



TWENTY-NINTH 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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

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

21 Sat – <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Peter & Joseph Campbell – RIP
22 Sunday	09.00	Joseph Antonisamy – RIP (<i>Suresh</i>)
<i>World Mission Sunday</i>	11.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish
	18.00	Alice Tumilty – RIP (<i>FM</i>)

WEEK 29 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR I)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

23 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Lydia & Nick Whitehorn & Family (<i>N Pearce</i>)
24 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	Private Paul Ward – WB
25 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	Barry Eglington Private
26 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	Private Francis & Magdalena D’Souza – RIP (<i>P Fazal</i>)
27 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	Private Frances Powell – RIP (<i>E Powell</i>)
28 Saturday <i>Ss Simon & Jude</i>	9.00	Anton Sebastian – RIP (<i>Maria</i>)

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

28 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Kim Lannon – RIP (<i>Houston</i>)
29 Sunday	09.00 11.00 18.00	Rachel Rodrigues – BD <i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

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

O Lord, give us a mind that is humble, quiet, peaceable, patient and charitable, and a taste of your Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words, and deeds.

O Lord, give us a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of you.

Take from us all lukewarmness in meditation and all dullness in prayer.

Give us fervour and delight in thinking of you, your grace, and your tender compassion toward us.

Give us, good Lord, the grace to work for the things we pray for. Amen.

(St Thomas More)

PUTTING GOD FIRST

“I die the king’s good servant, but God’s first.” These famous words were spoken by St Thomas More (1478-1535) to the crowds before his execution at Tower Hill on 6 July 1535. With them, More expressed his conviction about the supreme prerogative of God and the truth over any earthly power, primordial interest, or privilege. Thus, like his contemporary, St John Fisher with whom he shares his feast day (22 July), he chose death over betraying his faith by rejecting Henry VIII’s claim as the head of the Church in England. His choice reminds us of the central message in Jesus’ encounter with the Pharisees and Herodians in today’s Gospel (Mt 22:15-21), that is, concerning our ultimate loyalty, priority, or preoccupation as missionary disciples of Christ. He typifies the singlemindedness echoed by Jesus in the admonition, *“give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.”*

The significance of the Gospel passage is underscored by the fact that it is also mentioned by Mark (12:13-17) and Luke (20:20-26). Among other salient points, the ulterior motive of Jesus’ interrogators is clearly highlighted by the evangelist. They came to trap him. They attempted to put him into a dilemma, hoping to catch him out either way – discredit him before the people or, more importantly, set him up against the imperial authority – by asking: *“Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”* Ordinarily, his questioners were sharply divided on this matter among others. The Pharisees objected to the Roman hegemony and the paying of taxes to the emperor (Tiberius Caesar) as an infringement on the prerogative of God. Conversely, as supporters of Herod and his family, the Herodians cooperated with the foreign occupiers and the payment of taxes to Caesar. Strangely, however, both parties saw Jesus as a common enemy and, as a result, were united in their common desire to eliminate him.

Vintage Jesus! He saw through the deception in their initial flattery about his honesty, impartiality, and commitment to the truth (see Mt 19:16-17; cf. Mk 1:24-25). He exposed their insincerity when he asked for the money with which the tax is paid, and they handed him a denarius with the emperor’s image and the blasphemous inscription, *“Caesar Augustus Tiberius, son of the Divine Augustus,”* on one side and *“Pontifex Maximus [High Priest]”* on the other. Apparently, they were comfortable using the pagan imperial coin. Moreover, they did not seem to bother about carrying it on them into the sacred space of the temple where this encounter took place. Blinded by hatred, all they cared about was to ensnare Jesus. But he completely routed them with his answer. Did they give up? No! Like the devil in Luke’s account of the temptation in the desert, they *“left him, until the opportune moment”* (Lk 4:13). Thus, they will accuse him falsely during the Passion before the Roman governor of Judaea, Pontus Pilate: *“We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of the tribute to Caesar...”* (Lk 23:2).

