



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 Ezenwammadu, CSSp, michaeezenwammadu@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

## What is my Rightful Position?

After celebrating the Baptism of the Lord last Sunday, we enter Ordinary time. It is a time of growth, hope and life that is symbolised by green vestments. The season will give us several themes that enable us to grow in our love and service to God. Today's readings are mainly introductory. In the gospel, John the Baptist is introducing Jesus to the people when he points him out as the "Lamb of God." John, as a precursor of Jesus, was a powerful prophet who attracted a great following together with his disciples. However, he never pretended that he was the Messiah. He remained faithful to his call as one who prepares the way. He pointed out Jesus when he declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29-30). After this, two of his disciples left him and followed Jesus (Jn 1:37). John's attitude to Jesus remained, " He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn 3:30). John accepts his position as number two yet, Jesus praises him for being the greatest of all human beings born of women! John challenges our view of envy and jealousy which rob us of our inner peace as we devise ways of eliminating the person we perceive as standing in our way to personal fulfillment. How do I feel about the greatness of another person? How faithful can I be in keeping another person's position? Do I willingly vacate an office when its rightful occupant comes? It's the same with property put in our custody until the rightful owner surfaces or becomes of age. Do I find it easy to surrender everything even if the rightful owner doesn't have the details? In line with John's person, life and ministry, let us be satisfied with who we are and what we have.

**Fr. Bonaventure. CSSp.****MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 18 - 25 JANUARY 2026****Sat 17** **18.30:** Tony Leonard – RIP (*I Houston*)**Sun 18** **09.00:** People of the Parish    **11.00:** Barry Family - WB & Renee Barry - RIP (*C Stevens*)    **18.00:** Alexius Yap - RIP (*C Yap*) & John Morello - RIP (*P Morello*)**Mon 19** **09.30:** Florence & Ethel Eales - RIP (*FM*)**Tues 20** **09.30:** Dennis Cronin - RIP (*E Furlong*)    **19.00:** Solene Dauguet - RIP (*Ghislaine*)**ST AGNES, VIRGIN & MARTYR - MEMORIAL****Wed 21** **09.30:** Monica Tett - Ints (*D Kidd*)    **19.00:** Alexius Yap - RIP, 12th Ann (*C Yap*)**Thurs 22** **07.00:** Dec'd Mems of Fraser Family - RIP (*FM*)    **09.30:** Thomas Chivers & Family - RIP (*FM*)**Fri 23** **07.00:** Rosemary Gribble - RIP (*FM*)    **09.30:** Holy Souls**Sat 24** **09.00:** George & Pat Buggie - RIP (*FM*)**Sat 24** **18.30:** Phil Vallis - RIP (*P Townsend*)**Sun 25** **09.00:** Tony Fazal - RIP (*P Fazal*)    **11.00:** Trisha Ives - Healing & WB (*C Stevens*)    **18.00:** Eileen Cole - Ints (*M Fahy*)

**REMEMBRANCE:** Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died especially Roy Smith (Husband of Letta) 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, & Sue Jones

**EUCARISTIC 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 &amp; 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 65: 4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**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:** Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. 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 49:3, 5-6

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength — he says: 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 40(39):2, 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. R8a, 9a

**Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the LORD,  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth,

praise of our God. **R**

You delight not in sacrifice and offering,  
but in an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering.  
Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.' **R**

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me:  
'I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your instruction lies deep within me.' **R**

Your uprightness I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O LORD. **R**

## Second reading

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

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

### John 1:14a, 12a

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us;  
to all who did receive him,  
he gave the authority to become children of God.  
Alleluia.

## Gospel

### John 1:29-34

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

**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** Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 22: 5**

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

**Or:**

**1 Jn 4: 16**

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

**Prayer after Communion:** Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## LENT 2026

The season of Lent 2026 will begin on **Ash Wednesday**, 18 February, a day of fasting and abstinence.

There will be **three Masses** here in the parish on that day:

1. 7.00am: Early Morning Mass
2. 9.30am: With OLI Primary School attending.
3. 7.00pm: Evening Mass

### **Stations of the Cross:**

Fridays through Lent after

9.30am Mass (*English*)

6pm (*Syro Malabar Community*)

*More Lenten details & the Holy Week Programme to follow*

## NEW AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PALM BRANCHES FROM LAST PALM SUNDAY:** By Catholic custom, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are derived from the blessed palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. Kindly drop them in the designated basket in the narthex. Many thanks.

### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 - 25 JAN 2026:**

The resources and activities around the country are available to share on the CTBI website. Please pray especially this week

for all our brothers and sisters in neighbouring parishes in the Borough of Kingston. Website: [ctbi.org.uk](http://ctbi.org.uk)

### **OLI Youth Ministry Free Pizza & Snacks!**

Our next event is on Sunday 25 January 2026 12.30-1.45pm in the main hall for young people aged 12-21. "Join us for an exciting praise and worship session that gives young people the chance to express their faith through music, in collaboration with the Catenian Association

### **OUR LADY IMMACULATE SCHOOL TALENT SHOW**

Come and enjoy a heart-warming evening as pupils from Our Lady Immaculate School showcase their amazing talents. From music and dance to truly sweet performances, it promises to be a joyful event for all. **Friday 6th February, 6.30pm** Tickets £5, available from the OLI School Office.

### **RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - 1ST FEBRUARY, 2026**

Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass for Racial Justice Sunday at St George's Cathedral on Sunday 1 February 2026, at 10am. Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism. If you would like, please gather outside the cathedral at 9.45am to join the procession of national flags.

After Mass, all are welcome to gather in Amigo Hall for refreshments - a chance to meet one another, share experiences and continue the conversation about faith and inclusion. You are warmly encouraged to attend in person, but if you cannot make it you can watch the livestream through the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/fdmGwmESSgI>

## PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DEANERY DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, ST ANNE'S, KINGSTON HILL – Saturday, 31 January, 10am—1pm.** More details to follow.

**THE SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORY 2026** is now on sale. Copies are available from the Repository, priced at £7.50.

**2ND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:** For The Parish Development Fund

**OLI YOUTH MINISTRY IS GOING TO YOUTH 2000:** OLI Youth Ministry will be going to the Youth 2000 London Retreat 2026, at the Sacred Heart Parish in Wimbledon, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 9 am - 9 pm. The group will be travelling together to and from OLI. This one-day retreat will be an opportunity for people, in year 10 up to the age of 34, in and around London to come together in this new year to explore faith, build relationships and find hope. We have been offered a subsidised rate of £15 per person which includes lunch and dinner however, if cost is still a concern please let us know and we will be happy to help. If you are interested in attending, please email [tolworthyouth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworthyouth@rcaos.org.uk)

**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.

# INFORMATION & REMINDERS

## LENTEN PROJECT 2026 – LOOK AHEAD

With Ash Wednesday falling on 18th February 2026, the Parish Lenten Project is now turning its attention to planning the programme of events for the coming Lenten season.

This year builds on a very successful **Lenten Project 2025**, during which our parish and school communities raised **approximately £17,500**, enabling donations of **£4,350** to each of the four charities supported last year.

Updates on how these funds are being used will continue to be shared throughout the year.

At the **October AGM**, parishioners selected the charities to be supported during **Lent 2026**, representing **five different regions**:

1. De Paul Care Home (India)
2. Empowering Vulnerable Children (Uganda)
3. Cottolengo Filipino Inc. (Philippines)
4. Suburban Vicariate Mental Health Initiative (Trinidad & Tobago)
5. Holy Ghost Hospital (Nigeria)

**Volunteers are warmly invited** to attend the **Lenten Project 2026 Planning Meeting** on **Monday 19th January 2026 at 7:00pm in the Old Chapel**. This one-off meeting will focus on finalising the fundraising calendar and coordinating activities to support our chosen charities during Lent.

### **Date for the Diary**

**Mon 19th January 2026 at 7:00pm – 2026 PLP Planning Meeting**

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

### **LAST WEEKEND**

**Gift-aid:** £368.52

**Non-Gift-aid:** £765.96

**Total:** £1,134.48

### **TOTAL COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 2025**

**(EXCLUDING CHRISTMAS OFFERING)**

**Cash / cheques – £4,349.35**

**1. Gift-Aided – £1,810.19**

**2. Non-G/A – £2,539.16**

**B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £4,351.00**

**1. Gift-Aided – £3,314.00**

**2. Non-G/A – £1,037.00**

**C. Contactless Machine – £1,147.86**

**Total = £9,848.21 (Last month: £9156.02)**



**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 07851 070036.

*Thank you once again for your continued support.*

**"Dear God, so far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, and I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish, and I'm really glad of that! But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen."**

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LAMB  
SIN  
ISRAEL  
WATER  
SPIRIT  
HEAVEN  
DOVE  
BAPTISE  
HOLY  
WITNESS  
CHOSEN  
ONE

