



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

25 December 2022

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG
 Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: tolworth@caos.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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

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
Mass at Dawn	8.00	Jeanette Bonfield – WB (<i>Angie</i>)
Mass in the Day	9.15	Jacques Pearce – RIP (<i>IE</i>)
Mass in the Day	11.00	Sick & Housebound Parishioners

OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

26 Monday <i>St Stephen</i>	9.30	Jebamalai Muthu – RIP (<i>M Suresh</i>)
27 Tuesday <i>St John</i>	9.30 19.00	Emmanuel Tambimuttu – RIP Private
28 Wednesday <i>Holy Innocents</i>	9.30 19.00	Eddi Savage – RIP (<i>J Savage</i>) Marie Fahy – BD
29 Thursday <i>St Thomas of CT</i>	7.00 9.30	Holy Souls Paul Joseph – RIP
30 Friday <i>The Holy Family</i>	7.00 9.30	Holy Souls Monica Tambimuttu – RIP
31 Saturday <i>7th Day of Octave</i>	9.00	Johnwel – Progress in Studies

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

31 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Rita Tibbs' Intentions (<i>A Davis</i>)
01 Sunday	09.00 11.00 18.00	Rajani Reginald – RIP <i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People Holy Souls

OTHER SERVICES

Morning Prayer of the Church	Monday – Friday: 9am
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

SHARED PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen. (*Attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson*)

JOY TO THE WORLD

Through the four weeks of Advent, we prepared ourselves by prayers, reflection on the word of God, the sacraments especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist and charitable deeds, for the celebration of the first coming of Christ and his return in glory at the end of time. This underscores the importance of the birth of Christ, and Christmas as the celebration of our great faith in Jesus as our Saviour and the Light of the world.

The Nativity of the Lord is a turning point in human history. With the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, God makes perhaps the clearest statement ever about the dignity of the human person, created in his image (Gn 1:27). The mystery of the Incarnation is, therefore, a confirmation of God's unfathomable love, a love so wondrous that the Creator, the Word through whom all things were created in the beginning (see Jn 1:1-4), deigns to share the creaturely state of humans in all things except its sinfulness (see Heb 4:15). By becoming man, Christ elevates the human nature to a new grandeur. His incarnation brings divinity closer to humanity in an unimaginable manner, so much so that to see, touch, and interact with him is to see, touch, and interact with God (Jn 14:9,11; Heb 1:3). Conversely, it also uplifts humanity towards God, making us, by his grace, Godlike. It divinises man as St Athanasius (ca. 298-373) asserts, "God became man that man might become God." In other words, God is with us in Christ, that we might through him be with God.

The liturgy of Christmas unpacks the central truth and belief of the Christian people about the coming of God as man in Christ and the light, joy, peace, and hope that it brings to the whole world.

The infancy narratives by the evangelists Matthew (1-2) and Luke (Lk 1:26-56; 2:) highlight the circumstances of Christ's birth. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and birthed by a virgin mother, Jesus is the Son of God. The two evangelists also recount the impact of his birth from the outset not only on those closely associated with him, especially Mary and Joseph, but also on others especially outsiders.




Particularly, Luke pays close attention to his humble birth and background. A King born not in a palace but in a dingy manger, robed in swaddling clothes instead of royal purple, and heralded by the lowing of cattle and bleating of sheep instead of trumpets and horns. Godhead hid in a fragile child, by his humble birth and lowly state! However, his true identity is perceived by the eyes of faith as announced by the angels to the shepherd, "I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." The darkness of the manger is shattered by the radiance of his presence. Beyond the obscurity of the manger, the shepherds are filled with awe and wonder as they make haste to Bethlehem where they see everything exactly as they were told by the angels. They bear witness about him before their departure, "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen." Their curiosity is matched by their faith.

On this day of joy, the shepherds remind us to be open and responsive to God's word, to allow our heart, mind, and spirit be moved by the light of faith to explore more closely so that we may understand more deeply and experience more intently what God says to us. Like them, we are encouraged and challenged to allow the message and event of the incarnation to touch and transform us, to awaken in us holy curiosity and joyful hope, and to spur us on from our respective comfort zones to become true missionary disciples of Christ, eager to share with others near and far, through our words and actions, the news of great joy of our Saviour's birth among us.

May he who knows the hopes and fears of our hearts, come and stay with us this holy season and always, and may the joy of his Nativity spread through us to the farthest ends of the earth. Amen. ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 52:7-10
2ND READING	Numbers 6:22-27
GOSPEL	Galatians 4:4-7

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially Canon Colm Acton, Jacques Pearce, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.	PARISH OFFICE The Parish Office is closed for Christmas and will re-open on Thursday 5 January at 10am. For urgent pastoral needs (e.g., Sick Calls), please ring 0208 899 9550 ext 3. Thank you.	
	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.	NEW YEAR EVE (31 DECEMBER) 18.30 – Normal Saturday Vigil Mass of Sunday 22.00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 23.00 – Mass to welcome the New Year CRIB OFFERING Our parish Crib Offering this year will go to support the Catholic Children's Society's (CCS) Southwark Crisis Fund, which provides help for local families who are facing real hardship and have nowhere else to run to. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib . 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 or on 07939 084 797.	
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS		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	
	LAST WEEKEND Non-Gift-aid: £639.40 Gift-aid: £308.32 Total: £947.72* 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), 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	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.	
<i>*Excluding standing orders & online payments – the monthly total of which will be published on or after the first weekend of every new month.</i>		GREETINGS AND GRATITUDE On behalf Fr Joseph, Dcn Al, the Catechists and other pastoral collaborators in the parish, I would like to wish all our parishioners and visitors to the parish a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2023. I would also like to seize this opportunity to thank all who have worked so hard both publicly and behind the scenes (readers, servers, welcomers, catechists, collectors, organists, choirs, church cleaners, florists, Knights of St Columba, etc.), to make our celebration of Christmas joyful, successful, and memorable. Finally, a special welcome to visitors to the parish. Thank you for taking out time to visit our Church this Christmas and for your prayers and participation. Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about the parish or to become more involved in the future, you're warmly welcome to contact any of the priests through the Parish Office (see contacts in the Newsletter and website). Thank you and God bless, Ignatius Edet, PP	
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 or phone 020 8399 4368) will be happy to give it to you.			