



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR 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 Ezenwammadu, CSSp, michaelezenwammadu@rcaos.org.uk

□ **CURATE:** Fr Bonaventure Ssebyanzi CSSp, bonaventuressebyanzi@rcaos.org.uk □ **SECRETARY:** Mrs Denise Kidd

11 January 2026



Is my RICE still Relevant?

When I recall my catechism classes on Baptism, I often found myself wondering, why did Jesus need to be Baptised? We were taught that Baptism is the sacrament that washes away original sin and makes us children of God and members of the Church. Yet Jesus, being fully God, had no original sin. He was already the Son of God, and the Church itself would come into being after him. So why, then, did Jesus choose to be Baptised? (I will wait for your responses). In one community, a big celebration like Christmas was always marked by having rice and beef for the celebration meal. The day of Baptism was also a great celebration for Catholics. The newly Baptised would be dressed in snow-white garments, symbolising purity and new life in Christ. In many families, girls came to call these garments "the Rice Dress," meaning the dress worn on the day they ate rice — a simple phrase that captures the joy, significance, and cherished memory of that sacred day. The catechist decided to use the same word **RICE** for instructing parents about the main components of baptism. R stands for **re-birth**. In baptism we are born again into a family of believers. We are even given another name to identify us in that family. I stands for **initiation**. Baptism initiates us into full membership of this new family called the Church. All members of this family pray collectively to God by addressing him, "Our Father". C stands for **consecration**. Baptism makes us holy through the washing away of the original sin. Jesus refers to this by, "For the Lord has anointed (consecrated) me" (Lk 4:18). E stands for **empowerment**. Whoever receives this sacrament receives the power of the Holy Spirit to be a witness of Christ (Act I:8) and lead others to the church to become disciples of Christ (Mt 28:19). The celebration of the Lord's baptism reminds us of our own baptism and challenges us to review our membership, consecration and empowerment. Is my baptism still alive and relevant? Has it led anyone to Jesus and his church?

Fr. Bonaventure. CSSp.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 11 - 18 JANUARY 2026

Sat 10	18.30: Tony Leonard – RIP (<i>M, B & R Walsh</i>)
Sun 11	09.00: John & Kathleen Doyle (<i>Doyle/Hall Families</i>) 11.00: Altar Servers 18.00: People of the Parish
Mon 12	09.30: Audra Wamsteker - Healing (<i>T Rutter</i>) OLI School joining this Mass
Tues 13	09.30: Dec'd Mems of the Furlong Family 19.00: Jonnie Byrne - TG & WB (<i>T Rutter</i>)
Wed 14	09.30: Danny & David Docherty - RIP (<i>M-J Gray</i>) 19.00: Jacinta Dunseath - WB
Thurs 15	07.00: Holy Souls 09.30: Paul Joseph - RIP (<i>D Kidd</i>)
Fri 16	07.00: Walter Sice - RIP (<i>FM</i>) 09.30: All OLI Parish Volunteers - TG & WB (<i>T Rutter</i>) <u>St ANTHONY, ABBOT - MEMORIAL</u>
Sat 17	09.00: Nubia & George Carro – Good Health & WB (<i>T Rutter</i>)
Sat 17	18.30: Tony Leonard – RIP (<i>I Houston</i>)
Sun 18	09.00: People of the Parish 11.00: John Morello - RIP (<i>P Morello</i>) 18.00: Alexius Yap - RIP (<i>C Yap</i>)

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, Ida Rebello, 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 & 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. Mt 3: 16-17

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

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, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. 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 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD:

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

'I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,

to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 29(28):1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10. R11b

The LORD will bless his people with peace.

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly powers, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; bow down before the LORD, majestic in holiness. **R**

The voice of the LORD upon the waters, the LORD on the immensity of waters; the voice of the LORD full of power; the voice of the LORD full of splendour. **R**

The God of glory thunders; in his temple they all cry, 'Glory!'

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits as king for ever. **R**

Second reading

Acts 10:34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

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 Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

Jn 1: 32, 34

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Prayer after Communion Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NEW AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVANCE NOTICE OF 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 NEXT WEEKEND: For The Parish Development Fund

MARY'S MEALS is looking for volunteers. Could you spare a few hours during the year to help? We are looking for parish reps, volunteer speakers (training and support provided!) and

volunteers who can help at events. We are very much a volunteer-led movement, so any little you can offer will make a huge difference to the children we serve in some of the world's poorest communities. Please contact Roy Peachey (roy.peachey@marysmeals.org or 07593 447297) if you can help. To find out more about Mary's Meals, please visit marysmeals.org.uk. Thank you for your support!

LENTEN SEASON 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

PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 24th 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

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.

A GENERAL NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for Your faithfulness through the past year, for its blessings, lessons, and challenges. As we step into this new year, we place our hopes and plans in Your hands. Grant us wisdom for decisions, strength for each day, and support when we need it. Fill us with Your peace, purpose, and light, guiding us by Your word and Holy Spirit. Help us to trust You and carry Your love into every moment, sharing it with those around us. Renew our hearts with hope and faith, making all things new. Amen.

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: £610.82

Non-Gift-aid: £513.66

Total: £1,154.48

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), 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 man climbed to the top of Mt. Sinai and gets close enough to talk to God. Looking up, he asks the Lord, "God, what does a million years mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A minute." The man then asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A penny." Then he asks, "Can I have a penny?" The Lord replies, "In a minute!"

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

JESUS JORDAN JOHN
BAPTISM FITTING DEMANDS
WATER HEAVENS SPIRIT
DOVE VOICE SON

