



5TH SUNDAY IN LENT - A

22 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 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



Our Lady Immaculate RC Church, Tolworth

Participating In Our Salvation

The story of the raising Lazarus was a sign of Jesus' powerful intervention in a hopeless situation, and it was for the same reason that Jesus had delayed going to Bethany when Lazarus was sick. To the early believers, this story was a pointer to Jesus' resurrection. It was a challenge to believers' faith and hope to accept that it's never too late for God. In it, Jesus issues three commands. First, "Jesus said, Roll away the stone " (Jn 11:39-41). Here divine power gave consideration to human cooperation to be activated. The second command, "Lazarus, come out! And the dead man came out" (Jn 11:43-44). Jesus' word is followed by immediate obedience from Lazarus. And the third command, "Unbind him, and let him go "(Jn 11:44). Lazarus needed the community to unbind him (set him free), and in this way, they were also receiving him back as one of them. This Gospel reveals to us a God who intervenes in our lifeless situations and makes them alive again. What is lifeless around me? Is it my job, business or a family relationship? Let us there fore call on Jesus with Faith and Hope. One of the spiritual forms of death is sin, which separates us from one another, and God. The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us to overcome this lifeless situation by acknowledging our failures and seeking God's intervention. Am I always willing to cooperate with God for my salvation? St Augustine taught, that the God who created us, will not save us, without our cooperation. We have to do something. In this gospel, the dead man also did something; he came out of the tomb as commanded by the Lord. The community is commanded to first remove the stone (which had separated the dead from the living) and then to unbind (forgive) him and let him go free. How many people have we refused to unbind and thus separated ourselves from? Jesus was capable of doing everything, but some times He included others. Let us always do our part and let God do the rest (especially what we cannot do).

Fr. Bonaventure CSSp.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 22 - 29 MARCH 2026

- Sat 21** 18.30: Gladys Millard - RIP (*S. Howe*)
- Sun 22** 09.00: Margaret Grogan - RIP (*P Grogan*)
 11.00: Private Ints (*Rosamma*)
 18.00: People of the Parish
- Mon 23** 09.30: John Bredl RIP (*T Bredl*) & Martin Guy (Healing & Wellbeing)
- Tues 24** 09.30: Angela Sellers - RIP (*J Gara*)
 19.00: Prescilla & Eladio Subade - RIP (*J Hodgson*) & Denis David RIP
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD - SOLEMNITY
- Wed 25** 09.30: Mary Keenan (*K Fox*)
 19.00: Fr Anthony's Ints (*M Tett*)
- Thurs 26** 07.00: Jebamalai Muthu - RIP (*Mary & Suresh*)
 09.30: Ann & Stephen Kelly - RIP, 40th Ann (*John Kelly & Family*)
- Fri 27** 07.00: Loy Celestino Guterrez (*J Hodgson*)
 09.30: Intentions of Anne Martin & Will Martin - RIP
- Sat 28** 09.00: Margaret Delany - RIP, 3rd Ann (*Delany Family*)
- Sat 28** 18.30: Noel Burke - RIP (*J Friel*) & Sundralingam Pathinathar RIP ANN
- Sun 29** 09.00: For all of God's Blessings (*Stella & Family*)
 11.00: Paul Neeson - RIP & WB of Neeson Family (*Stevens*)
 18.00: John Brennan & June Munk - RIP & Martin Guy - Healing

REMEMBRANCE: Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died especially and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May their souls rest in peace. Amen

THE SICK: Vanessa Andrew, Deacon Al Callan, Martin Dray, George Trutwein, Rita Reginald, Ian Beard, Tony Cook, Kathleen McGuinness, Nan Healy, Samar Staussi, Joan Frost, Hazel D'Aguiar, Allan Cook, Wendy Cook, Kathleen O'Connell, Ralph Smallwood, Elizabeth Jones, Nivetheni Robert, Gerry Hague, Mark Draper, Tim Ryan, Maureen Stephens, Maureen Sellwood, Mavis Fisher, Lionel Holland, Peter & Phil Tull, Julie Brian, Sue Jones & John Brennan.

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:

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

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: By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.

Reader: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc

With the LORD there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my pleadings. **R**

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

But with you is found forgiveness,
that you may be revered. **R**

I long for you, O LORD,
my soul longs for his word.
My soul awaits the Lord
more than watchmen for daybreak. **R**

More than watchmen for daybreak,
let Israel hope for the LORD.

For with the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.

It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities. **R**

Second reading

Romans 8:8-11

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

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 11:25a, 26

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Everyone who believes in me shall never die. Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel

John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

At that time: The sisters of Lazarus sent to Jesus, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.'

