



TWENTY-FIFTH 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:** TBA + **Deacon:** Rev. Al Callan (Retd) + **Secretary:** Mrs Denise Kidd

School: Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School + **Headteacher:** Mr Ben Martin

MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

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

23 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Mary B Peiris – WB (<i>M C Taylor</i>)
24 Sunday	09.00	Angelica De Stasio & Family RIP
	11.00	David Louis – BD (<i>L Ko</i>)
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

WEEK 25 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR I)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

25 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Nora Murphy – RIP
26 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Maria Sebastian’s Intentions
	19.00	FHC Pupils & Catechists & Parents
27 Wednesday <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	9.30	Church Cleaners & Gardeners
	19.00	Holy Souls
28 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Deceased Parishioners – RIP
	9.30	John Burton (<i>C Burton</i>)
29 Friday <i>Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael</i>	7.00	Private (<i>IE</i>)
	9.30	Paul Joseph – RIP (<i>S Joseph</i>)
30 Saturday <i>Ss Jerome</i>	9.00	Matilda Fernandes – RIP (<i>J Fernandes</i>)

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

30 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Rosary Anthony – RIP
01 Sunday	09.00	John & David Doyle (<i>D H Family</i>)
	11.00	Anne Martin – BD
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

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

PRAYER FOR GENEROSITY

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous.
 Teach me to serve as you deserve,
 to give and not to count the cost,
 to fight and not to heed the wounds,
 to labour and not to seek to rest,
 to give of myself and not ask for a reward,
 except the reward of knowing that I am doing your will. Amen.

St Ignatius of Loyola.

THE JUSTICE OF GOD’S UNEXPECTED GOODNESS

Justice is an integral core of ethics. It is an important building block for any society. It means giving to each person “what is their due” (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, §1928), that is, giving to both groups and individuals what each deserves. However, the calculation of what each person deserves is generally debatable. Nonetheless, following Aristotle (384-322 BC), many ethicists and political theorists tend to accept the notion of *proportional reciprocity* as a fair basis for estimating each person’s due. This means that what is due to each person is determined by what they have, so to speak, contributed or done. Therefore, for Aristotle, ‘equals should be treated equally and unequals, unequally.’ In this way, though not identical with each other, justice is closely connected to fairness, that is, the ability to judge without reference to one’s feelings or interest and making judgements that are not overly general but are concretely suited to specific cases / situations. Thus, being treated as one deserves is common to justice and fairness, since they both deal with reward.

This question features prominently in today’s Gospel (Mt 20:1-16). The parable of landowner and the labourers he hired illustrates the conflict that can arise concerning determining what is just and/or fair. At daybreak, then the third, sixth, ninth and finally at the eleventh hour, the landowner goes out to hire workers to work in his vineyard. With the first set of workers, he negotiates to pay one denarius. With the second, there is a promise of a fair wage; and, apparently, with the third and fourth group as well. However, no such promise is clearly stated in relation to the fifth set and last comers who are simply told, “*You go into my vineyard too.*” So far, the parable reveals something of the concern of the landowner for the poor; he hires them to give them a chance to engage themselves and earn a living.

The problem arises at payment time. He pays each of them the same wage, starting from the last comers to the first comers. Seeing how generous he is at paying the last arrivals one denarius, the first comers certainly expect him to pay them more; after all, they did more hours. Can we honestly blame them for thinking this way? It does seem the landowner has failed the test of Aristotle’s maxim about treating equals equally and unequals, unequally. Isaac the Syrian is on record for asking provocatively how God could be called just in the light of today’s Gospel passage (see *Ascetical Homilies*, 51). While this may, on the face value, seem true, a closer review of the passage, reveals otherwise. The requirement of justice is clearly fulfilled by the landowner. After all, he kept his “*agreement with the workers for one denarius a day.*” God’s fairness is not just manifested in his reward to the workers after their work. It is, above all, demonstrated from the onset in the opportunity he gives each of them, especially by calling them even up to the last hour.

