



THIRTY-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 + 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

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A

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

04 Sat – <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Philomena Effiong – RIP
05 Sunday	09.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish
	11.00	Stella & Seymour Tremeneheere
	18.00	Gabriel & Eucharia Eke – RIP
WEEK 31 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR I)		
EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am		
06 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	John Davis (<i>A Davis</i>)
07 Tues – <i>Dedication of St George’s Cathedral</i>	9.30	Martha Ekeigwe – RIP
	19.00	B Roy – Thanksgiving
08 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Frank D’Cunha – RIP (<i>B D’Cunha</i>)
	19.00	Patrick Udofia – RIP
09 Thursday <i>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	7.00	Joseph & Justina Edet – RIP
	9.30	Philip Michael Dray – RIP (<i>A Dray</i>)
10 Friday <i>St Leo the Great</i>	7.00	Fr F Ekong & Sr J Ekerette – RIP
	9.30	Dec’d of Roy’s Family – RIP
11 Saturday <i>St Martin of Tours</i>	9.00	Walter & Harold Hawes – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
	14.00	Wedding: G Lazri & X Leka
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A		
11 Saturday <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Anthony Michael Hodgson – RIP
12 Sunday <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	09.00	Fr Augustus Effiong – RIP
	11.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish
	18.00	Catalda Camnarta

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

Loving God, as I begin my day,
I ask for your guidance and strength
to help me serve others.
Please remind me that every person
I encounter is created in your image
and deserves to be treated with love and respect.
Help me to see the needs of those around me
and be willing to step in and help in any way I can.
Grant this, through Christ our Lord. Amen. **(Anon)**

BETWEEN PREACHERS AND MODELS

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses” (*Evangelii nuntiandi*, §41).

Preaching is at the heart of the Church’s mission. This truth is underscored especially in Jesus’ mandate to the twelve disciples, “*And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand*” (Mt 10:7). Faithful to the Lord’s command, the apostles made it the centre of their ministry (see Acts 6:2). St Paul highlights the link between faith and preaching when he says, “*faith comes from hearing, and that means hearing the word of Christ*” (Rm 10:17). That is why he sees his ministry primarily as consisting in preaching Christ, especially to the Gentiles (1 Co 1:17). Considering it a binding obligation, the apostle is unafraid to assert, “*Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel*” (1 Co 9:16). Yet, for him, preaching is not merely about words or giving instructions. Above all, it is the witness of his life. So, he does not hesitate to set himself as a model for the faithful to follow: “*For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel I urge you, then, be imitators of me*” (1 Co 4:15-16), “*as I am of Christ*” (1 Co 11:1).

Evidently, the apostle Paul is reiterated by the above words of Pope Paul VI. Addressed originally to a laity group in 1974, the pope’s words capture the essence of Malachi’s rebuke of Israel’s priests in today’s first reading (Mal 1:14-2:2,8-10) and Jesus’ criticism of the scribes and Pharisees in the Gospel (Mt 23:1-12). The scribes and Pharisees are called out by Jesus for their hypocrisy, high-handedness, and pride: “*You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention.*” These three ills resemble those that the prophet Malachi imputes to the priests: straying from God’s way especially by partiality; causing scandal by their teaching; and destroying the covenant of Levi.

Now, as Catholics, when Jesus says that the scribes and Pharisees “*occupy the chair of Moses,*” we may naturally be tempted to think about the hierarchy, that is, the pope and bishops. Afterall, they constitute the teaching authority of the Church (Vatican II, *Lumen gentium*, §25)! And the priests and deacons too. There are plenty reasons to justify such ‘finger-pointing.’ Nonetheless, the message of Jesus applies to all of us as people of God, the Church to whom the duty to proclaim the Gospel is variedly entrusted by virtue of our baptism (*Lumen gentium*, §35). In other words, as Christian disciples, we are reminded, individually and collectively, not just to avoid these three malaises but to counter them with obedience to the truth, recognition of our essential equality, and humility. For, indeed, we have one Father and were created by the same God. This truth must not just be affirmed and repeated as a creed. It must be applied concretely, especially in the manner that those in positions of authority carry themselves, relate to, and/or treat those under their care – in the family, Church, school, and wider society.