Jesus did not just outwit his opponents. He seized the opportunity to offer them – and his disciples and us – the true interpretation of the Law and Prophets (Mt 5:17; see 12:1-14). Without opposing the paying of tax to Caesar, his insistence on giving to God what belongs to God, imposes a limit on such and, in fact, any civil obligations (see Rm 13:1-7; 1 Pe 2:17). Whereas submission to the state is relative, obedience to God is not only absolute but also the yardstick for the former. Indeed, Jesus’ answer reiterates the *Schema*: *“Listen, Israel: Yahweh our God is the one, the only Yahweh. You must love Yahweh your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength”* (Dt 6:4-9). Absolute loyalty! This is what belongs to God that must always be given to him. So, Jesus’ words cannot be stretched into an excuse for compromising our faith, the truth of the Gospel, or the moral obligations that flow from them. Like St Thomas More, we are reminded that allegiance to God ranks above all others. ©IAE.

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Exodus 22:20-26
2ND READING	1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
GOSPEL	Matthew 22:34-40

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Fr Francis Henry, 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, Clare & Baby Polly, Gerry Hague, Maureen Stephens, Maureen Sellwood, Eric Powell, Tony & Mavis Fisher, Andy Moolman, Mary L Taylor, Ian Beard, Qiaochen Shi, Jack Hoey, and Nee Collier.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £792.33

Gift-aid: £295.80 Total: **£1,088.13***

2ND COLLECTION (SMA): £568.20

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR SEPTEMBER

A. Cash / cheques – £5,899.53

1. Gift-Aided – £2,745.40

2. Non-G/A – £3,154.13

B. Standing Orders/Bank Transfers – £2,918.00

1. Gift-Aided – £2,646.00

2. Non-G/A – £272.00

C. Contactless Machine – £1,160.73

Total = £9,978.26 (Last Month: £9,092.36).

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

Kindly consider making your regular contribution to the Church via standing order (form available at online.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.

OCTOBER DEVOTION

By Catholic custom, the month of October is specially dedicated to the Holy Rosary and devotion to St Joseph. Parishioners are encouraged to pray the Rosary daily, concluding with the Prayer to St Joseph, individually and in families or groups. The prayer can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-st-joseph-after-rosary>

RED MISSIO BOXES: Please bring the contents of your Red Missio Boxes to the church during the month of November, so that the money can be counted and sent to Missio, where it is very much needed. Any queries, please contact Mary C Taylor Tel: 07985 659266. Many thanks for your continuing generosity.

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

HALF-TERM

No children's liturgy at the 9am Mass this Sunday, 22 October 2023.

2ND COLLECTION TODAY FOR MISSIO

Missio is the Church's official organ for the support of foreign missions. The collection taken on World Mission Sunday goes in its entirety to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or materially poor.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

If you would like to be included in the programme, please visit the parish website and download the full application form. **The closing date for applications will be Sunday 5 November.**

This is open to any young person in year 9 or above at school, or in college, and you regularly come to Mass in Our Lady Immaculate Parish and have received your First Holy Communion.

HOLY SOULS DAY – THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER

There will be three Masses in the parish: **7am, 9.30am, and 7pm.** There will be a special service of commemoration for parishioners and relations of parishioners who have passed on between last year's and this year's All Souls Day. A family member or friend would be invited when their names are called out, to light a votive candle in their memory, while we pray for them. At the end, all who attend will be invited to light a votive candle for their departed ones.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR PALESTINE & THE HOLY LAND

At the conclusion of his general audience on Wednesday, our Holy Father Pope Francis announced another day of prayer and fasting for an end to the Israel-Hamas war, to be observed on Friday 27 October. The Holy Father went on to say, it will be "a day of penance to which I invite sisters and brothers of the various Christian denominations, those belonging to other religions, and all those who have at heart the cause of peace in the world, to join in as they see fit."

On that Friday, the Holy Father will preside over a vigil in St Peter's Square at 6pm (5pm UK). He is desirous that faithful around the world join with him in prayer at that hour "in a spirit of penance to implore peace in our time, peace in this world."

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.



Our Lady Immaculate Church

Parish Lenten Project

The Lenten Project AGM was held on Sunday 15 October 2023 at 7.00pm in the Old Chapel. At that meeting five charities were selected which we will be supporting during Lent 2024. Details later!

BLESSING OF GRAVES: SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Surbiton Cemetery: 2pm and Kingston Cemetery: 3pm.

Please gather in the Chapel for a short service before blessing of each grave at the graveside!

DEANARY MASS FOR DEPARTED CLERGY

The annual Mass for deceased priests and deacons who have served parishes in our deanery will be celebrated on Friday 17 November 2023.

Venue: St Ann's, Kingston Hill at 12.00 noon.

Parishioners are encouraged to attend.