



# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - A

08 March 2026

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, 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**

## Thirst in a Pilgrim's Life

One of the most celebrated days of a Catholic in Uganda is the martyrdom of St. Charles Lwanga and his 21 companions on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. This is preceded by foot pilgrims who walk hundreds of miles in the month of May to the martyrdom site at Namugongo Kampala. One of the greatest gifts to pilgrims while on their journey is drinking water. Thirst also threatened the Israelites' desert exodus so much that they started questioning, "Is Yahweh with us or not?" (Ex 17:7) Then God commanded Moses to strike a rock for water to gush out for the people to drink. The gospel demonstrates that thirst could be physical or spiritual. There was physical thirst and that brought a Samaritan woman to the well everyday. Spiritually, the Samaritan woman was also thirsty; she had an inner thirst that drove her from one man to another with no satisfaction. She was in her sixth marriage. According to scripture, six as a number represents of imperfection, symbolic of deficiencies. Then, seven is a number of perfection, completion, finality and sufficiency. Thus, Jesus came to the Samaritan woman as the seventh man. So, she opened up to him and finally experienced the satisfaction of all her soul's desire. This conversion of hers was challenged by some mentalities of the times. First, Jews were not supposed to interact with Samaritans. Ethnicity and religion kept them apart. Second, it was against the norm for a man to engage a woman in dialogue in a public place. This is why his disciples were astonished (Jn 4:27) though none of them questioned him.

What does the conversion of the Samaritan woman teach us? The Lenten season brings us also to the Lord's Well with all our different types of thirsts (longings). Human society organises itself by erecting boundaries (national, ethnic, religious, and gender). Jesus breaks them without hesitation by reaching out to all people as brothers and sisters. Let us eliminate these boundaries built upon prejudice due to economic status, family background, profession, residential location, political affiliation, physical appearance, and others. Finally, the woman's missionary initiative challenges us to bring more souls to Jesus for they are thirsting for salvation.

**Fr. Bonaventure. CSSp.**

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 08 - 15 MARCH 2026

- Sat 07** 18.30: Margaret Weston - Recovery (*Houston Family*)
- Sun 08** 09.00: Joe Cullinan - RIP (*P Grogan*)  
11.00: Paul Louie - BD & WB (*L Ko*)  
18.00: Janaki & Jebamalai Muthu - RIP (*Mary & Suresh*)
- Mon 09** 09.30: Flordeliza Subade Abello - RIP (*Jo*)
- Tues 10** 09.30: Recovery of Elenor  
19.00: Sivagananam Rasa (RIP 5th ANN).
- Wed 11** 09.30: Holy Souls  
19.00: Mary Trussler - RIP (*FM*)
- Thurs 12** 07.00: People of the Parish  
09.30: Sick & Housebound Parishioners
- Fri 13** 07.00: Dosa Company - God's Blessing and Favour  
09.30: Catherine Yap - WB
- Sat 14** 09.00: Mary Burrows - RIP, 3rd Ann (*A Dray*)
- Sat 14** 18.30: Peggy Radford - RIP, 1st Ann (*W Teece*)
- Sun 15** 09.00: Thanksgiving (*P Fazal*)  
11.00: Mary Brickwood - RIP (*K Jankowski*)  
18.00: People of the Parish

**REMEMBRANCE:** Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died especially 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:

Cf. Ps 24: 15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**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, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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

Exodus 17:3-7

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the LORD said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

**Reader: The word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R7c, 8a**

*O that today you would listen to his voice!*

*'Harden not your hearts.'*

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;  
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;  
let us hail him with a song of praise. **R**

O come; let us bow and bend low.

Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,  
for he is our God, and we the people,  
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand. **R**

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your forebears put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R**

## Second reading

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die —

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Reader: The word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Refrain (Sung)** *Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life; Son of God who leads us to freedom: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Cf. John 4:42, 15

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

## Gospel

John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water. Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.' Many Samaritans from that town believed in him. So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

**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** Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon** For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

**Prayer after Communion:** As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. 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)**  
6pm 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)**  
9.00am: Office of Readings & Lauds  
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

**THANKS SO MUCH TO THE EVANGELISATION TEAM:** For explaining WHY THE PENITENTIAL ACT to us.

**THE GLORIA** This will be explained next Sunday by the evange-

lisation 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 during the season of lent..

### BIBLE STUDY GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young People between 13 and 18 are invited to discover more about the Bible. Sessions will be **by Zoom** every other Friday at 6pm. You can put your name down on the form at the back of the church or send an email: [tolworthple@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworthple@rcaos.org.uk)

**HOLY WEEK - SERVERS NEEDED** Servers are needed for all our Holy Week Services i.e. Maundy Thursday 2 April @ both 5.00 and 8.00 pm, Good Friday 3 April @ 3.00 pm and Holy Saturday 4 April @ 8.00pm.. If you can help at any of these masses please add your name to the appropriate sign-up sheet in the RDJ room. We need a lot of people to ensure these masses are successful so please help if you can. Jobs will be allocated in advance but you will need to arrive early for each of these services. Thank you in advance for your assistance. Jacques Lambert, Parish Master of Ceremonies.

**CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS** Here is an opportunity to volunteer to help keep the church beautiful and clean! Please post an envelope with your name and contact numbers through the presbytery letterbox and you will be contacted. While the aim is to make Sunday special for everyone, there are many different tasks that need attention. Thank you.

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK** for flowers at Easter.

**EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS NOW ON SALE** please collect a book of raffle tickets from the narthex. Payment and ticket stubs may be posted through the presbytery door. 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. Donations of prizes to be included in the raffle will be gratefully accepted. Thanks so much to Wendy in the Parish office who donated many of the prizes. Thank you.

### PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FRS MICHAEL AND FR. BONAVENTURE DID THE 48 KILOMETER SPONSORED WALK** this weekend Please, please also sponsor them with your donations.

**ST PATRICK'S DAY:** We are delighted to invite all Families associated with the Parish to our St. Patrick's day party on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March in Richard Challoner School. It is a fantastic family event suitable for all ages. The link to buy tickets is: <https://richard-challoner-school-pta.sumupstore.com/>

**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 11.45am - 12.45pm, 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.

# INFORMATION & REMINDERS

## PARISH LENTEN PROJECT 2026

**OLI Youth Star Bake Off - A Wonderful Success** Thank you to everyone who supported the **first OLI Youth Star Bake Off** last Sunday. It was a joyful and delicious event, and we are especially grateful to the young bakers who spent many hours preparing their wonderful creations.

Together we raised a fantastic **£295** for the Lenten Project.

Congratulations to our **joint winners, Hilary and Momo**, crowned the first champions of the **OLI Young Bakers Contest**. Special thanks to the organisers **Jefin and Michaela** for their generous time, dedication and stewardship.

**Sponsored Walk - Trekkers Rise to the Challenge** A huge thank you to our **Tolworth Trekkers** who completed the demanding **48km charity walk** along the Thames yesterday. The walk was led by Fr Michael and Fr Bonaventure, together with Mr Martin, Head of OLI Primary School, and supported by many dedicated walkers who gave their time and energy for the Lenten Project. The **JustGiving page remains open**, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has already donated.



### March Dates for Your Diary:

- **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

### NEED A HANDYMAN?

If you have household DIY and repair jobs that needs doing, give **John** a ring on **07561 493810** to discuss your needs. All proceeds go towards the Parish Lenten Project.

**Prayer for peace in the Middle East:** God of peace, bearer of hope, we seek your help for the peoples of the Middle East. Quiet the clamour of war and guide us towards peace. Where there is hatred and division sow seeds of calm and openness. Where there is destruction help us to rebuild. Where children are crying bring an end to tears. Shelter your peoples and protect them. Guide them and keep them from harm. Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear and breathe whispers of hope. Amen.

**A young nun who worked for a local home health care agency was out making her rounds when she ran out of petrol. As luck would have it, there was a petrol station just one block away. She walked to the station to borrow a can with enough petrol to start the car and drive to the station for a fill up. The attendant regretfully told her that the only petrol can he owned had just been loaned out, but if she would care to wait he was sure it would be back shortly. Since the nun was on the way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car. After looking through her car for something to carry to the station to fill with petrol, she spotted a bedpan she was taking to the patient. Always resourceful, she carried it to the station, filled it with petrol, and carried it back to her car. As she was pouring the petrol into the tank of her car, two men watched her from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said: "I know that it is said that Jesus turned water into wine, but if that car starts, I'm going to church every Sunday for the rest of my life."**

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

### LAST WEEKEND

**Gift-aid:** £635.22

**Non-Gift-aid:** £732.36

**Total:** £1,367.58

**2nd Collection:** CAFOD £225.30

*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**.*



**SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** 21 to 28 August 2026. Bishop Paul Hendricks warmly invites you to join him on this year's Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. I have also found it a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled. Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/> We also ask pilgrims to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026> For more information, please contact ([edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)) or Deacon John Fogarty ([johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk)) or Bishop Paul Hendricks ([paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk))

### OBITUARY † DENIS ENRIGHT

Kindly pray for Denis Enright who sadly passed away on 12th February in Kingston Hospital. May he rest in peace. **Funeral:** Catherine of Sienna Church, Chessington on Wed 11th March at 10.30am.

E	L	T	H	U	S	B	A	D	N
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R	R	H	M	J	R	C	N	O	O
D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I	J	J
I	S	Y	C	B	S	A	R	A	O
D	E	T	K	C	U	B	D	C	B

SAMARITAN	SYCHAR	JACOB
JOSEPH	WELL	WOMAN
WATER	DRINK	JEW
BUCKET	CATTLE	HUSBAND

