



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY (C)

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:** Mr Ben Martin

MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

11 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Martin Hart – RIP
12 Sun <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	9.00	Nita Wickramasinghe – RIP (<i>Danil</i>)
	11.00	Margaret & Philip Barratt – RIP (<i>J O'Regan</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

13 Mon <i>St Lucy</i>	9.30	The Knights of St Columba
14 Tues <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30	Achamma Varkey Kocherry
	19.00	Helen Emmett & SVP Members (<i>Szymanski</i>)
15 Wed <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Ottavio D'Agostino (<i>F D'Agostino</i>)
	19.00	For a Happy Marriage and Children (<i>Meera</i>)
16 Thurs <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Matthew Cruikshank – RIP (<i>D Kidd</i>)
	9.30	Kirusanth Murugaiah – T/Giving
17 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	John Edem Udo – BD
	9.30	Margaret Heraghty – WB (<i>S Mills</i>)
18 Sat <i>Feria</i>	9.00	John Hutchinson – RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

18 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Nicolas & Angela Hoey (<i>Family</i>)
19 Sun	9.00	James Mills – WB
	11.00	Christy & Joseph Nesarajah-Vignarajah – RIP (<i>Mum & Family</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People

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 has been restored. The livestreaming of all our weekday and Sunday Masses will continue so that those who may not yet consider it safe for them to attend Mass in person, especially over the weekend, can continue to participate virtually.

REJOICE, THE LORD IS NEAR!

We are midway through Advent. With the third Sunday of Advent, we are just one Sunday away from the celebration of the great feast of the Lord's Nativity at Christmas. The joy that the celebration of the birth of Christ brings to the Christian people and the whole world at Christmas is, therefore, already anticipated in today's liturgy, especially in the readings.

The tone is set from the outset in the Entrance Antiphon which echoes the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." Hence, the name *Gaudete Sunday*, based on the Latin word for the imperative, 'rejoice.'

The Lord's nearness is the reason that Paul is inviting / exhorting the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord. Indeed, the consciousness that the Lord was very near marked his entire life and ministry. It provided a firm motivation for his commitment to his apostolic ministry, even to the point of selflessly embracing martyrdom: "And then, if my blood has to be shed as part of your own sacrifice and offering – which is your faith – I shall be happy and rejoice with all of you, and you must be just as happy and rejoice with me" (cf. Neh 8:10). This belief is also shared by the other two key figures in today's readings, namely, the prophet Zephaniah, and John the Baptist.

For Zephaniah, the Day of Yahweh was not just going to be a day of destruction, that is, of God's judgement upon Judah and Jerusalem (Ze 1:1-18; 2:1-3), on the nations (2:4-15), and on Jerusalem (3:1-8). It was also going to be, on the reverse, a day of joy and redemption, for a remnant in Judah (3:9-20). The holy remnant who would inherit this promise will be defined by lowliness, docility, and trust in the Lord, as against the arrogance, pride, and faithless of their forebears and their leaders. In other words, for Zephaniah, the Day of Yahweh's anger against Judah and Jerusalem (Ze 1:18), would serve as a catalyst that would initiate the final time of salvation that would burst upon Jerusalem as a day of festival (3:18) and even extend to all peoples (2:11; 3:9-10).

Like the apostle Paul, John the Baptist had a deep sense of the Lord's closeness. Despite being exposed to ridicule (see Mt 11:18), torment, imprisonment, and gruesome execution (Mt 14:1-12), he remained committed to his mission of preparing a way for the Lord. Though a radical ascetic as we heard in last Sunday's Gospel (Lk 3:1-6), his person and message made a deep and lasting impression on the people. His words and example had the power to attract people and enhance their sense of expectancy that they began to think he might be the Christ. The force of his inner calmness shows clearly in his not being swayed by the momentary popularity among the people. Instead, in his characteristic straightforwardness, he states clearly that he is not the Christ. Besides, he challenges the different groups who approached him to repent and reform their lives in view of the one more powerful than him, who was coming after him.

