



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – A

27 November 2022

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – A

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.olionline.co.uk>

26 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Rita Pierce – 90th Birthday (<i>IE</i>)
27 Sunday	9.00	Emmanuel Tambimuttu – RIP
	11.00	Elsie Fowler & Hilda Budd – RIP
	18.00	Gerard Dodds – RIP (<i>FM</i>)

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

28 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Janaki Gandhimathi – RIP (<i>Mary</i>)
29 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Guy de Founflan – RIP (<i>Erman</i>)
	19.00	Akan & Mfoniso Ukwak & Fam (<i>IE</i>)
30 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Monica Tambimuttu (<i>Erman</i>)
	19.00	John Dike – RIP (<i>IE</i>)
01 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Sr Charles Obong's Intentions
	9.30	Mariyamma Thomas – RIP
02 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Suresh – Thanksgiving (<i>Mary</i>)
	9.30	Rajani Reginald – RIP
03 Saturday <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.00	Florence Stroud & Dec'd Family – RIP (<i>FM</i>)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – A

03 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Edward Howe – RIP (<i>S Howe</i>)
04 Sunday	9.00	John & David Doyle
	11.00	Toni Wiczorek – RIP (<i>1st Anniv</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

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
Syro Malabar Prayer Group	1st Friday of the month: 7pm

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath has a longstanding history as part of the Catholic tradition of spiritual preparations for Christmas. Its origin is, however, uncertain.

It has a rich spiritual symbolism underscored by its shape, contents, and appearance. It is made of evergreens arranged in circular form, symbolising God's unchanging love and his eternal existence without beginning or end, respectively. Traditionally, it was made of four candles representing the four Sundays (weeks) of Advent. The three violet (purple) candles are lit on first, second, and fourth weeks, while the rose (not pink!) candle is lit on the third Sunday (*Gaudete*). Commonly, a fifth candle (white) is added to represent Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Notwithstanding, the light on each of the candles represents Christ, the light who has come into the world.

PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S COMING

Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical or Church year. The name is derived from the Latin word, *Adventus*, which means *coming* or *arrival*. During this period, the Christian people prepare themselves through prayer, penance, and works of love (charity) for the celebration of the coming of Christ. The immediate preparation focuses on his first coming at his birth in Bethlehem which is marked at Christmas. Beyond this, they look forward with hope to his second and final coming in glory at the end of time (the *Parousia*).

The celebration of the first coming and the anticipation of the second coming of Christ by the Christian people is, of course, rooted in and sustained by the recognition of and openness to embrace his constant coming in mystery in our lives and in the Church, particularly through his word and the sacraments especially in the Eucharist. Advent, therefore, offers us the opportunity to get ready for the coming of the Lord by deepening our relationship with God who in Christ came among us as one of us so that, like him, we may be led to the Father through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

Today's Mass readings highlight not only the nature of the Lord's coming, but also indicate what we ought to do to be ready to welcome him. Both the first reading (Rm 13:11-14) and the Gospel (Mt 24:37-44) focus on the Second Coming. Jesus underlines its sudden and unexpected character by likening his coming to the biblical experience of the people before the Flood. They were preoccupied with their various concerns while Noah built the ark; then came the Flood, which swept all outside it away (see Gen 6-9). For Jesus, the random and unpredictable nature of the Second Coming is not an invitation to fear or anxiety. It is, instead, a call for vigilance and steadfast preparation, "because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Paul makes the same case for vigilance and alertness, because "the time has come," and "our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted." This goes beyond mere interior disposition. It also has significant consequences for our daily living as a Christian people. It means living a morally sensitive life, free from sin and devoted to doing good and pleasing God. As Paul puts it, "Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy." This is what it means to stay awake.

We are reminded that Advent is a season of grace, a time of spiritual renewal. During this period, we are drawn, in the words of Isaiah in the first reading (Is 2:1-5), "to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths." Persuading us to turn from ourselves, from selfishness, and from preoccupation on the cares of this world, Advent offers us the opportunity to be reconciled with God and with others. Again, Isaiah challenges us to make Advent a time of peacebuilding at individual, social, national, and international levels, by turning the weapons of violence and mutual destruction of all sorts into instruments of lasting peace, mutual upliftment, and progress.

Though not as austere as Lent, Advent has a quasi-penitential character. This is underlined especially in the liturgy. Notably, there is no *Gloria* or additional incidental organ music at the Mass, priests / deacons wear violet or purple Mass vestments (or rose – not pink! – on the third Sunday), no flowers except on solemn feasts or special occasions, and normally no celebration of marriage.

