



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – 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. Michael Ezenwamadu, CSSp + **Curate:** Fr Boniface Ayoo, CSSp + **Secretary:** Mrs Denise Kidd

School: Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School + **Headteacher:** Mr Ben Martin

MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – B

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

02 Sat – Vigil	18.30	Miranda Family – Thanksgiving
03 Sunday	09.00	Angelica D’Agostino – RIP (<i>Franco</i>)
RCIA: First Scrutiny	11.00	Joe Cullinan – RIP (<i>P Grogan</i>)
	18.00	Pro Populo – For the People

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am

04 Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30	Eusebio M Placeres – RIP
05 Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	Carole Flanagan & Sons(<i>M-J Gray</i>) Denis D’Mello – RIP (<i>FM</i>)
06 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30 19.00	Jenny Flanagan – WB (<i>M-J Gray</i>) Brian McCuster (<i>E McNambe</i>)
07 Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	Bernie McGuire (<i>L W McNambe</i>) Nirmala Rayappu – RIP (<i>Peter</i>)
08 Friday <i>Feria</i>	7.00 9.30	McGinn Family (<i>E McNambe</i>) Michael & Ortanza Aletrari – RIP
09 Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.00	Tony Kocherry (<i>K Fox</i>)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE) – B

09 Sat – Vigil	18.30	John Davis
10 Sunday	09.00 11.00 18.00	Mary Keenan Pro Populo – For the People Graham & Sheree Aitken – WB

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

- Give up harsh words: Use generous ones.
 - Give up unhappiness: Take up gratitude.
 - Give up anger: Take up gentleness and patience.
 - Give up pessimism: Take up hope and optimism.
 - Give up worrying: Take up trust in God.
 - Give up complaining: Value what you have.
 - Give up stress: Take up prayer.
 - Give up judging others: Discover Jesus within them.
 - Give up sorrow and bitterness: Fill your heart with joy.
 - Give up selfishness: Take up compassion for others.
 - Give up being unforgiving: Learn reconciliation.
 - Give up words: Fill yourself with silence and listen to others.
- ~ CAFOD Prayer for a Special Lenten Fast

REBUILDING OUR LIVES AS GOD’S TEMPLE

The cleansing of the Temple is an important episode in the public ministry of Jesus. This is why it is recorded by the three synoptic Gospels (Matt 21:12-17; Mk 11:15-19 and Lk 19:45-48) and by John (2:13-25) whose account is read in today’s Gospel. All four evangelists agree that this episode took place in the Temple and before the Passover. Nonetheless, John’s account differs from the synoptists (Matthew, Mark and Luke) in two main ways, namely, context and content.

John situates the event at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry whereas the latter keeps it close to its end, precisely a week before his passion and death. For the synoptists, the action of Jesus was not just provocative, it was also the climax of his ‘insubordination’ to the Jewish authorities and, consequently, a catalyst for his arrest, prosecution, and crucifixion. For John, however, it signalled the non-conformist attitude with which Jesus would carry out his public ministry. It encapsulates the faithfulness of Jesus to doing nothing but the Father’s will, even to the point of giving up his life on the Cross.

Regarding content, John offers a comparatively more detailed narrative than the others. It includes, among others, a dialogue (actually, confrontation) between Jesus and the Temple authorities. They do not just stand by as victims of Jesus’ righteous anger. They questioned the authority behind his audacity. Instead of appealing to any authority in his defence, he challenged them with a seemingly ridiculous statement: “*Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.*” Unsurprising, his original audience did not understand that he was not referring to the magnificent sanctuary in Jerusalem, but to himself. That is why his adversaries would later cite it in their accusations against him before the Sanhedrin: “*We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands’*” (Mk 14:58).

Jesus’ actions and words are significant: “*Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the moneychangers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, ‘Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.’*” It is important to acknowledge the humanity of Jesus on display in this encounter. No pretensions about his anger! Still, he channelled it in a healthy and liberating manner to confront evil and restore order. He was not afraid to confront evil head-on. But he never acted from self-interest. He was preoccupied with the Father’s will. He resonates Psalm 69:9, “*Zeal for your house devours me and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.*” Besides, his action situates him within the tradition of Israel’s prophets who had to confront evil without any fear or favour (see Matt 22:16).

