



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – A

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – A
LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.olionline.co.uk>

11 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Severine Rodrigues (<i>Rodrigues</i>)
12 Sunday <i>RCIA – 1st Scrutiny</i>	09.00	Barry Linfield – RIP (<i>F Deegan</i>)
	11.00	Pro Populo – For the People
	18.00	M Campbell & M Langton – RIP

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am

13 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Rajani Reginald – RIP
14 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Xavier Kocherry – RIP (<i>R Thomas</i>)
	19.00	Colin Stevens – WB (<i>G Trutwein</i>)
15 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	K Stacey & N Walmsley – RIP
	19.00	Mary Felton – RIP (<i>D Felton</i>)
16 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Augustine – B/D Thanksgiving
	9.30	TY Lee (<i>Lily Ko</i>)
17 Friday <i>St Patrick</i>	7.00	Rhoda D’Cruz – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
	9.30	Dan & Rosa McGeown – RIP (<i>Eric</i>)
18 Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.00	Clara Veronica Alcon

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT– LAETARE SUNDAY (A)

18 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Maurian D’Cruz – RIP (<i>Rodrigues</i>)
19 Sunday <i>RCIA – 2nd Scrutiny</i>	09.00	Margaret Grogan – RIP (<i>P Grogan</i>)
	11.00	Regina Sellammah – RIP (<i>Madona</i>)
	18.00	Pro Populo – People of the Parish

OTHER SERVICES

Morning Prayer (Lauds)	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

Give up harsh words: Use generous ones.
 Give up unhappiness: Take up gratitude.
 Give up anger: Take up gentleness and patience.
 Give up pessimism: Take up hope and optimism.
 Give up worrying: Take up trust in God.
 Give up complaining: Value what you have.
 Give up stress: Take up prayer.
 Give up judging others: Discover Jesus within them.
 Give up sorrow and bitterness: Fill your heart with joy.
 Give up selfishness: Take up compassion for others.
 Give up being unforgiving: Learn reconciliation.
 Give up words: Fill yourself with silence and listen to others.

~ CAFOD Prayer for a Special Lenten Fast

FROM ENCOUNTER TO WITNESS

No one who encounters the Lord Jesus ever remains the same. This is as true for us today as it was for his disciples and his contemporaries, Jews and Gentiles alike. Today’s Gospel (Jn 4:5-42) demonstrates this in the encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. The significance of this story in relation to our Lenten journey of reconciliation, renewal, and rebirth through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving is highlighted especially by the gradualness of the encounter and the consequent mission that arises from it.

Every true encounter with God is always at his initiative. “He loved us first,” the evangelist says in 1 John 4:19. So, Jesus leads the way in this salvific encounter. The humanity of Jesus is also visibly in display. He is tired and thirsty. He stops by a well. Certainly, in expectation, hoping someone would turn up since he had no bucket to draw water for himself and his companions. Then came a woman, a Samaritan. Jesus approaches her and requests for a drink. He places himself completely at the mercy of the woman. No sense of entitlement. Notably, Jesus’ attitude contrasts with the outlook of the people of Israel in the first reading (Ex 17:3-7) when they, like Jesus, were tormented by thirst in the desert. They complained bitterly against Moses and God, displaying not only a failure in faith and trust, but also an entitlement mentality, essentially selfish and greedy.

Of course, like the woman, Jesus knew she was a Samaritan. He was aware of the prejudice and hatred between them and his own Jewish people. But he did not allow this to stand in his way. Reaching out to her, he paved the way for the barrier of bigotry and hatred to be broken; he created an opportunity for dialogue however tense it might have appeared at the beginning. The frankness and forthrightness on both sides is laudable. Jesus did not deny his Jewish roots and religious tradition. Neither did the Samaritan. Moreover, Jesus introduces her to a vision of a new order already inaugurated in his person and mission, “*when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.*” It is this that Jesus is offering her when he says earlier, “*If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.*”

Plausibly, she understood him literally: “*‘Sir,’ said the woman ‘give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.*” Yet, that she trustingly desires the living water welling up to eternal life, which only Jesus can give is not in doubt. This reversal of role is interesting. It reminds us that God never demands more than he gives us; if anything, he always gives us more than we can ever dare to offer him. The *Preface* of today’s Mass expresses this beautifully, when it states, “*For when he asked the Samaritan woman for water to drink, he had already created the gift of faith within her and so ardently did he thirst for her faith, that he kindled in her the fire of divine love.*” She experienced this gift gradually. She progressed from her initial appreciation of him as a Jewish gentleman to acknowledging him first as a prophet, then the Messiah and, finally, to becoming his missionary to her townfolks. In a similar way, our encounter with Christ is incomplete if we do not reach out to attract and draw others to him. This is what Pope Francis means when he says in his *Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium* (2013), that we are all *missionary disciples* (§§119-121). The Samaritan woman is, therefore, a model of a Church which goes forth, looking outward, knowing that since “*the Lord has taken the initiative ... therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast*” (EG, §24).

