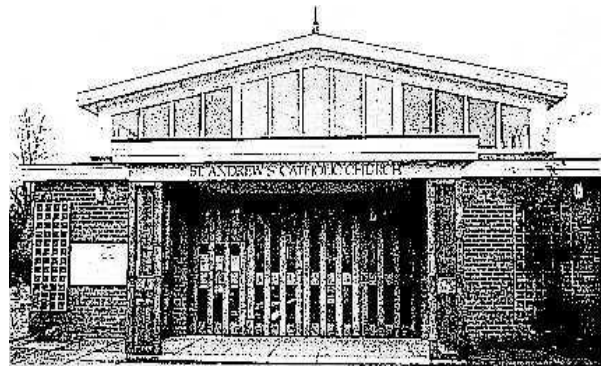

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery
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Thornton Heath **Fax:** 020 8684 6626
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RC Archdiocese of Southwark - A Registered Charity No. 1173050



PASTORAL TEAM
Priests: Fr Len Tatt
Fr Nishant Irudayadason
Deacons: Rev. Tony Flavin Rev. Errol Quagraine
Parish Sister: Sr. Jennie Eldridge DMJ
Croydon University Hospital Chaplaincy: Sr. Sheila DMJ

18th March 2018
5th Sunday of Lent (B)

Message from Fr Nishant

During the season of Lent, we fast which is normally associated with abstinence from food. There is another kind of fasting: abstinence from words. In Psalm 131, the psalmist prays "I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a little child in its mother's arms, like a little child, so I keep myself." Sometimes prayer is silent, because a peaceful communion with God can be done without words. So, prayer does not need words.

It is hard to keep silence. Though sometimes we remain quiet, our minds wander with our struggles. To hold ourselves in peace presupposes a kind of simplicity: To be silent is to recognize that my worries cannot overpower us. To remain silent is to leave in the hands of God what is beyond our reach and abilities. A moment of silence is like a sabbatical rest, a holy pause and a truce from worries.

The agitation of our thoughts can be compared to the storm that shook the disciples' boat on the Sea of Galilee as Jesus slept. We too happen to be lost, anxious, unable to appease ourselves. But Christ comes to our rescue. Just as he rebuked the wind that calmed the sea, he can also calm our hearts when we are agitated by fears and worries.

The prophet Elijah relives the experience of his ancestors at Mount Sinai, the experience of hurricane, earthquake and fire, and he stands ready to listen to God speaking to him in thunder. But when the loud noise ceases, Elijah experiences the stillness of gentle silence and then God speaks to him. Words spoken loudly are heard; they may impress us, but they hardly touch our hearts. The experience of Elijah shows that God does not want to impress us, but he wants us to welcome him. God chose "the voice of silence" to speak. The hurricane on Mount Sinai split the rocks, but the silent word of God can break the hearts of stone.

Silence prepares us for a new encounter with God. We need silence to accept God's commandment of love and to put it into practice. When our minds are restless, we easily find many reasons for not forgiving and loving others easily. But when we hold ourselves in silence, these reasons disappear. We avoid silence, preferring words to silence because inner peace is risky: it makes us empty; it dissolves bitterness and leads us to the gift of ourselves. In silence, our hearts are conquered by the Holy Spirit, filled with unconditional love.

This Sunday's Readings

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 50

Hebrews 5:7-9

John 12:20-30

I will make a new covenant and never call their sin to mind

A pure heart create for me, O God

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest

Diary for the Week

Sunday 18th March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> (B)	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 4.00pm Confirmation Session 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00pm Choir practice 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Saloma Rebello RIP The Ezike Family Holy Souls Parishioners
Monday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i> 2 Sam 7:4-5. 12-14. 16 Rom 4:13. 16-18. 22 Mt 1:16. 18-21. 24	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery 8.00pm PPC Meeting	Frank Lane Phokeerdoss Family
Tuesday 20th March Num 21:4-9 Jn 8:21-30	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.30pm R.C.I.C. (hall) 7.45pm R.C.I.A. (hall)	Rose Freeman RIP Salus Fernandes RIP
Wednesday 21st March Dan 3:14-20. 91-92. 95 Jn 8:31-42	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross 2.00pm Active Retirement Group 6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (EA room) 7.30pm First Holy Communion Parents meeting (hall)	For the Suffering Souls John Lawrence Fernandes RIP
Thursday 22nd March Gen 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00pm Lent Talk (hall) 8.00pm Baptism Course	Donovan Family Iggy Fernandes
Friday 23rd March <i>St Turibius of Mongrovejo</i> Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	6.30am Mass 10.00am Funeral Mass 8.00pm Stations of the Cross	Eileen Charron RIP Richard Cowie RIP
Saturday 24th March Ezk 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56	9.30am Mass 9.50 – 11.15am First Holy Communion 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 11.30am Altar Server practice 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls Michael Hegarty RIP
Sunday 25th March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B) (clocks forward 1 hour)	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 4.00pm Confirmation Session 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00pm Choir Practice 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Legion of Mary Maria Conceicao Afonso RIP (Anniv) Parishioners

