



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church  
**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – B**

11 FEBRUARY 2024

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**

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – B**

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

10 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Weadick Family ( <i>P Olliffe</i> )
11 Sunday	09.00	Annie Sharman – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
<b>Day of Prayer for the Sick</b>	11.00	Private ( <i>IE</i> )
	18.00	James Tumilty – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )

**WEEK 6 IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR 2)**

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

12 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Paul Ward – WB
13 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Catherine Yap’s Intentions
	19.00	Michael Ekong – RIP ( <i>IE</i> )

**THE LENTEN SEASON**

14 Wednesday <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7.00	Msgr Joseph P Ekarika – RIP ( <i>IE</i> )
	9.30	Ralf & Lucy Smallwood–WB ( <i>Tett</i> )
	19.00	Private ( <i>IE</i> )
15 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	Amanpour Family
	9.30	Shing Fong – RIP ( <i>J Wong</i> )
16 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00	George & Molly Ryde – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
	9.30	Yuck Hing Chan – RIP ( <i>J Wong</i> )
17 Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.00	Dcn Tony Simon – WB ( <i>M C Taylor</i> )

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (QUADREGESSIMA)**

17 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Jacy Hoey – RIP ( <i>J McGuinness</i> )
18 Sunday	09.00	Valerian Miranda – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
	11.00	Private ( <i>IE</i> )
	18.00	Catherine Yap

**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**

Lord, you invite all who are burdened to come to you.  
 Allow your healing hand to heal me.  
 Touch my soul with your compassion for others;  
 touch my heart with your courage and infinite Love for all;  
 touch my mind with your Wisdom,  
 and may my mouth always proclaim your praise.  
 Teach me to reach out to you in all my needs,  
 and help me to lead others to you by my example.  
 Most loving Heart of Jesus, bring me health in body and spirit that I may serve you with all my strength.  
 Touch gently this life which you have created,  
 now and forever. Amen (*Anon*)

**BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS**

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), around 200,000 people were diagnosed with leprosy before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is not a major health concern in Europe, North America, Oceania and Antarctica. Here in the UK, for example, 75 cases were notified between 2011 and 2020 compared to 373 cases between 1951 and 1960. Meanwhile, the scourge of this chronic infectious disease, its diagnosis, treatment, and the rehabilitation of sufferers continue to receive global attention. Development in modern medicine has provided a cure for it. Based on WHO’s regulations, treatment is supposed to be free globally. Nonetheless, many millions are still living with leprosy-related disabilities, especially across Asia, Africa, and South America. Discrimination and stigmatisation against persons affected by it are still common in many places. Rare or common, the disease has left a lasting impact on society, not least by providing a lexicon for describing and/or labelling the excluded and the rejected. Their stories and experiences were not unfamiliar to Jesus and should also be a major concern for us who are called to be his imitators today.

The first reading (Lv 13:1-2,44-46) outlines how those afflicted by leprosy or other virulent skin diseases were treated among the Jews. After a diagnosis by Aaron and his sons (the priests), they were to be ostracised from the community and barred from making contact with others until they were confirmed cured by the priests. The public health concern behind this protocol is legitimate. However, its impact on the victims were excruciating and, to say the least, dehumanising. Jesus’ encounter with the leper in the Gospel (Mk 1:40-45) clearly deviates from the Levitical norm and the social practice of the Jews of his time. He allowed the leper to come to him. He made himself accessible. He healed him, made him clean by touching him. He was not concerned about being considered contaminated by touching a leper. Of course, the risk was real! His response is rooted on the need of the sufferer before him, not on his safety or social standing and reputation. It resonates with his encounters with people on the margins (see Matt 9:9-13; Mk 5:25-34; Lk 7:37-50; 19:1-10; Jn 4). Indeed, more than St Paul in the second reading (1 Co 10:31-11:1), Jesus was totally “*anxious for...the advantage of everybody else.*”

We cannot overlook the role of the leper in this encounter. He took the ‘initiative’ to break the barrier, by reaching out to Jesus. He defied the law that segregated people like him and consigned them to hiding: “*As long as the disease lasts, he must be unclean; and therefore, he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.*” Would he have dared to come to Jesus if he had not heard about him and his encounters with others like him? Like the woman with the issue of blood, he must have trusted that Jesus will not turn him away, that he will cure him (Mt 9: 20-22; Mk 5:25-34; Lk 8:43-48). Thus, his coming to Jesus can be seen in a different way which is also theologically significant. That is, as a response in faith to a prior divine initiative without which no one can come Jesus (Jn 6:44). The faith of the leper is rooted on his openness, attentiveness and response to the presence and action of God in Jesus Christ.