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.'

Jesus was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in 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 Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion: We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **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 Sat & 6pm Sun Blessings of Palms.
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

FR. BONIFACE AYOO - our former assistant priest lost his Mum, Esther Ayoo on Tuesday, 17th of March. Please keep him in your prayers.

CONFESSION - will be available before and during every Mass on the weekend of **Palm Sunday**. A priest will be in the confessional throughout these times for anyone who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession will also be available after the 9:30am Masses on Monday and Tuesday.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE: will be on Monday, 30th March at 7pm. There will be confession after every Mass. A regular confession is very important for our spiritual growth and helps us deepen our relationship with God and others.

EASTER OFFERING FOR THE CLERGY. By custom, for the support of parochial priests in the diocese. It is your gift to Fathers Michael & Bonaventure. Envelopes are available on the desk in the Narthex or on the cash machines under Easter Offering

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES FOR EASTER - The Parish Office will be closed for Easter holiday from Wednesday, 8th April and will reopen on Monday 20th April at 10.00am

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK for Poor Parishes

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK for the Parish Development Fund

PAST ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PARISH HAS ESTABLISHED THE SOCIAL MEDIA COMMISSION. They will be our lead in developing the benefits of the social media for evangelisation. Social media is not just a tool, but a new culture and space where people live, work, and seek meaning, thereby requiring a proactive missionary presence from us. Please if you will like to belong to this commission, speak to Joe Kibrango or Fr. Michael.

Fr. Michael & Fr. Bonaventure have done the sponsored walk. They need you to sponsor them please for the Lenten project.

MORNING MASS ON 1ST APRIL will be at 9am followed by Morning Prayer (Lauds).

SERVICE LEAFLETS FOR HOLY WEEK ARE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. Please take some leaflets and invite your neighbours to our Easter celebration.

EASYFUNDRAISING: Did you know that all your online shopping can raise free donations for Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Church, Tolworth? Sign up to #easyfundraising and weekly food shops, family days out, general online shopping, and more will turn into much-needed donations and support for our cause. Over 8,000 big retailers are ready to donate for free. Please sign up today: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/our-lady-immaculate-catholic-church/cqk3u5/c2s/iM39pGPv/CE956/facebook/>

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.

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. Thank you.

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

PARISH LENTEN PROJECT 2026

Table-Top Sale

Saturday 21 March – after the 6:30pm Mass

Sunday 22 March – after the 9am and 11am Masses

Our next Lenten Project event is the Table-Top Sale. Come along and pick up some bargains while supporting the project.

Expected items include kitchenware, toys, plants, bric-a-brac and homemade blackberry jam. All welcome!

Sponsored Walk - Please donate

Our JustGiving page remains open, and we are now just over 50% of our fundraising target. Thank you to everyone who has already supported the walk.

Use the QR code below to donate:



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

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

If you have household DIY jobs, **John** would be happy to help

Call **07561 493810** to discuss your needs.

All proceeds go towards the Parish Lenten Project.

Prayer for the Terminally Ill:

Lord of Life, we pray today for those who are terminally ill, that they may receive the love and care they deserve and know that their life is precious even to their last breath. We pray especially for those who are vulnerable and who may not have the support and guidance they need. We pray for families and friends, for those who accompany the sick and the dying; that they may be consoled. We pray for those who care for the dying; may they be strengthened and encouraged in their work. We pray for ourselves, that we may always appreciate the gift of life in all its great and beautiful variety. Help us never to take it for granted, but to be grateful for what we have received from you. Heavenly Father, author of life, we place our cares in your loving hands today and always. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

LAST WEEKEND

Gift-aid: £459.02

Non-Gift-aid: £734.50

Total: £1,193.52

2nd Collection: Easter Flowers £250.33

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Cash / cheques – £4,532.71

1. Gift-Aided – £1,922.96

2. Non-G/A – £2,609.75

B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £4,006.50

1. Gift-Aided – £3,054.00

2. Non-G/A – £952.50

C. Contactless Machine – £1,014.00

Total = £9553.21 (Last month: £9848.21)

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**.

St. Patrick Prayer: As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me, the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me. May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me, the word of God speak for me. May the hand of God protect me, the way of God lie before me, the shield of God defend me, the host of God save me. May Christ shield me today. Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

A funeral director called a man for further instructions about his mother-in-law's body. "Do you want her embalmed, cremated or buried?" "All the three!" the man answered promptly. "Don't take any chances."

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

LAZARUS
BETHANY
SISTERS
MARTHA
MARY
OINTMENT
FEET
BROTHER
JUDAEA
TOMB
STONE
PRAYER

