



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - C

7 September 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, michaelenzenwamandu@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



How to hate your family

Two of my friends complained to me about their family. The first said, “My family treats me like a God; they forget that I exist unless they want something. The other said, “I want my family members to lower me into the grave when I die so that they can let me down one final time. The family is a space of love but also challenging, but does Jesus want us to hate our families? The answer is an absolute “no”, after all, Jesus is the One who calls on us to even love our enemies. So, to understand what Jesus wants us to do, we need to understand the meaning of hate in the Bible for language is always contextual. In the Bible, “hate” never involves the intense feelings of revulsion or loathing as it does in our contemporary world. In the Greek translation of the New Testament, “hate” is translated as “miseo”, referencing choosing something over another. Also, “hate” is translated in the Hebrew Bible as “sane” which means turning away from something and focusing on another. Jesus is telling us to put God over everything else and turn our gaze away from everything. Indeed, in the time of Jesus, the family is everything for an individual; however, Jesus insists that God is everything. Then, the strength of the individual was his family; on the contrary, Jesus is saying that God is our strength because He loves us exceedingly, and his love defines us. Remember that this Gospel was written in times of extreme persecution, and God uses St. Luke to ask us to focus on Him and put our challenges, worries and anxieties under Him. It means that our life should always be centred on God regardless of where we are, who we are with, or what we are doing. This is about reminding us that no matter where life tosses us, we should continue to draw our strength and choose God over despair, hopelessness and darkness. Though, the Good News today is that even when we forget to choose God first, He chooses us first over everything. He will never forget us even when we forget him. Remember, to choose God first may involve hardship and standing alone, but it is a choice for peace, joy and strength. For with God, we can never be alone. **Fr. Michael**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 7 SEPTEMBER 2025 — 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

Sat 06	18.30: Regina Sellammah (RIP). (<i>Madonna</i>)
Sun 07	09.00: People of the Parish. 11.00: Louis Reeves - RIP (<i>A Reeves</i>) 18.00: Florence Elmsie - RIP (<i>FM</i>) <u>THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - FEAST</u>
Mon 08	09.30: The family of Terry & Eileen Sullivan
Tues 09	09.30: Maria Rosaria D’Agostino (Taylor) - RIP (<i>F D’Agostina</i>) 19.00: Mary Taylor (healing and Wellbeing) (<i>OLI</i>)
Wed 10	09.30: 19.00: Janaki Gandhimathi - RIP (<i>M Suresh</i>)
Thurs 11	07.00: Charles Sillem - RIP (<i>FM</i>) 09.30: Catherine Yap (Good health & Wellbeing) (<i>OLI</i>) <u>ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP - MEMORIAL</u>
Fri 12	07.00: No Mass 09.30: Rosamma & Simon (Thanksgiving)
Sat 13	09.00: Holy Souls
Sat 13	18.30:
Sun 14	09.00: Catherine Seaward - RIP (<i>FM</i>) 11.00: Alex and Rosemary Maranzano (57th Wedding ANNI). 18.00: Mathilda Fernandes (RIP).

REMEMBRANCE: Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died especially Vivian Philips and those whose anniversaries occur at this time May their souls rest in peace. Amen

THE SICK: Vanessa Andrew, Martin Dray, 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, Julie Bria, June Munk, Jim Maynard, Liam Cawley, Deacon Al Callan, Mary Taylor & Sue Jones

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION:
MORNING PRAYER (LAUDS):
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
ST ANTHONY OF PADUA NOVENA:
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA:
OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTION:
SYRO-MALABAR VIGIL
YOUTH MASS

MONDAY – FRIDAY: 8AM
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9AM
SATURDAY: - 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.00pm
TUESDAY: - After morning and evening Masses
WEDNESDAY: - After morning and evening Masses
FIRST SATURDAY - of the month, after morning Mass
FIRST FRIDAY - of the month
LAST SUNDAY of the month

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 118: 137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

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**

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, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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

Wisdom 9:13-18b

What human being can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts. We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17. R1

O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

You turn man back to dust,
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night. **R**

You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades. **R**

Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O LORD! How long?
Show pity to your servants. **R**

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the LORD our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands. **R**

Second reading

Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus — I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bond-servant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother — especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 119(118):135

Alleluia, alleluia. Let your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

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 God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 41: 2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

NEW AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The second collection next weekend is for the Catholic Education Service that acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishop's conference to support Catholic Education. Thanks for your kindness and generosity.

Annual Mass Count 2025 will be from the weekend of 20/21 September to the weekend of 11/12 October. Counting will be done immediately after Holy Communion.

Children liturgy returns back next weekend at the 10am Mass and thank you so much to Elspeth and the children catechists.

Debbie Board and Helen Emmett are setting up our parish bereavement team. Thanks so so much to them. Grief is universal and so also is love. If you have any input to make to the team, please, send an email to

Fr. Michael.

Saturday 20 September – Annual Diocesan Day for Catechists. Registration now open! You are invited to join us for a day filled with teachings and prayer and a chance to meet fellow Catechists. Join us at St George's Cathedral, SE1 6HU from 10am. Registration and choice of workshops can be found at aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2025

Warm welcome group will undergo a restructuring to become the umbrella for the parish outreach to the community, justice and peace. If you have suggestions of what they can be doing in the future, please, speak to Lance, Helen or any of the Parish clergy.

The Clergy will meet with all the volunteers in Warm welcome on Friday, 19th of September at 7pm in presbytery.

