



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church  
**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A**

23 JULY 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**

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

22 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Jimmy McHale & Family
23 Sunday	09.00	
Day of Prayers for grandparents & the elderly	11.00	Deacon Al Callan & Family
	18.00	Alice Ibekwe – RIP ( <i>Etumnu</i> )

**WEEK 16 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR I)**

**EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION:** Monday – Friday at 8.00am

24 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Sandra Canthy – RIP ( <i>Wamsteker</i> )
25 Tuesday <i>St James, The Apostle</i>	9.30	Margaret Ravenhill – RIP
	19.00	Fr F Ekong & Sr J Ekerette – RIP
26 Wednesday <i>Ss Joachim &amp; Anne</i>	9.30	Daniel Davin – RIP
	19.00	Grandparents & Elderly
27 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Private
	9.30	Giacinta Agius' Intentions ( <i>O Logue</i> )
28 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Fr F Ekong & Sr J Ekerette – RIP
	9.30	Fr Salvatore Sammut ( <i>O Logue</i> )
29 Saturday <i>Ss Mary, Martha, &amp; Lazarus</i>	9.00	Sick & Housebound Parishioners

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A**

29 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Michaela Rodrigues – BD
30 Sunday	09.00	
	11.00	
	18.00	

**OTHER SERVICES**

<b>Eucharistic Exposition</b>	Monday – Friday: 8am
<b>Morning Prayer (Lauds)</b>	Monday – Friday: 9am
<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	Saturday: 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.00pm
<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**

O Merciful Redeemer, and God of infinite patience, I am astonished and confounded at your unwearied patience, always waiting for us to turn back to you. Help me to imitate you and grant me an increase in patience and conformity to your blessed will in all the adversities of this life.

Strengthen my weakness, confirm this my resolution of patiently waiting for all things. Amen

**SAVED BY GOD'S PATIENCE**

John the evangelist offers us a wonderful insight into God's being and action in the declaration: "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8b). This imagery is reflected in different ways in salvation history, that is, through creation, redemption, and sanctification. Imagining God as love, however, does not detract from God's omnipotence. Instead, it reinforces his supremacy and clarifies its nature as power to serve and save rather than dominate and destroy. God's power is, therefore, manifested above all in his unconditional love for all. And divine love is characterised, among others, by patience and kindness (1 Co 13:4). This truth is reflected in our liturgy of the word today.

The sage in the first reading (Ws 12:13,16-19) declares that God's sovereignty is a force for good. Though not permissive, God is not draconian in wielding his power: "Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there." The sacred author sets before us two lessons, namely, to be kind and forgiving to others and to be open to repentance / conversion.

Jesus echoes the sage in the three parables in the Gospel, particularly that of the wheat and the darnel (Mt 13:24-43). The patience of God is indeed legendary. Imagine the disappointment of the farmer on hearing that his labours have been infiltrated and potentially destroyed by an enemy. Yet he remains calm and reflective. He refuses to be stampeded into any hasty action or reaction. According to the evangelist, he is restrained to protect his crops: "because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it." Positively, it can also be seen as giving the good seed the chance to prove themselves, making sure they remain steadfast to end (see 2 Co 12:7<sup>b</sup>-9<sup>b</sup>), since the kingdom of God also requires effort and sacrifice (Ph 2:12). He trusts them! Of course, it is a risky thing to do because the darnel, like the thorns in last week's parable (Mt 13:7,22), can become very invasive and choke the wheat. But that is the depth of God's love and power. He respects our freedom, and, in the process, risks being rejected as exemplified in the fall (Gen 3) and our personal experiences of going astray. Still, he does not give up on us. He gives us opportunity to return, "the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance." This reality is mirrored, as expressed in Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, by "the Church, embracing in its bosom sinners, at the same time holy and always in need of being purified, always follows the way of penance and renewal" (*Lumen gentium*, §8).

Despite our weaknesses God trusts us, that we would be reasonable and allow his grace in us to bear fruit, just like the yeast in the dough or the mustard seed in the other two parables. As underlined in the three parables, God's patience is our saving opportunity (cf. 2 Pt 3:15). Likewise, we need to imbibe God's patience if we are to continue his work of salvation in the world. In this regard, Benedict XVI reminds us in his homily at the Mass for the inauguration of his Petrine Ministry in Rome on Sunday 24 April 2005: "It is not power, but love that redeems us! This is God's sign: he himself is love. How often we wish that God would make show himself stronger, that he would strike decisively, defeating evil and creating a better world. All ideologies of power justify themselves in exactly this way, they justify the destruction of whatever would stand in the way of progress and the liberation of humanity. We suffer on account of God's patience. And yet, we need his patience. God, who became a lamb, tells us that the world is saved by the Crucified One, not by those who crucified him. The world is redeemed by the patience of God. It is destroyed by the impatience of man." ©IAE

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

<b>1ST READING</b>	1 Kings 3:5,7-12
<b>2ND READING</b>	Romans 8:28-30
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Matthew 13:44-52

## PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Fr Leonard Taylor, Fr Felix Ekong, Sr Juliana Ekerette, Henry Smith, Charles Godfrey, Marion Treweek, Rosary Anthony, 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, 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, Terence O'Driscoll, Clare & Baby Polly, Gerry Hague, Maureen Stephens, Maureen Sellwood, Eric Powell, Tony & Mavis Fisher, Andy Moolman, Mary L Taylor, and Ian Beard.

