



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – B

28 APRIL 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. Michael Ezenwammadu, CSSp, michaelenzenwammadu@rcaos.org.uk

Curate: Fr Boniface Ayoo, CSSp, bonifaceayoo@rcaos.org.uk + **Secretary:** Mrs Denise Kidd

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



Spiritans

Our Lady Immaculate RC Church, Tolworth

GOD WRITES STRAIGHT WITH CROOKED LINES

My dear friends today we celebrate the fifth Sunday of Easter year B. In the first reading, we hear about the life of St. Paul soon after his conversion on the road to Damascus. After preaching there, he was forced to flee due to the danger to his life from the Jews. The interesting thing, however, is that instead of escaping to a safe unknown place, he goes to the one place we probably wouldn't expect him to go: Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a place where neither the church nor the Jews would accept him. After the stoning of Stephen, Paul was returning to Jerusalem and essentially continuing the very work Stephen had done in the promotion of the gospel. Just when things were beginning to get out of hand, God sent Barnabas, whose name means "Encourager", to convince the disciples in Jerusalem that Saul indeed had a genuine conversion and was now one of them. He, however, continued to face opposition from the Hellenists. To protect Saul, the disciples helped Saul to get out of town by taking him to the seaport of Caesarea and sending him to Tarsus, which was his home town. There is an old saying, which some attribute to St. Theresa of Avila, it says "God writes straight with crooked lines". Certainly, Saul was a very crooked line! For a moment, imagine being in the place of Saul after the encounter at Damascus. Imagine everything you thought about your entire life, all your convictions, all your beliefs, everything that you held close to your heart is taken away from you and what's worse, you have no one to turn to. Though our human life often seems to be full of weaknesses and mistakes, conflicts and confusions, God can achieve his purpose. The challenges we face in life are sometimes the ways of God, waking us from our slumber and strengthening our faith. If ever you have felt down in the dumps, if you felt like there is no way out, we have Saul to look up to. Perhaps, we cannot undo our mistakes, but there is no reason to let the mistakes define us. We can always bounce back. Saul was a famous persecutor but also an undeniably instrument in the spread of the faith. If you are in the position of Saul, if you are a crooked line, don't worry, God can still work with you.

Fr Boniface

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 28 APRIL 2024 — 5 MAY 2024

Sat 27	18.30: Tommy Lydon - RIP (<i>Lydon Family</i>)	
Sun 28	09.00: Ottavio D'Agostino - RIP (<i>F D'Agostino</i>), & Ted & Christina Crowley 50th Wedding ANN,	11.00: Pro Populo - People of the Parish 18.00: Miss Bridgette's Family & Friends (<i>FM</i>)
Mon 29	09.30: Mary Linstead - RIP (<i>FM</i>)	
Tues 30	09.30: Kathleen Flynn - RIP (<i>Eileen & Susan</i>)	19.00: Theresa Mitchell - RIP (<i>P Mitchell</i>)
Wed 1	09.30: Bernard Lyons - RIP (<i>C Yap</i>)	19.00: Private Intentions
Thurs 2	07.00: Jimmy Simon - Recovery	09.30: Dennis Peiris - RIP (<i>M Peiris</i>)
Fri 3	07.00: Private Intention	09.30: Keith Lewis - RIP (<i>L Louis</i>)
Sat 4	09.00: Jovita Daroy - Private Intentions	
Sat 4	18.30: Severine Rodrigues - RIP (<i>Rodrigues Family</i>)	
Sun 5	09.00: Nathan Louis (<i>Louis Family</i>),	11.00: David & Danny Docherty - RIP (<i>M-J Gray</i>) 18.00: Pro Populo - People of the Parish

EUCCHARISTIC 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 NOVENA: TUESDAY: after morning and evening Masses

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA: WEDNESDAY: after morning and evening Masses



REMEMBRANCE: 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

THE SICK: 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, Ralph Smallwood, Adam Martin, Mark Draper, Gerry Taylor, Janice Ryan and Bernadette Mitchell.

A Gentle reminder: Please turn off your mobile phones. You have the right to remain silent

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 97: 1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

The Gloria Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First reading: Acts 9:26-31**Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm 21(22):26-28,30-32

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever!

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,

all families of the nations worship before him;

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,

declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

'These things the Lord has done.'

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Second reading: 1 John 3:18-24**The commandment of faith and love**

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation: Jn15:4,5

Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 15:1-8**I am the vine, you are the branches**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I

make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.’

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *(At the words that follow, up to and including ‘and became man’, all bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was

buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer over the Offerings: O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Jn 15: 1, 5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion: Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.

Where is Home?

