



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – B

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – B

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

02 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Edward Howe – RIP (<i>S Howe</i>)
03 Sunday	09.00 11.00 18.00	John & David Doyle Florence Stroud & Dec'd Fam (<i>FM</i>) <i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

04 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Linford Fuller (<i>L Lewis</i>)
05 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	John & Victoria Edet & Family John & Margaret Gowers (<i>FM</i>)
06 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	Lourdes D'Souza – WB (<i>Stevens</i>) Tim & Hilda Agera & Family
07 Thursday <i>St Ambrose</i>	7.00 9.30	Samuel J Edet's Intentions Paul Ward – WB
08 Friday <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	7.00 9.30 19.00	Church Building Fund – RIP (<i>FM</i>) <i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish Joseph & Justina Edet – RIP
09 Sat – <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	Giulietta & Roman Jankowski – RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – B

09 Sat – Vigil	18.30	
10 Sunday	09.00 11.00 18.00	Freda McKeon – WB D'Souza, Middleton & Tremeneheere's Dec'd – RIP <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

Eternal God,
you will come
when we do not expect you.
Help us to welcome you now
in one another,
to reach out
to our sisters and brothers
in need of support.
And in this way
may we be found ready,
when you come again in glory. Amen (CAFOD).

WAITING FOR THE LORD

Advent ushers in a new church year. With the beginning of a new liturgical year, we start again, according to Benedict XVI, “on the way to living the mystery of Christ in history.” The origin of the word can help shed some light on the significance of this holy season.

The term, *advent* is derived from the Latin noun, *adventus*, meaning *coming* or *arrival* (and the verb, *advenire* – to come or arrive), a translation of the Greek word *παρουσία* (*parousia*).

Generally, *Parousia* (with capital P) is used in the New Testament, especially in reference to the Second Coming of Christ. However, it equally denotes his First Coming at his birth in Bethlehem as well as his continued presence not only in Scripture and the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, but also in creation. For, as the Letter to the Hebrews asserts, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever*” (Hb 13:8). So, in Advent, the Christian people prepare themselves for a twofold reality. On the one hand, they recall the past through the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord at Christmas and, on the other, they look forward to his return at the end of the time.

Far from being remote from each other, the two comings of the Lord (at his birth and at the end of time) are intimately connected since both are deeply embedded in his continued presence in the here and now, oftentimes in unexpected ways, places, people and events, as he “*who is, who was, and who is to come*” (Rv 1:8). Advent, therefore, reminds us to constantly wait for the Lord who is not absent from us although he was born over two thousand years ago and, as we profess in the Creed, is currently seated at the Father’s right hand in heaven from where he will return in glory to judge the living and the death at the end of the world. Today’s readings offer us helpful insights into what it means to wait for the Lord and how to do so.

Waiting for the Lord is not a passive exercise. It involves at least four important spiritual dispositions: openness to God and his word of promise, conversion, prayer, and good works. Cultivating these Christian outlooks can be arduous and exhausting, especially when faced with situations that make the prospect of waiting seem futile. This was the condition of the people of Israel after their return from captivity in Babylon, which inspired the prophet Isaiah (63:16-17,64:1,3-8) in the first reading to beg God to “*tear the heavens open and come down,*” to manifest himself again as their Father and Redeemer, and not abandon them to their sinful ways. Their recollection of God’s actions in the past gave them confidence in the present despite their sinfulness and revitalised their hope in the future. The psalmist (Ps 79 [80]) expresses this confidence and hope when he prays, “*Lord of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved ... we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.*”

Lastly, in the Gospel (Mk 13:33-37), Jesus summarises for us how to wait for the Lord: “*Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.*” The unexpectedness of the Lord’s coming is not just about time and place. It also has to do with the nature of his coming. As already mentioned above, because Advent in particular and Christian expectation generally is not about the coming of one who is absent or remote, but of the One who is always present and active in our lives and world, staying awake and alert entails faithfulness and consistency in carrying out the different tasks entrusted to us by the Master.

