



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

20 AUGUST 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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

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

19 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Margaret & Thomas Kane – RIP
20 Sunday	09.00	Lankes Fernando – WB (<i>Lance</i>)
	11.00	Joseph Xavier – RIP (<i>A Xavier</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

WEEK 20 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR I)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

21 Monday <i>St Pius X</i>	9.30	Paddy Walsh – RIP
22 Tuesday <i>The Queenship of the BVM</i>	9.30	Adrian Hellett (<i>Houston</i>)
	19.00	
23 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Johwel's Success in GCSE
	19.00	
24 Thursday <i>St Bartholomew</i>	7.00	Edith Eales – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
	9.30	Margaret Lynch – RIP
25 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Holy Souls
	9.30	Joy Ives – RIP (<i>J O'Grady</i>)
26 Saturday <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Molly & Denis O'Regan – RIP

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

26 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	
27 Sunday	09.00	Mrs Terri Titcombe – RIP (<i>Heidi</i>)
	11.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish
	18.00	Isac George – 60 th B/D

OTHER SERVICES

Eucharistic Exposition	Monday – Friday: 8am
Morning Prayer (<i>Lauds</i>)	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

Lord, you invite all who are burdened to come to you. Allow your healing hand to heal me.

Touch my soul with your compassion for others; touch my heart with your courage and infinite love for all; touch my mind with your wisdom, and may my mouth always proclaim your praise.

Teach me to reach out to you in all my needs, and help me to lead others to you by my example.

Most loving Heart of Jesus, bring me health in body and spirit that I may serve you with all my strength. Touch gently this life which you have created, now and forever. Amen. (Anon)

FAITH BEYOND BORDERS

Faith has no borders. It is not limited to certain people, places, ages, or classes. Like goodness, kindness, truth, mercy, love and, indeed, virtues generally, faith can be found everywhere and in everyone provided the right conditions and/or opportunities or exposures are present. Sadly, oftentimes this is not always recognised due to ignorance and/or prejudice, thereby giving rise to discrimination. To overcome such negative stereotype, proper knowledge of 'others' especially through real encounter is very important. The prophet Isaiah, the apostle Paul, and particularly our Lord Jesus remind us of this truth in today's readings.

In the first reading (Is 56:1,6-7), the prophet (*Third-Isaiah*) announces a new and inclusive vision for the people of Israel after their return from exile in Babylon. No longer shall the people of God be limited to ethnic Jews. Foreigners too will be incorporated into it, provided they attach themselves to Yahweh "to serve him and to love his name and be his servants" by observing the sabbath and upholding his covenant. Integrated into the people of God, foreigners can now offer sacrifices in the Temple alongside native Jews thereby conferring a new identity on the sanctuary, "a house of prayer for all peoples" (see Mk 11:17). This shift was influenced partly by their exile experience of the goodness of some of their pagan contemporaries, but above all by the generosity of the Persian king Cyrus who liberated them from captivity and supported them to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple (Ezra 1:1-11; see 2 Chr 36:23; cf. Is 45:1-6,13).

The apostle Paul in the second reading (Rm 11:13-15,29-32) contrasts the openness of the Gentiles to the Good News of Jesus Christ with the rebellion of the Jews. Though frustrated by their stubbornness, Paul sees their disobedience as a blessing to the Gentiles among whom he was proud to labour as an apostle. Yet, for him, God's promise to the people of Israel is not revoked by the admission of the Gentiles. On the contrary, he considers the salvation of the Gentiles as a challenge to the Jews.

The Canaanite woman is commended by Jesus for having *great faith* in the Gospel (Mt 15:21-28). Four qualities combine to make her faith great. The first is the *audacity* to reach out to Jesus for help: "Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil." She was clearly in breach of the racial and religious barriers that separated Jews from Gentiles, especially Canaanites who were mortal enemies of the Jews whom they had hated not only for displacing them from their land but also for considering them inferior (dogs!) to the Jews. Next, her *perseverance*. She was not ready to give up, even when Jesus ignored her. Though it is not clear if she was upset (who wouldn't?), she seemed calm and persisted even when he eventually responded dismissively. Third, *humility*. Undeterred, she approached him and knelt at his feet, begging him still. Lastly, her sense of *humour*. Rather than give way to anger in response to a patent racial insult by which Jews called Gentiles dogs, she creatively outwitted Jesus by reminding him that "even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table." Thus, this complete outsider, through her great faith (*boldness, perseverance, humility, and humour*), did not just break racial and religious barriers; she challenged Jesus to do so too. Gladly, Jesus recognised her great faith and obliged her by granting her request. His praise of her is even more significant if we contrast it with the reprimand issued to Peter in last week's Gospel, "Man of little faith...why do you doubt?" Faith is essential to discipleship. Without faith we cannot follow Christ. Faith is a supernatural gift, infused by the Holy Spirit, gifted through Baptism, and strengthened by God's word, the sacraments, prayers, and good works. It may be at work through everyone, even from outside the community of believers. As Christ's disciples, we are called and challenged to encourage faith in all people. ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 22:19-23
2ND READING	Romans 11:33-36
GOSPEL	Matthew 16:13-20

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Alice Ibekwe, Sr Stella Esira, Mary Carmel Allison, Andre Desbruslais, Genoveffa Riti, 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: £

Gift-aid: £ Total: £*

**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), 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SAFEGUARDING ALERT

A new DBS check system is being implemented which cuts down on most of the paperwork. Ahead of its start date, ALL those in the parish with a DBS clearance are asked to email the Parish Safeguarding Representative immediately with their 1) name 2) Date of Birth 3) date of their currently held DBS certificate.

If you have or are stepping down from your role, please reply to the email address below.

Anyone with a DBS clearance older than 3 years will be required to be re-checked under the new system. I know that it is holiday time but please respond asap as no-one without a current certificate will be allowed to continue in any role. Please send details to: tolworthsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk Thank you.

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.



The Parish Lenten Project has been running successfully for 52 years. The aim of the Project is to give the parish a charitable focal point during Lent and give everyone (all groups, clubs, and societies) in the parish the opportunity to take part in fundraising for projects in the developing world.

The Lenten Project AGM will be held on Sunday 15 October 2023 at 7.00pm in the Old Chapel. At that meeting we will select the charities which we will be supporting during Lent 2024. We are now actively seeking parishioners to nominate suitable charities.

If you have a charity you would like the parish to support in Lent during 2024 then please complete the charity nomination form with **criteria for selecting a charity**, in Word, which can be found at: <http://www.olionline.co.uk/community/lenten-project/>

You can also find blank copies of the form at the back of Church or obtain one from the Parish Office.

The deadline for forms will be advertised in the newsletter.

Once you have completed the form please either email it to tolworth@rcaos.org, or place it through the Presbytery letter box. If you would like any more information, please contact Phil Townsend on 8399 3481 or email Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk.