



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - C

09 March 2025

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 Bonaventure Ssebyanzi CSSp, bonaventuressebyanzi@rcaos.org.uk □ **SECRETARY:** Mrs Denise Kidd
□ **SCHOOL:** Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School □ **HEADTEACHER:** Mr Ben Martin



God's Word Is A Weapon Against Temptations

The temptations of Jesus are a re-living of the desert experience of the people of God during their forty-year exodus from Egypt to the promised land. We can classify them as temptation for bread/food (Ex 16:1-36), the temptation to take power away from God (Ex 32:1-4), and finally a temptation to test God to perform miracles in our lives (Deut 6:16-25). The major issue with these temptations lies in Satan causing Jesus to doubt God and wanting him to use shortcut ways to get what he needs. As followers of Christ, we experience the same temptations. The temptation of bread is seen in our greed for not only eating but also possessions. It is demonstrated by peoples' mentality of wanting everything "to be mine." It leads us to the question of how genuinely have we acquired the properties we own; land, houses, vehicles, and others. The second temptation often leads us into thinking that some things are in the realm of God's power, when they are not; for example, when profits in business are not good, when promotions at work get complicated, when passing of examinations becomes a challenge and others etc. Commonly, people tend to convince others that these are not matters for God and his church. Thirdly, some times we challenge God to show extraordinary signs of his intervention in cases like incurable diseases, making all our candidates pass in top division, all youth to find employment or to make all one's debts disappear overnight. One of the great weapons Jesus used to fight the temptations was his closeness to God in his Word. How grounded am I in using God's word to overcome temptations and achieve closeness to God? Is it through prayers (including fasting), knowing God's Word (scriptures), sacraments, keeping the commandments or what? Temptations are real. The question is, what happens after we are tempted?

Fr Bonaventure CSSp

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 09 MARCH 2025 — 16 MARCH 2025

- Sat 08** **18.30:** Holy Souls (*Jacinta*)
- Sun 09** **09.00:** WB of Mother & Safe delivery of Baby (*B Varghese*)
11.00: Barbara Coshan's Intentions (*C Stevens*)
18.00: People of the Parish
- Mon 10** **09:30:** Michael Connolly - RIP (*Syzmanski Family*), & Sivagananam Rasa (4th ANN) (*Madonna*)
- Tues 11** **09.30:** Placido Carro - RIP (*Syzmanski Family*)
19.00: Mary Trussler - RIP (*FM*)
- Wed 12** **09.30:** Vincent License - RIP (*L Louis*)
19.00: Deenama George - RIP, 19th Ann (*Lucy*)
- Thurs 13** **07.00:** John Philip Louis - RIP (*OLI Parish*)
09:30: Eusebio Manuel Placeres (*J Placers*)
- Fri 14** **07.00:** Jean Deeley (Wellbeing). (*Jacinta*)
09:30: Michael Connolly - RIP (*S Joseph*)
- Sat 15** **09:00:** Special Intention (*J Fernandes*)
- Sat 15** **18:30:** John Philip Louis - RIP (*D Kidd*)
- Sun 16** **09.00:** Francis, Magdalena & Michael D'Souza - RIP (*P Fazal*)
11.00: Paul Neeson - RIP, 1st Ann (*C Stevens*)
18.00: Augustine - Thanksgiving, 20th Birthday (*M Suresh*)

REMEMBRANCE: Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died especially John Philip Louis, Frances Myers, Vincent License, Michael Connolly 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, Frances Cox, George Trutwein, Mary Ryan, Rita Reginald, Sarah Mills, Thomas O'Connor, Ian Beard, Anita Smith, Tony Cook, Kathleen McGuinness, Nan Healy, Samar Staussi, Joan Frost, Colin Stevens, Jimmy Simon, Shirlene A, Hazel D'Aguiar, Allan Cook, Claire Pender, Wendy Cook, Kathleen O'Connell, Tim Ryan, Ralph Smallwood, Elizabeth Jones, Nivetheni Robert, Gerry Hague, Mark Draper, Adam Martin, Maureen Stephens, Maureen Sellwood, Mavis Fisher, Andy Moolman, Qiaochen Shi, Ida Rebello, Jisha Nelson, Vinitha Sherin, Ravenna Ahmed, Adam Martin, Lionel Holland, Joan Frost, Peter & Phil Tull.

