



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – B**

21 APRIL 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.olonline.co.uk](http://www.olonline.co.uk) + **Parish Office:** Mon-Fri from 10am to 2pm  
**Parish Priest:** Fr. Michael Ezenwammadu, CSSp, [michaeezenwammadu@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:michaeezenwammadu@rcaos.org.uk)  
**Curate:** Fr Boniface Ayoo, CSSp, [bonifaceayoo@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bonifaceayoo@rcaos.org.uk) + **Secretary:** Mrs Denise Kidd  
**School:** Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School + **Headteacher:** Mr Ben Martin

<b>MASS INTENTIONS AND PRAYERS</b>		
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
<b>LIVESTREAM LINK: <a href="https://www.olonline.co.uk">https://www.olonline.co.uk</a></b>		
20 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Tom & Chris McGuinness & James Byrne – RIP ( <i>J McGuinness</i> )
21 Sunday	09.00	Seamus Leonard – RIP ( <i>Houston</i> ) Jimmy Simon - WB
	11.00	Keith Reid – RIP ( <i>M-J Gray</i> )
	18.00	Pro Populo – People of the Parish
<b>FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER</b>		
<b>EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION: Monday – Friday at 8.00am</b>		
22 Monday <i>Feria</i>	09.30	John Power – RIP ( <i>Joan &amp; Family</i> )
23 Tuesday <i>St George</i>	09.30	Dec'd Mems of Furlong Family Janice Ryan – Ints ( <i>M Tett</i> )
	19.00	
24 Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	09.30	Richard Bottell – RIP ( <i>M-J Gray</i> ) Patrick Parker – RIP ( <i>FM</i> )
	19.00	
25 Thursday <i>St Mark</i>	07.00	Gerry Taylor – Ints ( <i>M Tett</i> ) Jack Hoey – RIP ( <i>R Lee</i> )
	09.30	
26 Friday <i>Feria</i>	07.00	Private Intention Hutchinson Family – RIP ( <i>R Lee</i> )
	09.30	
27 Saturday <i>Feria</i>	09.00	Veronica Elizabeth Ann – WB
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
27 Sat <i>Vigil</i>	18.30	Tommy Lydon – RIP ( <i>Lydon Fam</i> )
28 Sunday	09.00	Ottavio D'Agostino – RIP ( <i>Franco</i> ) Pro Populo – People of the Parish Miss Bridgette Fam & Friends( <i>FM</i> )
	11.00	
	18.00	

<b>OTHER SERVICES</b>	
<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**

Gracious and loving God,  
 we thank you for the gift of our priests.  
 Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen  
**USCCB**

**UNFAILING LOVE FOR THE SMELLY SHEEP**




The figure of the Shepherd at the time of Jesus Christ was a very marginalised one. It was totally the opposite of the contemporary sweet image of the adorable shepherd, blond haired and blue-eyed Jesus, with a cute little lamb in his arms. It is actually radically derogatory for Jesus to call himself the Good Shepherd. Shepherds were not educated people and they could not read or write which means they could not read the Holy Book. Consequently, as they could not read or participate in religious worship, they were considered religious outcasts and looked down on. They were considered as being outside God's salvation and not figures to be emulated. However, and ironically, they were the only people to lay down their lives for their sheep. Jesus repeats the phrase 'lay down my life' five times during his discourse about being the Good Shepherd. It is this laying down of their lives that makes the Shepherd to be called Good. To love truly, one has to be an outcast in a rational society that values individualism and worships the self. Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, left his state as God and died on the cross as man in order to save us. Love will make you foolish, do stupid and dangerous things and throw logic away. According to Blaise Pascal, "Love has its reason of which reason knows nothing."

The laying down of life is an act of love that is beyond reason. The Good Shepherd turns his body into a gate and anyone coming for the sheep will come for him first. This is an irrational act that will not be permitted in our modern rational world. However, there is often no rational explanation for certain acts of love. This is why we go to the extreme to care for those we love and do things that are unimaginable for them. Many parents and grandparents can relate to that. Love is constant and unconditional; the work of the shepherd is 24/7. The shepherd must constantly watch over the sheep and move them to new pasture and will not take a break or go on vacation. This is the same with God in loving us. God never takes his eyes away from us no matter what we do or where we are. Again, many parents and grand-parents can identify with this. They never stop loving their children or grandchildren even when they have grown. The Good Shepherd shows us that we have no excuse to ever stop loving others.

Also, the reality that they lay down their lives for sheep is very significant because of the negative stereotype of sheep. Sheep are not really considered nice animals. They are considered as unintelligent and irrational. They smell and nobody keeps them as pets. They are very vulnerable and cannot protect themselves. They can attract wild animals that in attacking them will often attack and maim the shepherd. However, it is these sheep that the Good Shepherd loves so much and values more than his own life. The way that the Good Shepherd loves the sheep is a symbol of how God loves and values us. We are weak and nothing but he loves us passionately. He cannot do without us.

