



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - C

23 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



Our Lady Immaculate RC Church, Tolworth

God's Concern and Tolerance for His People

The first reading presents Moses who demonstrated a great concern for the weak, who were being oppressed in Egypt (Ex 2:11-15). Accordingly, God revealed to him his plan of freeing the Israelites from Egypt (Ex 3:7-8) through the event of a burning bush. God revealed his name as 'Yahweh' (I am who is). As God saved his people through Moses, then in the New Testament we are saved by Jesus from the slavery of sin. Just like Moses led the people to a promised land, our promise through Jesus Christ is eternal life. Jesus does not support oppression and killing of innocent people like the Galileans that Pilate killed (Lk 13): He uses that unfortunate event to challenge the concern of believers towards the suffering brethren and on how prepared they are always to meet the creator. He used the parable of a fig tree that didn't have fruits when the master needed them.

The Lenten season is a time to reflect on our concern for our suffering neighbours. Is God asking me to be a liberator of an oppressed neighbour, of those enslaved by fear, misery, and ignorance? If I see myself as the fruitless tree, according to Luke's gospel (unlike Mk 11:22-24 and Mt 21:18-22 where the tree dies immediately), then God has given me this lent as a year of tolerance. Am I making any effort to bear fruit through my prayers, almsgiving, acts of charity, participating in the various activities of our parish Lenten project? "Sir, leave the tree for one more year," pleaded the gardener for it to be given more time.

Fr. Bonaventure,

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 23 MARCH 2025 — 30 MARCH 2025

Sat 22	18.30: Gladys Millard - RIP (<i>S Howe</i>)
Sun 23	09.00: Margaret Grogan - RIP (<i>P Grogan</i>)
	11.00: Brian Gilmartin - RIP (<i>P Mitchell</i>)
	18.00: Augustine - Thanksgiving, 20th Birthday (<i>M Suresh</i>)
Mon 24	09:30: Ray Wong - RIP (<i>J Wong</i>)
	<u>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</u>
Tues 25	09.30: Michael Connolly - RIP (<i>M Suresh</i>)
	19.00: Rhoda D'Cruz - RIP (<i>FM</i>)
Wed 26	09.30: Maryann Mullen (<i>Colman Family</i>)
	19.00: Jebamalai Muthu - RIP (<i>M Suresh</i>)
Thurs 27	07.00: Freda Cantwell (Wellbeing).
	09:30: Thevasgayam - BD
Fri 28	07.00: John Walsh (RIP).
	09:30: John Philip Louis RIP (<i>Syzmanski Family</i>)
Sat 29	09:00: Maureen Beard - RIP (<i>M Ho</i>)
Sat 29	18:30: Michele De Cristofaro RIP, 13th Ann (<i>A De Cristofaro</i>)
Sun 30	09.00: People of the Parish
	11.00: For Favours Rec'd from Jesus & Mary (<i>E D'Souza</i>)
	18.00: Catherine Fenner, Patricia Derbyshire & Shirley Wardell

REMEMBRANCE: Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died especially Maureen Beard 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, 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, Lionel Holland, 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

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24: 15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

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:

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8, 11. R8a

The LORD is compassionate and gracious.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits. **R**

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with mercy and compassion. **R**

The LORD does deeds of justice, gives full justice to all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel. **R**

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong his mercy for those who fear him. **R**

Second reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?"' And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but

if not, you can cut it down.”

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:

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Prayer after Communion:

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SUMMARY OF OUR PARISH ACCOUNTS ARE PUBLISHED THIS WEEKEND TO ACCOUNT TO YOU OF HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE SERVING THE WORK OF GOD. COPIES OF THE PARISH ACCOUNTS ARE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE TAKE A COPY. ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO FR. MICHAEL. A GIFT AID APPEAL TO ENCOURAGE US TO GIFT AID OUR DONATIONS WILL BE MADE NEXT WEEK. We get 25% of every donation that you make when it is gift aided, enabling your donation to serve God more. Please join the parish Gift Aid scheme if you pay tax in the UK.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RCIA ELECT as they go through the First scrutiny in the 11am Mass. The second scrutiny will take place next Sunday, 30th March at the

9am Mass and the third scrutiny will take place on Sunday, 6th April at the 11am Mass. The Scrutinies are God’s way of taking a close and loving look at the Elect. God scrutinises them not to find what is wrong with them but to celebrate all that is beautiful, good, and true in them.

HOLY THURSDAY – WASHING OF FEET, this ancient imitation of Jesus washing his disciples’ feet is a sign of serving those who were to serve others. For this year, we will be washing the feet of our Church cleaners.

2ND COLLECTION THIS WEEK: CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY:

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people and families like Lokho’s who has recently been donated a shade net, sturdy enough to shield his delicate plants from the blistering sun while allowing every precious drop of rain to reach the soil. This innovative “anti-greenhouse net” became their safety net, helping their community thrive.

2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: POOR PARISHES 29/30

There will be a second next week for Poor Parishes. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to smaller parishes in the Diocese.

PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME 2025

1. PALM SUNDAY (13th April)

Saturday (12/04), 6.30pm; 9am, 11am
6pm Blessings of Palms and procession to the Church from the Hall at 9am and 11am Masses

2. MONDAY (14 April)

7PM – Penitential Service with Individual Confessions

3. MAUNDY THURSDAY (17th April)

9.00AM: Office of Readings & Lauds
4.00PM: Sacrament of Reconciliation
5.00PM: Mass of the Last Supper
8.00PM: Mass of the Last Supper followed by watching at the Chapel of Repose, closing with Night Prayer before Midnight.

4. GOOD FRIDAY (18th April)

9.00AM: Office of Readings & Lauds
9.30-10.30am: Sacrament of Reconciliation
11.00AM: Service of the Passion with Children
3.00PM: Commemoration of the Passion & Adoration of the Cross
7.00PM Way of the Cross

5. HOLY SATURDAY – EASTER VIGIL (19th April)

9.00AM: Office of Readings & Lauds
8.00PM Easter Vigil in the Holy Night & Sacraments of Initiation

6. EASTER SUNDAY (20th April)

Masses at 9AM; 11AM; and 6PM

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.

OBITUARIES MAUREEN BEARD: Please kindly pray for Maureen Beard who passed peacefully in her sleep on 25th February. **FUNERAL:** Monday, 7th April, 11am at OLI

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

LENTEN PROJECT 2025 EVENTS

Join the Fun & Support a Great Cause!

🌿 Tabletop Sale – Saturday, 22 & Sunday, 23 March 🌿

🗳️ Bargain hunters, this one's for you! After the 6:30 PM Mass on Saturday and after the 9 AM & 11 AM Masses on Sunday, come and explore a treasure trove of fantastic finds!

🛒 From kitchenware to books, DVDs, plants, toys, and more, there's something for everyone. Whether you're looking for a hidden gem or a great deal, don't miss out on this shopping spree! 💡 Got items to sell? Bring along your collections and join us—it's a great way to declutter while supporting a meaningful cause! ❤️ All proceeds go to the Lenten Project.

🌿 OLI School Year 5 Fundraising for the Lenten Project!

🌿 As part of Service Week, OLI's Year 5 pupils are on a mission to raise funds for the Lenten Project, supporting charities near and far. To inspire them in their efforts, Fr. Michael will lead a special workshop on Monday, 24th March, exploring the importance of Lent, service, and giving.

🗳️ Friday, 28th March – Open Classrooms & After-School Sale! 🗳️ This is a wonderful chance for school families to shop, donate, and show their support for Year 5 entrepreneurial activities—all to support a great cause.

Helen & Emanuele will also be selling popcorn and gift items **Rosé's Lenten project drawings** - Please visit the Lenten Project page to see Rosé's Lenten project drawings. She is a Year 4 pupil at OLI. She has created a fantastic fundraising video to raise awareness of the Parish Lenten Project events, using her own Lenten project drawings. Each year, she dedicates her time to this cause, and her parents have kindly given permission for us to share her work to support the project. We hope this inspires others to get involved! Thank you Rosé.

🌿 Sponsored Walk Success – Thank You, OLI!

If you haven't had a chance to donate yet, there's still time to support this worthy cause. QR code here.

More Exciting Events – Save the Dates!

27th/28th March – School Fundraising Events

26th April – South Indian Night

10th May – Sri Lankan Night

17th May – Jumble Sale

7th June – African-Caribbean Night

19th October – AGM

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

LAST WEEKEND

Gift-aid: £331.85

Non-Gift-aid: £856.39

Total: £1,188.24

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.**

TEA AND COFFEE WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE 11AM MASS.

We are all encouraged to come in and interact with others after the 11am Mass. We need volunteers who can help serve others. Please speak to any of the clergy or Mary Suresh at mary.antonisamy@yahoo.com. We also need donations of tea, coffee and biscuits. Thank you so much to Tessa for organising.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER'S RENEWAL RETREAT - SATURDAY, 5TH OF APRIL AT 11AM - 12.30PM,

in the Church. This is mandatory for every Eucharistic minister to enable them to do their annual renewal of commitment on Maundy Thursday. Without such renewal, one may not be able to continue as a Eucharistic minister.

VOLUNTEERS ARE AT THE CENTRE OF OUR PARISH

LIFE and our response to God's call. Please think what you can do for God in the Parish through volunteering. The parish volunteer management team invites everyone to think of how they can serve God in our parish. Please, contact Mary Suresh at mary.antonisamy@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you.

A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer. Suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me, I will grant you one wish." The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over there any time I want." The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic and will nearly exhaust several natural resources. Think of something else that will glorify me. The man thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand my wife. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says 'nothing's wrong,' and how I can make a woman truly happy." The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

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

GALILEANS	BLOOD	SINNERS	REPENT
PERISH	EIGHTEEN	TOWER	SILOAM
GUILTY	PARABLE	FIG	THREE