The parable is ultimately about the last judgement. So, it reminds us of God’s unfathomable goodness. He does not give up easily or at all on any one of us. For it is his will, as Paul says, “*that be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*” (1 Tm 2:3-4). His unexpected goodness transcends and upends human reckoning. It epitomises the words of Isaiah in the first reading (Is 55:6-9): “*Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.*” The truth is that God rewards us according to an unexpected goodness, not purely on what we deserve. As the psalmist says in Ps 129 (130), “*If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?*” Also, Paul asserts, “*But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy*” (Ti 3:4-5a; see Eph 2:4-5). Without prejudice to its relevance (see Mt 25:31-46), there is no necessary proportion between human work and divine reward. This, then, puts paid to any entitlement and presumption and calls us to trust in God’s grace and mercy. ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 55:6-9
2ND READING	Philippians 1:20-24,27
GOSPEL	Matthew 20: 1-16

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, Ian Beard, and Qiaochen.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

THANK YOU FROM DEACON AL

Thank you very much for the very generous gift you have given me to mark my retirement. I am going to put it into making the garden a place of recreation to fill my days. Serving you all has been part of my Ministry and I did not expect anything in return. I am touched by your thoughtfulness, and I will continue to pray for you all especially in the garden. Every blessing to you and yours. Love, AL.

OUTSIDE CRIB – INSTALLATION TEAM REQUIRED

For some forty-five years the Knights of St. Columba have been erecting the outside crib situated on the left-hand side flat roof of our church. The knights having designed, constructed, and installed the crib for so many years but now no longer feel able to do so. With dwindling membership numbers, and all of senior years, we are not able to carry out this Christmas message to the outside world from our Parish, Our Lady Immaculate. It requires a minimum of five-person team who can take on the project each year. I will assist and explain during handover procedure. If you are willing to assist, please let Fr. Ignatius know. Equally contact me for any further information: Alex Maranzano, 02083990833.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

We urgently need more altar servers, to help with all our Sunday Masses. We need at **least** 20 new servers, if possible, to help cover all the Masses. Age is no barrier both **young people and adults equally welcome**. The only requirement is that you have made your First Holy Communion. Adults will need to complete a DBS check before being added to the Rota. The Training Course for new servers begins this **Sunday 24 September at 12.30** in the Sacristy and will last for about 45 minutes. The course will run for up to 7 weeks. Please help if you can in this very important and vital ministry in our parish. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Jacques Lambert on 020 8397 2793.

OLI SCHOOL OPEN MORNINGS

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone in the Parish and beyond for our upcoming Open Mornings. The Open Mornings are happening on Friday 29 September and 20 October. Please see the poster on the school's notice board. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing all the amazing aspects of OLI school.

BISHOP HOWARD TRIPP RIP FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Howard Tripp's first anniversary of death is on 3 October. There will be a Year's Mind Mass for him at St George's Cathedral on Wednesday 4 October at 12.30pm. Bishop Howard gave 24 years of devoted episcopal service as Auxiliary Bishop in the South-West Area of the Diocese and continued his episcopal service indirectly during his 18 years of retirement. May he rest in peace and rise in glory! Everyone is most welcome to attend the Mass.

SUPPORTING THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE

Archdiocese of Southwark in partnership with LOUDfence. LOUDfence is a visible display of support and solidarity with those affected by abuse. LOUDfence & Survivors Voices in partnership with the Archdiocese of Southwark, are to hold their annual event on 27 September, 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral, everyone is invited to attend.

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: £789.80

Gift-aid: £445.00 Total: **£1,234.80***

2nd Collection (Home Mission): £202.29

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR AUGUST

A. Cash / cheques – £4,640.68

1. Gift-Aided – £1,222.49

2. Non-G/A – £3,146.00

B. Standing Orders/Bank Transfers – £3,146

1. Gift-Aided – £2,933.00

2. Non-G/A – £213.00

C. Contactless Machine – £1,305.68

Total = £9,092.36 (Last Month: £9,504.07).

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.

DAY OF CELEBRATION OF PARISH MINISTRIES

At the last Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting (24 April 2023), it was agreed that the first Friday in October should be set aside as an annual day of celebration of parish ministries in the parish. It will be a day of thanksgiving to God for the gifts of diverse ministries in our parish; showing appreciation to all who help in the parish in any way; and encouraging more parishioners to be involved in parish ministries.

The maiden edition will take place on Friday 6 October. It will begin with Mass at 7pm, followed by a reception in the hall.

Please, use this link to sign up to ensure that it can be suitably catered for <https://koalendar.com/e/annual-parish-ministry-celebration-2023>

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 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. 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