



# 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT - A

22 February 2026

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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 Ezenwammadu, CSSp, michaelenzenwammadu@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



**Our Lady Immaculate RC Church, Tolworth**

## Temptations in the Life of Believers

We have started the Lenten season that reminds us of Jesus' fasting which lasted for forty days. The number forty symbolises a long period of preparing and waiting. For example, Jesus and Moses fasted for 40 days preparing for their missions, and Israel spent 40 years in the desert preparing to enter the promised land, the people of Nineveh did penance for 40 days waiting for God's forgiveness (Jonah 3:4-9), and so on. We are to spend 40 days of Lent preparing for Easter, the day of our redemption.

The Lenten season reminds us of Jesus' temptations. These are also the temptations the Israelites experienced in the desert. They can be categorised into three: temptations of bread, of signs/miracles and of power/fame. The ones of bread remind us how the Israelites cried to God for food while remembering there was plenty of meat in Egypt (Ex 26; Numb 11). It's a temptation for material possessions/satisfaction for selfish interests. The temptation for signs/miracles remind us of the doubts the Israelites had and asked whether God was really with them amidst their thirst (Ex 17:1-7). Jesus responds to it by, "Never put the Lord your God on a test" (Deut 6:16). **Finally, the temptation for power/fame.** The Israelites made a golden calf (Ex 32), and in Jesus' time, people thought of him as a powerful King deserving guards. Jesus called them Satan (Mt 16:23). Jesus demonstrates that one of the weapons against these temptations is the Word of God. Are these temptations also found in my life and our Christian lives? The Temptation for bread is expressed through selfish behavior like greed for possessions, corruption, robbery, deceptions, and others. Temptation for miracles leads people to give God conditions in prayers, changing religion and preachers who pretend to fabricate miracles. Finally, temptation for power/fame is seen in dominating others, bending laws to favour some minorities, love for political power even to the extent of using oppressive means, killing opponents, and so forth. As Jesus used God's Word as a weapon against temptations, am I equipped in the same way? Let us use this Lenten time to read it and grow in using it.

*Fr. Bonaventure*

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 22 FEBRUARY - 01 MARCH 2026

- Sat 21**     **18.30:** People of the Parish
- Sun 22**     **09.00:** Godlove Sache (God's healing and comfort) *(OLI)*  
                   **11.00:** Thanksgiving *(C Yap)*  
                   **18.00:** Tony Pereira - RIP *(L Fernandes)*
- Mon 23**     **09.30:** John Bredl - RIP *(T Bredl)*
- Tues 24**     **09.30:** Ann-Marie Connolly - Recovery & WB *(A & M Cook)*  
                   **19.00:** Holy Souls
- Wed 25**     **09.30:** Paul Ramanayake - RIP *(Mrs M.B. Peiris)*  
                   **19.00:** Rosary Anthony - RIP *(L Rosary)*
- Thurs 26**    **07.00:** Fred Cantwell - WB *(J Dunseath)*  
                   **09:30:** Dec'd Mems of Franciscantonio D'Agostino & Family
- Fri 27**     **07.00:** Vincent Burrows - RIP *(FM)*  
                   **09:30:** Vincent Ramanayake - RIP *(Mrs M.B. Peiris)*
- Sat 28**     **09:00:** Holy Souls
- Sat 28**     **18.30:** John James Morello - RIP *(P Morello)*
- Sun 01**     **09.00:** Ann Ward - RIP *(M Fahy)*  
                   **11.00:** Lisa Ward & Family - WB *(M Fahy)*  
                   **18.00:** People of the Parish

**REMEMBRANCE:** Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died especially June Munk, William Rooney, Christine Lomas, Denis Enright 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 & 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:

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**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:** Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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

**Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 51(50):3-4, 5-6b, 12-13, 14, 17. R cf. 3a

*Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your merciful love;  
according to your great compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me completely from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

My transgressions, truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R**

Create a pure heart for me, O God;  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence;  
take not your holy spirit from me. **R**  
Restore in me the joy of your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.