Lastly, there are a lot of commercial interests and twists to Advent (and Christmas). There are many positives to some of them. Still, some do undermine its Christian character and deep spiritual significance. Nonetheless, as missionary disciples in an increasing secularising society, we are encouraged to make our Advent preparation an opportunity for witnessing to its true message. ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 11:1-10
2ND READING	Romans 15:4-9
GOSPEL	Matthew 3:1-12

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially Evelyn Walter, Maria Simmonds, Martin Kirley, Victoria Unigwe, Veronica Richens, and those whose anniversaries occur 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 in our parish community: Vanessa Andrew, Martin Dray, Sue Ewen, Pauline Ferrara, Ann Groves, Thomas Haley, George Trutwein, Esme Mills, Frances Cox, Mary Ryan, Betty Harte, Joan McGovern, Rita Reginald, Thomas O'Connor, Jimmy Simon, Sarah Mills, Samar Staussi, Annita Smith, Shirlene A., Kathleen McGuinness, Kathleen O'Connell, Claire Pender, Hazel D'Aguiar, Mary O'Mara, Eileen Cullen, Elizabeth Jones, Ray Lewry, Wendy Cook, Nivetheni Robert, Joe Ingrassi, Baby Freddie Page, Philip Leightley, Clare & Baby Polly, Gerry Hague, Maureen Stephens, Maureen Sellwood, Eric Powell, Mavis Fisher, and Andy Moolman.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

COLLECTION FOR FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

There will be a second collection next weekend for flowers for the decoration of our Church at Christmas.

NO FLOWERS IN ADVENT

Please NO flowers to be brought to the Lady Chapel or anywhere throughout the Church until Christmas Eve due the quasi penitential nature of Advent and then the Crib being erected. Thank you.

MORE READERS AT MASS NEEDED

We need more readers for the weekend Mass rota, especially for the 6pm Mass on Sunday. If you feel called to this service, kindly contact the parish office. **Training will be provided.**

A WARM WELCOME EVERY WEDNESDAY, 11.30AM – 3PM!

We had three guests and three volunteers this week – the first day. Join us in the Old Chapel during the winter months for a cup of tea, some lunch, a chat, and company. For further information, please contact Helen Emmett, 07402327177. Please, spread the news!

CHRISTMAS CARDS & REPOSITORY NEWS

The repository is open every Sunday after 9am Mass to sell Christmas cards, 2023 calendars and other gift items. Consider supporting your parish by stocking from the repository. Also, Denise has offered to sell the Christmas cards, £3.50 per box in the Parish Office from 10am to 2pm on Monday – Friday.

PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday at 10.30-12pm in the RDJ Room, except 1st Tuesday.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

***MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:** 9am, Monday– Friday.

1. TOY SUNDAY: Sunday 11 Dec at 11am Mass. You are invited to donate a wrapped new toy for a disadvantaged child. Please label the gift with age and if it is for a boy or girl. Thank you.

2. OLI CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: Wednesday 14 December at 5.00pm 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.

3. PARISH CAROL SERVICE: Sunday, 18 Dec at 7pm.

4. RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Monday, 19 Dec at 7pm. More details, next weekend!

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Advent can be such a busy demanding time, but we encourage you to make some space to reflect and pray this advent. Sign up for our free Southwark Diocesan 'daily advent reflections' to aid your prayer. Every day during advent you will receive an email with a very brief thought for the day based on the daily reading. It is an opportunity to listen to Gods invitation to you this advent. All you need to do is sign up and then set aside a couple of minutes each day to reflect! Sign up via: <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/> clicking on the Advent Reflection box.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT AGM

27 November at 7.00pm in the Old Chapel. The Charities which we will be supporting during Lent 2023 will be selected at the meeting.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £804.49

Gift-aid: £430.50 **Total:** £1,234.99*

CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE

Non-Gift-aid: £176.79

Gift-aid: £115.56 **Total:** £292.35

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR OCTOBER 2022

A. Cash / cheques – 5,187.88

1. Gift-Aided – 1,894.00

2. Non-G/A – 3,293.88

B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – 3,107.00

1. Gift-Aided – 2,842.00

2. Non-G/A – 265.00

C. Contactless Machine – 904.00

Total = £9,198.88 (Last month: £8,079.00)

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

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

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023



Application has been received from twenty-three young people. Let's pray for them!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

NEXT CHILDREN SESSION: 03 DEC, 10.30 – 11.30AM.

PARENTS SESSION: 05 DEC, 7.30PM in the Church Hall.

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. Thank you for your generosity.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Kingston foodbank at present is particularly short of potato foods (tinned new potatoes), pot noodles, jam, rice, instant mash, fruit squash, household cleaning items, bleach, washing tablets etc., razors, shaving cream, shower gel and toothbrushes. There's currently a high stock of pasta at the centre. So, they would appreciate alternative items such as rice, lentils, and chickpeas.

† MARIA SIMMONDS – RIP

Requiem Mass: 28 November at 11.30am. May she rest in peace, Amen.

† MARTIN KIRLEY – RIP

Please, kindly remember in your prayers Martin Kirley, son of Bridie and Sean Kirley, who died unexpectedly on Saturday, 19 November, aged 40. Our condolences to his parents and siblings at this painful time. May his soul rest in peace. Amen. **Funeral:** TBC