



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS- C

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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



The Holy Cross: Healing Through Reconciliation

St Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, is remembered for her pilgrimage to the Holy Land in search of the cross on which Jesus was crucified. With the help of St. Macarius, Bishop of Jerusalem, she discovered it in 326 AD. To distinguish the true cross from the others found, a miraculous healing took place when the authentic cross was placed upon a sick woman on 3rd May of that year. Soon after, Emperor Constantine built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which was dedicated on 14th September, 335 AD. Historically, crucifixion was regarded as a shameful punishment reserved for criminals and rebels. Yet Jesus transformed the cross into an instrument of healing and salvation. This power of healing had been foreshadowed in the Old Testament, when those bitten by serpents were healed simply by looking upon the bronze serpent Moses lifted up in the wilderness (Num 21:4-9). Christ's saving work is the ultimate act of reconciliation. By his incarnation, he took on our humanity; by his death on the cross, he restored what Adam had lost. Through his sacrifice at Calvary (Phil 2:6-11), heaven and earth were reconnected.

This crucifixion reconciled not only humanity with God, but also people with one another as seen in the contrite conversion of the repentant thief (Lk 23:42-43). In this way, the cross has both a vertical dimension reconciling humanity with God and a horizontal dimension reconciling human beings with one another. It is the triumph of love over hate, life over death, and faith over despair.

Pope Francis reminds us that the cross is the sign of God's infinite love for each of us and the source of our salvation. For this reason, there is no shame in identifying with the cross whether by wearing it or in signing oneself as a believer in Jesus Christ. Rather, it is a proud symbol of healing, reconciliation, and victory. Am I joyfully wearing my cross?

Fr. Bonaventure CSSp

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 13 SEPTEMBER 2025 — 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

Sat 13	18.30: Thanksgiving (<i>Issac & Lucy</i>)
Sun 14	09.00: Isaac Macanda (birthday thanksgiving) 11.00: Alex and Rosemary Maranzano (57th Wedding ANNI). 18.00: Mathilda Fernandes (RIP).
Mon 15	09.30: Vivian Iweka (Thanksgiving, goodness and mercies) & Nubia - Thanksgiving
Tues 16	09.30: Mary Flynn - RIP (<i>P Grogan</i>) 19.00: Michael & Catherine Burrows - RIP (<i>FM</i>) <u>OLI School Joining the 9.30am Mass</u>
Wed 17	09.30: Chandra Fernando - RIP (<i>M Corsin</i>) 19.00: Catherine Seaward - RIP (<i>FM</i>)
Thurs 18	07.00: Thanksgiving - Clement - 18th Birthday (<i>M Suresh</i>) 09.30: Denise Kidd - Ints & WB (<i>A & MH Cook</i>)
Fri 19	07.00: Holy Souls 09.30: Kathleen, Lisa, Bridget & Family - Ints (<i>LM Kidd</i>)
Sat 20	09.00: Holy Souls
Sat 20	18.30: Howley, Maguire, Kearins Families (<i>M Howley</i>)
Sun 21	09.00: Darryl Gomes (Birthday thanksgiving) & Frank Amato - RIP (<i>Son & Daughter</i>) 11.00: Vivian Iweka (thanksgiving, goodness and mercies). 18.00: Fredrick & Dolly Sirmon - RIP (<i>FM</i>)

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

Cf. Gal 6: 14

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

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, who willed that your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known his mystery on earth, may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven. 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

Numbers 21:4b-9

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.' Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 78(77):1-2. 34-35. 36-37. 38. R cf. 7b
Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Give ear, my people, to my teaching;

incline your ear to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable and utter hidden lessons of the past. **R**

When he slew them, then they sought him, repented and earnestly sought God.

They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. **R**

Yet they deceived him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues.

For their hearts were not steadfast towards him; they were not faithful to his covenant. **R**

Yet he who is full of compassion forgave them their sin and spared them.

So often he held back his anger, and did not stir up all his rage. **R**

Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

John 3:13-17

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

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

May this oblation, O Lord, which on the altar of the Cross cancelled the offence of the whole world, cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Communion Antiphon

Jn 12: 32

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Having been nourished by your holy banquet, we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ, to bring those you have redeemed by the wood of your life-giving Cross to the glory of the resurrection. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen**

NEW AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY'S PROCESSION ON THE 5TH OF OCTOBER AFTER THE 11AM MASS TO CELEBRATE OCTOBER AS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY. PLEASE, INFORM YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.

OLI YOUTH MINISTRY WELCOMES BACK ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK! We look forward to reconnecting at our next session on Sunday, 21st September, 12.30–1.45pm in the Parish Hall. We can't wait to see everyone from Year 7 up to age 21 – whether you've joined us before or are coming along for the first time, you are most welcome!