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

Our Lady Immaculate RC Church, Tolworth

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 90: 15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

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, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses spoke to the people: 'The priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. And you shall make response before the LORD your God, "A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labour. Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me." And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 91(90):1-2. 10-11. 12-13. 14-15. R cf 15b

Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, and abides in the shade of the Almighty, says to the LORD, 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **R**

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach your tent. For you has he commanded his angels to keep you in all your ways. **R**

They shall bear you upon their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread, and trample the young lion and the serpent. **R**

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him, protect him, for he knows my name. When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will be with him in distress; I will

deliver him, and give him glory. **R**

Second reading

Romans 10:8-13

Brothers and Sisters: What does Scripture say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For, 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4b

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

At that time: Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were over, he was hungry. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone."' And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, 'To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."' And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' And Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."' And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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 heav-

en, 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:

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Communion Antiphon

Mt 4: 4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Prayer after Communion:

Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Thoughts on Lent

Last week we were asked “What did we intend to give up for Lent?” I used to give up alcohol or chocolate for the 40 days, although the temptations sometimes meant that I failed, especially on St Patrick’s Day. If I succeeded, and didn’t give in to the temptations, then I felt quite self-righteous and would really make up for it at Easter. But that’s a bit like dieting. We lose weight and often put it back on again. In recent years I have been thinking more about my behaviours and which ones I would like to give up during Lent, but also, hopefully continue to give up afterwards. Take gossiping for instance. It is so easy to listen to tales of others and pass them on. But I should remember to subject them to the test of three. Firstly, have I made sure that what I am about to say is absolutely true? Secondly, is what I am about to say about another person, good? Thirdly, is it useful? If what I am about to pass on, because I heard it from someone else, is not true, good or useful to them, perhaps I should not say anything at all. “Get thee behind me Satan” is easy to remember when we are tempted by chocolate or wine which we have vowed to give up for Lent. But it is harder, I find, when it comes to my behaviour. God knows me and knows that I am a flawed human being. But He loves me as I am and especially for trying to change and live His way. **Mary Reed.**

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT MEETING: will be on Monday, 10th of March at 7.15pm in the Old Chapel. The clergy will be attending the meeting.

ASHES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AFTER ALL THE MASSES at the back of the Church this weekend for those who did not receive it on Ash Wednesday.

THERE ARE STATION OF THE CROSS SHEETS at the back of the Church. You can take a copy and use it at home for your private devotion or with your family.

A NEW CARD READER HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. It is very simple to use and we are very grateful for your kindness and generosity.

PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR SEASON OF LENT: continues with the Stations of the Cross every Friday after 9.30am Mass (*English*) and 6pm (*led by the Syro Malabar Community*) It is a serious part of our Lenten observances.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE: will be on Monday - 14th April at 7pm. Confession is every Saturday immediately after the 9.00am Mass and 5.30pm - 6.00pm before the Saturday evening Mass. A regular confession is very necessary for our spiritual growth and helps us deepen our relationship with God and others.

OUR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND LIST IS BEING UPDATED AND VISITATION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND HAS STARTED, if you know any parishioner that is sick or housebound, please do let the clergy or parish office know so that we can visit them.

“CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT” GROUPS are being formed. You can inform the parish office or parish clergy if you want to form your own group.

OBITUARIES

JOHN LOUIS: Lance Louis’ father sadly passed away on Sunday 2nd March. Please kindly keep him and all the family in your prayers.

MAUREEN BEARD: Please kindly pray for Maureen Beard who passed peacefully in her sleep on 25th February.

FRANCES MYERS: Sadly passed away on 13th February. Please keep Frances, Dennis her husband & family in your prayers.

VINCENT LICENSE: Please kindly remember in your prayers, Rosemary Maranzano’s brother who sadly passed on 18th February. May he rest in peace. Amen.

MICHAEL CONNOLLY: Denise Kidd’s father sadly passed away on Sunday 2nd February.