The correlation between divine initiative and human response demonstrated in the healing of the leper by Jesus, is echoed by Pope Francis: “*If a therapy is to be effective, it must have a relational aspect, for this enables a holistic approach to the patient ... The Gospel frequently makes this clear by showing that Jesus heals not by magic but as the result of an encounter, an interpersonal relationship, in which God’s gift finds a response in the faith of those who accept it. As Jesus often repeats: ‘Your faith has saved you’*” (Message for World Day of the Sick 2021, §4). As imitators of Christ, may we, like him and the leper, break down barriers and reach out to those who are excluded or stigmatised. © **IAE**

**NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS**

<b>1ST READING</b>	Genesis 9:8-15
<b>2ND READING</b>	1 Peter 3:18-22
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Mark 1:12-15

## PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Tony Butcher, Joan McGovern, Michael Ekong, 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, 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

### ASH WEDNESDAY: 14 MARCH

There will be 3 Masses and imposition of blessed ashes: **7am, 9.30am, and 7pm**. It is a day of fast and abstinence!

Lent is a period of intense preparation for the celebration of the greatest feast of all, the feast of Redemption at Easter. It is a springtime of the soul, a time of spiritual rebirth, a time of renewal in our commitment to following the Lord through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (or charitable works).

### SECOND COLLECTION: CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

The clergy of our diocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for our parishes.

You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF)

You can also donate via telephone during office hours Mon-Fri **020 7960 2504** or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available today at the back of the Church.

Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers. Thank you!

### COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Challoner School invites local pensioners to a **Community Afternoon Tea and Entertainment** from 2 to 4pm on Thursday 14 March at the school. Our Hospitality and Catering students will be preparing the food, and there will be entertainment provided by our Music and Drama students. If you would like to attend, please complete this Google Form by Wednesday 6 March. <https://forms.gle/F9twf5XaYAJNo17U7> – the number of guests will be limited to 50 people in total and we are unable to offer transport to the event.

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



### LAST WEEKEND

**Non-Gift-aid:** £719.68

**Gift-aid:** £317.67 **Total:** £1,037.35\*

**2ND COLLECTION (Pax Christi):** £155.21

**CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERING:** £811.50

**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.



Distribution of the Lenten Boxes commences after all Masses this weekend 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](mailto:Townsend4@blueyonder.co.uk)

## LENTEN PROGRAMME 2024

- 1. Stations of the Cross:** Friday after 9.30 Mass (English) and 5–6pm (Syro Malabar Community)
- 2. Vespers (Evening Prayer of the Church):** Sunday 18 Feb 4pm
- 3. Vespers (Evening Prayer of the Church):** Sunday 3 March 4pm
- 4. Service on the 7 Last Words on the Cross:** TBC
- 5. Lenten Reconciliation Service:** Monday 25 March 7pm

## PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

24-31 May 2024 for a charter flight from Birmingham or a Eurostar option from St Pancras, 23-31 May. For further information, please contact 020 8848 9833; or visit [www.soll-lourdes.com](http://www.soll-lourdes.com); or call your parish contact, Allan Cook on 020 8399 4368.

## 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.

## NEW PARISH PRIEST & CURATE

As I announced three weeks ago, Archbishop John has kindly approved my request for a leave to work in the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas (USA) for three years.

The pastoral care of the parish has been entrusted by him to the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans or CSSp) of the English Province with **Fr Michael Ezenwamadu CSSp** currently parish priest of St Mary Magdalene, Brockley as Parish Priest and **Fr Boniface Ayoo CSSp** as his assistant.

I will be leaving the parish after morning Mass on 2 March.

Though I will say a proper thank you in due course, I would like to thank everyone in the parish for your love, prayers, encouragement, collaboration, and generosity since I joined this wonderful ecclesial family of OLI in September 2018. I could not have asked for a better parish as a parish priest. Thank you also for your kind understanding and good wishes since my leaving was announced.

I have no doubt that, in the true OLI spirit of active participation and collaboration between the clergy and people, you will warmly welcome and support my successor and his assistant. Thanks.

**NB: A farewell celebration will be organized in early Summer!**