



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – B

10 DECEMBER 2023

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – B

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

09 Sat – Vigil	18.30	
10 Sunday	09.00	Freda McKeon – WB
	11.00	D'Souza, Middleton & Tremeneheere's Dec'd – RIP
	18.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

11 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Robert Annie Eales – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
12 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	John Cullen – RIP (<i>E Cullen</i>) Laura Richard & Family (<i>J Beatty</i>)
13 Wednesday <i>St Lucy</i>	9.30 19.00	Radka Weeden & Fam (<i>Rosemeyer</i>) Private
14 Thursday <i>St John of the Cross</i>	7.00 9.30	John McIntire – RIP (<i>P Olliffe</i>) Private
15 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30 11.30	Martina Craig & Jack (<i>J Beatty</i>) Ottavio D'Agostino (<i>F D'Agostino</i>) Requiem Mass: Jack Hoey – RIP
16 Sat – <i>Feria</i>	9.00	Leon Confait – Thanksgiving

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) – B

16 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Dabreo Family – Thanksgiving
17 Sunday	09.00 11.00 18.00	Private <i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish Paul Fernandes – RIP (<i>James</i>)

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

Merciful God,
 you sent John the Baptist to preach repentance.
 Forgive us for the times when we have done wrong,
 when we hurt other people and damaged our earth.
 Lead us to make a change,
 to leave differently, preparing a way and making your paths straight. Amen (**CAFOD**).

PREPARING A WAY FOR THE LORD

Preparing to welcome the Lord is a central theme of Advent. As a time of waiting, the Christian people ready themselves in Advent to mark the First Coming of Christ with the celebration of his birth at Christmas. Beyond this, they are trained to look forward to his Second Coming at the end of time. Today's liturgy of the word contains very powerful insights on how to prepare ourselves adequately for the coming of the Lord into our hearts and into our lives, conscious of our duty as his missionary disciples.

In the first reading (Is 40:1-5,9-11), the prophet Isaiah invites the people of Israel to "prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord." This call is issued in the light of God's promise of an imminent end to their seventy years of captivity in Babylon: "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes." Prophecy that the Lord would come to rescue and comfort his people, the prophet admonishes them to transform the desert, valleys, and hills as a precondition for the manifestation of God's glory and its recognition by all humanity: "Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley.; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it." The desert imagery echoes the Exodus and wandering in the desert, when God led the people from slavery in Egypt to the promised land.

Like the other two synoptics (Mt 3:3; Lk 3:3), the Evangelist Mark in today's Gospel (Mk 1:1-8), sees in the above passage a prefiguration of John the Baptist. He is identified as God's 'messenger' (see Mal 3:1) and 'a voice that cries in the wilderness,' who would prepare the people of Israel to welcome the Messiah. John fulfils this task by his austere life and prophetic preaching, and by baptising those who responded to his call to conversion, while reminding them that "Someone is following" him who "will baptise you with Holy Spirit."

We are privileged by holy Baptism to be baptised with the Holy Spirit and are, therefore, established as God's holy people. Possessing, as the Apostle Paul says, the first-fruits of the Spirit, we still continue to wait with persevering confidence" (Rm 8:23-25) for the coming of the Lord. The Apostle Peter encourages us in the second reading (2 Pe 3:8-14) never to lose hope while "waiting for what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home." He exhorts us that the day and time should not be our concern. For him, what matters is that "you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come." Even if he may seem to delay coming, it should be seen as an opportunity for us to get prepared by changing our ways. Further, echoing Isaiah and John the Baptist, the apostle admonishes: "So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace."

Inspired by Isaiah, Peter, and John the Baptist, our challenge this Advent is to prepare our hearts, lives, and community for the Lord by, first and foremost, asking the Holy Spirit to help us to identify the desert places, valleys, mountains, hills, cliffs and ridges in our lives, families, and community, that need to be transformed so that we can fittingly make a way for the Lord. Our next task is to prepare our hearts, lives, and community for the Lord by removing those obstacles that can frustrate our desire and effort to live holy and saintly lives, loving God above all else and others for the sake of God. Responding to the Baptist's call, we are charged with levelling the mountain of pride and narcissism that seduces us to think that we need neither God nor others. Besides, we remember that preparing a way for the Lord ultimately means following him who is "the Way and the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14:6). @IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11
2ND READING	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
GOSPEL	John 1:6-8,19-28

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, Jesse Osborne, and Shirley Nicholson.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

COLLECTION FOR FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

There will be a second collection this weekend for flowers for the decoration of our Church at Christmas. Thanks for your support.

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.

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!

WARM WELCOME CHRISTMAS PARTY

Warm welcome invites all to join them for Christmas celebrations on 13 December. Lunch & Christmas treats provided. All are welcome. Lunch will be offered throughout December as normal.

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!

SIGNING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS

Fr Ignatius will be available to sign school forms for primary school admissions on Tuesday 19 December 2023, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm at the presbytery. Online appointment link, next weekend.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £659.69

Gift-aid: £282.95 **Total: £942.64***

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER

A. Cash / cheques – £4,693.06

1. Gift-Aided – £3,093.24

2. Non-G/A – £3,093.24

B. Standing Orders/Bank Transfers – £2,543.00

1. Gift-Aided – £2,543.00

2. Non-G/A – £192.00

C. Contactless Machine – £928.73

Total = £8,356.79 (Last Month: £9,114.91).

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: tolworthac1@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. RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Monday, 11 December 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.

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. 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.

† 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.

A DEACON ORDAINED FROM OUR PARISH!

We would like to congratulate The Reverend Deacon Tony Simon on his diaconate ordination today, Saturday 9 December 2023 by Mar Joseph Srampickal, bishop of the Catholic Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain.

We wish him a happy and fruitful ministry as a deacon and God's continued guidance as he completes his seminary training towards his ordination to the sacred priesthood next year.

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.