FUNERAL: Monday, 17th March, 12pm at St Joseph’s Church, 1 Montem Rd, New Malden, KT3 3QW

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

LENTEN PROJECT 2025 EVENTS

Sponsored Walk – Saturday, 8 March - Up for a challenge? Walk 43 km (27 miles) from Tower Bridge to OLI Church along the scenic Thames route, passing through Battersea, Putney, Richmond, and Kingston. Meet at London Waterloo at 6:30 AM. Expected return: 4 PM to a small reception in the Parish Hall. It's a test of endurance and a fantastic way to support our cause! Interested? Email Elspeth at elspeth.casey@virginmedia.com. Please sponsor us using the **Justgiving** site: www.justgiving.com/page/our-lady-immaculate-church-12

Quiz & Bingo Night – Saturday, 15 March - A night of fun, laughter, and friendly competition! **Parish Hall – Doors open at 7:15 PM, quiz starts promptly at 7:45 PM.** Teams of up to six people, £7 per adult. Book your table by emailing heathermathew@hotmail.com or calling George at 07949 334349 – or just turn up on the night! To make it easier for everyone, you are welcome to bring your own drinks & nibbles.

Tabletop Sale – Saturday, 22 & Sunday, 23 March
Grab a bargain! Held after the 6:30 PM Mass on Saturday and after the 9 AM & 11 AM Masses on Sunday. Browse kitchenware, books, DVDs, plants, toys, and more!

OLI School Fundraising – Thursday, 27 & Friday, 28 March: During the School Year 5 service week, an after-school sale is planned on Thursday, 27 & Friday, 28 March, where you can pick up leftover toys at bargain prices! Helen & Emanuele will also be selling popcorn and gift items. More details to follow!

More Exciting Events – Save the Dates!

- 15th March – Parish Quiz Night
- 22nd/23rd March – Tabletop Sale
- 27th/28th March – School Fundraising Events
- 26th April – South Indian Night
- 10th May – Sri Lankan Night
- 17th May – Jumble Sale
- 7th June – Afro-Caribbean Night
- 19th October – AGM

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

LAST WEEKEND

Gift-aid: £312.87

Non-Gift-aid: £853.88

Total: £1,166.75

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.***

CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS – 18-30 AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED ADVOCATES NETWORK

As part of ACN's Jubilee of Hope celebrations, young adults are invited to a free conference on Sat, 22nd March – 9.30am-6pm at St Mary Moorfields, London. EC2M 7LS The theme Faith, Hope and Charity, will be explored with Bishop Wilfred Anagbe and Father Remigius Ihyula of the Diocese of Makurdi, Nigeria. Bishop Wilfred has said that it is his duty to inspire his people with hope and we must overcome evil with good. The Jubilee is a call for Catholics to be ‘tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind’. In honour of Our Lady of Fatima, during the conference we will launch our Five First Saturdays devotion, beginning in April and finishing in August, to coincide with the Jubilee of Youth. Other speakers include Fr Stephen Ojapah (who was captured by Boko Haram), Ribqa Nevash (recipient of the ‘Courage to be Christian’ award for her outspokenness about violence against Christian women and girls in Pakistan) and Isabel Vaughan-Spruce who was arrested twice by West Midlands Police for silently praying in a censored “buffer zone”. Details for booking are on [Aid to the Church in Need | Young Adults Network Conference](#)

A Priest spied a parishioner enjoying some tasty smoked sausage on a Friday during Lent – a strict no-no in the church. The priest, being a pragmatic soul, told the man, for his penance, he was to bring a load of lumber to the church to help repair the roof. The man grumbled, but went off to do his penance. He arrived at the church on the next Friday and proceeded to dump a huge load of sawdust into the parking lot. “What’s this?” the priest wanted to know. “I told you your penance was a load of lumber, not sawdust.” The man replied coolly, “Well, if that sausage I ate was meat, then this sawdust is lumber.”

S	L	E	G	N	A	L	O	N	E
T	S	D	E	T	P	M	E	T	W
E	Y	E	A	X	F	A	O	L	I
P	T	T	N	E	H	L	I	D	P
A	H	S	R	R	R	V	Y	E	I
R	R	U	E	O	E	B	R	V	H
A	O	A	N	D	F	D	O	L	S
P	W	H	O	G	H	O	L	Y	R
O	Y	X	T	O	R	L	G	I	O
W	T	E	S	T	S	Y	A	D	W



WILDERNESS
TEMPTED
DEVIL
FORTY
STONE
BREAD
ALONE
GLORY
WORSHIP
PARAPET
ANGELS
EXHAUSTED