



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church

29 AUGUST 2021

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)**

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**

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B)**

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

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	Thanksgiving ( <i>Michael Ho</i> )

**TWENTY-SECOND WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE 1)**

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

30 Mon <i>Ss Margaret Clitherow &amp; Co.</i>	9.30	Marjorie Browne – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
31 Tues <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Russell David Jones – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
	19.00	Justina J Edet – RIP ( <i>D Kidd</i> )
01 Wed <i>Feria (World Day of Prayer for Creation)</i>	9.30	Elizabeth Powell – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
	19.00	Justina J Edet – RIP ( <i>Menezes</i> )
02 Thurs <i>Feria</i>	7.00	John Wells – RIP ( <i>S Wells</i> )
	9.30	Rajani Reginald – RIP
03 Friday <i>St Gregory the Great</i>	7.00	Thanksgiving ( <i>Paheerathan Family</i> )
	9.30	Theo Fernandes – RIP ( <i>Basilia</i> )
04 Sat <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Justina J Edet – RIP ( <i>L Lewis</i> )

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (B)**

04 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Frank Hoey – RIP ( <i>Hoey Family</i> )
05 Sun	9.00	John Burton ( <i>C Burton</i> )
	11.00	Margaret D'Souza – RIP ( <i>Tremenheere</i> )
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People

**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

**SUNDAY OBLIGATION / LIVINGSTREAMING**

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:** Kindly show reverence to the Lord and charity to other worshippers by switching off your phones or silencing them while in Church.

**BEYOND MERE RELIGIOSITY**

After five weeks of focusing on the *Bread of Life* discourse in John 6, we return this week to the Gospel according to Mark which is read in the current liturgical year (B).

In today's Gospel (Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23), Jesus criticises the Pharisees for putting human traditions above God's Law. He does this in response to the Pharisees' condemnation of his disciples for eating without washing their hands. For the Pharisees and the Jews generally, the ritual of handwashing before meal or upon return from the market squares, etc. was not merely a matter of hygiene. It was a ritual act aimed especially at maintaining cultic purity, protecting the people against any possible defilement that would hinder their relationship with God expressed especially through divine worship, temple sacrifice. The traditions of the pharisees and the elders mentioned by the evangelist were, therefore, an extension of ritual observances of temple priests to everyday life and situation.








Its hygienic value is obvious. But why does Jesus criticise it? Notably, Jesus does not criticise the washing of hands, plates, or cups. He does not condemn the promotion of these basic protocols of hygiene. Instead, his criticism focusses on how the Pharisees understood these customs, what they made of them and how they practised them, particularly in prioritising them over God's commandments. Also, they generally tended to preoccupy themselves with external conformity with their rules to the neglect of the ultimate intention of God's commandments. As stated in the first reading (Dt 4:1-2,6-8), the ultimate purpose of the commandments was to help the people of Israel to live and flourish in the presence of God as God's people. It was also meant to express their wisdom and understanding, a sign of their religious and cultural sophistication compared to the other nations around them: "Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, 'No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation.'"

These were certainly undermined by the legalistic, self-righteous, and judgemental approach of the Pharisees. Besides, the Pharisees were also known for their hypocrisy, paying lip-service to the commandments, not always practising what they preached (Mt 23:1-7). In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges these anomalies, intending thereby to lead the people and his disciples back to the heart of the commandments, namely conformity to the will of God through interior conversion. Without denying the value of external religious rituals and piety, Jesus insists on interior cleansing and transformation since "it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean." Thus, echoing the sixth beatitude: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8).

Jesus' words also challenge us in our response to the call of the Gospel. Our desire and strive to be holy must go beyond mere externalities. Religious rituals and rules are important to the extent that they help us to grow in holiness by loving God above all else and loving others as God loves us (Mt 22:34-40; Jn 13:34). We cannot and should not make them ends in themselves, thereby, neglecting the reason or intention behind them. Nor should we forget that we cannot make ourselves holy by mere keeping of rules or performance of rituals (Rm 3:20-26; Gal 3; Ph 3:4b-9). We are made holy by God when we open and allow ourselves to be transformed from within by the Holy Spirit so that our words and actions become a reflection of our communion with God and imitation of him. Otherwise, as James warns us in the second reading (Jm 1:17-18,21-22,27), without submitting to the word that has been planted in us and doing what it tells us, we would, sadly, only be deceiving ourselves. ©IAE

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

<b>1ST READING</b>	Isaiah 35:4-7
<b>2ND READING</b>	James 2:1-5
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Mark 7:31-37

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	<b>Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died</b> , especially Justina Joseph Edet, Elizabeth Saunders, Audrey Swallow, Steven Drinkwater, and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.	<b>LIFTS TO CHURCH: MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b> 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! 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.	
	<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, 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.	<b>NOTICE FOR READERS AT MASS</b> 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 Masses you would like to exercise this very important liturgical ministry. <b>New readers are also welcome – and training will be offered.</b> Please email Mareen at <a href="mailto:tolworthreaders@rcaos.org.uk">tolworthreaders@rcaos.org.uk</a> or telephone the parish office on Tuesday or Thursday, 10am – 2pm.	
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS		<b>CONSIDER EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH</b> Are you interested in the Catholic Church and want to know more? Have you ever thought of becoming a Catholic? Are you an adult, baptised Catholic but not yet confirmed? If you, or someone you know, would say 'Yes' to one of these questions, Fr Ignatius would be glad to hear from you. The parish has a small group that will meet informally every week from the start of October that may help answer your questions about the Church and, if you wish, enable you to take further steps.	
	<b>LAST WEEKEND</b> <b>Non-Gift-aid:</b> £404.80 <b>Gift-aid:</b> £508.20 <b>Total: £913.00</b> <b>Donations (x2):</b> £120.00 <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	<b>MISSIO BOXES</b> Could parishioners bring the red boxes back. Mary C Taylor will collect them after 9 & 11 am Masses for the next 3 weeks.	
INFANT BAPTISM		 <b>UPCOMING EVENTS:</b> <b>1. SRI LANKAN NIGHT – 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPT</b> 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. <b>2. JUMBLE SALE – 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPT</b> For more information, contact <a href="mailto:elspeth.casey@virginmedia.com">elspeth.casey@virginmedia.com</a> <b>3. AFRICAN NIGHT – 16<sup>TH</sup> OCT:</b> More details soon <b>SPONSORED WALK</b> 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: <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!	
	Please contact the Parish Office for information pack & to register for the pre-baptism course. <b>Next course:</b> TBA		
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION			
	Registration for the next programme is now closed.		
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020		<b>† FATHER CHRIS O'BRIEN – RIP</b>	
	<b>Candidates Meeting:</b> Suspended due to Covid restrictions. Look out for updates on this space!	Born 25 August 1935, Fr Chris was ordained priest on 12 March 1960, and served as Assistant Priest here in OLI from 1996 till his retirement in 2005. He died on 22 August in the 'Lady of the Vale' Home in Altrincham, Cheshire. There will be a Requiem Mass in his memory on Tuesday, 7 September at 7pm. All are welcome. May he rest in peace.	
<b>CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS</b> 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.		<b>† JUSTINA JOSEPH EDET – RIP</b> Please, remember Justina Joseph Edet ( <i>mother of Fr Ignatius</i> ) who died on Sunday, 15 August in Nigeria. May she rest in peace. Amen.	