Finally, contrary to the bad example of the priests, the scribes, and Pharisees, Paul and his fellow workers in the second reading (1 Th 2:7-9,13), offer us strength and encouragement. Their exemplary witness gives us hope that we too can model our Creed / profession of faith, “*eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well.*” As Paul VI observes, “for the Church, the first means of evangelisation is the witness of an authentically Christian life, given over to God in a communion that nothing should destroy and at the same time given to one’s neighbour with limitless zeal” (*Evangelii nuntiandi*, §41). @IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Wisdom 6:12-16
2ND READING	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
GOSPEL	Matthew 25:1-13

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Fr Francis Esshiet 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, Nee Collier, Ida Rebello, and Ravenna Ahmed.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

Please could parents / guardians ensure that children are always accompanied when using the toilets during Mass. Thank you.

BLESSING OF GRAVES: SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER

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

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

NOVEMBER LIST

The month of November is specially dedicated to the commemoration of the faithful departed, through prayer, penance, and Holy Mass. Holy Souls' envelopes are now available in the Narthex; please, collect an envelope and fill in the names of your departed family members and friends. If you would like to make an offering towards ongoing Masses for the Holy Souls, kindly indicate the enclosed sum on the envelope. Thank you.

NB: Please use the regular Mass intention envelopes if you want to request a Mass for a particular person.

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL FUND COLLECTION 12 NOV

The Archbishop's Appeal is a Diocesan second collection that funds key areas of ministry: **Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas), and Clergy Care and Formation.** Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve. Your support last year enabled the Appeal to raise **£250,000** in its inaugural year. This summer, the Archbishop's Appeal granted funding to **36** innovative projects taking place at grassroots level. **61%** of projects funded were new projects and **30%** of projects funded enabled the expansion of existing successful projects, thereby supporting local efforts to build a strong, vibrant, and missionary focussed Church. Please be generous. Every gift is welcome. Find out more or donate online: www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal or scan the QR Code on posters, telephone weekdays 9am – 5pm: **020 7960 2504** or cash / cheque (envelopes at the back of the church). Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

This weekend is closing date for applications! If you would like to be included in the programme, please visit the parish website and download the full application form.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you wish to request a Mass for a specific date and intention, we would like to advise that you give plenty time (ideally, 6-8 weeks' notice at busy seasons). The Parish Office will continue to make sure that your requests for Masses are assigned as soon as possible but, understandably, on a first-come basis.

PARISH SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

We are putting together an enlarged choir for the parish Service of Lessons and Carols (17 December, 3pm). If you can sing, please think about joining us for this special and very rewarding event, which rehearses separately from the main choir. This is a very mixed-ability choir, and our first get-together is this Sunday (5 November) at 2.30pm in the church, but if you miss this, please get in touch with Rob Howe to find out more: 07939 084 797 (robert.howe@dunelm.org.uk). Friends are welcome too!

The main parish choir now rehearses primarily before the 11am Mass on Sunday. If you would like to find out more about joining, please also contact Rob Howe as above. We do need more singers!

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.

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.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £801.85

Gift-aid: £435.21 **Total: £1,237.06***

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR OCTOBER

A. Cash / cheques – £5,041.13

1. Gift-Aided – £2,029.60

2. Non-G/A – £3,011.53

B. Standing Orders/Bank Transfers – £3,122.00

1. Gift-Aided – £2,780.00

2. Non-G/A – £342.00

C. Contactless Machine – £951.78

Total = £9,114.91 (Last Month: £9,978.26).

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.

CHURCH LIGHTING

Having successfully completed the installation of the new sound system, we are now looking at replacing the lighting system, which is no longer fit for purpose. However, from recent experience, obtaining various quotes, interviewing companies, going backwards and forwards over the specifications, having the process signed off by the diocese after amendments, waiting for an installation date, may take not less than six months. Rest assured we are working towards a new lighting system, but please bear with us in the meantime.

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.