



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church

23 JANUARY 2022

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) – SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

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

Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: [tolworth@caos.org.uk](mailto:tolworth@caos.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:** Mr Ben Martin

**MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

22 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Fraser Family – RIP (FM)
23 Sun <b>Sunday of the Word of God</b>	9.00	Joan & Paud Lavelle & Family
	11.00	Dennis Peiris – RIP (G Peiris)
	18.00	Alexius Yap – RIP (C Yap)
<b>THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE II)</b>		
<b>EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am</b>		
24 Mon <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	9.30	Arthur & Gabriel Hunt
25 Tues <i>Conversion of St Paul, Apostle</i>	9.30	Rosemary Gribble – RIP (FM)
	19.00	George & Pat Buggie – RIP (FM) <b>Celebration of Sacraments of Initiation – Sarah</b>
26 Wed <i>Ss Timothy &amp; Titus</i>	9.30	Roger Morton –RIP (Maranzano)
	19.00	Fr Paulinus Umana – RIP (IE)
27 Thurs <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Anthony Manga – RIP (IE)
	9.30	Angelica D'Agostino (F D'Agostino)
28 Friday <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	7.00	Gawlick Family
	9.30	Maranzano & Licence Families – RIP
29 Sat <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Fr Paulinus Umana – RIP (IE)
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)</b>		
29 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Antonio Ciaiola & Michele Decristofaro – RIP
30 Sun	9.00	JB Effiong – WB (IE)
	11.00	Borsa Family – WB (Bambi)
	18.00	Pro Populo – 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 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.

**LISTENING EFFECTIVELY TO THE WORD OF GOD**

We celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God today. It was established by Pope Francis on 30 September 2019, the liturgical feast of St Jerome, as a day dedicated to rediscovering and recovering the treasures of God's Sacred Word in the Scriptures and its centrality in the Christian life and mission, through a renewed commitment to study, prayer, and reflection on the Sacred Word.

Sacred Scripture is always at the heart of the Church's activities, especially in the liturgy, sacraments, and teachings (doctrinal, moral, and social) as well as in its pastoral care and social engagements. For, as the Second Vatican Council emphasises in the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei verbum*, §21, "together with Sacred Tradition," Sacred Scriptures constitute "the supreme rule of faith, since, as inspired by God and committed once and for all to writing, they impart the word of God Himself without change, and make the voice of the Holy Spirit resound in the words of the prophets and Apostles." It is in the heart of the liturgy that the Word of God is particularly proclaimed, received, and celebrated. "Therefore," Vatican II concludes, "like the Christian religion itself, all the preaching of the Church must be nourished and regulated by Sacred Scripture" (DV, 21). Hence, the prominence given to the liturgy of the word in the order of Mass and the celebration of other sacraments.

We can clearly detect the structure of what we do at every Mass during the liturgy of the word in the first reading (Ne 8:2-6,8-10) and the Gospel (Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21). In the first reading, Ezra reads from the book of the Law (*Torah* in Hebrew) and explains it to the people of Israel. In a similar way, in the Gospel, like Ezra, Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah to the congregation in a synagogue in his hometown on a Sabbath. The wooden dais upon which Ezra stood to read and address the people reminds of the Lectern from where the Word of God is proclaimed at Mass. Beyond its practical usefulness, its elevated structure underscores the pre-eminence of God's Word within the assembly and in the hearts of his people.

The attentiveness of the people to Ezra and Jesus is noteworthy. When Ezra opened the book, "all the people stood up ... then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord." Also, the evangelist Luke tells us that after reading, Jesus sat down, "And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him" – ready, like their forebears in the first reading, to listen to his explanation of the text. Sure, this reminds us of the homily. Again, the response of the people is very remarkable. Touched by the word, they burst into tears. But Ezra reassures them that the word is mainly good news that liberates from sin and evil and offers new life and hope in the present and into the future. And this is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, the One anointed by the Father to bring the good news to the poor, set the downtrodden free, and announce the Lord's year of jubilee. As he declares: "this text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."