**Cf. Ps 90: 15-16**

O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. **R**

## Second reading

**Romans 5:12, 17-19**

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

**Reader: The word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Matthew 4:4b**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

## Gospel

**Matthew 4:1-11**

At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you"; and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to 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** Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon** **Mt 4: 4**  
One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**Prayer after Communion:** Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## LENT 2026

### Stations of the Cross:

Fridays through Lent after

9.30am Mass (*English*), 6pm (*Syro Malabar Community*)

## EASTER 2026

- 1. PALM SUNDAY (29th MARCH)**  
6.30pm Blessings of Palms, and procession to the Church from the Hall at 9am and 11am Masses
- 2. MONDAY (30TH MARCH)**  
7pm – Penitential Service with Individual Confessions
- 3. MAUNDY THURSDAY (2nd April)**  
9.00am: Office of Readings & Lauds  
4.00pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation  
5.00pm: Mass of the Last Supper  
8.00pm: Mass of the Last Supper followed by watching at the Chapel of Repose, closing with Night Prayer before Midnight.
- 4. GOOD FRIDAY (3rd April)**  
9.00am: Office of Readings & Lauds  
9.30-10.30am: Sacrament of Reconciliation  
11.00am: Service of the Passion with Children  
3.00pm: Commemoration of the Passion & Adoration of the Cross  
7.00pm Way of the Cross
- 5. HOLY SATURDAY – EASTER VIGIL (4th April)**  
8.00pm Easter Vigil in the Holy Night & Sacraments of Initiation
- 6. EASTER SUNDAY (5th April)**  
Masses at 9am; 11am; and 6pm

## NEW AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WHY DO WE MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS? THIS WILL BE EXPLAINED NEXT SUNDAY BY THE EVANGELISATION TEAM. DURING THIS SEASON OF LENT, THE EVANGELISATION TEAM WILL LEAD US IN UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING BEHIND THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE HOLY MASS.** For this year, we will be explaining the introductory part of the Mass. Please, follow and don't miss this opportunity to understand the Mass deeper.

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

**2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: CAFOD (Lent)**

**EASTER RAFFLE:** The Altar Servers & Youth Group will be selling

tickets at £1 per ticket for our Easter raffle. Prizes include £100, bottle of Champagne and beautiful Easter egg hampers. The draw will take place on Easter Sunday and all proceeds will go to the Parish Development Fund. Many, many thanks to Wendy in the Parish Office who donated the wonderful Easter egg hampers. Donations of prizes to be included in the raffle will be gratefully accepted.

**Following the Youth 2000 Event Retreat Day on 24th January at the Sacred Heart, Wimbledon:** the young people from our parish who attended made a reflective report and shared the fruits of their retreat as follows:

*This trip has been so amazing, fun and exciting so far because we have learnt new lessons from expert catechists and we have met with other young youth members from different youth groups which was very inspiring. It also made us realise that forgiveness brings us closer to God and frees us from any heavyweight we are unknowingly carrying. We were also taught that loving our neighbours as we love our self helps a lot in our daily life. (Merdy and Favour)*

*This has helped us to grow in our faith and allowed us to fully explore and learn about the lives and vocations of other Christians and understand that every journey in faith is different and unique and is to be cherished. (Linnet and Ayona)*

*This trip allowed me to become a part of a wider community and meet new people of the faith and this has helped me realise that I am not alone in my faith and I have people that I can talk to about my faith. (Gabriel)*

*It was great to see so many people who look like me and talk like me and who I would see walking along the streets. Helped me trust that God is working in our generation and our faith is growing. (Jefin)*

**FR. MICHAEL WILL BE AWAY FROM THE PARISH FROM SUNDAY**, 1st of March to Saturday, 7th of March for his annual retreat. Please, see him this week if you have an urgent issue to discuss.

**WE WELCOME NEXT WEEK, FR. UGOO**, the Provincial of the Spiritan for his annual canonical visitation to the Spiritan mission here. He will say Masses for us.

**ASHES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AFTER ALL THE MASSES AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH** this weekend for those who did not receive them on Ash Wednesday.

**THERE ARE STATION OF THE CROSS SHEETS** at the back of the Church. You can take a copy and use it at home for your private devotion or with your family.

**LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** will be on Monday, 30th March at 7pm. Confession is every Saturday immediately after the 9.00am Mass and 5.30-6.00pm before the Saturday evening Mass. A regular confession is very important for our spiritual growth and helps us deepen our relationship with God and others.

