



**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG

Tel: 020 8399 9550; E-mail: [tolworth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworth@rcaos.org.uk) + [www.olionline.co.uk](http://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**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

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

06 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Maureen Richardson – RIP
07 Sunday	09.00	Elizabeth & Thomas Wilson – RIP
	11.00	
	18.00	

**WEEK 1 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR 2)**

**EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION:** Monday – Friday at 8.00am

08 Monday <i>The Baptism of the Lord (End of Christmas Time)</i>	9.30	Deceased Members of KSC – RIP
09 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Stephen Fleming – RIP
	19.00	Holy Souls
10 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Paul Ward – WB
	19.00	Andrew Richardson
11 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Maureen Saunders – RIP
	9.30	Sugumar Family – Thanksgiving
12 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Cathy Bull – RIP
	9.30	Ivan Flanagan – RIP
13 Saturday <i>Our Lady</i>	9.00	

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – B**

13 Sat – Vigil	18.30	John Kinahan – RIP ( <i>B Mulcahy</i> )
14 Sunday <i>Peace Day</i>	09.00	Isac & Lucy George - TG <i>Pro Populo – For the People</i>
	11.00	
	18.00	

**OTHER SERVICES**

<b>Eucharistic Exposition</b>	Monday – Friday: 8am
<b>Morning Prayer (Lauds)</b>	Monday – Friday: 9am
<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	Saturday: 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.00pm
<b>Youth Mass</b>	Last Sunday: 6pm Mass
<b>St Anthony of Padua</b>	<b>Tuesday:</b> after morning and evening Masses
<b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</b>	<b>Wednesday:</b> after morning and evening Masses
<b>Our Lady of Fatima</b>	1st Saturday of the month
<b>Syro Malabar Prayer Group</b>	1st Friday of the month: 7pm

**SHARED PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

**PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES ON EPIPHANY**

Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfilment of your law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**WE SAW HIS STAR AND CAME TO DO HIM HOMAGE**

On the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord we celebrate the manifestation, the appearance, the unveiling of the identity and mission of the infant Jesus to the Gentiles.

The Magi (three wise men or kings) were the first non-Jews to encounter Jesus. They represent the openness of the Gentiles to the Good News. The evangelist Matthew highlights this in his account of their epochal visit in the Gospel (Mt 2:1-12), when they describe their mission clearly to the people of Jerusalem, “We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.” This statement shows that they were not motivated merely by the curiosity to see “the infant king of the Jews.”

From the onset, they were well prepared to receive him, as their symbolic gestures and gifts demonstrate: “they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Their outreach reminds us of the prophecy of Isaiah after the exile in the Babylon, in the first reading (Is 60:1-6): “the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you... everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.” Against this background, the Magi exemplify the fulfilment of the inclusive character of the messianic vision charted by the prophet Isaiah. Despite the gloom and difficulties after the return from exile in Babylon, the prophet announces a message of hope, characterised by light and glory, for the people of Israel and all nations: “Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.” In the light of this prophecy, the Magi, by their action, recognise that the mission of Jesus is not only for the people of Israel, but for the Gentiles as well – indeed, for the whole humanity. This is also expressed by the Apostle Paul in the second reading (Ep 3:2-3,5-6). Commenting on the consequences of the universal relevance of God’s revelation in Christ, the apostle explains: “it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.”

Today we recall the example of the Magi. Drawn by the star, they journeyed from distant lands in search of the infant King of the Jews. On finding him, they worshiped him and offered their most precious gifts to him. Though they were wise men, they needed to be directed every step of the way. They relied heavily on the guidance of the star, which led them to their destination, to “the place where the child was ... and filled them with delight.” The star reminds us of the teaching of Vatican II in its Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*, §6, that “God, the beginning and end of all things, can be known with certainty from created reality by the light of human reason (see Rom. 1:20).” Yet, as the Council also asserts, “it is through His revelation that those religious truths which are by their nature accessible to human reason can be known by all men with ease, with solid certitude and with no trace of error, even in this present state of the human race.” This is demonstrated in the visit of the Magi. The star led to the place where the child laid. At that moment, its purpose ended. Their encounter with Jesus, the true light which enlightens all people (Jn 1:9), illumined their hearts (the eyes of faith) to recognise him, and moved them to worship him.

As we mark the Lord’s Epiphany, we are invited to be open to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit which guides us on our life’s journey as missionary disciples of Christ. Like the Magi, we recall that it is only through the light of faith that we will be able to recognise the presence and action of Christ in persons, places, or circumstances that we may, naturally, not anticipate. Finally, like them, we are called to offer our finest gift, ourselves, to him in spirit and in truth. © IAE

**NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS**

<b>1ST READING</b>	1 Samuel 3:3-10,19
<b>2ND READING</b>	1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20
<b>GOSPEL</b>	John 1:35-42

## 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

### RECEPTION FOR OUR NEW DEACON ANTHONY SIMON

Our seminarian, Anthony Simon, who was ordained a deacon for the Syro-Malabar eparchy of Great Britain on 9 December 2023, will be received after the 11am Mass on 7 January. All are warmly invited to the reception in the Church Hall after the Mass.

### NEXT WEEKEND: WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

A second collection will be taken next weekend to support the White Flower Appeal, which is an annual appeal by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC).

SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion.

As well as ending the lives of previous babies, this policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. Please be generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis.

### CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING

Tuesday, 9 January 2024 at 7.20pm in the Church Hall. **NB:** Not for the candidates!

### CRIB OFFERING

Our parish Crib Offering this year will go to support the Catholic Children's Society's (CCS) Southwark Crisis Fund, which provides help for local families who are facing real hardship and have nowhere else to run to. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website [www.cathchild.org.uk/crib](http://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib).

### 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>

### 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.

### † MARGARET THERESA NOAKE – RIP

Please pray for Margaret Theresa Noake, a former parishioner who died peacefully at The Poets Nursing Home on Thursday 7 December aged 100 years.

Our condolences to her children and family.

**Funeral:** Randalls Park Crematorium, Thursday 15 11 January 2024 at 12.30 pm.

May she rest in peace. Amen.

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



### LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £662.63

Gift-aid: £353.70 **Total: £1,016.33\***

### TOTAL COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 2023

(EXCLUDING CHRISTMAS OFFERING)

A. Cash / cheques – £3,276.83

1. Gift-Aided – £3,276.83

2. Non-G/A – £3,647.12

B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £2,565

1. Gift-Aided – £2,375.00

2. Non-G/A – £190.00

C. Contactless Machine – £1,043.30

**Total = £10,532.25 (Last month: £8,356.79)**

**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](http://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](mailto: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:** 13 JAN, 10.30 – 11.30AM.

## WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE

Dear friends in Christ, I want to thank all of you for your warm wishes and generous gifts during the Christmas festivities.

May the Lord bless and keep you and make his face shine upon you and all of yours now and always. Amen.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year 2024.

**Father Ignatius Edet, PP**