As we mark *Gaudete Sunday*, we are reminded once again of the joy of the Good News. We are reassured by God's words of promise that the Lord whose final coming we await in hope, is indeed in our midst. Also, we are reminded that whatever difficulties and challenges we may face in our lives, family, community, and the world (and there are many of them!), like Zephaniah, Paul, and John, there would never be powerful enough to detract from the joy that only faith in God's abiding presence in our midst can guarantee. Of course, Christian joy is essentially a *gift*. But it is also a *choice* because it cannot be imposed on anyone. Choosing to embrace this precious gift requires great commitment and sacrifice and imposes a binding duty upon all who dare to do so, not only to nurture and grow it but, above all, to spread it near and far. ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Micah: 5:1-4
2ND READING	Hebrews 10:5-10
GOSPEL	Luke 1:39-45

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially, Patrick Okon Udofia, Christiana Nta, Allison Hudson, Nita Wickramasinghe, Colm McDonagh, Toni Weiczorec, 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, Joan McGovern, Rita Reginald, Thomas O'Connor, Jimmy Simon, James & Sarah Mills, Samar Staussi, Annita Smith, Shirlene A., Ida Rebello, Kathleen McGuinness, Kathleen O'Connell, Claire Pender, Christine Howey, Hazel D'Aguiar, Mary O'Mara, Eileen Cullen, Monica Tett, Elizabeth Jones, and Ray Lewry.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

2ND COLLECTION TODAY (CHRISTMAS FLOWERS)

For the decoration of our Church at Christmas.

SUPPLEMENTARY PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS

Fr Ignatius will be available at the Parish Office to sign primary school forms on Tuesday, 14 and Wednesday, 15 December, from 4pm to 6pm. Please, come along with your child.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Wednesday 15th December at 5pm in the Church. This Service is a special Church Service that is held for children during Advent and celebrates Christ, who is the Light of the World. Children (and adults) are invited to bring a Christingle to the Service (Instructions on how to make a Christingle can be found on the Parish website (<http://www.olionline.co.uk>)). A candle will be provided when you arrive at the Service.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) will be celebrated as follows in the parish this year.

There will be **3 Masses** on the Eve of Christmas and **3 Masses** on Christmas Day as listed below:

A. CHRISTMAS EVE

1. 5pm – First Vigil Mass
2. 7pm – Second Vigil Mass
3. 10pm – Mass during the Night (*Carols at 9.30pm*)

B. CHRISTMAS DAY: 8am, 9.15am, and 11am

Because of public health requirements due to Covid-19, we strongly advise that all who intend to attend any of the above-listed Masses should arrive latest 10 minutes before each Mass. Also, except officially exempted, all are required to wear appropriate facial covering while in Church.

ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS!

Altar servers are needed for our Christmas Masses as listed above. Please note that on Christmas Eve, the *Mass in the Night* (10pm) starts with carols at 9.30. So, you need to be there for 8.45 pm. There are sign-up sheets in the RDJ room. Please sign up for the Mass you are able to help with. Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

The collection taken at all Christmas Masses is your gift to our priests, Fr Ignatius and Fr Joseph. As usual, envelopes are available in the Narthex.

If you are a member of the parish Gift Aid scheme, please enter your gift aid number on the envelope to enable tax to be reclaimed for the benefit of the parish. If you do not know your gift aid number, Allan Cook (email tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk or phone 020 8399 4368) will be happy to give it to you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & REPOSITORY NEWS

The repository will now be open every Sunday after 9am Mass to sell Christmas cards and other gift items. Consider supporting your Parish by stocking up from the repository. We welcome back any of our long-standing volunteers to help open the repository but there won't be a rota just yet. Meanwhile, Denise has offered to sell the Christmas card boxes for £3.50 in the Parish Office from 10am to 2pm on weekdays.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT AGM: Sunday, 12 December at 7.00pm in the Old Chapel. The Charities to be supported during Lent 2022 will be selected at the meeting.

VACANCIES AT RICHARD CHALLONER SCHOOL: We currently have vacancies for a Catering Assistant, a Café Supervisor, IT Technician and Office Assistant. Full details of each post and how to apply can be found via the school website. <https://www.richardchalloner.com/vacancies>

CATHOLIC POST NEWSPAPER: A brand new monthly national and the UK's first Carbon Neutral Catholic newspaper is available in the Narthex. It provides thoughtful articles and a Catholic perspective on the news stories of the day. This edition is coming to us free of charge. If you enjoy it, please let us know.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £531.60

Gift-aid: £385.70 **Total: £917.30***

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

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



For those children who are currently in Year 9. Registration will be available in the New Year.

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.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Kingston foodbank at present is particularly short of rice, instant mash, fruit squash, household cleaning items, bleach, washing tablets etc., razors, shaving cream, shower gel and toothbrushes. Thank you for your generosity.