



TWENTY-SIXTH 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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

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

30 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Rosary Anthony – RIP
01 Sunday	09.00	John & David Doyle (<i>D H Family</i>)
	11.00	Anne Martin (BD) & Will (RIP)
	18.00	Nigerian People (<i>National Day</i>)

WEEK 26 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR I)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

02 Monday <i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	9.30	Rajani Reginald – RIP
03 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	Bishop Howard Tripp – RIP Shelia Mary Anderson – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
04 Wednesday <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	9.30 19.00	Maria’s Sebastian – TG Bishop Philip Moger – WB
05 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	Private (<i>IE</i>) Mary King – RIP
06 Friday <i>Feria (Harvest Fast Day)</i>	7.00 9.30 19.00	Private (<i>IE</i>) Jack Hoey – WB Parish Ministers
07 Saturday <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	9.00	Dec’d Simmonds’ Family – RIP (<i>K Jankowski</i>)

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

07 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Private (<i>IE</i>)
08 Sunday	09.00 11.00 18.00	Sr J Ekeigwe – BD Renee Barry – RIP <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 OF COMMITMENT

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, grant us in our misery the grace to do for you alone what we know you want us to do, and always to desire what pleases you. Thus, inwardly cleansed, interiorly enlightened, and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, may we be able to follow in the footprints of your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. And, by your grace alone, may we make our way to you, Most High, who live and rule in perfect Trinity and simple Unity, and are glorified God all-powerful forever and ever. Amen.
St Francis of Assisi.

DISCIPLESHIP: A COMMITMENT TO FAITHFULNESS

It is common for defence attorneys to appeal to lack of previous crimes and/or good behaviour to persuade a judge to consider a lighter sentence for their client. Conversely, prosecutors would appeal to previous crimes to convince a judge for a stiffer sentence. Either way, generally, the convict is not just sentenced based on the instant case; prior criminality or good behaviour may constitute, respectively, aggravating or mitigating factors in relation to the sentence given. Oftentimes, this seems a sensible and considerably fair approach, especially when one is not the victim, or closely associated with the victim(s) of the crimes so punished.

In the first reading (Ez 18:25-28), the prophet Ezekiel presents us with a different perspective where the past seems completely irrelevant, for good or bad. What matters is the present. Previous actions, whether good or bad, are completely jettisoned by the status quo. Therefore, they do not count for both judgement and sentencing: *“When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live.”* Jesus reiterates this in the Gospel (Mt 21:28-32). He asks the chief priests and elders to judge between two sons: one who is initially stubborn but later turns around to obey, and the other who promises to obey, but does not follow through. The former typifies the sinners (tax collectors and prostitutes) who respond generously to the call of the gospel, while the latter exemplifies the intransigent self-righteous Jewish establishment.

There is a twofold lesson from both the first reading and the Gospel. The first is an encouragement to faithfulness. As Christ’s missionary disciples, we are called, encouraged, and challenged to persevere in doing good. True discipleship is not about doing isolated and/or occasional good deeds. It is about a consistent choice and constant commitment to God’s will in line with Jesus’ warning, *“Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God”* (Lk 9:62). The second is both an invitation and a warning about repentance and conversion as the core of our identity and mission as believers and missionary disciples of Christ. Ezekiel and Jesus acknowledge that conversion is generally never one-directional; it can go either way: from good to bad or from bad to good. This is a fact of life. Ideally, however, Christian conversion is always a call to change from evil to good, an appeal to *“repent and believe the gospel”* (Mk 1:15). This is underlined by extolling the sinner who renounces *“all his previous sins”* and the stubborn son who *“afterwards thought better of it and went.”* Equally, they both offer an implicit warning about the danger and the dire consequence of sliding from the right path, thereby, reinforcing the importance of consistency and faithfulness as hallmarks of true discipleship.

We are encouraged and commanded to take seriously the commitments we make to God, to the Church, and to one another. Jesus remains the perfect model in this regard. He is trustworthy. As Paul asserts, he is *“never Yes-and-No; his nature is all Yes”* and *“in him is found the Yes to all God’s promises”* (2 Co 1:19; see Ap 3:20). Accordingly, in the second reading (Ph 2:1-11), the apostle invites us to have the same mind as him who, though divine, *“did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself”* and was obedient *“even to accepting death on a cross.”* Having himself undergone an outstanding conversion (Acts 9:1-20; Gal 1:11-21), Paul can show us (like the Philippians) the path to commitment in faithfulness in our oftentimes wobbly response to the call of the gospel, namely, being self-effacing as Jesus. Yet, if we are wearied by our unfaithfulness, we are reassured by God’s faithfulness (2 Tm 2:13). So, with the psalmist, we implore: *“Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.”* ©IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 5:1-7
2ND READING	Philippians 4:6-9
GOSPEL	Matthew 21:33-43

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially 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.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £817.36

Gift-aid: £373.00 Total: **£1,190.36***

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.



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

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP HOWARD TRIPP RIP

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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 2023

We are encouraged to fast or eat a simple meal on Friday in solidarity with the poor and donate the savings from our fast through the second collection next weekend, or directly to CAFOD, using the envelopes provided in the narthex or give online at cafod.org.uk

PARENT CATHOLIC CONFERENCE 14 OCTOBER 2023

The Catholic conference is designed to help parents and grandparents to support their children's moral life as young adults. Attendance is in person or online via Zoom. Details can be found at www.eventcatholic.com

OLI SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone in the Parish and beyond for our upcoming Open Morning. The next Open Morning is happening on 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.

SEMINAR ON RACIAL AND CULTURAL INCLUSION

There will be a Seminar entitled "Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion in Our Parishes, Schools and Communities."

Venue: Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Southwark, from 9.30am to 4.00pm on Saturday 28 October 2023.

You are all welcomed to this archdiocesan initiative by the Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion. On the day there will be contributions from a range of speakers, including our archbishop, Archbishop John Wilson.

For more information and registration, please use this link: <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/commission-for-promoting-racial-and-cultural-inclusion/what-we-do/>

Or write us: racialjusticecommission@rcaos.org.uk

Please join us for a stimulating and hope-filled day of discussion.

Registration is FREE.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE: 25 MAY – 1 JUNE 2024

Return flights, transfers, breakfast, dinner, accommodation, and full pilgrimage programme in the region of £700+. Please email annedsilva@rcaos.org.uk to register your interest.



Our Lady Immaculate Church

Parish Lenten Project

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

† FRANCIS JOSEPH NAZARETH – RIP

Please pray for Francis Nazareth, who died peacefully at Crest Lodge Nursing Home on 17 August, aged 68 years.

Requiem Mass: Tuesday 10 October at 10.30am. **Committal:** Kingston Crematorium at 11.40am. Our condolences to his brother Charles and family. May he rest in peace. Amen.

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>

You can still book a place this weekend!

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.