



# Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

19 February 2023

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

### SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

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

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

### WEEK 7 IN ORDINARY TIME / BEGINNING OF LENT

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

20 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Amanpour Family ( <i>F Amanpour</i> )
21 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Paul TY Lee ( <i>Lily</i> )
	19.00	Monica Tett's Intentions
22 Wednesday <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7.00	Private
	9.30	Roger Deeley – WB ( <i>J Dunseath</i> )
	19.00	Colin Stevens – WB ( <i>C Stevens</i> )
23 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Michael Danso – WB ( <i>JE</i> )
	9.30	Colin Stevens – WB ( <i>M C Taylor</i> )
24 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Stuart Dunseath – WB ( <i>J Dunseath</i> )
	9.30	Br Anthony Bookman ( <i>J Espiritu</i> )
25 Saturday <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Richard Rodrigues – 60 B/D ( <i>Irene</i> )

### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

25 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	John J Morello – RIP ( <i>P Morello</i> )
26 Sunday <i>Day for the Unemployed</i>	09.00	Barry Lindfield – RIP ( <i>Frances</i> )
	11.00	Francesca D'Agostino Fam – RIP
	18.00	Prop Populo – For the People

### 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>Youth Mass</b>	Last Sunday: 6pm Mass
<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

God of goodness and mercy,  
Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you. Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from you. Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love. May humility guide my efforts to be reconciled with you and live forever in your abundant grace. Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the strength to commit myself to grow closer to you each day. Amen.

~A Lenten Prayer for Ash Wednesday~ [www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com)

### LOVING THE UNLOVEABLE

“Love of neighbour ...consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know. This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God, an encounter which has become a communion of will, even affecting my feelings. Then I learn to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ. His friend is my friend” (Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est [God is Love]*, §18).

The above explanation of the interplay between love of God and love of neighbour by Benedict XVI, offers us helpful insight into one of the central themes in today's liturgy of the world – loving the unlovable, that is, those we may have reason(s) not to love.

God's instruction to the people of Israel through Moses in the first reading (Lev 19:1-2;17-18), and Jesus' (re)interpretation of the Law of Moses in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel (Mt 5:38-48) share a common vision and purpose, namely, to sanctify and uphold God's people in holiness through their imitation of God. This is demonstrated in the opening words of chapters 19 and 20 of Leviticus (the *Holiness Code*) from where the first reading is drawn, “*Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.’*” Similarly, the concluding words of Jesus in the Gospel, “*You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*” Both passages invite and challenge us to reflect deeply about what it means to be ‘holy’ or ‘perfect’ as God, our heavenly Father is, and how we may sustain and grow in such holiness / perfection.

Within the Old Testament, Leviticus 19 and 20, is already revolutionary in outlook. It goes beyond a tendency, especially on the face value, to consider holiness as mere observance of ritual purity through prayers, abstinence, and sacrifices. Instead, in addition to these, it insists that holiness also necessarily involves the way we see and treat others especially the poor and unfortunate. Strikingly, it prohibits revenge and resentment, but encourages fraternal correction, rebuke, and reconciliation. Of course, this seems to contradict the prescription of equal vengeance or restitution against an offender in Lev 24:17-22; the so-called law of retaliation, *an eye for an eye*, which Jesus condemns in the Gospel.

In the light of the first reading, Jesus' corrections, “*offer the wicked man no resistance*” and “*love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*” clearly fits into his project of not abolishing the Law or the Prophets, but completing them, thereby, retrieving God's original intention. Moreover, he introduces a novelty to the injunction about love of neighbour. Thus, he extends the concept of neighbour beyond the family, tribe, or clan, to everyone, including real or imaginary enemies. As he shows in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37), the neighbour is one who, in the above words of Benedict XVI, learns to look on others “*not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ.*” We see here a self-portrait of Jesus himself who endured the paschal mystery with the insults, humiliation, and brutality associated with it, without offering any resistance; instead, he prayed for his tormentors to be forgiven (Lk 23:34; see Is 53:7). He proves God's love for us by dying for us “*while we were still sinners*” (Rm 5:6-8; see Jn 15:13). This is God's way of loving. This is how he loves us (1 Jn 4:10). Surely, his unconditional love for us imposes a duty on us to love as he loves us (1 Jn 4:11). Jesus emphasises that doing so is what will make us indeed “*sons and daughters of your Father in heaven.*”

Let us take a moment to think about those in our life or past that we may have reason(s) not to love them, and then ask God to help us to try and see them differently with the eyes of Jesus, and for the humility and courage to try to love them as God loves us. ©IAE.