As we begin this Advent, let us thank God with the Apostle Paul in the second reading (1 Co 1:3-9) that we “*have been enriched in so many ways.*” Also, thankful that we “*will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while [we] are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed,*” we pray that “*he will keep [us] steady and without blame until the last day.*” Amen. @IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
2ND READING	2 Peter 3:8-14
GOSPEL	Mark 1:1-8

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Mounir Kabban, Francis Sebastianpillai, John (Jack) Hoey 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, Elizabeth Jones, Ray Lewry, Wendy Cook, Tony 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, Nee Collier, Ida Rebello, Ravenna Ahmed, and Jesse Osborne.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

OUR PARISH PATRONAL FEAST – 8 DECEMBER

Friday 8 December is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of our Parish and School. It is also the principal patronal feast of our Diocese (Southwark). There will be 3 Masses: **7am, 9.30am** (joint-celebration with OLI Primary), and **7pm**.

COLLECTION FOR FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

There will be a second collection next weekend for flowers for the decoration of our Church at Christmas.

NO FLOWERS IN ADVENT

The season of Advent begins on Sunday 3 December. Please NO flowers to be brought to the Lady Chapel or anywhere throughout the Church until Christmas Eve due the quasi-penitential / sombre nature of Advent and then the Crib being erected. Thank you.

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR PARISH DATABASE

If you wish to receive the Parish Newsletter to your inbox, please provide an updated and current email address to tolworth@rcaos.org.uk Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & REPOSITORY NEWS

The repository is open every Sunday after 9am Mass to sell Christmas cards, 2024 calendars and other gift items. Consider supporting your parish by stocking from the repository. Also, Denise has offered to sell the Christmas cards, £3.50 per box in the Parish Office from 10am to 2pm on Monday – Friday.

PARISH CHOIR

The main parish choir now rehearses primarily before the 11am Mass on Sundays. If you would like to find out more about joining, please contact Rob Howe: 07939 084 797 (robert.howe@dunelm.org.uk). We do need more singers!

ALTAR SERVERS AT CHRISTMAS

Altar servers are needed for the Christmas Masses as follows: **Christmas Eve 5.00pm, 7.00pm and 10.00pm** (please note this starts with carols at 9.30 so you need to be there for 8.45pm) and on **Christmas Day at 8.00am, 9.15am and 11.00am**. There are sign-up sheets in the RDJ room. Thanks!

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £820.13

Gift-aid: £276.58 **Total:** £1,096.71*

CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICES: £300.83

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.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

1. MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: 9am, Monday–Friday. Please, join us to pray the psalms & intercessions daily.

2. OLI CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: Wednesday 20 December at 5.00pm in the Church. This Service is a special Church Service that is held for children during Advent and celebrates Christ, who is the Light of the World. Children (and adults) are invited to bring a Christingle to the Service. Instructions on how to make a Christingle can be found on the Parish website <http://www.olionline.co.uk>. A candle will be provided when you arrive at the Service.

3. PARISH SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

The parish Service of Lessons and Carols is on Sunday 17 December at 3pm. Please do come along to this. We have put together a special enlarged choir for this traditional service, which consists of readings from Sacred Scripture and lots of traditional Christmas music. It will be a very good event to celebrate the arrival of Christmas. Bring family and friends, and to the reception after the service in the Parish Hall.

4. RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Monday, 11 Dec at 7pm. The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the important spiritual preparations that we can and should make during Advent in view of the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord and his Second Coming at the end of time. Visiting priests will be available to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

NB: Even if you are unable to go to Confession, please feel welcome to the service; you will also have an opportunity of having a conversation with and receiving a blessing from the priest.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath has a longstanding history as part of the Catholic tradition of spiritual preparations for Christmas. Its origin is, however, uncertain.

It has a rich spiritual symbolism underscored by its shape, contents, and appearance. It is made of evergreens arranged in circular form, symbolising God's unchanging love and his eternal existence without beginning or end, respectively. Traditionally, it was made of four candles representing the four Sundays (weeks) of Advent. The three violet (purple) candles are lit on first, second, and fourth weeks, while the rose (not pink!) candle is lit on the third Sunday (*Gaudete*). Commonly, a fifth candle (white) is added to represent Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Notwithstanding, the light on each of the candles represents Christ, the light who has come into the world.

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.

† JOHN (JACK) HOEY – RIP

Please pray for John (Jack) Hoey, who died peacefully at home on Tuesday 21 November, aged 86. Our condolences to Mary and the family. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Requiem Mass: Friday 15 December 2023 at 11.30.