



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – A (GAUDETE SUNDAY)**

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

10 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Martin Hart – RIP
11 Sunday <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	9.00 11.00 18.00	Sean Mathias – WB ( <i>Dunseath</i> ) <i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish Robert & Annie Eales – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )

**THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT**

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

12 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Fox Family's Intentions ( <i>Anon</i> )
13 Tuesday <i>St Lucy</i>	9.30 19.00	Giulietta & Romano – BD Holy Souls
14 Wednesday <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30 19.00	John Nash – RIP ( <i>Dunseath</i> ) Kevin Beatty – 60 <sup>th</sup> BD ( <i>J Beatty</i> )
15 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	Holy Souls Ottavio D'Agostina
16 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	Freda Cantwell – WB ( <i>Dunseath</i> ) Felimon Buenafe – RIP ( <i>J Esperito</i> )
17 Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.00	Martin Kirley – RIP & WB of Kirly Family ( <i>M Tett</i> )

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – A**

17 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	John Davis – RIP ( <i>A Davis</i> )
18 Sunday <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	9.00 11.00 18.00	Adolf & Fiore – RIP ( <i>P Grogan</i> ) Doreen Law – RIP ( <i>B Donnelly</i> ) Leslie O'Connor – RIP ( <i>Catherine</i> )

**OTHER SERVICES**

<b>Morning Prayer of the Church</b>	Monday – Friday: 9am
<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
<b>Syro Malabar Prayer Group</b>	1st Friday of the month: 7pm

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

- 1. CHRISTMAS EVE**
  - 1) 5pm – Vigil Mass 1
  - 2) 7pm – Vigil Mass 2
  - 3) 10pm – Mass in the Night (*Carol singing – 9.30pm*)
- 2. CHRISTMAS DAY**
  - 1) 8am – Mass at Dawn
  - 2) 9.15am – Mass during the Day 1
  - 3) 11am – Mass during the Day 2

**REJOICE, THE LORD IS NEAR!**

It seems unarguable that we are in a time of great global crisis, economically, politically, and socially. Households across the world are battling with rising cost of living and hikes in energy bills. The infamous Russian war in Ukraine has, in recent weeks, taken a despicable dimension as Russia is weaponizing the destruction of vital energy infrastructure in a bid to break the defiant resistance by Ukraine. Life has been made extremely dangerous for many in Ukraine this winter. Besides, the Russian president is doubling down not only on his assault on Ukraine, but also on the threat of using nuclear weapons. Violent crimes are escalating in many places. Here in the homeland, there is lot of anxiety about recent and impending strike actions by unions pressing for better pay and working conditions for their members. We have witnessed severe travel disruptions already and are still bracing up for more in the build-up to Christmas and New Year. As if these were not bad enough, vital sectors of the NHS (nurses, ambulance services, etc.) are threatening to strike also. Sadly, the list is increasing by the day. Obviously, these are difficult times. Hence, ordinarily, no time to 'rejoice.' Yet, that is exactly what we are invited to do by today's liturgy (*Gaudete Sunday*). To rejoice! Rejoicing amid suffering and difficulties? Isn't this a utopia? And unrealistic? Certainly not! Christian joy does not come from the absence of anxiety or suffering. Neither is it a result of an increase in pleasures or comfort. It is, instead, a supernatural gift, infused into the soul by the Holy Spirit, which animates and radiates through the whole person with an intensity that neither suffering nor pleasures can destroy or produce, respectively. It is "joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rm 14:17). "Inspired by the Holy Spirit" (1 Th 1:6b), Christian joy is fundamentally borne of the infinite love of God and, as Pope Francis says in *Evangelii Gaudium* §6, it "is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty." On this note, he asserts further: "Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved [by God]." This is the heart of the call to us today in the Mass introit, citing St Paul, as we gradually approach the celebration of the birth of Christ, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near" (Ph 4:4-5). In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah (35:1-6,10) exhorts the people of Israel to rejoice and exult, despite their sufferings and deprivation under captivity in Babylon, that is, in anticipation of God's saving intervention and their eventual return to Jerusalem: "Look, your God is coming ... to save you'...those the Lord has ransomed...will come...shouting for joy...." Both Paul and Isaiah closely link joy with hope in the above passages. Now, hope, in turn, relates to patience. Hence the admonition by James (5:7-10) in the second reading, "You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon." The intimate relationship between patience and hope on the one hand and joy on the other sheds light on why Christian joy transcends suffering. That is why, in the beatitudes, those who are persecuted on account of the Gospel are not just called blessed (happy) but are also admonished to "rejoice and be glad" (see Mt 5:11-12). Meanwhile, the power of joy through patience and hope does not only enable contentment or perseverance (see Rm 5:4-5). It also strengthens and empowers, "for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Ne 8:10). Thus, in the Gospel (Mt 11:2-11), John the Baptist must have received great comfort while still in prison from the feedback from Jesus, which assured him of the fulfilment of Israel's messianic hopes. Jesus' words, "and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me," apply not only to the Baptist, but to all of us too. Finally, Christian joy is fully realised in communion, through sharing (Rm 12:15). This is our mission this holy season and beyond. ©IAE