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

<b>1ST READING</b>	Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
<b>2ND READING</b>	Romans 5:12-19
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Matthew 4:1-11

## PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, especially James Leo Barnes, Richard Sangster, 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, Peter Summers, and Ian Beard.

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



### LAST WEEKEND

**Non-Gift-aid:** £333.20

**Gift-aid:** £647.85 **Total: £981.05\***

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

**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.

**LENTEN SERVICE:** Sunday, 5 March, 4.30- 5.30pm

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

1. Friday after 9.30am Mass
2. Friday, 5 – 6pm: Syro-Malabar Community.

## 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))

## LENTEN PROJECT SPONSORED WALK 2023

This year, we are asking Parishioners to commit to walk either individually, or as a family, a certain number of miles during the period of Lent. You may wish to commit to walk for 50 miles, 100 miles or more! In addition, led by Fr Ignatius, on Saturday 25 March, there is going to be a challenging 38 km (24 mile) sponsored walk. Setting off from OLI Church, we plan to walk along the river to Richmond and then walk a circuit of Richmond Park, before retracing our steps. Please contact Elspeth ([elspeth.casey@virginmedia.com](mailto:elspeth.casey@virginmedia.com)) if you are interested in taking part in either committing to walk a distance over Lent or taking part in the sponsored walk event. We will give you information on how to sponsor us in due course. Many thanks for your support!

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES – 22 FEBRUARY

7am, 9.30am (with OLI Primary joining), and 7pm.

### 2ND COLLECTION, NEXT WEEK: Sick & Retired Priests

The Clergy Support Fund of the Archdiocese of Southwark provides care for priests in their old age and retirement, and in their time of ill health. A gift to this worthy fund will ensure a dignified retirement for our priests, after they have dedicated a lifetime of service to Christ, His Church, and His People. In 2022, the Clergy Support Fund provided care to 73 retired priests, at a cost of £1.33 million. With the number of priests over the age of 65 steadily increasing, so too will the financial obligation to the Archdiocese. Please be generous today with a gift to the Clergy Support Fund and continue to keep our priests in your prayers.

You may donate online at <https://rcaos.org.uk/donate/csf> or via telephone Mon-Fri 9am-5pm: **020 7960 2504** or by cash / cheque using the envelopes at the back of the church. Thank you.

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/renewedbyhope) for more details, and for registration, follow <http://eepurl.com/hVT7Dv>.

### UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm in the Old Chapel. We shall have a discussion evening and a raffle. Please, bring along any topics you would like to share. All ladies welcome to join us.

### GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK – 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Opening prayers for the 40 Days for Life Lent Campaign outside the MSI Abortion Centre, 1a Raleigh Gardens, Brixton Hill, London, SW2 1AB (nearest station, Brixton). Come and pray for the end of abortion at 7pm on Tuesday 21 February. During 40 Days for Life campaigns over 20,000 babies have been saved from abortion, over 100 abortion centres have closed down and over 200 abortion workers have quit their jobs. For more information text Gabriella 07745711064, telephone Good Counsel 020 7723 1740 or email [info@goodcounselnetwork.com](mailto:info@goodcounselnetwork.com)

### RICHARD CHALONER SCHOOL

Are consulting stakeholders on their desire to join Christ the Redeemer Catholic Education Trust. To find out more and submit feedback go to [www.ctrcet.org.uk](http://www.ctrcet.org.uk) by Friday 3 March 2023.

### 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.