**OUR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND LIST** is being updated and visitation to the sick and housebound has started, if you know any parishioner that is sick or housebound, please do let the clergy or parish office know so that we can visit them.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER'S RENEWAL RETREAT** - Saturday, 21st of March at 11am - 12.30pm, Church. This is mandatory for every Eucharistic minister to enable them to do their annual renewal of commitment on Maundy Thursday. Without such renewal, one may not be able to continue as a Eucharistic minister.

### OBITUARY † JUNE MUNK

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of June Munk who recently sadly passed away. May she rest in peace.

### OBITUARY † DENIS ENRIGHT

Kindly pray for Denis Enright who sadly passed away on Thursday 12th February in Kingston Hospital. May he rest in peace.

# INFORMATION & REMINDERS

## PARISH LENTEN PROJECT 2026

**Bake, Sell and Win - 1st March 2026:** The OLI Youth Ministry is planning a Youth Star Baker Fundraiser after the 9am and 11am Masses on Sunday 1 March. Young people are invited to enter the OLI Youth Star Baker Competition and sell their bakes in support of the Lenten Project. All entries will be sold after Mass to raise funds for the Lenten Project. One young person will be awarded the OLI Youth Star Baker Trophy. Sign up using the forms at the Narthex or on the Parish website.

**Sponsored Walk - 7th March 2026** This year's Sponsored Walk will be a 48km (30-mile) route along the River Thames. Walkers will set off from OLI Church at 7am, heading to Putney Bridge before returning to OLI mid-afternoon. If you would like to take part, please contact Elspeth Casey ([elspeth.casey23@gmail.com](mailto:elspeth.casey23@gmail.com)) and request to join the **Tolworth Trekkers WhatsApp group** on the OLI Community Space. To sponsor the walkers, please either place donations in an envelope through the Presbytery door or donate online via the QR code. Thank you for your support and generosity.



**John's DIY Services** - supporting the Lenten Project. All household DIY and repair jobs considered, from redecorating to garden fencing. Give John a ring to discuss your needs: **07561 493810**. All proceeds in support of the Lenten Project.

### March Dates for Your Diary:

- **Sun 1 Mar** – Youth-led Fundraising Event
- **Sat 7 Mar** – Sponsored Walk
- **Fri 20 Mar** – Toy Donations from OLI Families
- **Fri 20 Mar** – Noah's Ark Pre-School LP Fundraising
- **Sat 21 & Sun 22 Mar** – Table-Top Sale
- **Wed 25 – Thurs 26 Mar** – OLI School LP Events

**LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH - SYCAMORE** is a course consisting of four online sessions, one hour each, which explores our Catholic faith from first principles. The course runs for four consecutive Tuesdays starting at 8pm on March 10 with two further courses starting May 5 and September 8 respectively. More details - T: 07983 524 727 E: [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

Little Johnny on his first day of school, looks worried, his dad asks him "What's wrong?" I'm Nervous, Johnny replied, "How long do I have to go to school for?" "Until you're 18" says the father. Johnny nods, and thinks about this quietly. When they get to the front gates of the school, the child says "Dad, you will remember to come and get me when I'm 18, won't you?"

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

### LAST WEEKEND

**Gift-aid:** £593.60      **Non-Gift-aid:** £484.41  
**Contactless Gift Aid:** £100.00      **Total:** £1,178.01

**2nd Collection:** *Clergy Support Fund* £539.70

*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 [tolworthgacl@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworthgacl@rcaos.org.uk) or call **07851 070036**.

*Thank you once again for your continued support.*

## Prayer against Temptation (Prayer to Overcome Bad Habits)

Behold me, O my God, at Thy feet! I do not deserve mercy, but O my Redeemer, the blood which Thou hast shed for me encourages me and obliges me to hope for it. How often have I offended Thee, repented, and yet have I again fallen into the same sin! O my God, I wish to amend; and in order to be faithful to Thee, I will place all my confidence in Thee. I will, whenever I am tempted, instantly have recourse to Thee. Before, I have trusted in my own promises and resolutions, and have neglected to recommend myself to Thee in my temptations. This has been the cause of my repeated failures. From this day forward, be Thou, O Lord, my strength; and thus shall I be able to do all things, for "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Amen

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

WILDERNESS  
 TEMPTED  
 DEVIL  
 FASTED  
 FORTY  
 HUNGRY  
 STONES  
 LOAVES  
 ANGELS  
 FOOT  
 SATAN  
 WORSHIP

