



# GAUDETE SUNDAY - A

14 December 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

## My over- sized childhood Christmas shoe.

I have so many childhood Christmas stories and recently, I started reminiscing on these stories as Christmas approaches because they remind me of our special place in the Christmas story. Christmas is about Jesus Christ, however, without us, there will be no Christmas. It is the love that God has for us as his children that made Christmas happen and our parents reflect that love at Christmas. Many parents and grandparents will go bankrupt this week as they try to get the special gifts that their child deserves. As a child, special clothes and shoes were bought for us only once in a year, that is, at Christmas. Then, we were materially poor but Christmas is never Christmas without Christmas clothes and shoes in Nigeria. My mother was a legend! She never took us to the shops to buy our Christmas shoes. She would tell us to line up and she will pick a stick broom and measure the length of our legs. With vigilant eyes, we ensured that she got the correct measurement of our size. She would take the measurements and go to the market alone. Never with us! However, and tragically, the shoes she bought were always oversized, though shiny. We would cry foul play, but my poor Mum had ensured that the shoes would last up to one year with our fast-growing bodies. Often, the inner part of the shoes was filled with papers to ensure that it fitted. Our childhood Christmas was never complete without our fake designer glasses, fake Rolex and our oversized Christmas clothes made with the same material and style for all my siblings. Christmas reminds me of how special I am to my family and I miss this aspect of Christmas so much. In the Gospel reading, Jesus reminds us that we are so special and important to him. He even said that the least among us is more important than John the Baptist, who is his relation and a prophet. No matter your situation this Christmas, remember that God loves you so much and that you are valued and important to him.

Fr. Mi-

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 14 - 21 DECEMBER 2025

<b>Sat 13</b>	<b>18.30:</b> Anne Davis - WB ( <i>R Tibbs</i> )
<b>Sun 14</b>	<b>09.00:</b> Michael Morrissey - RIP ( <i>P Buchanan</i> ) <b>11.00:</b> Thanksgiving Mass for Volunteers of the Parish <b>18.00:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Mon 15</b>	<b>09.30:</b> Ottavio D'Agostino ( <i>F D'Agostino</i> )
<b>Tues 16</b>	<b>09.30:</b> Anton Sebastian - RIP ( <i>M Sebastian</i> ) <b>19.00:</b> Keven Heuze - RIP ( <i>M J Gray</i> ). Seujan (Strength & success).
<b>Wed 17</b>	<b>09.30:</b> John Flanagan - RIP ( <i>M J Gray</i> ) <b>19.00:</b> Valerie Joyce & Daughters - WB ( <i>M J Gray</i> )
<b>Thurs 18</b>	<b>07.00:</b> Joseph Hurley <b>09.30:</b> Private Intention ( <i>M Sebastian</i> )
<b>Fri 19</b>	<b>07.00:</b> Ena O'Sullivan - RIP <b>09.30:</b> Thanksgiving ( <i>M Sebastian</i> )
<b>Sat 20</b>	<b>09.00:</b> Verna & George ( <i>K Jankowski</i> )
<b>Sat 20</b>	<b>18.30:</b> Michael Livsey - RIP ( <i>T Rutter</i> )
<b>Sun 21</b>	<b>09.00:</b> People of the Parish <b>11.00:</b> Dec'd Mems of D'Souza, Middleton & Tremenhoe Fams <b>18.00:</b> Ann Mulrooney - RIP ( <i>P Mulrooney</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,  
Ida Rebello, 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:

**Phil 4: 4-5**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**Advent Prayer (Together let us Say)** Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. 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:** O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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

**Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Reader: The word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm: 146(145):6c-7. 9b-10. R Matthew 5:3**

***Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord who sets prisoners free. **R**

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord who protects the stranger. **R**

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R**

## Second reading

**James 5:7-10**

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you

may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Reader: The word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

## Gospel

**Matthew 11:2-11**

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?' And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." 'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

**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 sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Communion Antiphon**

**Cf. Is 35: 4**

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**Prayer after Communion:** We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord. 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.

**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 prayers for the parish. May heaven be your reward. Amen.

**MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ON THE 14TH OF DECEMBER AT THE 11AM MASS.** This is to thank all our volunteers for the wonderful work they do for us. There will be a small celebration after the Mass in the hall. Please, endeavor to come. Fr. Michael has a special presentation to make.

**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.

PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE FLYERS** - are available at the back of the church. Please take one to check the times of our Christmas services, and kindly take a few more to distribute in your neighbourhood. Thank you for helping us share the Good News this season.

**FR. MICHAEL WANTS ALL GROUPS, CHAPLAINCIES AND VOLUNTEERS** that use the big community hall to see Denise in the parish office as soon as they can this week in order to secure their bookings.

**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.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** - will hold a pre-Christmas Bereavement Group on **Monday, 15th December 2025 at 7.00pm**. Please come if you feel this may offer support and comfort on your journey of grief at this time. From the New Year, our Bereavement

Group will meet **on the first Monday of each month from 7.00–8.00pm**. All who are living with grief or loss are warmly welcome.

**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

**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

Advent Activities

**1. Morning Prayer of the Church: 9am, Monday-Friday.** Please join us to pray the psalms & intercessions daily.

**2. OLI Christingle Service: Wednesday, 17th December at 5pm** in the Church. This Service is a special Children Service for Advent and celebrates Christ, the Light of the World. Children (and adults) are invited to bring a Christingle to the Service. Instructions on how to make a Christingle can be found on the Parish website <http://www.olionline.co.uk>. A candle will be provided when you arrive at the Service

**3. Reconciliation Service: Thursday, 18th December at 7pm.** The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the important spiritual preparations that we can and should make during Advent. Visiting priests will be available to minister the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**4. 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.

**5. Parish Service of Lessons & Carols:** The parish service of Lessons and Carols is on Sunday, **21st December at 3.30pm**. 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

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

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

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



# INFORMATION & REMINDERS

**CHRISTMAS CARDS & REPOSITORY NEWS:** The repository is open every Sunday after the 9am Mass to sell Christmas cards, Mass cards and other gift items. Please consider supporting your parish by stocking from the repository.

**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.

## PRAYER FOR LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

This is a short prayer of blessing to be prayed just before the lights are lit for the first time on the Christmas tree and it can be used in schools, homes or places of work:

Lord our God,  
we praise you for the light of creation:  
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.  
We praise you for the light of Israel:  
the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:  
he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,  
who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we illumine this tree.  
May the light and cheer it gives  
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.  
May all who delight in this tree  
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

### LAST WEEKEND

Gift-aid: £557.30

Non-Gift-aid: £821.93

Total: £1,379.23

2nd Collection:

£205.17

*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](http://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](mailto:tolworthgac1@rcaos.org.uk) or call

## 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

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, sir," the clerk replied. "That's good," the boss said. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you."

One night, a wife found her husband standing over their baby's crib. Silently she watched him. As he stood looking down at the sleeping infant, she saw on his face a mixture of emotions: disbelief, doubt, delight, amazement, enchantment, even skepticism. Touched by this unusual display and the deep emotions it aroused, with eyes glistening she slipped her arm around her husband. "A penny for your thoughts," she said. "It's amazing!" he replied. "I just can't see how anybody can make a crib like that for only £40.50."

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

PRISON  
BLIND  
LAME  
LEPERS  
CLEANSED  
LIFE  
HAPPY  
CLOTHES  
PALACES  
PROPHET  
SCRIPTURE  
WOMEN

