



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT- A

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

21 December 2025



What Kind of a Messiah Are You Waiting For?

A story is told of a man who asked God to visit him. He thoroughly prepared everything at his home for such a great visitor. As he eagerly waited for God on the appointed day, he was surprised to keep seeing beggars, specially gifted individuals, elderly people, refugees and others knocking at his door. He kept chasing them away because he was waiting for an important guest who, unfortunately, never turned up! In his dream that night, God told him that he struggled to visit him but all the time he kept chasing him away! What kind of a Messiah am I waiting for on Christmas day? Actually, most Jews expected the Messiah to be a fully-grown person who would drop suddenly from the skies and land on the Temple Mount. This is probably why, in the temptation narrative, Satan proposed to Jesus that he jump from the pinnacle of the Temple (Mt 4:5-7). Today's Gospel narrates that the Messiah was conceived just like us and spent nine months in the womb. The mother, Mary, was an ordinary country girl. While here on earth, Jesus remained a common person in infancy, adolescence and adulthood up to thirty years of age. His name is Emmanuel (Isa 7:14; Mt 1:23), meaning God-with-us. Just like the Jews, are we still only waiting for a miraculous Messiah? How many have left the church wandering all over looking for miracles? Have we prepared for Christmas by reaching out to Jesus among our poor neighbors, the sick, the elderly, the hungry, the displaced/refugees and those in prisons? What plans do I have concerning sharing my Christmas with the suffering Jesus? Let us serve him through our brothers & sisters since they are all created in the image and likeness of God.

Fr. Bonaventure CSSp

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 20 DECEMBER — 28 DECEMBER 2025

Sat 20	18.30: Michael Livsey - RIP (<i>T Rutter</i>)
Sun 21	09.00: Luka Joseph -RIP, 36th Anni (<i>L John</i>), Allison Davies (Birthday & Thanksgiving) 11.00: Dec'd Mems of D'Souza, Middleton & Tremeneheere Fams 18.00: Ann Mulrooney - RIP (<i>P Mulrooney</i>)
Mon 22	09.30: Dec'd Mems of Maranzano, Allen & Licence Fams (<i>Maranzano</i>)
Tues 23	09.30: John Bredl - RIP (<i>T Bredl</i>) 19.00: Irene Rolfe - RIP (<i>M J Gray</i>)
Wed 24	09.30: Jim Mulloy - WB (<i>K Fox</i>) 17.00: Antony & Mary Murphy (<i>M McDonough</i>) 22.00: Private Intention (<i>R Simon</i>) <u>CHRISTMAS DAY - SOLEMNITY</u>
Thurs 25	09.00: Maria Pinto - RIP 11.00: Alice, Bill & Susan Rooney - WB (<i>C Stevens</i>) 18.00: Frs Michael & Bonaventure - TG & WB (<i>T Rutter</i>) <u>ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR - FEAST</u>
Fri 26	07.00: Holy Souls 09.30: Janice Ryan - RIP, 1st Anniversary (<i>Tim & Family</i>) <u>ST. JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST - FEAST</u>
Sat 27	09.00: Anne Martin - Ints & RIP Will Martin
Sat 27	18.30: Issac & Lucy Wedding Anniversary - WB <u>THE HOLY FAMILY</u>
Sun 28	09.00: Mary & P Hosey - RIP 11.00: Byrne & Vickery Family - T/G (<i>T Rutter</i>) 18.00: Freda Cantwell - WB (<i>J Dunseath</i>)

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

THE SICK: Vanessa Andrew
Deacon Al Callan, Martin Dray, Thomas Haley, Frances Cox, George Trutwein, 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, Ralph Smallwood, Elizabeth Jones, Nivetheni Robert, Gerry Hague, Mark Draper, Tim Ryan, Adam Martin, Maureen Stephens, Maureen Sellwood, Mavis Fisher, Andy Moolman, Qiaochen Shi, Jisha Nelson, Vinitha Sherin, Lionel Holland, Peter & Phil Tull, Julie Brian, June Munk, Liam Cawley & 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. Is 45: 8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Advent Prayer (Together let us Say) Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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: Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R cf. 6

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm. **R**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things. **R**

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R**

Second reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his

resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' — which means, God with us. When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

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 the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Communion Antiphon

Is 7: 14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Prayer after Communion: Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

NEW AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS APPEAL: THERE ARE ENVELOPES AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH TO SUPPORT THE CHRISTIANS WHO FACE GENOCIDE IN NORTHERN NIGERIA. Many are displaced and face starvation. Fr. Boniface, our former assistant priest tells of the horrible situation that many are living in. This appeal will go to the purchasing of foodstuff for families.

OLI CRIB OFFERING 2025 will be donated to the Christians who face genocide in Northern Nigeria

THE CLERGY WILL LIKE TO THANK ALL VOLUNTEERS for all their services and donation of the gift of their time, talent and treasure to the service of the Gospel. Also a big thank you to all parishioners for their kindness and prayer for the parish. May heaven be your reward. Amen.

Reconciliation During All Masses: Sunday, 21st December. There will be confession during all the Masses.

MASS FOR THE SICK & ELDERLY: We warmly invite all our sick and elderly parishioners to a special Mass on **Sunday 21st December at 11am.** The Anointing of the Sick will be offered during the celebration.