OLI SCHOOL WILL JOIN THE 9.30AM MASS, WED 17TH SEPTEMBER for their New School Year Mass.

YOUNG ADULT'S CONCERT IS BEING ORGANIZED BY THE SPIRITANS RELIGIOUS ORDER YOUTH MINISTRY ON SATURDAY, 25th of October @ St. Mellitus, Tollington Park, London. It will begin the series of preparation for the next World Youth Day. If people are interested in travelling with us, please.
Email: tolwothyouth@rcaos.org.uk or the parish office.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. THE FIRST PARENT'S MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY, 6TH OF OCTOBER. THIS IS MANDATORY FOR EVERY PARENTS. DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF REGISTRATION FORMS IS ON THE 19TH OF OCTOBER.

RCIA PROGRAM: ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? and want to know more? Are you an adult, baptised Catholic but not yet confirmed? If you, or

someone you know, would say 'Yes' to one of these questions, we invite you to complete one of the forms at the entrance to the church and hand it in at the parish office. The parish is putting together a small group that will meet informally every week from early October that may help answer your questions about the Church and, if you wish, enable you to take further steps.

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS 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.

Next weekend second collection is for the Catholic Agency for the Support of Evangelization. This collection is used to support evangelization work in the country.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT 2025 WILL START FROM THE WEEKEND OF 20/21 SEPTEMBER TO THE WEEKEND OF 11/12 OCTOBER. COUNTING WILL BE DONE IMMEDIATELY AFTER HOLY COMMUNION.

CATENIAN MASS WILL BE ON SUNDAY, 28TH OF SEPTEMBER AT THE 11AM MASS. THE CATENIANS WILL SPEAK TO US IN THE MASS ABOUT THEIR WORK.

NEW CANDIDATES FOR THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS TRAINING with Fr. Bonaventure will be on Friday, 3rd of October in the old chapel This meeting is mandatory for all new Eucharistic Ministers to be.

PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEBBIE BOARD AND HELEN EMMETT ARE SETTING UP OUR PARISH BEREAVEMENT TEAM. Thanks 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 20TH 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.

NEW EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS 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.

HELEN EMMETT IS THE PARISH LEAD ON INTER- RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE and she will be representing the parish in the Churchs 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.

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

LENTEN PROJECT 2026 – CHARITY NOMINATIONS

OPEN - Nominations for the **2026 Parish Lenten Project** are now open. We invite you to submit a nomination. 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.

- **6th September** – Nominations opened
- **29th September** – Deadline for returning nomination forms

- **4th October** – Shortlist of eligible charities published

12th 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.



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

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

LAST WEEKEND

Gift-aid: £315.70	Non-Gift-aid: £674.80
	Total: £990.50

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR AUGUST 2025

A. *Cash / cheques* – £4,747.91
 1. *Gift-Aided* – £1,830.22
 2. *Non-G/A* – £2,917.69
 B. *Standing Orders / Bank Transfers* – £2,088.00
 1. *Gift-Aided* – £1,898.00
 2. *Non-G/A* – £190.00
 C. *Contactless Machine* – £219.50
Total = £7,055.41 (*Last month:* £7,996.44)

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

PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO CARRY THEIR CROSS

O my God, I thank you for this cross you have allowed me to carry. Please give me the strength and faith to persevere so that I may bring glory to Your name. I know that you have always been, are now, and ever will be, at my side every step of the way. Thank You also for every "Simon" that You have sent to help me bear this cross. I have prayed so often that this thorn is my flesh would be removed, but I trust that your grace is sufficient. May I seek only to do your Will and to unite my sufferings with Your passion. Permit me not to waste my pain, but to make of these struggles a sacrificial offering for others. Lord, when I am weary and I fall, exhausted under the weight of this cross, please give me the courage to press on as You did. Lord Jesus, I embrace with love my cross as a share in Your own. By Your grace, may I carry it all the way to the vision of Your glory. I abandon myself totally to Your will. Christ Jesus, I trust in You. Amen

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening worship service and was startled to find an intruder in her house! She yelled, "STOP! Acts 2:38!" ("Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.") When the burglar heard this, he stopped dead in his tracks and raised two shaking hands. The woman quickly called the police and told them exactly what happened. They arrived minutes later and took the unresisting man into custody. As he was placing the handcuffs on the burglar, an officer asked, "Why did you just stand there? All the lady did was mention a scripture verse." "Scripture? What scripture?" replied the confused burglar. "She said she had an axe and two 38s!"

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

LIFTED
 BELIEVE ·
 SERPENT
 MOSES
 LIFE, · GOD
 SON, · HEAVEN
 WORLD, · SAVED
 ETERNAL, LOVE