



25 AUGUST 2024

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 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, michaelezenwamandu@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

An Inoffensive Gospel is No Gospel

The Gospel can be offensive to every society and every period of human life for it makes people uncomfortable by saying things they do not want to hear or see but that is indispensable. However, an inoffensive Gospel is no Gospel because it lacks challenges that lead to new life. In our Gospel reading, Jesus is aware that the disciples were complaining about his teachings, for they were a stumbling block to their interests and their way of life. For instance, the Gospel sees human accomplishments as nothing and focuses on God. This can be offensive to our sense of pride and ambitions, especially, in our world, where individual enterprise and self-sufficiency are considered as prized qualities and celebrated. It is offensive to think that we are not in control of our destinies, for we want to be in control always and we walk away from God when we seem not to be in control. Again, the Gospel message of the Cross; that without the Cross there is no glory, is a very offensive message in our world. Indeed, the Cross is loved by all but only when it is worn as a medal or hung on our wall, however, when the Cross involves sacrifices, patience, giving up and relying on God, the cross becomes an offensive message. Nevertheless, the cross reminds us that we cannot do life alone without God, or we will crash. Indeed, the focus of everything that Jesus is saying is that it is not by our power, might, ability or knowledge, we must rely on God and hand our life over to him in order to have eternal life. Without surrendering and submitting to God, everything that we do is nothing and in vain. Think deeply of this and learn how to give your ego and sense of self the backseat of your car. Allow God to drive your life. **Fr. Michael**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 25 AUGUST 2024 — 01 SEPTEMBER 2024

(MEMORIALS: 27TH - ST MONICA, 28TH ST AUGUSTINE, 29TH THE PASSION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, 30TH SS MARGARET CLITHEROW, ANNE LINE & MARGARET WARD)

Sat 24	18.30: Eileen Knibbs - RIP (<i>A Davis</i>)
Sun 25	09.00: Eric Powell - Birthday & thanksgiving (<i>OLI</i>) 11.00: Margaret Lynch - RIP 2nd ANN (<i>C Stevens</i>) 18.00: People of the Parish
Mon 26	09.30: Tim & Janice Ryan - Ints
Tues 27	09.30: Bshara and MaryBell (Blessings) 19.00: Anastasia & Cletus Ezenwamadu (RIP).
Wed 28	09.30: Lance & Bibi Louis - Wedding ANN 19.00: Doris Swash - RIP (<i>FM</i>)
Thurs 29	07.00: Patrizia Maria Louisa Casali, - RIP 09.30: Darmel Fernandes (RIP ANN) (<i>J. Fernandes</i>)
Fri 30	07.00: Majorie Brown - RIP (<i>FM</i>) 09.30: Sick & housebound parishioners
Sat 31	09.00: Sabina & Chinedu Ezenwamadu (RIP)
Sat 31	18.30: Mary's Intentions
Sun 01	09.00: Elizabeth Powell - RIP (<i>FM</i>) 11.00: Renee Barry - RIP 1st ANN (<i>C Stevens</i>) 18.00: 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
OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTION:	FIRST SATURDAY - of the month, after morning Mass
SYRO-MALABAR VIGIL	FIRST FRIDAY - of the month



REMEMBRANCE: Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died, especially Patrizia Maria Louisa Casali 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, Elizabeth Jones, Ray Lewry, Wendy Cook, Tony Cook, Nivetheni Robert, Baby Freddie Page, Clare & Baby Polly, Gerry Hague, Maureen Stephens, Maureen Sellwood, Eric Powell, Mavis Fisher, Andy Moolman, Ian Beard, Qiaochen Shi, Ida Rebello, Ravenna Ahmed, Jesse Osborne, Vinitha Sherin, Jisha Nelson, Ralph Smallwood, Adam Martin, Mark Draper, Tim & Janice Ryan, David Knights, Lionel Holland, Gerry Taylor, Allan Cook and Angela Bailey.

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 85: 1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Penitential Act: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (*And, striking their breast, they say:*) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. **Amen.**

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: O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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. **Amen.**

First reading Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods!

Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

All:

Responsorial Psalm 33(34):2-3,16-23

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second reading Ephesians 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must

love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. *For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.* This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation cf. **Jn6:63,68**

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. **Alleluia!**

Gospel **John 6:60-69**

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, ‘This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?’ Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, ‘Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? ‘It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, ‘This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.’ After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘What about you, do you want to go away too?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.’

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. *(At the words that follow, up to and including ‘and became man’, all bow)* For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, 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 Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon Cf. **Ps 103: 13-15**
The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Prayer after Communion: Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO RON & BERNADETTE MALONE
Parishioners since 1959, celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary this year. Ron also celebrates his 90th birthday in 2024. May God continue to bless you both.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024/25

Parents, do you have a child/children in year 3 or above, and would like them to begin the programme for preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion? If so, please attend the meeting for parents ahead of formal registration for the programme.

The meeting is on **Monday 9th September at 7.30pm** in the parish hall and will take approximately 1 hour.

At this meeting you will be given information about the programme and requirements for registration.

Please use the following link to confirm your attendance:

<https://koalendar.com/e/first-reconciliation-and-holy-communion-parents-meeting>

PARISH INFORMATION & REMINDERS

A BIG WELCOME AND THANKSGIVING FOR JOURNEY MERCIES - for every Parishioner returning from their holiday.

NEXT OLI YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT: SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER, 4:15 - 5.30 PM - Following a short break for summer, we are excited to invite all young people, Year 7 to the age of 19, to our next Youth Ministry Event in the Parish Hall. There will be games, snacks and, possibly some singing as well so that young people can experience their faith in good company. Please note, going forward we will require a signed consent form, for young people under the age of 18, to attend. Consent forms will be made available at the back of the church from the week of 26th August, completed forms can be dropped off in the presbytery or brought to the event.

YOUNG ADULT'S CONCERT IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE SPIRITAN RELIGIOUS ORDER YOUTH MINISTRY ON SATURDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, FROM 10AM TO 5PM AT ST. MELLITUS, TOLLINGTON PARK, LONDON - It is a day of worship, fun activities, and adoration. Many young adults will be coming from all the Spiritan Parishes in London. It will begin the series of preparation for the next World Youth Day. Speak to Fr. Michael or Jefin John, our Parish Youth Coordinator, for a free ticket if you are interested. Don't miss out on this exciting event.

A NEW FORM FOR THE BOOKING OF THE PARISH HALL IS AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH AND WILL NEED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE PARISH OFFICE - All new bookings and existing groups must complete this form or the bookings will become invalid.

A Priest is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to use the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boys' efforts for some time the priest walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell. Kneeling down next to the child, the priest smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Run!"

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

10/11TH AUGUST

Gift-aid: £286.03

Non-Gift-aid: £736.47 Total: **£1,022.50**

17/18TH AUGUST

Gift-aid: £371.18

Non-Gift-aid: £679.75 Total: **£1,050.93**

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

Please make **cheques** payable to: *RCAS Tolworth*

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.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS: RENEWED APPEAL

"Food banks saw the highest ever levels of need as more people found their incomes did not cover the cost of essentials like heating and food. Between April 2023 and March 2024, the number of people that used a food bank for the first time was 655,000".

These are the recent words of the Trussell Trust. Please continue to be generous with your food donations. All non-perishable food items are welcome. Thank you for your generosity.

OBITUARIES:

Patrizia Maria Louisa Casali, our parishioner died on Saturday 10 August 2024, aged 55. Her funeral will be on Wednesday, 28th August at 2.30pm. May her soul rest in peace.

P	O	T	S	A	I	R	E	T	S
S	E	W	N	J	S	E	S	W	E
F	E	N	D	E	D	H	I	R	F
J	A	V	N	A	W	T	A	S	I
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D	B	E	R	E	L	E	A	R	N
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JEWS
FATHER
MOTHER
DRAWN
PROPHETS
HEAR
LEARN
BELIEVES
MANNA
DESERT
DEAD
LIFE