<b>NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS</b>	
<b>1ST READING</b>	Isaiah 7:10-14
<b>2ND READING</b>	Romans 1:1-7
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Matthew 1:18-24

## PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially Canon Colm Acton, 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

### DONATION OF NEW TOYS

We are collecting new toys for disadvantaged children at the 11am Mass this Sunday. Please label your gift, indicating the age and if it is for a boy or girl. Thank you.

### 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.

### PARISH CHOIR

We need more volunteers to sing with the 11am parish choir. Men's and women's voices, or children and young adults. Some ability to read music is desirable but not essential, as we learn by ear as well, and you would need to rehearse with us. We'd also like to hear from anyone who plays the keyboard and might be interested in helping on the organ too. Please contact Rob Howe at [robert.howe@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:robert.howe@dunelm.org.uk) or on 07939 084 797.

**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.

**PARISH CAROL SERVICE:** Sunday, 18 Dec at 4pm.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** Monday, 19 Dec at 7pm.

### SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Sign up by clicking on the Advent Reflection box via <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/>

### ALTAR SERVERS AT CHRISTMAS

Altar servers are needed for the Christmas Masses as follows: **Christmas Eve 5.00 pm 7.00 pm** and 10.00 pm (please note this starts with carols at 9.30 so you need to be there for 8.45 pm) and on Christmas Day at 8.00 9.15 and 11.00 am. There are sign-up sheets in the RDJ room. Many thanks.

### WINTERSHALL NATIVITY

The Nativity Journey will be performed between 14-19 December 2022 at Wintershall, near Guildford. This is a wonderful way for families and parishes to journey with the Holy Family and reflect on the true story of Christmas. Please note that there are some restrictions for those with physical disabilities. Tickets are now available for performances between 14-19 December. Visit [www.wintershall.org.uk](http://www.wintershall.org.uk) or telephone 01483 892167 for full details.

### PARISH LENTEN PROJECT 2023

The Lenten Project AGM was held on 27 November 2022. At this meeting the Charities, which the Parish will be supporting for Lent 2023 were chosen. A copy of the minutes will be on the parish website (Community/Lenten Project). Five charities were nominated, and four charities were adopted by the committee members present. The charities are:

- 1. Vathiry Sacred Heart College, Sri Lanka** – provides education for children in Sri Lanka who would not receive education otherwise.
- 2. Bastar Dharma Kshema Samiti, India** – to build a therapeutic park for children with mental health and learning disabilities.
- 3. Mobile Manna Foundation, Nigeria** – working with people with mental health issues who have been abandoned.
- 4. Mary Queen of Heaven Inc, Philippines** – working with children who are being sexually exploited.

If you would like to organise or participate in an event during Lent 2023, please contact Phil Townsend on 8399 3481 or email [Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk)

### 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.

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



### LAST WEEKEND

**Non-Gift-aid:** £802.97

**Gift-aid:** £287.05 **Total:** £1,090.02\*

### TOTAL COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER 2022

A. Cash / cheques – £5,268.99

1. Gift-Aided – £2,062.00

2. Non-G/A – £3,206.99

B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £2,888

1. Gift-Aided – £2,676.00

2. Non-G/A – £212.00

C. Contactless Machine – £684.00

**Total = £8,840.99** (Last month: £9,198.88)

**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](http://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](mailto:tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk) or 0208 8399 4368

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

**NEXT CHILDREN SESSION:** 07 JAN, 10.30 – 11.30AM.

## 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.

## SUPPLEMENTARY PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS

Fr Ignatius will be available at the Parish Office to sign primary school forms on **Tuesday 13 December**, from 3pm to 6pm.

**STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT!**

Please, come along with your child. Sign up via <https://koalendar.com/e/signing-of-primary-school-forms>