



01 DECEMBER 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - C

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, michaelenzenwamadu@rcaos.org.uk
Curate: □ **Secretary:** Mrs Denise Kidd

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



Spiritans

Our Lady Immaculate RC Church, Tolworth

What is Advent, and what should we look out for?

We are now in the season of Advent. The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." In the 6th century, Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ, but the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas. As you look around the church, and take part in the Church's liturgies, you will have noticed some changes. We have an **Advent wreath**. Also known as the Advent Crown, it symbolises the 4 weeks of Advent. It is circular, representing God's infinite love, and decorated with evergreen leaves which represent the hope of eternal life. Sundays 1, 2 and 4 have violet coloured candles, rose for the third Sunday, and white for Christmas Day representing the joy of Christ's birth, and of course white also being a festive liturgical colour. The vestments the priest wears are **violet or purple**, representing sorrow and penitence, and the patience we must have during this season of preparation for the birth of Our Lord. There should be no **flowers** within the sanctuary as we have embarked on a solemn season of preparation for Christmas, and for similar reasons, there should be no additional incidental **organ music**: like the sanctuary decorations, it is stripped back to that which is needed to accompany the singing. People will ask, "why are we not singing **Christmas Carols**?" "They are playing them on the radio!" Christ's birth in the liturgy is celebrated on 25th December (24th for vigil Masses) so it would not make any sense whatsoever to be preparing for his coming on the one hand, and celebrating his arrival (early) on the other hand! Finally, you will see another change on the third Sunday as the colour purple gives way to rose and we celebrate **Gaudete Sunday** (we also have the rose coloured candle on the wreath). The word comes from the entrance antiphon for this Mass, which is 'Rejoice!' This Sunday gives us a little bit of a break about midway through the season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming (a limited number of flowers are permitted to be used, and the music will also reflect this effective "light relief" half way through our Advent preparations). **Andrew Richardson**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 01 DECEMBER 2024 — 08 DECEMBER 2024

(MEMORIALS: 3RD ST FRANCIS XAVIER & 7TH ST AMBROSE)

Sat 30	18.30: Tom & Chris McGuinness & Muriel Cowan - RIP (<i>June & Family</i>)
Sun 01	09.00: Linford Fuller (<i>L Lewes</i>). Renato Austria (RIP). 11.00: Nora, Patrick & Joan Denyer - RIP 18.00: Stephanie House (RIP), People of the Parish
Mon 02	09.30: Suresh - Thanksgiving. Regina Sellammah (RIP) (<i>Madonna</i>)
Tues 03	09.30: Edward Howe - RIP (<i>S Howe</i>) 19.00: Florence Stroud & Dec'd Family (<i>FM</i>)
Wed 04	09.30: Rajani Reginald 19.00: Carlotta Fernandes - RIP (<i>J Fernandes</i>)
Thurs 05	07.00: John & Margaret Gowers - RIP (<i>FM</i>) 09.30: Lydia Simmonds Ault - RIP (<i>K Jankowski</i>)
Fri 06	07.00: Christiane Amanpour & Family - WB 09.30: Mary Joyce - RIP (<i>M-J Gray</i>)
Sat 07	09.00: Terry Garrett & Bertha da Costa - RIP 1st Ann (<i>T Rutter</i>)
Sat 07	18.30: Adrian Noronha - 19th Birthday.
Sun 08	09.00: Anthony Michael Hodgson - RIP, 25th Ann (<i>J Hodgson</i>) 11.00: Angela Bailey - RIP (<i>OLI Parish</i>) 18.00: Subscribers to Church building fund (<i>FM</i>)

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 Angela Bailey, Delia Hudson 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, Wendy Cook, Tony Cook, Nivetheni Robert, Baby Freddie Page, Clare & Baby Polly, Gerry Hague, Maureen Stephens, Maureen Sellwood, 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, Lionel Holland, Nan Healy, Allan Cook, Colin Stevens and Joan Frost.

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24: 1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

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**

Opening Prayer: Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. 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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Behold, the days are coming declares the Lord, When I will fulfil the promise I made to the hour of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: 25(24):4-5b,8-9,10,14 R.1b

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O Lord, make me know your ways.

Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are God of my salvation. **R**

Good and upright is the Lord;
Therefore he shows the way to sinners,
He guides the humble in right judgement;
To the humble he teaches his way. **R**

All the Lord's paths are mercy and faithfulness.
for those who keep his covenant and commands.
The Lord's secret is for those who fear him;;
to them he reveals his covenant. **R**

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we

do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Finally, then, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Ps85 (84):8:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Show us, O Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, strengthen up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. 'But watch yourselves less your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the son of man.'

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 spo-

ken 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:

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Communion Antiphon

Ps 84: 13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Prayer after Communion

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND -: PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND SECOND COLLECTION: - OLI PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND (PDF) This second collection is to assist the parish to save and pay for major projects and minor repairs. The maintenance and development of the parish is costing a lot of money and we are struggling financially to keep up. Thank you, as always for your generosity.

OUR PARISH PATRONAL FEAST IS ON SUNDAY, 8TH DECEMBER the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of our Parish and School. It is also the principal patronal feast of our Diocese (Southwark). There will be tea and coffee for everyone after the 9am and 11am Mass.

THE USE OF THE NEW LECTIONARY IN OUR MASSES starts this weekend. There are copies of the Mass book for those that prefer it, thanks so much for all those that gifted the new lectionary to the Church.