Jesus’ action also correlates with the Ten Commandments (*the Decalogue*) in the first reading (Ex 20:1-17). The turning of God’s house into a market by the merchants contradicted both the love of God and love of neighbour (Mt 22:37-39). At the time of Jesus, the temple trade which was meant to help pilgrims to procure sacrificial items had become grossly abused. Motivated by profit, it also became a means of exploitation, especially of the poor. Therefore, by his action, Jesus ultimately reasserts God’s sovereignty, holiness and supreme prerogatives as well as the dignity of the human person. Besides, by his death and resurrection, the Temple in Jerusalem has been surpassed by his body, the Temple par excellence, not made by human hands. Through Baptism, we have also become God’s Temple (1 Co 3:16). That is why whatever we do to the least of his brothers and sisters is done for God (Mt 25:31-46; see Acts 9:4).

This Lent, we are invited to rebuild our lives in union with God. By intensifying prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we trust that the old self in us will be destroyed so that the new be raised up at Easter. © IAE

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

1ST READING	2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23
2ND READING	Ephesians 2:4-10
GOSPEL	John 3:14-21

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE



Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Mark De Negri, 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, 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, Jisha Nelson, and Ralph Smallwood.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £726.50

Gift-aid: £300.50 **Total:** £1,027.00*

CAFOD FAMILY FAST: £359.09

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 2024

A. Cash / cheques – £4,764.84

1. Gift-Aided – £1,700.17

2. Non-G/A – £3,064.67

B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £2,716

1. Gift-Aided – £2,476.00

2. Non-G/A – £240.00

C. Contactless Machine – £1,001.97

Total = £8,482 (Last month: £9,648.52)

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.

LENTEN PROGRAMME 2024

1. Stations of the Cross: Friday after 9.30 Mass (*English*) and 6pm (*Syro Malabar Community*)

4. Service on the 7 Last Words on the Cross: TBC

5. Lenten Reconciliation Service: Monday 25 March 7pm

A THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM FR IGNATIUS

I want to thank you all, beloved brothers and sisters, for your love, care, support, and generosity to me for the past five years and five months of my pilgrimage with you, as your fellow missionary disciple and your parish priest here in OLI. It has been an undeserved honour, privilege and blessing serving here. I treasure every opportunity and challenge I have had here and will remain always grateful for everything. You'll always be part of my journey. I love and miss you all! Gracias!!

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



YEAR OF PRAYER /JUBILEE YEAR 2025

After the year dedicated to reflection on the documents and study of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis has proposed that 2024 be marked as a 'Year of Prayer.' Useful resources are available on the official website:

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

WELCOME TO FR MICHAEL & FR BONIFACE

A warm welcome to Frs Michael and Boniface as they join OLI this week, respectively, as Parish Priest and Assistant Priest. Wishing them a happy and successful ministry in the parish!

DIOCESAN AWARD FOR ALLAN COOK

Congratulations to Allan Cook on being awarded the *Fideliter Servienti* award of the Archdiocese of Southwark by Archbishop John Wilson in recognition of his faithful services to our parish. The certificate and the medal will be bestowed by Fr Ignatius at his final Mass as PP on Saturday 2 March at 7am.

SECOND COLLECTION 09/10 MARCH

There will be a second collection next week to support flowers and decoration of our church for Easter. Thank you for your generosity.

EVENING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH CANCELLED

To help Fr Michael to settle in, we regret to cancel this Lenten liturgical activity this Sunday. Thanks for your understanding.

SIGN OF PEACE DURING MASS

A few parishioners have recently asked about shaking hands during the 'Sign of Peace' at Mass. There is no prohibition against doing so if you want to, just as there is none in other settings. So, please feel free to give and receive the sign of peace as it was customary before the Covid-related restrictions.

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH

The Southwark Catholic Youth Service has re-launched several activities in 2024 for those aged 10-35. For more details about what is on offer, please sign up to our network at tinyurl.com/scysnetwork or scan the QR code on the narthex poster to receive updates.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT

1. SPONSORED WALK: On Saturday 9th March 2024, there is going to be a challenging 38 km (24 mile) sponsored walk to raise funds for the Parish Lenten Project. Led by Fr Michael, we will set off from OLI Church, walk along the river to Richmond and then walk a circuit of Richmond Park, before retracing our steps. If you think that the full walk is too far, please do come along and walk part of the course with us. Please contact Elspeth (elspeth.casey@virginmedia.com) if you are interested in taking part. To sponsor us, either pop some money in an envelope and post through the Presbytery door, or use the following Justgiving site : www.justgiving.com/page/our-lady-immaculate-church-1707849174051 Many thanks for your support!

2. TABLETOP SALE 16TH & 17TH MARCH: This popular event will be held after the 6.30 Mass on Saturday 16 March and after the 9.00 and 11.00 Masses on Sunday 17 March. Items sold will include plants; kitchenware; toys and games; DVD's and audiobooks; books and much much more! Refreshments will be provided, and it will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends and support the Lenten Project.

NB: 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

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.