



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – B

28 JANUARY 2024

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – B

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

27 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Private (IE)
28 Sunday	09.00	Dorothy Hawes – RIP (FM)
Racial Justice Day	11.00	Pro Populo – For the People
	18.00	Antonio Ciaiola – RIP (M Ciaiola)

WEEK 4 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR 2)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

29 Monday Feria	9.30	Paul Ward – RIP (FM)
30 Tuesday Feria	9.30 19.00	Private (IE) Rosary Anthony – RIP
31 Wednesday St John Bosco	9.30 19.00	Will Martin (RIP) & Anne Martin Private (IE)
01 Thursday Feria	7.00 9.30	Private (IE) Mary & P Hosey
02 Friday The Presentation of the Lord	7.00 9.30	Private (IE) Arthur, Gay & Hunt Family
03 Saturday Our Lady	9.00	Bernie, Tommy & Maguire Family

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – B

03 Sat – Vigil	18.30	John Davis – RIP (A Davis)
04 Sunday	09.00	Dorothy Hawes – RIP (FM)
Racial Justice Day	11.00	Pro Populo – For the People
	18.00	Antonio Ciaiola – RIP (M Ciaiola)

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, Father of our human family,
 you created all human beings equal in dignity:
 pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
 and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
 dialogue, justice and peace.
 Move us to create healthier societies
 and a more dignified world,
 a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.
 May our hearts be open
 to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
 May we recognise the goodness and beauty
 that you have sown in each of us,
 and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
 and shared dreams. Amen (Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*).

TEACHING WITH AUTHORITY

The Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates Racial Justice Sunday today with the theme, “**Seeing one another in the life of the Church.**” It reminds us that “it is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background.” The resources offered by the Bishops of England and Wales celebrate “the diversity of those who have led holy and exemplary lives.” They remind us that “our Catholic saints walked in this world as we do and were men and women of heroic virtue that can intercede for us to bring our prayers to the Lord.” Exploring “the lives of those great men and women – those who devoted their lives to the pursuit of racial justice, those who emulated God’s passion for justice, which we read about in the scriptures,” according to the lead bishop for Racial Justice, Bishop Paul McAleenan, “will inspire us, teach us, and make us sensitive to the importance of racial justice and why we work for it.” Obviously, the lives of the saints express the diversity not only of race, culture, and background, but also of pathways in witnessing to the Gospel, as a prophetic people and community.

Today’s readings remind us of the prophetic calling of the whole Church as people of God. Anointed with the Holy Spirit at holy baptism, all Christ’s faithful (*bishops, priests, deacons, and laity*) are endowed with a prophetic charism, empowering them to bear witness to the truth in words and deeds. Like Moses, St Paul, and Jesus, the Pope and the Bishops who are in communion with him (*the Magisterium*), as *Successors of the Apostles*, also receive a special charism and the mandate to teach authoritatively in the Church.

The first reading suggests a vision of succession to Moses (Deut 18:15-20). We recall that Moses was not only a great prophet and leader of God’s people, but also an exemplary teacher and lawgiver, a mediator between God and the people of Israel. His authority was derived from his relationship with God (see Ex 33:11) and his closeness to the people (see Ex 18:13). Thus, at the twilight of his life and career, he reassures them that God would raise up for them another prophet from among them who would speak his words with authority. Yet he warns them about the dire consequences for both prophet and people, if they fail to listen to and follow God’s will.

This prophecy is fulfilled ultimately in Jesus (see Matt 5:17-26; 19:7-8). This understanding resonates in today’s Gospel (Mk 1:21-28). Mark the evangelist juxtaposes Jesus’ teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum with the scribes.’ Unlike the latter, Jesus taught with his own authority as the Son of God such that even the unclean spirits obey him. Being true God and true man, Jesus did not rely on the interpretations and / or opinions of others about God or the Laws and Prophets. Since “*I [he] and the Father are one*” (Jn 10:30), no one could know the Father better than him to whom the Father had entrusted everything (see Matt 11:27). Jesus’ authority was deeply rooted in his intimate communion with (and knowledge of) the Father and his will. This gave him the audacity to declare unequivocally, “I came not to abolish the law or the prophets, but to fulfil them” (Matt 5:17). He understood his power as authority to do good (see Acts 10:38), to save and not to destroy life (see Mk 3:1-5), to forgive and liberate and not to condemn (see Matt 9:3-5; Jn 8:11), to serve and not be served (see Matt 20:23; Jn 13:4-5). This is what made a deep impression on the people, and to his apostles and disciples (see Jn 13:12-15), and to all of us, his Church, he gives a similar authority.

As we mark Racial Justice Sunday, it is important to remember, as Pope Francis emphasises in *Fratelli tutti* (2020), §97, that “racism is a virus that quickly mutates and, instead of disappearing, goes into hiding, and lurks in waiting.” Like Jesus, we all have a duty to confront this evil. However, it will only obey us if we do so with the authority not only of knowledge or erudition but also of our example and action.
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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	Job 7:1-4,6-7
2ND READING	1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23
GOSPEL	Mark 1:29-39

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Kathleen Doyle, Nick Furlong and Bernadette Braid, 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).

SECOND COLLECTION

There is a second collection this weekend for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and wider society. Thanks for your generosity.

NEXT WEEKEND: SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection next weekend for Pax Christi.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (2 FEBRUARY)

Friday 2 February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – Candlemas. There will be two Masses in the parish, 7am and 9.30am. The 9.30am Mass will start with blessing of candles at the Old Chapel and procession to the Church. All are welcome!

BLESSING OF THROATS (3 FEBRUARY)

The optional memorial of St Blaise is traditionally marked with the blessing of throats. This will be done at the end of the Mass.

PALM BRANCHES FROM LAST PALM SUNDAY

By Catholic custom, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are derived from the blessed palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. We would like to receive these by Sunday 11 February. Kindly drop them in the designated basket in the narthex. Many thanks.

LOOKING FOR A SHARED ACCOMODATION?

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

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £693.11

Gift-aid: £331.81 **Total:** £1,024.92*

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.



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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

NEXT CHILDREN SESSION: 24 FEB, 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.

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.