



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – LAETARE SUNDAY (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

<b>MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS</b>		
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – A</b>		
<b>LIVESTREAM LINK: <a href="https://www.olionline.co.uk">https://www.olionline.co.uk</a></b>		
18 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Maurian D’Cruz – RIP ( <i>Rodrigues</i> )
19 Sunday <i>RCIA – 2<sup>nd</sup> Scrutiny</i>	09.00	Margaret Grogan – RIP ( <i>P Grogan</i> )
	11.00	Regina Sellammah – RIP ( <i>Madona</i> )
	18.00	Anthony & Patricia Moore ( <i>FM</i> )
<b>FOURTH WEEK OF LENT</b>		
<b>EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.30am</b>		
20 Monday <i>St Joseph</i>	9.30	Mary Burrows – RIP ( <i>A Dray</i> )
21 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Paul TY Lee ( <i>Lily Ko</i> )
	19.00	Sean Marley – RIP ( <i>Houston</i> )
22 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Fergus Doran – WB ( <i>Stevens</i> )
	19.00	Ancella Jesuthasan – RIP ( <i>Thushy</i> )
23 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Tom Maher – RIP ( <i>Greenway</i> )
	9.30	Frank D’Cunha – RIP ( <i>B D’Cuhna</i> )
24 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Anne Gnanapragasam – RIP
	9.30	Gladys Millard – RIP ( <i>S Howe</i> )
25 Saturday <i>Annunciation</i>	9.00	Freda Sirmon – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT– PASSION SUNDAY (A)</b>		
25 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Ina Grimes – RIP ( <i>Jack &amp; Mary</i> )
26 Sunday <i>RCIA – 3<sup>rd</sup> Scrutiny</i>	09.00	Mario & Guiseppina – 60 <sup>th</sup> W/A
	11.00	Dcn Fred Carter – RIP ( <i>J Lambert</i> )
	18.00	Pro Populo – People of the Parish

<b>OTHER SERVICES</b>	
<b>Morning Prayer (Lauds)</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 all wholeness, heal our hearts of all that prevents us responding to our sisters and brothers excluded by poverty and prevented from living a full and healthy life. This Lent, may we: implore justice through our prayer, stand in solidarity through our fasting, and reach out through our giving. Send your life-giving power to revive the weary, restore the broken and renew the face of the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. ~ **CAFOD**

**MOTHER’S DAY WISHES**

The whole parish wishes all grandmothers, mothers, and all who play a motherly role in the family, Church, and society, a very happy Mother’s Day!

**LIGHTING UP THE WORLD**

We are coming closer to the celebration of the Easter festivities. Easter joy is anticipated provisionally on this fourth Sunday of Lent, which is also called *Laetare Sunday*. The name is derived from the opening words of the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass: *“Rejoice, Jerusalem [Lætáre, Ierúsalem], and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast”* (cf. Is 66:10-11). Thus, we pray in the Collect (opening prayer), *“that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come.”*

Saving joy is a fruit of encounter with the Lord. Whoever encounters him or allows him/herself to be drawn into an encounter with him, is normally transformed from within. This is typified in the Gospel account of the healing of a blind man by Jesus (Jn 9:1-41).

Like last Sunday’s encounter with the woman at the well (Jn 4:5-42), Jesus takes the lead here; he reaches out to the man who was born blind. Whereas his disciples are concerned about popular Jewish belief which linked serious ailments like blindness to sin (cf. Mt 9:1-6; Jn 5:14), Jesus is concerned with doing the will of the Father who sent him (Jn 6:37-40). Like in Luke 13:1-3a, he clearly rejects rabbinic debate on who sinned between the man and his parents: *“Jesus answered, ‘he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.’”* Thus, in his response to human suffering, Jesus emphasises the power of God to transform difficult situations, *“for nothing is impossible with God”* (Lk 1:37).

On the face value, the means of accomplishing this miracle may appear weird. *“He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam.’”* Yet it is strikingly symbolic. First, the mud from the dust of the earth echoes the creation account in Genesis 2:6-7. Second, the washing in the water of Siloam, recalls the healing of the leprous Syrian military officer, Naaman after washing seven times at the Jordan per the instruction of the prophet Elisha (2 Kg 5:10,14). Combining these two biblical antecedents, the symbolic action and instruction of Jesus that bring about this miracle, symbolise the creative power of Jesus who, through his Paschal Mystery makes humanity a new creation, released from darkness to become, as Paul says in the second reading (Ep 5:8-14), *“light in the Lord...children of light.”* This is brought about especially through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. The blind man, therefore, represents the Christian people who by their baptism are constituted a new creation, illumined by Christ so that they are able to ‘see’ and progressively grow in confidence to confess and worship him who has revealed himself as ‘the Son of Man,’ the Light of the world.