Renewed through our Lenten observances, may we encounter the Lord in spirit and truth and so be empowered to go forth to witness to him by the power of the Holy Spirit. ©IAE.

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13
2ND READING	Ephesians 5:8-14
GOSPEL	John 9:1-41

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Editha Gatbunton, Peggy O'Connor, Maureen Saunders, Mervyn Ledlie 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: £782.89

Gift-aid: £420.25 Total: £1,203.14

CAFOD FAMILY FAST: £389.47

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.

2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: For Poor Parishes

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME 2023

1. PALM SUNDAY (02 APRIL)

Saturday (01/04), 6.30pm; 9am, 11am, and 6pm. Blessings of Palms and procession to the Church from the Hall at 11am Mass.

2. MAUNDY THURSDAY (06 APRIL): 5PM & 8PM

3. GOOD FRIDAY (07 APRIL)

a) 11AM: Service of Passion with Children

b) 3PM: Commemoration of the Passion & Adoration of the Cross

4. HOLY SATURDAY – EASTER VIGIL (08 APRIL): 8PM

5. EASTER SUNDAY (09 APRIL): 9AM; 11AM; AND 6PM

A WARM WELCOME ON WEDNESDAY, 11.30AM – 3PM!

This initiative has been a very positive experience. We have welcomed on average 15 to 20 visitors weekly and have shared conversation, music, fun, laughter, food, and love with all. Everyone is welcome, and it is open from 11.30am to 3pm. We would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who have helped so far. We are due to end this project at the end of March. However, we would like to continue with help. To do this we need more volunteers. If you are able to volunteer on Wednesdays, for more information, please contact Helen Emmett on **07402327177**

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

SUPPORTING THE PARISH THROUGH GIFT-AID!

Gift aiding what you give in Church collections is simple.

- It doesn't cost you anything, provided you pay tax on your income or capital gains.
- It is for small donations as well as large.
- It adds a quarter to the amount you give.
- The amount can be varied without formality.

To join:

- Come to the Hall after Mass today, or
- Give your contact details to the Presbytery or one of the Priests.

You will then be given a form stating that you understand that the amount of tax reclaimable from donations you give to all charities during the tax year is less than the amount of tax you pay on your income or capital gains during that year.

If you already gift aid your donations to this church:

- Come to the Hall after Mass today to collect your envelopes.

NB: This applies to those giving by standing order and by cash.

LENTEN PROJECT TABLE-TOP SALE: 11 & 12 MARCH

This popular event will be held this weekend, after the 6.30 Mass on Saturday and after the 9.00 and 11.00 Masses on Sunday 12 March. Items sold will include brand new clothing, top quality china and glass; toys and games; books and much much more! Refreshments will be provided, and it will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends and support the Parish Lenten Project (PLP).

HOLY WEEK: SERVERS NEEDED

Servers are needed for all our Holy Week Services i.e., Palm Sunday, 2 April; Maundy Thursday 6 April @ 5pm & 8.00 pm; Good Friday 7 April @ 3.00 pm and Holy Saturday 8 April @ 8.00pm. If you can help at any of these Masses, please add your name to the appropriate sign-up sheet in the RDJ room.

You will need to attend the practice on Sunday 2 April 2023 at 12.30 pm in the church and jobs will be allocated then. If you can't attend the practice but can serve during Holy Week. Please Contact Jacques Lambert on 020 8397 2793.

A SPECIAL PRAYER INITIATIVE FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' PONTIFICATE

On March 13, Pope Francis will be celebrating ten years of his pontificate. To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "viral" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a [special online map](#) featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him.

THE FORMAL LAUNCH OF CARITAS SOUTHWARK

Our Diocese is about to launch **CARITAS Southwark**. It will work with our parishes and schools to support them in serving those in need. Everyone is invited to the Mass in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, at 12.30pm on Saturday 18 March and to the reception afterwards.

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) 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!

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.