



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDÉTE SUNDAY) – 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – B

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

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

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

18 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Nancy Connolly – WB (<i>C Yap</i>)
19 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	Paul Ward – WB Anna, Kevin & Orla (<i>J Beatty</i>)
20 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	T T Paul – RIP (<i>B Roy</i>) Bridh Crilly & Family (<i>J Beatty</i>)
21 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	Barbara / Daisy Movement (<i>IE</i>) Holy Souls – RIP (<i>L Confait</i>)
22 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	Private Nancy & Noel Ryan – RIP (<i>M Tett</i>)
23 Sat – <i>Feria</i>	9.00	Theresa George – RIP (<i>Robinson</i>)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – B

23 Sat – <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Private (<i>IE</i>)
24 Sunday <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	09.00 11.00	Christopher Byrne – RIP (<i>T Rutter</i>) Jack Hoey – RIP (<i>K&N McGuinness</i>)

CHRISTMAS EVE

First Vigil	17.00	Chris McGuinness – RIP
Second Vigil	19.00	Family & Friends (<i>IE</i>)
Mass in the Night	22.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – People of the Parish

CHRISTMAS DAY

Mass at Dawn	8.00	Harold Wood – RIP
Mass in the Day	9.15	Mr Reginald (<i>Maria</i>)
Mass in the Day	11.00	Anne Shea – RIP (<i>F Evans</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

God of all, John the Baptist came to bear witness to your light. Fill us with faith and courage to act upon it, so that we may shine a light in the darkness and share the love we have found in you. Amen.

CAFOD

REJOICING IN HOPE

Today is *Gaudete Sunday*. This description for the third Sunday of Advent is derived from the opening Latin word of the Entrance Antiphon: “*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Dominus enim prope est*” – “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (Ph 4:4-5).

This year, *Gaudete Sunday* coincides with the beginning of the second part of Advent (17-24 December), the last eight days before Christmas. During this ‘pre-Christmas Octave,’ the gospel readings for the weekdays are drawn from the infancy narratives by the evangelists Matthew (1:1-24) and Luke (1:5-79). These passages highlight the fulfilment of the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament (*the Hebrew Scripture*) in the birth of Christ. The sense of anticipation and fulfilment of the messianic prophecies is reinforced in the Christian people through the liturgical readings, antiphons and prayers. Appreciated within this wider liturgical context, the invitation at the heart of the liturgy of *Gaudete Sunday* reflects the Church’s Advent faith. On the one hand, it expresses the awareness of the closeness of the Lord marked by the approaching celebration of the feast of the Lord’s Nativity at Christmas. On the other hand, it anticipates the fulfilment of the Lord’s promised return at the end of time – the *Parousia*. This is why the Christian people are asked to rejoice.

What does “*Rejoice in the Lord always*” mean? In what sense must we understand this invitation or command? It is worth noting that for the Apostle Paul, rejoicing in the Lord was not about physical or social enjoyment. So, despite their many challenges, especially anxiety about the Lord’s Coming, Paul confidently admonishes Thessalonians in the second reading (1 Th 5:16-24), “*Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.*” For him, joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit and, together with righteousness and peace, constitutes a sign of the presence of the Kingdom of God (see Rm 14:17-20).

Paul here echoes an important insight from the Old Testament where joy is always associated with deliverance and/or forgiveness. A classic example is the song of joy by Moses and the people of Israel after their liberation from the Egyptians (Ex 15:1-19). Also, thankful for being forgiven, David prays in Psalm 51, “*restore to me the joy of your salvation*” (v.12). Similarly, in the first reading, the prophet Isaiah (61:1-2,10-11), expresses Israel’s thanksgiving in the light of God’s promise of deliverance through his Chosen One whom he would endow with his spirit to bring succour to the afflicted and inaugurate the Lord’s year of favour (see Lk 4:17-21; Lev 25). Further, in her song of praise (*the Magnificat*) which makes up the responsorial psalm, Mary’s joy is rooted on God’s graciousness expressed in the mystery of the incarnation. She rejoices because human salvation is already inaugurated by the word taking flesh in her through the Holy Spirit. In other words, the Light that scatters the darkness of sin and fear is already shining inside her.

It is to this mystery that John bears witness in the Gospel (Jn 1:6-8,19-28). His joy lies not in the huge followership that he attracts to the Jordan to listen to and be baptised by him, but in his commitment “*as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.*” Christ is the reason for our joy as believers at the approaching feast of Christmas. Rejoicing in hope reminds us of our salvation through his Incarnation and Paschal Mystery and our duty to bear witness to Him. @IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
2ND READING	Romans 16:25-27
GOSPEL	Luke 1:26-38

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



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

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

The normal Sunday Masses for next weekend are 6.30pm (Saturday 23 Dec), 9am, and 11am. **There will be no 6pm Mass due to Christmas Eve. NB:** Christmas Eve Masses (5pm, 7pm, and 10pm) do not fulfil the Sunday obligation for next weekend.

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.

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. Attendance is strictly by appointment via this link: <https://koalendar.com/e/primary-school-form-signing-for-sept-2024>. Please attend with your child(ren).

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

Our annual Advent Celebration will be held in the old chapel from 7.30-9pm on Tuesday 19 December. Please bring finger food for a shared table. Wine, soft drinks and a free raffle will be provided. Bring a friend. Happy Christmas to all our members.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £713.25

Gift-aid: £328.36 **Total: £1,041.61***

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: 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. PARISH SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

The parish Service of Lessons and Carols is holding this **Sunday 17 December at 3pm**. 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.

3. 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.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The collection taken at all Christmas Masses is your gift to our priest, Fr Ignatius. As usual, envelopes are available in the Narthex. **If you are a member of the parish Gift Aid scheme**, please enter your gift aid number on the envelope to enable tax to be reclaimed for the benefit of the parish. If you do not know your gift aid number, Lance Louis (email tolworthgac1@rcaos.org.uk or phone 07851 070036) will be happy to give it to you.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

1. CHRISTMAS EVE

1) 5pm – Vigil Mass 1

2) 7pm – Vigil Mass 2

3) 10pm – Mass in the Night (*Carol singing – 9.30pm*)

2. CHRISTMAS DAY

1) 8am – Mass at Dawn

2) 9.15am – Mass during the Day 1

3) 11am – Mass during the Day 2

3. CHRISTMAS OCTAVE – DAY 2 (St Stephen)

4. CHRISTMAS OCTAVE – DAY 3 (St John the Evangelist)

5. CHRISTMAS OCTAVE – DAY 4 (The Holy Innocents)

6. CHRISTMAS OCTAVE – DAY 5 (St Thomas of Canterbury)

7. CHRISTMAS OCTAVE – DAY 6

8. CHRISTMAS OCTAVE – DAY 7 (The Holy Family)

9. CHRISTMAS OCTAVE – DAY 8 (Mary, The Holy Mother of God)