



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

29 January 2023

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A
LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.olionline.co.uk>

28 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Dorothy Hawes (<i>FM</i>)
29 Sunday	09.00	Sammut Family – Ints (<i>Logue</i>)
	11.00	Sheila Taylor – RIP (<i>J Lambert</i>)
	18.00	Antonio Ciaiola – RIP

WEEK 4 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR 1)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

30 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Monica Tambimuttu – RIP (<i>Erman</i>)
31 Tuesday <i>St John Bosco</i>	9.30	Agius' Family (<i>Logue</i>)
	19.00	Parish Volunteers
01 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Paddy Rooney – WB (<i>Stevens</i>)
	19.00	Sick & Housebound Parishioners
02 Thursday <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	7.00	Holy Souls
	9.30	Thanksgiving (<i>A Varanat</i>)
03 Friday <i>St Laurence of Canterbury</i>	7.00	Parish Catechists
	9.30	Barbara's Family Intention (<i>Logue</i>)
04 Saturday <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Dec'd Members of Rosaria Papa and Family – RIP (<i>D'Agostino</i>)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

04 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Violet & Laurence Seager, Gwen & Kenne (<i>Batty</i>)
05 Sunday <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	09.00	Tonino Monaco – RIP (<i>Maranzano</i>)
	11.00	Private
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

OTHER SERVICES

Morning Prayer of the Church	Monday – Friday: 9am
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Saturday: 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.15pm
Youth Mass	Last Sunday: 6pm Mass
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

Friend of the young, teacher in the ways of God,
 Your dedication to empowering the needy inspires us still.
 Help me to work for a better world,
 where the young are given the chance to flourish,
 where the poor's dream for justice can come true,
 and where God's compassion is shown to be real.
 Intercede for me as I bring my needs to you and to
 our heavenly Mother, the Help of Christians. Amen.
 (*Prayer to St John Bosco – 31 January*).

BLESSED ARE THE LITTLE ONES

God's preference for the nobodies of this world has received significant attention in Catholic Social Teachings (CST), where the phrase, *The Preferential Option for the Poor*, first used in 1968 in a letter to the members of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) by their Superior General, Pedro Arrupe, has been domesticated not only in Catholic theological reflection but also in magisterial or official Church teaching on the subject (see *The Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine* (CCSD), 2004, §§182-184).

In the first reading, the prophet Zephaniah (2:3,3:12-13) asserts that the humble and the lowly, those who seek refuge in the Name and Power of the Lord will receive divine blessing: "In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord." This powerless yet holy Remnant "will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them." They contrast with perhaps many of the Christians in Corinth where, as Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB explains, "there were so many different levels of employment and wealth, financiers, dockers, tent-makers, administrators and many others in that town with its double port, its booming trade, its biennial games and supporting trades." Hence, Paul warns them in the second reading (1 Co 1:26-31) not to be puffed by their wealth, wisdom, or power because God is uninfluenced by any of such (see 1 Sm 16:7; cf. Acts 10:28, 34-35). If anything, God is familiar with choosing what is weak and foolish by human standards. He uses "those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything." This is clearly as counter cultural as it is also counter intuitive. That is why Paul himself does not lay any claim to any of his worldly (cultural, religious, or educational) advantages, but considers them as rubbish "because of the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Ph 3:4-8). Similarly, he insists that his message and preaching are not based on "the brilliance of oratory or wise argument." Instead, through weakness, fear, and great trembling, he seeks "to demonstrate the convincing power of Spirit, so that your faith should depend not on human wisdom but on the power of God" (1 Co 2:1-5 – *Next Sunday's 2nd reading!*).

In the Gospel (Mt 5:1-12a), the *Beatitudes* (Jesus' Sermon on the Mount) encapsulate this divine revolution. It idealises the lowly and little ones whose lives express the truth of the Gospel. God's preferential option for the eight sets of people who are called 'blessed' or 'happy' is not just a matter of compensation for any material, physical, social, or cultural deprivation. These are declared blessed / happy because of their openness to embrace the truth of the Gospel. They remind us of the spiritual attitudes required for true and sustainable discipleship and Christian life. To be sure, the evangelist Matthew is not offering us an abnormal programme of happiness. Ultimately, the Beatitudes offer us a self-portrait of Jesus, not just for the purpose of idealising him but, more importantly, for our imitation. Each of the Beatitudes connects us to Jesus' life and mission. He is the poor in spirit who embraced completely the Father's will in all things (Lk 22:42); the meek and gentle in heart (Mt 11:29), consumed by his thirst for justice and righteousness (Jn 2:14-17); the perfectly pure (Hb 4:15), yet scandalously merciful to sinners (Jn 8:11); the innocent victim of persecution, falsely accused, abused, and unjustly condemned to death (Lk 23:1-24), yet he reconciled all to God, bringing peace by forgiving all (Lk 23:34).

