



# Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – A

18 December 2022

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:** Mr Ben Martin

## MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – A

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

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	Adolf & Fiore – RIP ( <i>P Grogan</i> )
	11.00	Doreen Law – RIP ( <i>B Donnelly</i> )
	18.00	Leslie O'Connor – RIP ( <i>Catherine</i> )

### FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

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

19 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Linford Fuller ( <i>L Lews</i> )
20 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Verna & George Hutchison – RIP
	19.00	Tom Rogers – RIP
21 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Roger Deegan ( <i>Frances</i> )
	19.00	Mary Joyce – RIP ( <i>M-J Gray</i> )
22 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Maria Simmonds – RIP ( <i>Jankowski</i> )
	9.30	Nancy & Noel Ryan – RIP ( <i>M Tett</i> )
23 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Veronica Olubunmi – RIP ( <i>Danso</i> )
	9.30	Tom & McGuinness – RIP
24 Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.00	T T Paul – RIP ( <i>B Roy</i> )

### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS EVE

1st Vigil Mass	17.00	Buhagiar Family Intentions ( <i>Logue</i> )
2nd Vigil Mass	19.00	Anne Gnanapragasam – RIP
Mass in the Night	22.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People

### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS DAY

Mass at Dawn	8.00	Jeanette Bonfield – WB ( <i>Angie</i> )
Mass in the Day	9.15	Private
Mass in the Day	11.00	Private

### 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

### SHARED PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Mother Mary, as you carried your dear Son in your immaculate womb, you also carried Him in your heart. Pray for me, this Advent, that I may surrender myself to the will of the Father in imitation of you. You said “Yes” to all that God asked of you and never hesitated to fully embrace His divine will. Pray that I may imitate your perfect example so as to share a deeper union with you and your divine Son. Amen.

<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/prayer-for-a-fruitful-advent/>

### WELCOMING THE GOD-WITH-US

We are a few days from the feast of the Lord’s Nativity. Therefore, the readings of the fourth Sunday of Advent turn our attention to the Virgin Mary as she expects the birth of her son, Jesus Christ.

The evangelist Matthew, in today’s Gospel (1:18-24) concludes his account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, which is always read at the Vigil Mass of Christmas, with a synopsis of how the birth of Jesus came about. Unlike the evangelist Luke who in his more detailed account of Jesus’ conception concentrates almost exclusively on the Virgin Mary and the angelic messenger Gabriel (Lk 1:26-38), Matthew focuses on the aftermath of the conception of Jesus and seeks to defend his identity as both Son of David and Son of God.

The maiden Mary was betrothed to Joseph, “but before they came to live together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.” Joseph was jolted by this situation and decided to divorce her privately, to spare her public disgrace and possible charge of adultery with its fatal consequence, namely, death penalty by stoning (Lev 20:10; see Jn 8:5). Then, in obedience to God’s word, he took her into his home and was publicly responsible for her and her Son. By naming him at birth, he also became his legal father. Though seldom emphasised, Joseph’s ‘fiat,’ his submission to the will of God, parallels in some way Mary’s ‘yes’ at the Annunciation, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). Born of a virgin mother by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus had no biological father. He is, therefore, the Son of God. However, his divinity remained largely veiled by his humanity and would be manifested progressively, especially through his words and actions (Lk 5:20-25; Jn 11:38-44), leading to its climax, as Paul states in the second reading in his resurrection (Rm 1:1-7). Joseph’s ‘yes,’ gave legitimacy within the Jewish context to the humanity which he received solely from his mother. Since he was of the House of David, his foster fatherhood and legal guardianship rooted him in the lineage of David and, as a result, conferred on him the Dynasty of David.

Today’s gospel echoes the prophesy of Isaiah in the first reading (7:10-14) and applies it to both Mary and Jesus: “the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us.’” For Matthew, Jesus is the ultimate fulfilment of God’s promise to Ahaz concerning the House of David. He is also the Son of God. By emphasising the divinity of Jesus at his conception, Matthew clarifies the early Church’s faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Though the paschal mystery, especially the resurrection is the supreme expression of Jesus as the Son of God (see Mt 27:54; Acts 2:26-36), Jesus was not just the Son of God after the resurrection. He is eternally the Son of God, his Incarnate Word (see Jn 1:1-4,14). So, the incarnation is the manifestation of God’s abiding presence with us. The Holy Spirit makes this possible through the human instrumentality of the Virgin Mary from whom Jesus, the eternal word of God made flesh, received his human body and its relevant faculties. She is, therefore, intimately connected to the incarnate mystery of his divinity. Mary’s place and role remains unique in the history of humanity. She brings something radically new to history. Jesus’ real presence in the world is brought about through her, for “when the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons and daughters” (Gal 4:4).

As we approach the celebration of the Lord’s Nativity, echoing the prophet Isaiah, the evangelist Matthew reminds us of the significance of his first coming at his birth, as symbolised by his name, *Immanuel*, God-with-us. He is always in our midst and with us. Sadly, sometimes (maybe oftentimes!) we do not always recognise him. During these last days of Advent, we can and should learn from Mary and Joseph to welcome him by being open and docile to God’s word. ©IAE

### NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

<b>1ST READING</b>	Isaiah 52:7-10
<b>2ND READING</b>	Hebrews 6:1-6
<b>GOSPEL</b>	John 1:1-18

## 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.

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



### LAST WEEKEND

**Non-Gift-aid:** £633.67

**Gift-aid:** £263.10 **Total: £896.77\***

### 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

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

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

### PARISH CAROL SERVICE: SUNDAY, 18 DEC AT 4PM.

There will be a reception with mulled wine and nibbles in the Old Chapel after the service. All are warmly welcome!

### RECONCILIATION SERVICE: MONDAY, 19 DEC AT 7PM.

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation allows us to draw near to the Father with trust to have the certainty of his forgiveness* (Pope Francis). The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the important spiritual preparations that we can and should make during Advent in view of the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord and his Second Coming at the end of time. Visiting priests will be available to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **NB:** Even if you are unable to go to Confession, please feel welcome to the service; you will also have an opportunity of having a conversation with and receiving a blessing from the priest.

### 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

### 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.

### UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS: CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday 20 December, 7.30 - 9pm in the Old Chapel. There will be a free raffle and a Christmas Quiz, wine, and soft drinks. Please bring some finger food for a shared table.

### ALTAR SERVERS AT CHRISTMAS

Altar servers are needed for the Christmas Masses as listed above. There are sign-up sheets in the RDJ room. Many thanks.

### 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.

## 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.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

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](mailto:tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk) or phone 020 8399 4368) will be happy to give it to you.