The message of the Good Shepherd is an invitation to become an outcast and to lay down our lives in order to serve, flourish and save others. Relationship is seeing the good in others, looking for the good that needs to be done for others and ensuring that this good is done. Leadership is not about personal aspiration and achievement but, instead, about service, collaboration, welcoming everyone and sacrifice. Also, it is a clear message to every one of us that we are loved so intensely by God. Each one of us is precious, protected and worth giving his life for.  
**Fr. Michael**

<b>NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS</b>	
<b>1ST READING</b>	Acts 9:26-31
<b>2ND READING</b>	John 3:18-24
<b>GOSPEL</b>	John 15:1-8

PRAYERS REMEMBRANCE		PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS	
	Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Rian Jack Nolan and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May their souls rest in peace. Amen	<b>SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL</b> St George's Cathedral, Southwark, is the mother church of the Diocese. This collection helps meet the cost of its upkeep.	
	Please remember to pray for the sick, for their healing, well-being 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 Ingrasci, 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, Ralph Smallwood, Adam Martin, Mark Draper, Gerry Taylor and Janice Ryan.	<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b> When booking anniversary Masses for the dead, please indicate that it is a death anniversary. If you wish, please add the number of years since your loved one passed away. From now on we will book two or three Mass intentions for the same date and time. However, please note, the Masses will therefore later be discharged to other priests in communities and monasteries to be said.	
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS		<b>HALL BOOKING REQUESTS</b> Hall / Old Chapel booking forms are now available from the Parish Office. The filling & submission of the form is one of the requirements for booking the Church, Parish Hall & Old Chapel.	
	<p><b>LAST WEEKEND</b>  <b>Non-Gift-aid:</b> £682.79  <b>Gift-aid:</b> £558.25                      <b>Total: £1,241.04</b>  <b>2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION (Priest Training Fund): £366.50</b>  <b>TOTAL COLLECTION FOR MARCH 2024</b></p> <p>A. Cash / cheques – £4,784.37  1. Gift-Aided – £1,415.38  2. Non-G/A – £3,368.99</p> <p>B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £2,519  1. Gift-Aided – £2,351  2. Non-G/A – £240</p> <p>C. Contactless Machine – £1,019.70  <b>Total = £8,395.07 (Last month: £8,482)</b></p> <p><b>RCAS TOLWORTH, Account Number: 06467032; Sort Code: 60-21-05.</b>  <b>All CHEQUES payable to: RCAS TOLWORTH</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> 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.</p>	<b>A NEW PARISH NEWSLETTER</b> A new Parish Newsletter will be trialled on the weekend of 27 <sup>th</sup> / 28 <sup>th</sup> of April. This may replace our use of the Mass book when the Mass book is phased out because of the new translation.	
*Excluding standing orders & online payments – the monthly total of which will be published on or after the first weekend of every new month.		<b>UNCOLLECTED GIFT AID ENVELOPES</b> Gift Aid members who pay by weekly envelopes and those who pay by standing orders or online transfers who have not yet collected their box of envelopes for the coming tax year should please collect them from the Parish Office. Thank you.	
		<b>DAY OF PRAYER AND RENEWAL</b> Given by Canon Gerard Bradley For Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who were not able to make the Advent event. Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April at St Catherine of Siena Church Chessington, Begins with Holy Mass at 10.30 – Ends at 3pm Lunch provided. Numbers please to Fr Peter Sebastian <a href="mailto:petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk">petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk</a>	
		PARISH LENTEN PROJECT	
		<b>SOUTH INDIAN NIGHT:</b> An amazing sum of <b>£2,371.00</b> was raised for the Lenten Project. Thank you to the Syro-Malabar Community for terrific organisation, hospitality, and entertainment and to all who participated in or sponsored the event.	
		<b>SRI LANKAN NIGHT – SAT 11 MAY, 7.30PM-11.30PM</b> Please come and enjoy a variety of Sri Lankan food and entertainment. Tickets – Adults £15; children 5-15yrs old - £10. Contact Joe & Antionette on 07956 891504 or 020 8399 6491. All proceeds go to the Lenten Project.	
		Thank you so much to all those who have been donating to our Parish Lenten Project. May God bless you all. <b>Fr. Michael</b>	
		FOOD BANK DONATIONS	
		Kingston Foodbank at present is particularly short of tinned meat, tinned potatoes, tinned tomatoes, longlife milk, pasta sauce, fruit squash, rice, pot noodles, jam, ketchup and mayonnaise, household cleaning items, sanitary towels, toilet paper, crisps and treats, razors, shaving cream, shower gel and toothbrushes. Thank you so much for your continued generosity!	
		† MASTER RIAN JACK NOLAN – RIP	
		Please kindly remember in your prayers, Rian Jack Nolan (13yrs) who passed away on 10 April 2024. May he rest in peace. Amen.	
2024 – YEAR OF PRAYER			
The 2024 Year of Prayer, designated by Pope Francis, began last Advent – this is in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'. There is a particular focus on the <i>Our Father</i> , and this presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. To mark this New Year and the Year of Prayer, the Archdiocese of Southwark has been encouraging people to #GivePrayerAGO through an online campaign. <b>Prayer is strength for the weak and opens our hearts to Christ. Make 2024 the year you #GivePrayerAGO</b>			
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS 2024			
At St George's Cathedral or a 'Hub' location around the diocese or join on Zoom. Tuesday evenings – 23, 30 April & 7, 21 & 28 May. Plus, an all day retreat at St George's on Saturday 18 May. For more details visit: <a href="http://bit.ly/LISS2024">bit.ly/LISS2024</a>			