Parish Service of Lessons & Carols: The parish service of Lessons and Carols is on Sunday, **21st December at 3.00pm.** 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. There will be mince pie and mulled wine in the hall after the carol service.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP (SUNDAY 9AM MASS)
Many thanks to all parents and children for your support of the Children's Liturgy Group this year. We are now on our Christmas break and look forward to welcoming the children back on 11 January 2026. Wishing you a holy and joyful Christmas!

PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH HALL UPDATE: Our parish hall has been renamed to the **Our Lady Immaculate Community Hall.** Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School has been using the parish hall for over 25 years. Use of a hall, especially in relation to children, now comes with certain legal requirements and we have therefore signed a Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the legal requirements on the use of the hall. This does not alter the fact that both the parish and the school have the right to use the hall, but simply sets out the collaboration with the parish and the school. Together, we will continue to use the hall to evangelise our children through education and ensure we promote the Gospel to all who use it.

CHRISTMAS LEAFLET FOR TIME OF SERVICE ARE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH, please take to know about the times of our services and please take and distributes in your neighbourhood.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR THE CLERGY The collection taken at all Christmas Masses is your gift to your priests and the Spiritans. It will be used for the mission. As usual, envelopes are available in the Narthex. If you are a member of the parish Gift Aid scheme, please enter your gift aid number on the envelope to enable tax to be reclaimed for the benefit of the parish. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.

FR. MICHAEL WILL BE AWAY THROUGH OUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY FOR HIS ANNUAL 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 19th December until Monday 5th January 2026.

EVERGREEN FOLIAGE FOR CHRISTMAS - If you have evergreen shrubs or bushes in your garden and can spare a few branches? Please bring to the Church, RDJ room on **(20th & 21st December).** Our lovely flower arrangers are collecting green foliage for the Christmas displays. Thank you.

DONATIONS OF CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND TREES are needed, please. If you have any Christmas trees or decorations that you can spare, we would be very grateful to receive them. Your donations will help us to decorate the Narthex, Old Chapel, RDG room for altar servers and the Presbytery. Thank you for your generosity.

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE DONATIONS: We are collecting donations towards the outdoor Christmas tree this year. If you would like to contribute, please take an envelope and place it either in the weekly collection or through the Presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

OBITUARIES:

IDA REBELLO: Please kindly pray for Ida Rebello who passed away on the 07.12.25 and her funeral will be on the 09.01.2026 at 13.40 at Kingston Crematorium. Please pray for them and their families. Thank you

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

1. CHRISTMAS EVE, 24TH DECEMBER:
5pm - Vigil Mass 1.
7pm - Vigil Mass 2.
10pm - Mass in the Night
(Carol singing - 9.30pm)
2. CHRISTMAS DAY, 25TH DECEMBER:
8am - Mass at Dawn
9.15am - Mass During the Day 1
11am - Mass During the Day 2
6pm - Evening Mass
3. NEW YEAR'S EVE, 31ST DECEMBER:
10pm - Eucharistic Exposition with Benediction
11.15pm - Holy Mass to welcome the New Year.
4. NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1ST JANUARY 2026:
9.30am - Morning Mass

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN

WILSON -In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said: "The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him". You can watch and read the full message at rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025.



Prayer for the Blessing of Christmas present:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy and abundance of this Christmas season. As we exchange gifts, help us to remember that Jesus, your Son, is the greatest gift of all. Bless our presents, that they might bring happiness and serve as reminders of your endless love. May we also be a blessing to others, sharing your peace and kindness with all that we meet. May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ-child fill our hearts. May we use these gifts to show your love and build your kingdom. Amen

Prayer Before Receiving the Anointing

Lord Jesus, divine Physician, I place my weakness and suffering in Your hands. Grant me patience, trust, and peace. Through this holy anointing, may Your grace strengthen me. In body, mind, and spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Anointing

Good and gracious God, thank You for the comfort of Your sacraments. Sustain me with hope, unite my suffering to Christ's Passion, and fill me with the peace that comes from Your presence. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

WEEKLY COLLECTION UPDATE IS SUSPENDED TILL SECOND SUNDAY OF JANUARY WHEN THE PARISH OFFICE REOPENS.

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.



OLI PARISH COMMUNITY SPACE NOW LIVE

Want to connect with any parish group?

Our new *OLI Parish Community* on WhatsApp is now live. Speak to your group admin if you'd like to join.

What is it? A simple umbrella space that brings parish WhatsApp groups together. Each group stays independent with its own admins and settings.

What's the purpose? Helping people find and connect to parish groups more easily.

Already connected: Bible Study, Youth Mass, 9am Tea & Coffee, Warm Welcome, Sing to the Elderly, YD Planning Team.

Groups that can join next: Catechists, Readers, Choir, Stewards, Bereavement, Finance, Cleaning, Lenten Project groups (African-Caribbean, South Indian, Sri Lankan, Filipino), Extraordinary Ministry, and other parish ministries.

Will it create more chat? No. Parishioners only receive messages from the groups they choose to join. No one is added automatically. Group admins who wish to include their group can contact the parish office for the link.



OLI Parish Tolworth Community
Community · 7 groups

How did the bauble know that she was addicted to Christmas? She'd been hooked on Christmas trees all her life.

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsilitis

The Christmas jumper my kids gave me last year kept picking up static electricity. I took it back and exchanged it for another one – free of charge.

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 8lb 2oz when he was born? They had a weigh in a manger

Why did Santa go to music school? To improve his wrapping skills!

What's the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum—you just can't beat it!

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

BETROTHED	CHILD	HUSBAND
HONOUR	DIVORCE	ANGEL
DREAM	WIFE	BIRTH
SON	PROPHET	HOME

