



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church

03 SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY-SECOND 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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

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

02 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Irene Rodrigues – BD
03 Sunday	09.00	Sheila McCusker – RIP (Eoin)
	11.00	Pro Populo – People of the Parish
	13.30	Wedding: Luckshi & Joris
	18.00	

WEEK 22 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR I)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

04 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Rajani Reginald – RIP
05 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Martin Farrell – WB
	19.00	
06 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Enzo Scotto – WB (Maranzano)
	19.00	
07 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Florence Elmsie – RIP (FM)
	9.30	
08 Friday <i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	7.00	Catherine Curtin (K Fox)
	9.30	Carmen Mendonca – RIP (Fazal)
	11.00	Requiem Mass: Genoveffa Riti
09 Saturday <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

09 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Janaki Gandhimathi – RIP (Mary S)
10 Sunday <i>Education Day</i>	09.00	Maria Rosaria D'Agostino Taylor
	11.00	Mary Flynn – RIP (P Grogan)
	18.00	Mary & Jim Creighan – RIP (K Fox)

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

Father, support and sustain us in time of trial and tribulation, gracing us with the assurance of your continued love and the knowledge that nothing can separate us from your love and care if we turn to you.

We know that we shall see you at last, and that in that day we shall have no more doubt or sorrow or grief or pain, but only joy of life in your presence.

Thank you, Oh Lord, for these blessed assurances. Amen.

NO CROWN WITHOUT A CROSS

Suffering is an integral part of human life. Consequently, majority if not all of us are familiar with trials and tribulation. Notwithstanding, no one likes to suffer. We would all prefer a life without any suffering. Wouldn't we? I certainly would! Since a world without suffering does not exist on this part of God's new creation, the normal human response is to try as much as possible to resent or avoid suffering. Without overlooking its challenges and pains, the Judeo-Christian tradition offers us a contrary outlook on suffering. The Hebrew sages, for example, express a shift from the understanding of suffering as a manifestation of divine vengeance or punishment.

In the book of Proverbs, suffering is seen as an expression of God's fatherly love, concern and care (see Pr 3:12). For the wisdom writers, it is also a training in discipline, humility, and patience which are indispensable ingredients for successful divine service. Thus, Ben Sirach, a prominent Jewish sage about two centuries before Christ, admonishes his pupil: "My child, if you aspire to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for an ordeal. Be sincere of heart, be steadfast, and do not be alarmed when disaster comes. Cling to him and do not leave him, so that you may be honoured at the end of your days. Whatever happens to you, accept it, and in the uncertainties of your humble state, be patient, since gold is tested in the fire, and the chosen in the furnace of humiliation" (Si 2:1-5). In this light, suffering takes on a new meaning, and leads ultimately to the vindication of the sufferer. This is illustrated in the four songs of the *Suffering Servant of Yahweh* in Isaiah (42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-11; and 52:13-53:12). These songs are quoted and applied severally to Jesus in the New Testament (see Mt 12:16-21; Lk 2:32; 9:51; 22:37), thereby bringing the gradual shift in the view of suffering in the OT to its fulfilment. The fourth song is significantly cited in the NT (see Mt 8:17, Mk 15:28, Jn 12:38, Acts 8:32-33, Rm 10:16, 15:21, and 1 Pt 2:22) which also features prominently in the solemn liturgy of Good Friday.

When he speaks about the impending paschal mystery of his suffering, death and resurrection in today's Gospel (Mt 16:21-27), Jesus clearly situates himself in the long tradition of Israel's prophet and holy people, like Jeremiah in the first reading (Jr 20:7-9). In the light of Peter's confession of faith in him as *the Christ (Messiah)* last Sunday (Mt 16:13-20), Jesus offers here an important clarification about the nature of his messianic mission. A similar corrective is offered when the people attempt to conscript him to be a king after fettering them abundantly (see Jn 6:15), and at his interrogation by Pilate (Jn 18:36). He is neither a political nor an economic messiah. He states this bluntly to his disciples. Understandably, his vision and mission are radically contrary to Peter's ideas and aspirations. Notably, he refuses to be seduced by Peter's false assurances. By virtue of divinity, he had the power to avoid being handed over to the authorities and to avoid doing what he knew he must do (Ph 2:6-11). But he would not use it to circumvent the Father's will (Jn 10:18; cf. Lk 22:42). Like Jeremiah, he surrenders himself completely, he allows himself to be seduced by the Father's will, no matter the cost, thereby personifying the words of the apostle Paul in the second reading: "Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do" (Rm 12:1-2). This way, Jesus teaches us how to accept God's will. He shows us the way to true and lasting glory. The cross!

As his missionary disciples, we are invited to walk the same way of the cross through which our Lord triumphed over sin and death. That is, the renunciation of self and everything that may deflect us from embracing the cross in view of sharing in his final victory. Thankfully, we have the assurances of his companionship on our way. ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Ezekiel 33:7-9
2ND READING	Romans 13:8-10
GOSPEL	Matthew 18:15-20

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

IN GRATITUDE TO FR JOSEPH

On behalf of the clergy and people of the parish, I would like to thank Fr Joseph immensely for his time and ministry in the parish and wish him God's wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in his new mission as an assistant priest at St John Fisher, Merton.

Fr Joseph came to the parish in October 2018 for a first period of assignment which ended in February 2020 after which he was reappointed and resumed at the parish in October 2020 for a second spell. During these times, besides assisting me and presiding at liturgical celebrations especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Fr Joseph collaborated as a catechist in the RCIA and First Holy Communion programmes, visited and supported sick and elderly parishioners at home and in care homes, assisted the parish secretary with banking activities, took part in sundry parish groups and activities. His contributions to the enhancement of parish life and pastoral care of the faithful in the parish will remain highly appreciated. It is, therefore, no mere cliché to say that he will be greatly missed by all of us. May God bless him and his ministry in Merton. Amen. Father Ignatius Edet, PP.

1ST HOLY COMMUNION: PARENTS' MEETING

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 4 September 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.

2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The 2nd collection taken on Education Day is for the Catholic Education Service (CES), which acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools. There are over 2,000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England and Wales educating over 800,000 students. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistances for school transport in rural areas. Many thanks.

GOING TO UNIVERSITY THIS SEPTEMBER?

Fr Ignatius would like to meet with you for a chat & some refreshments at the Presbytery on Sunday 10 Sept after 6pm Mass.

DAUGHTERS OF DIVINE LOVE (DDL) RAFFLE TICKETS

The DDL sisters, a female religious order founded in Nigeria in 1969 are visiting the parish this weekend to sell raffle tickets to support their fundraising for the building of a specialist school for disabled children in Nigeria. Kindly support them by buying some tickets today after Mass. You will also stand a chance of winning fantastic prizes at the draw on 7 October 2023.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



*Excluding standing orders & online payments – the monthly total of which will be published on or after the first weekend of every new month.

LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £706.44

Gift-aid: £439.50 Total: **£1,145.94***

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR JULY

A. Cash / cheques – £5,821.63

1. Gift-Aided – £1,925.92

2. Non-G/A – £3,895.71

B. Standing Orders/Bank Transfers – £2,946.00

1. Gift-Aided – £2,801.00

2. Non-G/A – £145.00

C. Contactless Machine – £736.44

Total = £9,504.07 (Last month: £8,680.70).

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.

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.

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.



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