CHRISTMAS PRISONER'S GIFT BAGS IS STILL ON - We are collecting gift bags to be distributed on Christmas eve to the prisoners in Wandsworth Prison. If you wish to donate a gift bag or money for a gift bag please speak with Fr. Michael & Denise for specifications and give to the Parish Office by 20th December. Thanks for your generosity.

FR. MICHAEL WILL BE AWAY THROUGH OUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY FOR HIS MISSION LEAVE - if you have anything that you will like to discuss with him, please, do it as soon as possible in the month of December.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS - From Friday 21st December until Monday 6th January 2025.

FR. MICHAEL WILL LIKE TO INVITE PARISHIONERS who may want to do a reflection on a particular Sunday reading or a very relevant issue that can be published in our Sunday newsletter to do so. The reflection can be sent to Fr. Michael or the Parish office before Wednesday of the week. It is part of the tradition of studying the word of God.

Advent Activities

1. Morning Prayer of the Church: 9am, Monday-Friday. Please join us to pray the psalms & intercessions daily.

2. Parish Service of Lessons & Carols: The parish service of Lessons and Carols is on Sunday, **15th December at 3pm.** Please do come along to this. We have put together a special enlarged choir for this traditional service, which consists of readings from Sacred Scripture and lots of traditional Christmas music. It will be a very good event to celebrate the arrival of Christmas.

3. Reconciliation Service: Monday, **16th December at 7pm.** The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the important spiritual preparations that we can and should make during Advent. Visiting priests will be available to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation

4. OLI Christingle Service: Wednesday, 18th December at 5pm in the Church. This Service is a special Church Service that is held for children during Advent and celebrates Christ, who is the Light of the World. Children (and adults) are invited to bring a Christingle to the Service. Instructions on how to make a Christingle can be found on the Parish website <http://www.olionline.co.uk>. A candle will be provided when you arrive at the Service

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

No Flowers In Advent: The season of Advent begins on Sunday 1 December. Please **NO** flowers to be brought to the Lady Chapel or anywhere throughout the Church until Christmas Eve due to the quasi-penitential / somber nature of Advent and then the Crib being erected.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH CLEANING: Our Church cleaning group is in urgent need of more volunteers to help keep our church clean and welcoming for everyone. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the life of our parish and serve in a practical, meaningful way. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Mrs Denise Kidd, the Parish Secretary, on tolworth@rcaos.org.uk. Let's come together as a community to care for our church!

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST AND WE ALL HAVE AN IMPORTANT PART TO VOLUNTEERS ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH

- Without our volunteers we couldn't do what we do. Whether you are great at looking after children, making people feel at home, or simply just want to do whatever you can, we want to help you make the most of your God-given skills and talents! Volunteering is a great way of meeting new friends. sharing skills and developing new skills. We have a number of areas that you could get involved with such as Welcoming, Social Event Organisers, Children's/Youth work, Communications, Fundraising, Maintenance of Grounds and Buildings, Cleaning, Gardening and many other areas. Please collect a volunteer form from the Narthes.

EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR THE PARISH DATABASE: If you wish to receive the Parish Newsletter to your inbox, please provide an updated and current email address to tolworth@rcaos.or.uk Thank you.

CHRISTMAS PRISONER'S GIFT BAGS - We are collecting gift bags to be distributed on Christmas eve to the prisoners in Wandsworth Prison. If you wish to donate a gift bag please speak with Denise for specifications and give to the Parish Office by 20th December. For example: A Paper Gift bag" (around 13 x 18 cms), which will contain: a handful (5 pieces) of Chocolate from "Celebrations", 2 x Sachets of Coffee/Chocolate, a Holy Card (12 cms x 7 cms) and an A4 size - 2025 Catholic Calendar, which will be given along with the bag. Thank for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY: OLI wishes to commence the Christmas Celebrations by inviting parishioners to an Afternoon Christmas Tea Party at the Parish Hall

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

LAST WEEKEND

Gift-aid: £336.20

Non-Gift-aid: £805.07

Total: £1,141.27

2nd Collection: £257.62

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.

on **Saturday 7th December, at 2pm.** If you know of anyone who may be on their own this Christmas or neighbours and friends, who would like to come and celebrate with us, please invite them all. Everyone is welcome. Keep the date in your diary and watch out for more details in the newsletter. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Helen Emmett on 07402327177

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND REPOSITORY NEWS: The repository is open every Sunday after the 9am Mass to sell Christmas cards, 2025 calendars and other gift items. Please consider supporting your parish by stocking from the repository. Also, Denise has offered to sell Christmas cards, £5.00 per box from the Parish Office from 10am to 2pm, Monday-Friday.

OBITUARIES:

ANGELA BAILEY: Kindly pray for Angela Bailey who passed away on 20th November.

Funeral: OLI, Thursday 19th December, 11.00am

DELIA HUDSON: Please pray for Delia Hudson who passed away suddenly on Tuesday 19th November aged 62yrs.

Funeral: OLI, Monday 9th December, 11.30am

A man is praying to God, saying "I follow all your commandments, I don't live in vain, could you please grant me one wish?" God says, "what would you like my son?" Man says "build me a bridge from California to Hawaii and back." God says: "That's kind of a tall order: Can you give me something much easier?" The man says, "okay God tell me everything there is to know about a woman and why she thinks the way she thinks." And God says, "so do you want a two lane or a four lane bridge!"

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SUN
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SURVIVE
LIBERATION
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