



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A
LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.olionline.co.uk>

29 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Michaela Rodrigues – BD
30 Sunday	09.00	Ursula Colman – RIP (<i>C Furlong</i>)
	11.00	Fr Augustus Effiong – RIP (<i>IE</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

WEEK 17 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR I)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

31 Monday <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>	9.30	Helena Logue – RIP (<i>O Logue</i>)
01 Tuesday <i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>	9.30	Alice Ibekwe – RIP (<i>IE</i>)
	19.00	Achamma Thomas – RIP (<i>Roy</i>)
02 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Helen Purton – WB (<i>L McNambe</i>)
	19.00	Fr Augustus Effiong – RIP (<i>IE</i>)
03 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Fr N Ibuot & Fr S Eboh – RIP (<i>IE</i>)
	9.30	P. Hosey – BD
04 Friday <i>St John Vianney</i>	7.00	Fr F Ekong & Sr Ekerette–RIP (<i>IE</i>)
	9.30	Rajani Reginald – RIP
05 Saturday <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Fr Gabriel Udo & Fr Aloysius Orjinta – RIP (<i>IE</i>)

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

05 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Frank & Kathleen Tucholski – RIP
06 Sunday <i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	09.00	Damian Maranzano – RIP (<i>Family</i>)
	11.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish
	18.00	Clement De Menezes (<i>K Fox</i>)

OTHER SERVICES

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

I love you, O my God, and my only desire is to love you until the last breath of my life. I love you, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving you, than live without loving you. I love you, Lord, and the only grace I ask is to love you eternally...

My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love you, I want my heart to repeat it to you as often as I draw breath. Amen.

St John Vianney – Patron of Parish Priests (4 Aug)

THE AUTHENTIC TREASURE

The kingdom of God was the centre of Jesus’ life and mission. In Mark 1:15, the evangelist situates the beginning of his public ministry with his proclaiming the kingdom and calling people to it through conversion: “*The time has come ... the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News*” (see Mt 3:2). The kingdom was not something external to Jesus. It was not only deeply imbedded in his words and actions (Mt 12:28), but also coextensive with him (Lk 17:21^b). He embodied and made the kingdom present. For it he gave up everything (cf. Jn 18:37), that is, to accomplish the Father’s will by his incarnation and the paschal mystery of his suffering, death and resurrection (Jn 6:38; see Lk 22:42).

The kingdom is also the goal of discipleship. For, following Jesus entails imitating him in his words and actions, that is, having the same mind that was in him (Ph 2:5), walking in his footsteps (Mt 16:24; Lk 9:23) and doing the works that he did (Jn 14:12). Bearing in mind Paul’s description of the kingdom as “*righteousness and peace and joy brought by the Holy Spirit*” (Rm 14:17), it is obvious why the kingdom is the authentic treasure worthy of pursuit by his followers. This is underlined in today’s Gospel (Mt 13:44-52) especially in the parables of the treasure hidden in the field and the priceless pearl.

At least five lessons are evident from these two parables. First, the treasure and the pearl were pure gifts; they were not placed there by the finders. This coincides with the nature of the kingdom as pure grace, a gift given by the Father to his “*little flock*” at his pleasure (Lk 12:32). However, secondly, discovering them required effort by both; they laboured for it. Whereas the merchant clearly set out in search of fine pearls and must have conducted his search at the right places, the farmer appears to have chanced upon the treasure while working on his farm. Still, like the merchant, he worked hard to uncover this gift, though this ‘unexpected’ discovery came from his normal everyday labour. Similarly, the kingdom does not, generally, lend itself to extraordinary persons, positions, places, or circumstances. It is almost always present and active in the ordinariness and perhaps messiness of our daily life and pursuit. Thirdly, the excitement of the farmer and merchant at their invaluable finds. Fourthly, their wise decision on what to do; their ability to discern between what is valuable and what is not, like the fisherman in the third parable, who “*collect the good [fish] in a basket and throw away those that are no use.*” The wisdom displayed by them here echoes Solomon’s prayer in the first reading (1 Kg 3:5,7-12) for “*a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil.*” Lastly, their diligence and prompt action; they went and sold everything to acquire their finds. For no one who encounters the Lord Jesus and is open to the Good News of the kingdom ever remains the same: Simon Peter and his fellow Galilean fishermen (Lk 5:11); Levi (Mt 9:9) and Zacchaeus (Lk 19:8) the tax collectors; Francis of Assisi. Paul caps it well when he says, “*I believe that nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him*” (Ph 3:7-8).

We cannot gain anything of value without giving up something. Conversely, we cannot give up anything for something we do not consider valuable. In effect, discernment is essential in discipleship. We are, therefore, invited and challenged by Jesus to see and welcome the kingdom as a treasure that is worth more than everything else that we now value in life: family, possessions, privileges, power, and comfort (Mt 10:37-39; Lk 14:26,33). Like the farmer and merchant in Jesus’ parable, the kingdom of God will be worth everything we can ever think of sacrificing, or even more, if we see it as the authentic treasure. Remember the words of Jesus, “*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*” (Mt 6:21). ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
2ND READING	2 Peter 1:16-19
GOSPEL	Matthew 17:1-9

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: £747.71

Gift-aid: £343.45 **Total:** £1,091.16*

*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 online.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 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

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 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.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES: 1 – 23 AUGUST

The parish office will be closed for summer holiday from the 1st of August and will reopen on Thursday 24 August. In emergency, email Fr Ignatius directly at ignatiusedet@rcaos.org.uk.

FROM DEACON AL'S FAMILY

“Deacon Al, Trudie and family would like to say a great big thank you to Fr Ignatius, Fr Joseph and to all in the parish who contributed in so many ways to make Deacon Al's Retirement Celebration so memorable. We will treasure those memories. God bless you all.”

TOWARDS FR JOSEPH'S FAREWELL

Fr Joseph will be taking up his new assignment as assistant priest at St John Fisher, Merton in the first week of September. There will be a farewell Mass and celebration to thank him for his ministry in the parish on Saturday 2 September at the 6.30pm Mass, followed by a reception in the parish hall. Envelopes are available in the narthex for donations towards a farewell gift to him.

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.

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 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 or 07958343979. A-Level Biology tuition is also available.”