



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME –B (WORD OF GOD SUNDAY)

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 IN ORDINARY TIME – B

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

20 Sat – Vigil	18.30	John Richard – RIP (<i>P Morello</i>)
21 Sunday	09.00	<i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People
<i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	11.00	Barry Family (<i>C Stevens</i>)
	18.00	Alexius Yap – RIP (<i>C Yap</i>)

WEEK 3 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR 2)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

22 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Fraser Family Dec'd – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
23 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	Anton Sebastian – RIP Rosemary Gribble – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
24 Wednesday <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	9.30 19.00	Thomas Chivers & Fam– RIP (<i>FM</i>) George & Pat Buggie – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
25 Thursday <i>The Conversion of St Paul (End of Christian Unity Octave)</i>	7.00 9.30	Florence Nta – WB Richard Roy – BD (<i>B Roy</i>)
26 Friday <i>Ss Timothy & Titus</i>	7.00 9.30	Private (<i>IE</i>) Ivan Flanagan – RIP
27 Saturday <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	George & Nubia & Placido Carro

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – B

27 Sat – Vigil	18.30	John Richard – RIP (<i>P Morello</i>)
28 Sunday <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	09.00 11.00 18.00	Dorothy Hawes – RIP (<i>FM</i>) <i>Pro Populo</i> – For the People Antonio Ciaiola – RIP (<i>M Ciaiola</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

Lord, you reaffirm to each of us, "Remain in me, as I remain in you" (Jn. 15:4). We ask you for the grace to put our full trust in your words, which have now become our life. Grant that in constantly offering ourselves for the life of the world, as you did, we may be your friends. In this way, we will always be enveloped in the light from your words and warmed by their grace, permanently abiding in you who are the Word of the Father, full of the Spirit of Love. Amen.
Dicastery for Evangelisation (Rome).

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Today is the Sunday of the Word of God, the fifth since it was introduced by Pope Francis through his Apostolic Letter, *Aperuit illis* (30 September 2019). By setting aside a particular Sunday in the liturgical year to focus principally on the Word of God, Pope Francis reiterates the teaching of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) in its dogmatic constitution on Divine Revelation, about the place of Sacred Scriptures in the life of the Church: "*The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body*" (*Dei verbum*, §21).

The Word of God is always at the centre of the Church's life, inspiring and energizing its mission: "*For in the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven meets His children with great love and speaks with them; and the force and power in the word of God is so great that it stands as the support and energy of the Church, the strength of faith for her sons, the food of the soul, the pure and everlasting source of spiritual life*" (*Ibid.*). On this note, Pope Francis invites the Christian people on this Sunday, to strive to make God's word better known and extensively spread, to help the people of God "*to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures*" (*Aperuit illis*, §15).

Encounter with the Word of God reminds us of an essential truth of God's interaction with humanity, namely, that the God who speaks to us through his sacred word – and fully and definitively through his Son, the word made flesh (Jn 1:1-8; see Hb 1:1) – also desires our response. That we listen and act! Opportunely, today's liturgy of the word, echoes this truth.

In the first reading, the prophet Jonah (3:1-5,10), after an initial resistance (Jo 1-2), surrenders to God's word and sets out straightaway to announce God's message to the people of Nineveh. Unlike the prophet, the people immediately welcome the word, renounce their sins, and embark on penance, from the greatest to the least, including domestic animals. As a result, "*God relented*" and spared them "*the disaster which he had threatened.*" Similarly, the apostle Paul in the second reading (1 Co 7:29-31), underscores the urgency of responding to God's word. His call to the church in Corinth reiterates Jesus' first proclamation as recorded by the evangelist Mark in Gospel (1:14-20): "*The time has come ... and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.*"

It is striking that Mark situates the call of the first disciples within the context of this fundamental proclamation. Their response is equally notable. Instantly, leaving everything and everyone, they followed him. Theirs is a huge leap of faith. Like the Ninevites, their response is inspired, provoked, and fortified by their openness to his call. They accepted and surrendered to his word, allowing it to take flesh in their hearts, transform their lives, and reshape their vision and priorities. Though immediate, their response is not hasty but deeply considered and, consequently, introduces them into a lasting companionship with the Lord. Obviously, this resonates well with the theme of this year's Sunday of the Word of God: "Remain in my word" (Jn 8:31).