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



### LAST WEEKEND

**Non-Gift-aid:** £555.71

**Gift-aid:** £423.95    **Total:** £979.66\*

*\*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.

Any queries? Please contact Lance Louis: [tolworthgac1@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworthgac1@rcaos.org.uk) or 07851 070036.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY EVENT (LONDON): 5 AUGUST

World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with Pope Francis, taking place in Lisbon this summer. If you can't attend the main event, why not join WYD in London – a day celebration on Saturday 5 August 2023 from 11am-5pm in the church by Leicester Square. **Programme:** music • prayer • talks • activities • Mass, bringing together a young community of different nationalities in one faith! **Venue:** Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. To register a group or individually, please fill in the form: [bit.ly/wydlondon](http://bit.ly/wydlondon)

## SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

Vacancy for Executive Assistant (21hours pw) whose role is to work with the Executive Director in ensuring the smooth and successful operation of SPUC's governance, administration, and finance departments. Salary details, on request. For further information and application form, email [jobs@spuc.org.uk](mailto:jobs@spuc.org.uk) or call 020 7091 7091

## ACCOMMODATION IN LONDON AREA FOR 6 MONTHS

Henry is in his third year studying engineering at Imperial College and is looking for a room to rent from October to Easter. He will be on placement for the rest of the year, so he only needs to be in London for about 6 months.

He is very quiet, kind and family-minded, and would be a good lodger/tenant. If you know of anyone who might be able to offer a room to let, please contact Cecilia Hatt: [ceciliahatt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ceciliahatt@yahoo.co.uk).

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

### SUMMER HOLIDAY

We would like to wish all parishioners a very refreshing summer. Journey mercies to all on vacation or staycation as we look forward to having everyone back safely and healthily after the holiday. In the same vein, we would like to welcome all who are visiting our parish during the holiday. We hope that you will enjoy your stay and be enriched by your participation with us in the sacred liturgy.

### WORK IN OUR LADY CHAPEL

Scaffoldings are still installed in Our Lady Chapel for decorating and other minor repair works. For Health and Safety reasons, the Chapel will be out of use throughout the duration of work.

### ADULT BAPTISM & RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

Are you interested in the Catholic Church and want to know more? Have you ever thought of becoming a Catholic? Are you an adult, baptised Catholic but not yet confirmed? If you, or someone you know, would say 'Yes' to one of these questions, Fr Ignatius would be glad to hear from you. The parish has a small group that will meet informally every week from the start of October that may help answer your questions about the Church and, if you wish, enable you to take further steps.

### 1ST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNION 2023-24

Do you have a child or children in Year 3 or above from September, and would like them to begin the programme of preparation for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in June 2024?

If so, please attend the meeting for parents, ahead of formal registration for the programme. The meeting is on Monday September 4th at 7pm in the parish hall and is expected to take approximately 1 hour.

At this meeting, you will be given information about the programme and requirements for registration.

All the children's sessions (except for Second Reconciliation) will be held on Saturdays from 10.30am to 11.30am

Throughout the preparation programme, parents are expected to play a vital and active role. The children are expected to attend every session and attend mass every Sunday.

**NB:** The children will need to know simple prayers before they register. A prayer sheet is available for collection after Mass.

### SRI LANKAN NIGHT

It was a fantastic evening of entertainment, interactions, and friendship. Besides, an amazing £1,357.00 was raised for the Parish Lenten Project 2023. Many thanks to the organisers, participants, and all supporters.

### MARCH FOR LIFE UK: 2 SEPTEMBER

March for Life UK takes place in London on Saturday 2 September. Please, join thousands of people at this family-friendly event to speak up for unborn children who cannot speak for themselves. See [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk) for further details.

### FOOD BANK DONATIONS: RENEWED APPEAL

"Food banks are seeing more people than ever coming to them for help, many of whom need emergency support for the first time...across the UK, local food banks gave out close to 3 million emergency food parcels last year. Over a million of these parcels were provided for children." These are recent words of the Trussell Trust. Please continue to be generous with your food donations. All non-perishable food items are welcome. Thank you.

### † HENRY SMITH – RIP

Kindly pray for Henry, father of Maeve Barnes who passed on at Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath on 10 June, aged 84 years. May he rest in peace. Amen. **Funeral:** 10 August 2023.

### † ALICE IBEKWE – RIP

Please pray for Alice, mother of Angela Etumnu who passed on in Nigeria on 17 July, aged 73 years. May she rest in peace. Amen.

### TUTORING IN SCIENCES

**From Roger Balachandran:** "Are you looking for an experienced Science Teacher to tutor a student in Years 7-11 in any of the 3 sciences? Please contact Roger on [rogb84@hotmail.com](mailto:rogb84@hotmail.com) or 07958343979. A-Level Biology tuition is also available."