The restoration of sight here transcends mere physical sight. As St Paul says, *“We walk by faith, not by sight”* (2 Co 5:7). In contrast, though gifted with physical sight, the Pharisees display a pernicious spiritual blindness fueled by their lack of openness to the presence and action of Jesus. Believers must guard against falling into similar intransigence. Symbolically, at baptism, after the anointing with Holy Chrism and clothing with the white garment, the newly baptised or in the case of infants, the parents and godparents, are given a candle lit from the Paschal Candle while the minister says, *“Receive the light of Christ.”* And continues: *“Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He (she) is to walk always as a child of the light ...”* This is our mission as Christ’s missionary disciples.

Lent provides us a unique opportunity of intensifying our desire and effort to be constantly transformed by our encounter with Christ so that we may truly reflect his light to the world as St Paul says in the second reading, *“anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light.”* ©IAE.

<b>NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS</b>	
<b>1ST READING</b>	Ezekiel 37:12-14
<b>2ND READING</b>	Romans 8:8-11
<b>GOSPEL</b>	John 11:1-45

## PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Mary Burrows, Editha Gatbunton, Maureen Saunders, Mervyn Ledlie, 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:** £763.54

**Gift-aid:** £390.81 **Total: £1,154.35**

**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.

Any queries? Please contact Allan Cook: [tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworthgac@rcaos.org.uk) or 0208 8399 4368.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Friday after 9.30am Mass**

### 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 9am and 11am Masses.

#### 2. MONDAY (03 APRIL)

**7PM** – Penitential Service with Individual Confessions (*visiting priests will be available also*)

#### 3. MAUNDY THURSDAY (06 APRIL)

**9AM:** Office of Readings & Lauds

**4PM:** Sacrament of Reconciliation

**5PM:** Mass of the Last Supper

**8PM:** Mass of the Last Supper followed by watching at the Chapel of Repose, closing with Night Prayer before Midnight.

#### 4. GOOD FRIDAY (07 APRIL)

**9AM:** Office of Readings & Lauds

**9.30-10.30AM:** Sacrament of Reconciliation

**11AM:** Service of Passion with Children

**3PM:** Commemoration of the Passion & Adoration of the Cross

**7PM:** Way of the Cross

#### 5. HOLY SATURDAY – EASTER VIGIL (08 APRIL)

**9AM:** Office of Readings & Lauds

**8PM:** Easter Vigil in the Holy Night & Sacraments of Initiation

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

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

### 2ND COLLECTION: POOR PARISHES

This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese. Thanks for your generosity.

### LENTEN SERVICE – SEVEN LAST WORDS ON THE CROSS

There will be a Lenten Service involving readings and reflections on the seven last words of Jesus on the Cross next Sunday, 26 March at 4.30pm. All are warmly welcome.

### ATTN: EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Fr Ignatius would like to meet briefly with all extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who have signed up to minister at weekend Masses after each Mass this weekend. **Venue:** RDJ Room.

### 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.

### LENTEN PROJECT TABLE TOP SALE

Last weekend's Table Top Sale was a resounding success. Attended by a large number of parishioners, we raised over £1,200! Many thanks to all for your help and support.

### 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!

### SOUTH INDIAN EVENT – SATURDAY, 15 APRIL @ 7.30PM

You are cordially invited to taste a homemade 3-course Indian dinner, with Indian talent, culture and entertainment organised by the Syro Malabar Community. Church Hall, £15 per adult, children under 5, £5 & family £50. Proceeds go to the Lenten Project. To book a table contact Jommy @ 07738652931 or Sheba @ 07505279725

### UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

A warm welcome to all ladies in the parish who would like to know more about what we do and our programme of future events This includes a tour of Trinity House – a charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers – and its famous painted ceiling. Come and join us at our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday March 21st at 7.30 - 9pm in the old chapel.

There will be refreshments and a raffle.

### GRIEF IN LOSS: HOPE IN CHRIST (Bereavement Retreat)

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

### 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.

### † MARY BURROWS – RIP

Please pray for Mary Burrows (sister of Anne Dray), who died on Monday night, 13 March (4 days before her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday). Mary ran the Brownies at OLI for many years, taking them every year to camp. She lived in Tolworth until 4 years ago when she moved to Gloucestershire, to be near 2 of her 5 daughters. May she rest in peace. Amen.