No matter how gifted we may be, the efforts we make, or our achievements, we are all little ones before God, for we are and have nothing before and without him. Our true boast can only be in God without whom we are nothing. But we are also called to imitate God by being a people and community that is sensitive to the presence and needs of the little ones around us. We must come down from our high horses if we are to achieve this. May God help us all! ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 58:7-10
2ND READING	1 Corinthians 2:1-5
GOSPEL	Matthew 5:13-16

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially Sue Ewen, Benedict XVI, John Hayward, Canon Colm Acton, Jacques Pearce, 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, Pauline Ferrara, Ann Groves, Thomas Haley, George Trutwein, Esme Mills, Frances Cox, Mary Ryan, 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, Andy Moolman, Mary L Taylor.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY – RACIAL JUSTICE

This year the theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: "All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together" This reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church and was inspired by conversations around last year's Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis' visit to Canada in July 2022, when he spoke about looking towards a future of 'Justice, healing and reconciliation.'

Also in 2023, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland encourage us to remember Stephen Lawrence. The 30th anniversary of the racist killing of the black teenager in Eltham is on 22 April 2023. In life, he aspired to be an architect, but his legacy has seen him become an architect for justice, equality, dignity, and unity.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY MASS AT ST GEORGE'S

You are invited to the Racial Justice Sunday Mass at St George's Cathedral, which will take place at 10am on Sunday 5 February 2023 and will be celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson. Those attending Mass in person are encouraged to wear cultural outfits and are asked to be seated by 9.45 am for a prompt start at 10 am in St George's Cathedral. The Mass will also be live-streamed via the RC Southwark YouTube account: <https://bit.ly/RJS2023>

OLI YOUTH MASS

All young people in the parish are warmly welcome to take part in our Youth Mass on the last Sunday of the month at 6PM.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you wish to request a Mass for a specific date and intention, we would like to advise that you give plenty time (ideally, 6-8 weeks' notice at busy seasons). The Parish Office will continue to make sure that your requests for Masses are assigned as soon as possible but, understandably, on a first-come basis.

2023 DIRECTORY & ORDO

2023 Diocesan Directory and Liturgical Ordo is available in the Repository / Parish Office at £5 each. Few copies left.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

Thank you to all those who helped by putting your Annual Subs through the Presbytery door with your updated contact details. All monies must go to the Diocese next week, so if you have not done so could you put them in this weekend or by Tuesday at the latest.

Diary money (if you have one) £2.30 will be collected at the February meeting. Many thanks.

MUSICAL EVENING

You are invited to a Musical Evening with Michael Bevan on piano, music by Schumann, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and more on Saturday 4 February, 7.00pm, light refreshments served from 6.30pm at St Raphael's Church Hall, KT1 2NA. Admission is free with a retiring collection.

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.

† JOHN HAYWARD – RIP

Please, kindly remember in your prayers, John Hayward who passed on 30 Dec 2022. May he rest in peace. Amen.

† SUE EWEN – RIP

Please, kindly remember in your prayers, Sue Ewen who passed on at Milverton Nursing Home on Friday 13 January, aged 86 years. May she rest in peace. Amen.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £701.19

Gift-aid: £299.45 Total: £1,000.64*

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

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 2022

(EXCLUDING CHRISTMAS OFFERING)

A. Cash / cheques – £2,934.51

1. Gift-Aided – £858.47

2. Non-G/A – £2,076.04

B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £2,095

1. Gift-Aided – £1,955.00

2. Non-G/A – £140.00

C. Contactless Machine – £564.42

Total = £5,593.93 (Last month: £8,840.99)

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

NEXT CHILDREN SESSION: 04 FEB, 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.