



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

12 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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

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

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

WEEK 6 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR 1)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

13 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Anton Sebastian – RIP (Maria)
14 Tuesday <i>Ss Cyril & Methodius</i>	9.30	Mary Tong – RIP (J Wong)
	19.00	Renee & Eamon Barry (Stevens)
15 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Maria Sebastian – PI
	19.00	Mark Faherty – RIP (Cullen)
16 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	George & Molly Ryde – RIP (FM)
	9.30	Nancy & Michael Connolly – WB
17 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Clara TY Lee – WB (Lily Ko)
	9.30	Frances Powell – RIP (E Powell)
18 Saturday <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Lourdes D'Souza – WB (Stevens)

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

18 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Anthony Boyle (J Friel)
19 Sunday	09.00	30 th Wedding Thanksgiving (Corsin)
	11.00	Maria & Felicia Conroy – RIP (FM)
	18.00	Prop Populo – For the People

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

Oh Lord, you love me so much.
 Help me to be free from the bondage of sins
 and free to love you with all of my heart.
 May I know that I am forgiven.
 May I be free to love you, that any baggage I have will not weigh
 me down.
 May my soul always turn to you and seek after You.
 May I love you more and more each day.
 May I, through your Sacraments, grow ever closer to You.
 Lord, may I experience the freedom in my soul that can be
 achieved when I place all my trust and faith in you. Amen.
 (Prayer to Live in Freedom with Christ, Mary Saltzmann).

FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

Catholic teaching on human freedom and responsibility is rooted on the creation of the human person in God's image and likeness (Gen 1:26-27). According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC),

God created man a rational being, conferring on him the dignity of a person who can initiate and control his own actions. "God willed that man should be 'left in the hand of his own counsel,' so that he might of his own accord seek his Creator and freely attain his full and blessed perfection by cleaving to him." Man is rational and therefore like God; he is created with free will and is master over his acts!" (CCC, §1730).

This God-given freedom to choose comes with responsibility and can only be exercised truly when it is aligned to God's will. It is "a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude" (CCC, §1731). Also, it is "the basis of praise or blame, merit or reproach" (CCC, §1732). As the history of salvation and our own experiences show too well, we are constantly faced with the dilemma of choosing between good and evil, and our choices have consequences for our relationship with God and others. We grow in perfection whenever our choices are directed towards our ultimate Good, who is God. Similarly, we fall into sin and so, frustrate our relationship with God when we choose evil.

God always wills that we choose the good and not evil, life and not death (see Dt 30:19; cf. Jos 24:14-22). Still, as the sage in the first reading (Si 15:16-21) highlights, God always respects our freedom to accept or reject him and his plan for us: "If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him." We recall here the account of the *First Fall* in Genesis 3. One may ask: Why did God allow "the tree in the middle of the garden" in the first place? Why did he not shield Adam and Eve from it? Or from the seductive power of the serpent? The answer is apparent. The freedom to act or not to act, to choose or reject God and his plan is, to say the least, indicative of the dignity of the human person and the responsibility he/she bears in determining and shaping his present and future in the light of God's plan.

The true exercise of human freedom consists in embracing God's plan for us. Of course, it is beyond mere observance of the letters of the law. This is message of Jesus in his concluding reflections on the beatitudes in the Gospel (Mt 5:17-37). Without intending to abolish the Law or the Prophets, Jesus offers significant corrections to the understanding of the Law of Moses, thereby, perfecting them. The completion he brings to them, by his own authority, clearly establishes his divine authority. Besides, he deepens them by emphasising that their observance should begin from the interior disposition outward and, therefore, free from hypocrisy and / or sophistry (see Mt 12:33-35; 15:1-20). Hence, setting a higher standard of morality than the Mosaic Law as espoused and practised by the scribes and Pharisees. The implication of his stress on 'conversion from within' is echoed by Paul who also reminds us of the responsibility that goes with Christian freedom when he says, "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Gal 5:1). ©IAE

PS. I'm delighted to be back safely to the parish after my holiday at home in Nigeria. I'm glad I was able to take a holiday after three years. My first trip home since Covid-19 which was not for a funeral! I was also privileged to give back to my alma mater, St Joseph Seminary, Ikot Ekpene, by delivering a three-week intensive lecture in Mariology for students in the theology faculty. It was a very rewarding experience for me and, hopefully, for the students too. Notwithstanding, I missed you all. Thanks for all your prayers and best wishes. Much love, Ignatius, PP.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18
2ND READING	1 Corinthians 3:16-23
GOSPEL	Matthew 5:38-48

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

RELIC OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN

The Relic of the Shroud of Turin comes to our Archdiocese and visits the Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham and St. George's Cathedral, on 4–27 February 2023.

CAFOD SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance, and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT 2023

Distribution of the Lenten Boxes commences after all Masses this and next weekend so that you have them by the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday 22 February. Please put in any loose change you can afford and return it on the first week after Easter Sunday. Like most things these days the cost of the boxes has shot up in price. They are now 70p each, we would kindly ask you only to take a box if you're going to return it. Similarly, if you have boxes at home which have not been used, please return them to the Narthex. This means more money goes to the charities the Parish has adopted and they desperately need the money.

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.

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

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: £693.92

Gift-aid: £314.66 Total: **£1,008.58***

RACIAL JUSTICE: £424.29

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 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.

*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: 25 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))