According to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelisation (Rome), Jesus' invitation which is expressed in this theme, is "*not to scatter, but to 'remain in him' in a deep and radical unity like that of the branches to the vine (see Jn 15:1-7).*" The fruitfulness of the disciples is deeply rooted in this profound intimacy with the God who, "*in his great love speaks to humankind as friends*" and "*enters into their life (Bar 3,38), so as to invite and receive them into relationship with himself*" (*DV 2*). To remain in his word implies being constantly open to listen to, embrace and cherish God's word by responding to it with faith, hope, and love. © IAE

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1ST READING	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
2ND READING	1 Corinthians 7:32-35
GOSPEL	Mark 1:21-28

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Kathleen Doyle, Nick Furlong, 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, Shirley Nicholson, Vinitha Sherin, and Jisha Nelson.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT THE 9AM MASS

For children between 4 and 8 years who are not in the First Holy Communion programme. It is aimed at giving children an adapted Liturgy of the Word in a context which encourages them to listen, to pray and to respond to the word of God through stories, activities, and drawing. **Venue:** the RDJ Room (near the sacristy).

NEXT WEEKEND: SECOND COLLECTION

Catholic Association for Racial Justice: to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and wider society.

OCTAVE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY (18-25 JANUARY)

Theme: 'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself' (Lk 10:27). Materials have been prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community (CCN): <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/>

LOOKING FOR SHARED ACCOMODATION?

Suitable for single students / workers, and close to public transport. For more information, please ring 07908 000280.



Distribution of the Lenten Boxes commences after all Masses on 3/4 February and 10/11 February. This is so that you have them by the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday (14 February). Please put in any loose change you can afford and return it the first week after Easter Sunday.

Like most things these days, the cost of the boxes has shot up in price. They are now 70p each. So, we would kindly ask you only to take a box if you're going to return it. Similarly, if you have boxes at home which have not been used, please return them and leave in the Narthex. This means more money goes to the five charities the Parish has adopted for 2024 and they desperately need the money.

If you would like to organise or participate in an event during Lent 2024, please contact Phil Townsend on 8399 3481 or email Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE COURSE

As part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a *Building a Better Marriage Course* throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriage better and to improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing, and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting. For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark website: <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

You will have noticed that the walls of the Lady Chapel have looked a little bare since the painting and decorating last summer. The paintings, depicting the 4 mysteries of the rosary, had to be removed for the workmen, but we needed to find a better way of presenting them as they were never hung in a straight line, and for those who are not familiar with what they represent, would be left in the dark. Great news! They have returned, looking better than ever before! Pop into the Lady Chapel and turn and look at the back wall, and hopefully you will find the re-arrangement more helpful.

† KATHLEEN MARY DOYLE – RIP

Please pray for Kathleen Doyle of 33 Ravenscar Road who died at home on Thursday 11 January aged 90 years. **Funeral:** Wednesday 7 February at 11.00am. May she rest in peace. Amen.

† NICK CHARLES FURLONG – RIP

Please pray for Nicholas Furlong of 31 Collingwood Avenue who died at Kingston Hospital on Saturday 13 January aged 78 years. **Funeral:** Monday 5 February at 11.30am. May he rest in peace. Amen.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £372.83

Gift-aid: £670.98 **Total:** £1,043.81*

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: £399.60

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

NEXT CHILDREN SESSION: 27 JAN, 10.30 – 11.30AM.

SERVERS ENROLLED IN THE GUILD OF ST STEPHEN

Last Sunday we enrolled the following into the Guild of St Stephen (the Altar Servers Guild): *Cara Fox, Jenovic Kilobo, Ella Mantillas, Abbegail Robinson, Linet Robinson, Agatha Sasbou, Tomas Spencer, Aidan Thadathil, and Nessie Dabreo.* Certificates of Merit were also awarded to *Ayona Abraham and Clement Suresh.* We congratulate them and all our dedicated servers here at OLI. We are still short of servers and if you can help, please contact Jacques Lambert on 020 8397 2793 or by email on JacquesLambert@rcaos.org.uk.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

"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.