There will be no 7am Mass on Friday, 12th of September because the Clergy are not available in the Parish but there will be adoration, morning prayer and the 9.30am Mass. Thanks for your understanding.

New extraordinary Eucharistic Minister will be commissioned on Saturday 11th October 2025 in the Metropolitan Cathedral Church of St George - Southwark. Please, speak to Fr. Michael and fill in the form at the back of the Church if you are among those being prepared.

Obituary: Vivian Phillips, an active parishioner of OLI for many years before moving to Byfleet has died. Her funeral Mass will be at 12.30pm on Tuesday 23rd September at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic church Madeira Road West Byfleet KT14 6DH. Friends from Tolworth are most welcome to join the family at the Mass and afterwards For more information please contact Veronica on 07790 340956 or email : veronica.etherington@hotmail.co.uk

PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Helen Emmett is the Parish lead on inter-religious dialogue and she will be representing the parish in the Church Together. Volunteers interested in inter-religious dialogue that can attend ecumenical meetings are needed. They will be expected to form the parish team on inter-religious and ecumenical dialogue. Speak to any of the clergy Or Helen Emmett if you are interested.

The 2025/2026 parish Sacramental programs will start in October, the Sacramental forms will be available from next week. Please, do share this information with those who may be interested.

VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN THE MINISTRY OF PARISH BE-REAVEMENT LISTENING ARE INVITED TO REGISTER THEIR INTEREST WITH ANY OF THE PARISH CLERGY.

New Rota for Readers and Eucharistic Minister is available in the sacristy and website. Please, check and update.

SAFEGUARDING; This is a reminder for all those who require a DBS certificate. Please check the date on your current certificate. If it was issued more than three years ago, Please, arrange your DBS renewal immediately. The Diocese will **not permit you** to continue in your current role if your DBS is out of date.

Thank you. For any queries or assistance, please contact: Monica Tett – tolworthsg1@rcaos.org.uk

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

LENTEN PROJECT 2025 – CLOSING UPDATE AND

2026 NOMINATIONS: We are delighted to share that **this year's Parish Lenten Project raised approximately £15,000**, thanks to the incredible generosity of the OLI parish and school communities. This total reflects the combined efforts of all 12 fundraising events held across Lent. The funds will now be equally distributed between the four charities we supported this year:

Mapeera Bakateyamba Home – Uganda
Obinofia Ndiuno Primary School – Nigeria
Divya Chhaya Society – India
Miani Children's Home – Sri Lanka

Finalised event-by-event figures will be published shortly. We sincerely thank all individuals, families, teams and school groups who took part, and invite you to continue following the stories of these charities on the **Parish Lenten Project noticeboard in the Narthex**.

LENTEN PROJECT 2026 – CHARITY NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations for the **2026 Parish Lenten Project** are now open. We invite you to submit a nomination. Subject to approval by the PPC and the PLP AGM, the proposed **eligibility criteria** are as follows: Charities must be **small**, providing **direct help**—not through intermediary agencies or government bodies. They should be **Christian-based**, with confidence that donations will be directly and transparently used for charitable purposes. Priority will be given to **small charities with low overheads** that offer strong value for money. Where possible, a **connection to someone in the OLI parish or school** is encouraged. Submit Your Nomination by **29th September**. Nomination forms are available in the Narthex and on the parish website. Completed forms should be returned to the Parish Office or placed in the dedicated box at the back of the church.

Important Dates for the Lenten Project.

6th September – Nominations open
29th September – Deadline for returning nomination forms
4th October – Shortlist of eligible charities published
19th October – Parish Lenten Project AGM and Charity Voting

Let's continue to build on the legacy of the Lenten Project by coming together once more in generosity, unity and faith.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR JULY 2025

A. Cash / cheques – £3,988.44
 1. Gift-Aided – £1,600.13
 2. Non-G/A – £2,388.31
 B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £2,668
 1. Gift-Aided – £2,458
 2. Non-G/A – £210
 C. Contactless Machine – £1,340
Total = £7,996.44 (Last month: £8,871.24)

Thank you for supporting your Parish.

Cheques: Please make 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***

IMPORTANT: Gift Aid: If you are a Gift Aid donor, please include your **Gift Aid number** in your online payment reference. If you are not registered for Gift Aid, kindly use "NGA" in the reference. **Need Help?** Contact **Lance Louis** at tolworthgac1@rcaos.org.uk or call **07851 070036**.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

A prayer for Someone struggling mentally

Dear God. Thank you for *insert name*. I pray that you will travel alongside *insert name* as they contend with their mental health issues today and every day. As their life is affected by their mental health, bring them comfort, peace and guidance. Lead them towards the help that they need, and give them the strength to reach out and speak up when they are in need. I pray that you will be a place of rest and love amongst the chaos, and I pray you will bring total healing, casting out all mental health issues and leaving them free from the grips of their struggles. Amen.

Teacher: "Answer this math problem: if your father earns \$500 a week and gives half to your mother. What will he have?" Student: "A heart attack."

A mom texts, "Hi! Son, what does IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?" He texts back, "I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later." The mom texts him, "It's ok, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister, love you too."

C	O	T	S	Y	O	V	N	E	G
T	Y	N	E	W	T	G	O	N	E
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CROWDS	TOWER	COST
COMPLETE	FOUNDATION	KING
MARCHING	THOUSAND	WAR
TWENTY	ENVOYS	PEACE

