, God has elected us as his chosen people (1 Pt 2:9). By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he empowers us to call him *Abba*, Father and to be subject to him in all things. God in Christ has chosen us irrevocably. But we must keep choosing him repeatedly, renewing each day our 'Yes' to him by examining our thoughts, words, and deeds, and striving to make them align with God's purpose for choosing us, namely, "to know him, love him, and serve him in this world, and to be happy with him in the next." As we profess the Creed, especially at Mass, let us reflect on how privileged we are to be able to choose the God who first chose us (see Ep 1:4). ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8
2ND READING	James 1:17-18,21-22,27
GOSPEL	Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially Justina Joseph Edet, Elizabeth Saunders, Audrey Swallow, 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, Frances Cox, Mary Ryan, Betty Harte, Antonio Ciaiola, Joan McGovern, Rita Reginald, Elizabeth Saunders, Thomas O'Connor, Jimmy Simon, James & Sarah Mills, Samar Staussi, Annita Smith, Ann-Marie Deasy, Shirlene A., Ida Rebello, Kathleen & Chris McGuinness, Kathleen O'Connell, Claire Pender, Christine Howey, Hazel D'Aguiar, and Monica Tett.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £383.05

Gift-aid: £275.24 **Total: £658.29**

Donations (x2): £400.00

**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



Registration for the next programme is now closed.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020



Candidates Meeting: Suspended due to Covid restrictions. Look out for updates on this space!

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

LIFTS TO CHURCH: MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have a few parishioners who would love to come back to Church on a regular basis at the weekends, but do not have any transport to get themselves there. Some parishioners are already helping, but it would be great, as a community, to help as many as possible who are unable to get to Mass to be able to take part in person. **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!**

We would like to compile a list of those who have a car who could join a rota to bring one or two people to Mass and take them home again. Like all rotas, the more people we have, the more flexible it becomes.

If you feel you can help, or would like to find out more, please contact the parish office (email preferably) with your name, contact phone number, and the Mass you normally attend. In the coming weeks we will contact you to take this forward but thank you in advance.

NOTICE FOR READERS AT MASS

We are looking at drawing up a rota for readers from September. All readers who would like to appear on the rota should please notify Mareen. Kindly indicate at which of the four weekend Mass you would like to exercise this very important liturgical ministry. **New readers are also welcome – and training will be offered.** Please email Mareen at tolworthreaders@rcaos.org.uk or telephone the parish office on Tuesday and Thursday, 10am – 2pm. Thank you.

VISIT & COMMUNION TO THOSE AT HOME

Fr Joseph and Fr Ignatius would like to visit and bring Holy Communion to those who are still unable to come to Mass in person because they are housebound or still shielding. If you would like to be visited, kindly contact the parish office to book a date / time.



UPCOMING EVENT: SRI LANKAN NIGHT – 11TH SEPT

Saturday, 11 September, 7.30pm – 11.30pm. Please, come and enjoy a variety of Sri Lankan food and entertainment. Tickets are on sale after Mass or contact Joe & Antionette on 07956 891504 or 0208 399 6491: Adults - £10; children 7-12 years old - £5 each. All proceeds go to the Lenten Project.

SPONSORED WALK

Together with Frs. Ignatius and Joseph, many Parishioners and their families have walked / ran / cycled 3,106 miles, which is almost 5,000 kilometres! What an outstanding result!

If you would like to sponsor us, 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!

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.

† JUSTINA JOSEPH EDET – RIP

Please, remember Justina Joseph Edet (*mother of Fr Ignatius*) who died on Sunday, 15 August in Nigeria. May she rest in peace. Amen.

† ELIZABETH SAUNDERS – RIP

Please, remember in your prayers Elizabeth Saunders of Princess Avenue, who died peacefully at home on Monday, 9 August. Aged 86 years. Our condolences to the family. **Funeral:** Wednesday, 25 August at 1pm. **Committal:** Kingston Crematorium, 2.30pm. May she rest in Peace. Amen.