Like the people of Israel, whenever the word of God is proclaimed and 'broken' for us, it always calls for our response. Surely, we cannot respond effectively to the word if we are not touched by it in some way. But we cannot be touched if we are not attentive and open to it. The Sunday of the Word of God offers us a salutary opportunity to rediscover and recover the creative and transformative power of God's word, to strive to welcome it with deep faith and devotion, celebrate it with joy, and practice it with integrity. To achieve this, requires, among others, proper preparation through study, reflection, and, above all, prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Think:** Do I normally listen attentively to the readings / homily at Mass? **Practice:** 1) Go through the Mass readings in advance at home. 2) Arrive and get settled at least 10 minutes before Mass. 3) Try to listen attentively during the reading, focus on the reader. ©IAE

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

<b>1ST READING</b>	Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19
<b>2ND READING</b>	1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Luke 4:21-30

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	<b>Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died</b> , especially Fr Paulinus Umana, Tim Sheehan, Mary Ann Sheehan, Shanthe Thesailankaimannan, Roger Morton, and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.	<b>WHITE FLOWER APPEAL</b> The second collection on the weekend of 29 and 30 January will be held for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). SPUC is currently campaigning to protect Pro-Life speech. Pro-Life witness is being restricted now more than ever in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers.	
	<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, 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, Ray Lewry, Kathleen Kelly, and Jim Ballesteros.	<b>FIRST YOUTH MASS NEXT SUNDAY @ 6PM</b> In response to some of the suggestions made during our synodal consultation in November, a Mass for young people will be celebrated on the last Sunday of the month at the 6pm Mass, starting 30 January (next Sunday). Parents are passionately requested to encourage and support the young people of our parish to take active part in this initiative.	
<b>WEEKLY COLLECTIONS</b>		<b>OCTAVE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY (13-25 JANUARY)</b> The reflections and prayers for this year have been prepared by Christians in the Middle East, on the theme: "We Saw the Star in the East, and We Came to Worship Him" (see Mt 2:2). Prayer resources on the theme can be found at <a href="https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/">https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/</a>	
	<b>LAST WEEKEND</b> Non-Gift-aid: £711.10 Gift-aid: £251.25 <b>Total: £962.35*</b> <b>TOTAL COLLECTION FOR DEC 2021</b> A. Cash / cheques – 3,740.20 1. Gift-Aided – 1,323.78 2. Non-G/A – 2416.42 B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – 3,013.00 1. Gift-Aided – 2,375.00 2. Non-G/A – 638.00 C. Contactless Machine – 656.00 <b>Total = £7,409.20</b> <b>Thank you for your generosity to your parish.</b> 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: <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>NEW ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED</b> We urgently need a large number of altar servers, to help with all our Sunday Masses. Age is no barrier; both young people and adults are equally welcome. The only requirement is that you have made your First Holy Communion. Adults will need to complete a DBS check before being added to the Rota. The Training Course for new servers begins on <b>Sunday, 6 February at 12.30</b> in the Sacristy and will last for about 45 minutes. The course will run for up to 6 weeks. The course enables those wishing to serve at Mass to get a basic understanding of the Mass itself and to get familiar with all the actions and skills required. All would-be servers must complete the course before being admitted to the serving team. Any questions? Please, contact the Parish Master of Ceremonies, Jacques Lambert on 020 8397 2793.	
*Excluding standing orders & online payments – the monthly total of which will be published on or after the first weekend of every new month.	<b>Crib Collection 2021 – £1,077.49</b>	<b>11AM MASS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH</b> The Common of the Mass (Kyrie, Gloria, etc.) will be led by the choir in Latin at the 11am Mass on the first Sunday of the month.	
<b>FIRST COMMUNICANTS – 2021/2022</b>		<b>FIRST RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION – 2022</b>	
Congratulations to our forty-six young people who are receiving the Lord in the Holy Eucharist for the first time at 9am Mass this Sunday.		In order to give the children in our parish the opportunity to join the Sacramental programme, we are planning a further series of teaching sessions, <u>beginning in February and ending in June.</u> If your child is currently in Year 3 or above and you would like them to participate in this programme, you must attend a preliminary meeting on Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Formal registration will follow during the week beginning Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February. <b>NB:</b> All Sessions (except for 'Second' Reconciliation) will be held on Saturdays from 10.30am to 11.30am.	
<b>SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION</b>		<b>FOOD BANK DONATIONS</b>	
	For those children who are <u>currently</u> in Years 9/10. Registration: Watch this space!	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.	
<b>CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS</b>		<b>† MARY ANN SHEEHAN – RIP</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.		Kindly pray for Mary Ann Sheehan who passed on peacefully at the Royal Star & Garter, on Friday 14 January. Our condolences to the family. <b>Funeral Service:</b> Wednesday, 2 February, at 1pm. May she rest in peace. Amen.	
		<b>† TIM SHEEHAN – RIP</b>	
		Kindly pray for Tim Sheehan, former Headteacher OLI School, who passed on recently. Our condolences to Joyce and the family. <b>Requiem Mass:</b> Thursday, 17 February, at 11am. May he rest in peace. Amen.	