Often, home is framed in discussions as a physical space, as a transition and as an idea representing love and peace. As a place, it is located in a certain space where one gets peace and comfort. It can also be associated with sense of peace, love and welcoming that one gets from a certain location. On the other hand, home can be understood as a transition of origin, where one begins from and let’s go in order to return or imagine returning again. Simultaneously, the individual is rooted and released in home. However, home is very difficult to define but you may know it when you are there. Hence, Jesus tells us to make our home in Him today for when we are in Him, we know that we are in the ideal home. Home is when we are surrounded by people that love us and in Jesus, we are surrounded by love itself. Home is not just about a space for our immediate family, it can be the source of our brokenness and wounds, and it is also the space of the family of God. Cut off from the family of God, is death in all it’s forms. However, in home, we can always be taken back whenever we return for we live permanently in God’s heart. Houses will get old and dilapidated but God’s home lasts forever. God’s love for you is forever, nothing can ever erase your place in the heart of God. Home is a place where we run back to when things are tough, we run back to God when things are challenging and God will use everything, including our human family, to help and restore us. In this space of return, we can dry our tears at our own pace and laugh without feeling shy. This is because in home, we feel safe, secure, welcomed, sustained, loved and accepted. We feel aligned with what makes us comfortable and happy. Home is used to establish our identity. People talk about being British, Irish, Indian or Sri Lankan when they are asked “where is home?” As Christians, our identity is in God for He is our beginning and end. We feel so true to ourselves and others when God is our home. According to Oprah Winfrey, “when you invite people to your home, you invite them to yourself.” Jesus is inviting us to himself and to be one with him.

Fr. Michael

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK:

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL St George's Cathedral, Southwark, is the mother church of the Diocese. This collection helps meet the cost of its upkeep.

MASS INTENTIONS 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.

PENTECOST 2024: Pentecost Sunday is 19th of May and it is the feast for the Church and for the Spiritans who serve you. The Spiritans are named after the Holy Spirit and were founded on a Pentecost day. There will be a special Pentecost Mass at the 11am Mass. We are asked to come with our cultural attire in order to represent the unity in diversity of nations and cultures of our Church. There will be light refreshment after Mass. The Spiritans will be having the first of their two mission appeals on that day.

Pentecost Novena starts on the 10 May till the 18 May. It is the oldest novena of the Church and copies of the Novena will be made available next Sunday.

HALL BOOKING REQUESTS 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.

UNCOLLECTED GIFT AID ENVELOPES There are still some boxes of envelopes remaining. Please collect from the Parish Office. Thank you.

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT

SRI LANKAN NIGHT – SAT 11 MAY, 7.30PM-11.30PM

Please come and enjoy a variety of Sri Lankan food and entertainment. Tickets – Adults £15; children 5-15yrs old - £10. Contact Joe & Antonette on 07956 891504 or 020 8399 6491. All proceeds go to the Lenten Project.

JUMBLE SALE : 18 MAY 12 - 2PM Please come along and pick up a real bargain. Top quality items will be sold at rock bottom prices. If you would like to donate anything, please bring

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS



LAST WEEKEND

Non-Gift-aid: £737.85

Gift-aid: £333.43

Total: £1,071.28*

*Excluding standing orders & online payments – the monthly total of which will be published on or after the first weekend of every new month.

RCAS TOLWORTH, Account Number: 06467032; Sort Code: 60-21-05.

All **CHEQUES** made payable to: **RCAS TOLWORTH**

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.

your donations along to the Presbytery during Office hours or the RC Parish Hall on the morning of the sale. No rubbish please! Many thanks for your support

Thank you so much to all those who have been donating to our Parish Lenten Project. May God bless you all. **Fr. Michael**

† 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.

CELEBRATING MIGRANTS AT ST GEORGE'S

CATHEDRAL The Annual Mass for London Migrant Workers in honour of St Joseph the Worker is on **Monday 6th May 2024** at **St George's Cathedral, London SE1 6HR** at **12.30pm**. All are invited. Please come early. You are welcome to come in national dress if you would like to take part in the banner procession at 12.15pm. The Mass is hosted by the three London Catholic Diocese, supported by the Justice and Peace Commissions and Ethnic Chaplaincies, Caritas Brentwood and London Citizens UK. in celebration of all the people who live, work and contribute to life across our city.

SHARED PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Today, as pilgrims in search of hope, we cling to you, Risen Jesus. We turn our backs on death, and open our hearts to you, for you are life itself. Amen

- **Pope Francis**

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SCRIBES

MOSES

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PREACH

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SERVANT

CHAIR

LISTEN

PRACTISE

