



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

05 February 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

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

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

WEEK 5 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR 1)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

06 Monday <i>Ss Paul Miki & Companions</i>	9.30	Martin Kirley – RIP (<i>Maranzano</i>)
07 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	Nancy & Thomas Wilson – RIP Shirley Rutter – RIP (<i>Rutter</i>)
08 Wednesday <i>Feria (Victims of Trafficking)</i>	9.30 19.00	Yet-Jou Tsang – RIP (<i>Wong</i>) Ken & Maureen Richardson – RIP
09 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	Sid Linstead – RIP (<i>FM</i>) George Trutwein – WB (<i>Stevens</i>)
10 Friday <i>St Scholastica</i>	7.00 9.30	Joseph & Rose Surry – RIP (<i>FM</i>) Mary & Paul Neeson (<i>Stevens</i>)
11 Saturday <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	9.00	Annie Sharman – RIP (<i>FM</i>) (<i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i>)

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

11 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	James Tulmilty – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
12 Sunday	09.00 11.00 18.00	George Carroll – RIP (<i>M Douglas</i>) Richard & Irene Rodrigues – 25 Wedding Anniversary Isobel Costello – WB

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

God of our past, present and future,
 you created each one of us in your image and likeness,
 help us to recognise you in each person.
 As we pray for end to suffering caused by racism
 lead us this day to walk with one another,
 pray with one another and work together,
 so that we create a future based on justice and healing,
 where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
 (A Prayer for Racial Justice, CBCEW 2023).

LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE

Light occupies an important place in the Christian life and mission. This is highlighted especially in the liturgy of Baptism. The neophytes (newly baptised) or, in the case of infants, the parents and godparents are given a lighted candle (lit from the Paschal Candle) by the minister with these or similar words: "Receive the light of Christ... this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ and is to walk always as a child of the light." Christ to whom the baptised is configured as priest, prophet, and king, is indeed the true light that enlightens all people (Jn 1:9; see 8:12). By virtue of their baptism the Christian is, therefore, enjoined to radiate the light of Christ to people near and far. This is the key focus of today's first reading (Is 58:7-10) and the Gospel (Mt 5:113-16). Both remind us of the Christian vocation and mission of shining the light of Christ on others in witness to the world.

The prophet Isaiah addresses the people of Israel after their exile in Babylon. He admonishes them about true religious observances such as prayer and fasting. Responding to the people's complaint that their fasting was unrecognised by God, Isaiah identifies their disposition and attitude towards those around them, especially the poor and vulnerable (Is 58:3-5) as the hindrance. To be true and, therefore, pleasing to God, the prophet asserts that piety in its varied expressions must be rooted in and related to the love of both God and neighbour. "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (Is 58:6). Today's passage expands upon this vision and spells out its consequences: "Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over... Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.'" True worship cannot be divorced from a genuine love and commitment to the service and defence of others especially the poor and vulnerable. By sharing gifts of our time, talent, resources and, indeed ourselves, we beam God's light on all and, consequently, help to confront the darkness of greed, injustice, and exploitation of others.

The same message of sharing the light is echoed in the Gospel passage, which follows directly from Jesus' instructions on discipleship in the Beatitudes which we reflected on last Sunday. He calls his disciples *salt of the earth* and *light of the world* because. Like the prophet Isaiah, so with him. Discipleship is not only about the right relationship with God but also the right relationship with others. Just as salt and light do not exist purely for themselves, but to give taste and light to others, respectively, discipleship is not a personal privilege or for vainglory; proximately, it is for the good of others and ultimately for the glory of God. This is achieved not merely by proclamation (preaching) but above all by life witness to the truth and values of the Gospel. A failure to witness would, therefore, render the Christian as useless as the tasteless salt that is worth nothing except being trod underfoot, or like a light that is covered under a tub while there is darkness and fear all around it. We require both humility and courage if we are to live and act truly as salt of the earth and light of the world. Humility helps us to recognise that we are not the source of the sweetness or brightness that we strive to radiate; as Paul says, we are only earthenware vessels carrying this treasure (see 2 Co 4:7). We must, therefore, remain constantly grafted to Him from whom our sufficiency comes (Jn 15:5; see 2 Co 3:5). Courage helps us to persevere amidst the changes and chances around us.

As we celebrate Racial Justice Sunday today, we are reminded of "the need to confront racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour." By striving to let the light of Christ shine through us to the world, we can help realise this year's theme, "All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together." May our light shine to God's glory. Amen! ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21
2ND READING	1 Corinthians 2:6-10
GOSPEL	Matthew 5:17-37

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 TODAY – 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.

THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF AUXILIARY BISHOP

The Ordination of Msgr Philip Moger will take place in St George's Cathedral on Tuesday 21 February at 12.30pm. If attending, you are asked to be seated by midday. For those unable to attend in person, it will be possible to join the service via live-stream: <https://bit.ly/EpiscopalOrdination23>. All are welcome, refreshments will be available after the service.

RENEWED IN HOPE: A RETREAT FOR LENT 2023

Introduced by Archbishop John Wilson, led by members of the Spirituality Commission. The Archdiocese is offering a retreat experience for individuals and parishes during Lent 2023. Drawing on the Mass readings for the Sundays of Lent, Renewed in Hope will help us find fresh ways of living and working in hope, in the company of Jesus. We live in a divided world, where many are struggling to survive. Through his life, death and resurrection, the suffering and risen Christ continues to make all things new. This retreat is designed for individuals and for parish groups and is based on a weekly video accompanied by suggested exercises for prayer and reflection.

See www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/renewedbyhope for more details, and for registration, follow <http://eepurl.com/hVT7Dv>.

MARRIAGE WEEK

This annual event takes place February 7-14. If you are fortunate enough to be in a marriage and want to look after it, there are several ways of doing just that. Visit <https://marriage-week.org.uk/>

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE

How to get the marriage you want out of the marriage you have. The Saturday morning online course on February 18 is aimed at couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to improve their relationship further and gain insights into their communication and the call of the Church to the married. There is no personal sharing between couples. For details email Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or phone 07983 524 727

GRIEF IN LOSS: HOPE IN CHRIST (Bereavement Retreat)

Mourning the loss of a loved one? Trying to cope with feelings out of control? If so, this retreat is for you. It runs from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 March at Aylesford Priory. To book or find out more telephone 01622 717272.

MUSICAL CONCERT BY FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

THE LONDON WELSH VOICE CHOIR – a Charity Concert in support of Christians in The Holy Land. Guest soloists – THE PRIESTS. At 7.30pm, Thursday 16 February 2023 at Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street, London SW1P 1LT. Tickets from £20-£60, can be bought through Eventbrite, by searching LWMVC Concert at Westminster Cathedral. For more information, see www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/westminster-concert2023.

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: £839.08

Gift-aid: £369.37 Total: **£1,208.45***

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR JANUARY

A. Cash / cheques – £6,046.15

1. Gift-Aided – £2,008.00

2. Non-G/A – £4,038.15

B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £3,120.00

1. Gift-Aided – £2,852.00

2. Non-G/A – £268.00

C. Contactless Machine – £914.00

Total = £10,080.15 (Last month: £5,593.93)

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

Kindly consider making your regular contribution to the Church via standing order (form available at online.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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

FIRST RECONCILIATION: 24 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.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

SycamOre is an online course exploring our Catholic faith and suitable for individuals and couples alike. It runs throughout Lent, with weekly one-hour sessions on Tuesday evenings from 8-9pm starting on February 28.

For more details or to register, visit the website: [Growing in Faith Together — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis \(rcaos.org.uk\)](http://Growing in Faith Together — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (rcaos.org.uk))