



**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A**

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG

Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: [tolworth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworth@rcaos.org.uk) + [www.olionline.co.uk](http://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**

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A**

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

26 Sat – Vigil	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 <sup>th</sup> B/D
<b>WEEK 21 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR I)</b>		
<b>EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION:</b> Monday – Friday at 8.00am		
28 Monday <i>St Augustine</i>	9.30	Francisca Edem – BD ( <i>J Edem</i> )
29 Tuesday <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	9.30	Louis, Bibi & Family – TG ( <i>Lance</i> )
	19.00	Healy Family Deceased – RIP
30 Wednesday <i>Ss. M Clitherow, A Line &amp; M Ward</i>	9.30	Sindi & Paul – WB ( <i>J Brooks</i> )
	19.00	Marjorie Browne – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
31 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	George Britton – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
	9.30	Nubia – WB
01 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Elizabeth Powell – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
	9.30	Doris Swash – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
02 Saturday <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Andrea Shepard – RIP ( <i>P Shepard</i> )
<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A</b>		
02 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Irene Rodrigues – BD
03 Sunday	09.00	Sheila McCusker – RIP ( <i>Eoin</i> )
	11.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish
	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**

Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your servant, Pope Francis, a spirit of courage and right judgement, a spirit of knowledge and love.

By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care may he, as successor to the apostle Peter and vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

**KNOWLEDGE: THE BEDROCK OF DISCIPLESHIP**

Francis Bacon is famously attributed the modern saying, ‘knowledge is power’ (1597). However, thousands of years before him, Israel’s sages and prophets had already established the link between knowledge and power understood as the capacity to act, accomplish a task, or attain a meaningful existence. Accordingly, the book of Proverbs declares: *“By wisdom a house is built, by discernment the foundation is laid; by knowledge its storerooms filled with riches of every kind, rare and desirable”* (Pr 24:4). Likewise, the prophet Hosea laments: *“My people perish for want of knowledge. As you have rejected knowledge so do I reject you from my priesthood...”* (Ho 4:6). In the New Testament, eternal life consists in knowing the Father, the only true God and Jesus Christ sent by him (Jn 17:3). Knowledge is, therefore, the bedrock of discipleship. Without it we cannot think of loving or serving God. “How can they,” Paul rightly queries, “believe in him of whom they have not heard [known]?” (Rm 10:14). This point is stressed in the Gospel (Mt 16:13-20) by Jesus’ question to his close associates, the twelve, about his identity.

The context is noteworthy. The question is apparently prompted partly by the rejection of Jesus by many in Israel, including his own home folks (see Mt 13:53-57) and particularly by Israel’s leaders (see Mt 16:1,4b), and partly by the excitement generated among many through his teachings and miracles (see Mt 8:27;9:8; Mk 2:12; Jn 7:31). It was, therefore, important that Jesus asked the disciples what the people think about him. This first question clearly borders on the opinion of others. The consensus reflects the connection that many made between Jesus’ words and actions and the illustrious history of Israel’s prophets. For example, Herod was perplexed when he heard about Jesus, and thought that John the Baptist had risen (Mt 14:1-2). However, in Luke 9:7-9, the evangelist places similar opinions about Jesus’ identity within the context of Herod’s confusion about him. Nonetheless, even those who were drawn to him, including his disciples, lacked a comprehensive insight into his true identity and, consequently, his mission (see Jn 6:14-15). This is clearer when Jesus restates his question to the disciples, turning from the third person, what ‘people say’ to the second person, what ‘you say.’

*“But you, who do you say I am?”* There is a shift here from an enquiry into opinion to one into faith. From the narrative, it is obvious that the disciples themselves were not sure about Jesus’ identity. They were mute. Simon volunteered a response by confessing that Jesus is more than a prophet, that he is *“the Christ... the Son of the living God.”* What a relief for Jesus! Alas, one of those to whom he would entrust the care of the new community that he is establishing knows who he is! Consequently, Jesus declares him blessed, confers on him a new name and mission, and assures him of stability. Above all, he bestows on him a unique authority, to bind and loose which he would also extend to the other apostles (Mt 18:18; see Jn 20:23).

Peter echoes Eliakim in the first reading (Is 22:19-23) to whom Isaiah proclaims God will give the key of the House of David. The primacy of Peter among the apostles is theologically rooted on this divine choice. Though based on his confession of faith, this choice remains an act of divine grace and mercy. For Peter, the rock was not always sufficiently rocky to withstand all tests of faith (Mt 26:69-75; see Gal 2:11-13). Notwithstanding, his faith was amply solid for him to trust in God’s mercy and his love genuine enough to be found worthy to look after and feed God’s flock (Jn 21:15-19). This unique role of Peter is continued in the Church by his successor, in the person of the Pope. As we pray for Pope Francis, that his leadership of the Church may be rooted in a true knowledge of, and fidelity to Christ its founder and invisible head, let us remember that our identity and authority as missionary disciples of Christ is equally rooted in our knowledge of who Jesus is through our encounter with him. ©IAE

**NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS**

<b>1ST READING</b>	Jeremiah 20:7-9
<b>2ND READING</b>	Romans 12:1-2
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Matthew 16:21-27

## PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Genoveffa Riti, Francis Nazareth, 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.

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

**Friday, 1 September.** Pope Francis appeals for a renewal of our relationship with creation with his message, titled, "**Let Justice Flow**," inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "*Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.*"

The Pope begins by noting that, "*God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival.*" The full text is available at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2023/documents/20230513-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

### 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: [tolworthsq1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworthsq1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) Thank you.

### 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.

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



### LAST WEEKEND

**Non-Gift-aid:** £606.30

**Gift-aid:** £212.34 **Total: £818.64\***

**13/08/23**

**Non-Gift-aid:** £695.99

**Gift-aid:** £281.50 **Total: £977.49\***

**16/08/23**

**Non-Gift-aid:** £614.88

**Gift-aid:** £227.44 **Total: £842.32\***

*\*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.

### A FAREWELL TO FR JOSEPH

This is the last Sunday of Fr Joseph in OLI. We pray for him as he takes up his new assignment as assistant priest at St John Fisher, Merton this week.

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.

There is also a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to bring some food and drinks to share. All are warmly welcomed.

### 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.



### Our Lady Immaculate Church Parish Lenten Project

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](mailto: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](mailto:Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk).

### † GENOVEFFA RITI – RIP

Please pray for Genoveffa, who died peacefully at Surbitonian Gardens on 7 August, aged 95 years. **Requiem Mass:** Friday 8 September at 11am. May she rest in peace. Amen.