Money Matters



Collection Last Sunday	£1,222.82 (£1.22 per person)
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 761.00</u>
Total offertory	£1,983.82
Second collection for Institutes of Missionary Sisters of England and Wales	

Thank you for your generosity

Altar Servers

This week Team 1
 Next week Team 2



Church Cleaners

This week Sancho's Dusters
 Next week St Jude's Group

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2018/2019

Could parishioners who are using gift aid envelopes collect their new boxes during this weekend 18th March after Mass. The new tax year begins on 6th April 2018. If you pay UK tax and are not in the Gift Aid scheme then please sign up so that the parish can benefit from the tax we could claim. We would not be able to claim any tax from HMRC if the monies are put in the baskets that come round every week. For example, a £10 donation in an envelope is worth £12.50 to the parish simply by joining the scheme at no extra cost to you. At present we only claim 25% of the money we could get back from the Government so please come along to speak with a member of the finance team for more information and how to join.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK

The second collection will be for the Institutes of Missionary Sisters of England and Wales. This is our Annual Mission Appeal in our Diocese as agreed by our Bishop. The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver will be here to appeal on behalf of the Sisters Missions Committee of England and Wales. They will tell us about their missionary work and will be grateful for your support.

THE GHANAIAAN COMMUNITY

The group are meeting today Sunday 18th March after the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

LENT 2018

LENTEN MASSES IN CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

There is Mass every Monday during Lent at 12noon. All are most welcome.

FRIDAY MASSES

Please note that our usual 7.30am Mass will be at **6.30am** on Fridays.

There is Mass every Friday morning at 8.30am at St James the Great School.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Please note that we have the Funeral Mass of Richard Cowie RIP on Friday 23rd March at 10.00am so there will not be Stations of the Cross following the Funeral Mass. The 8.00pm Stations of the Cross, this week led by our Readers, is still on. Also after 10am Mass on Wednesdays (led by parishioners).

This year Lent faith discussion sessions will take place on the Thursdays in Lent which commenced on 15th February and will continue after Easter. There is 10 sessions in all. We will be following the DVD course "Catholicism" presented by Robert Barron Bishop of Los Angeles. The Session this week is titled "A Body Both Suffering and Glorious: The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church". Sessions will commence at 7.30pm in the hall, which will be open at 7.00pm. Teas and coffees available before the session begins.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS MEETING

Please note that there is a parents meeting on Wednesday 21st March at 7.30pm in the hall.

400 CLUB

The winners for the 400 club draw for February are:

Roselyn Agyeman No: 58 - £10

Katherine Hynes No: 19 - £10

Beverley Lindsay No: 40 - £20

ACTIVE RETIREMENT GROUP

The group will have their last meeting before the Easter break this week, 21st March. They resume again on 11th April.

EASTER TIMETABLE

Please collect your Easter card from the porch with all the information about our services for Easter. Also there are the Easter collection envelopes. The Easter collection is for our two Priests of the Parish and with the Christmas collection forms the main part of their personal income.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

On Monday 26th March at 7.30pm we will be holding our Lenten Reconciliation service. This is a great way to prepare for Easter and there will be other Priests available to hear individual confessions.

REPOSITORY

Please visit our Repository to see our Easter stock and to make your purchases early to avoid disappointment.

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY

All children taking part in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, 30th March, please come along at 10.00am to get costumes and be ready. If you require any further information please contact Sheila Behan on 07989 977094.

HELP NEEDED!

Preparations for Good Friday are underway and help is needed to organise the Good Friday Walk of Witness. It is an ecumenical event and around 200 people attend. If you would like to get involved in the preparations please ring Mary Cameron (020 8689 8360 or 07928 670 639)

ST PHILOMENA'S HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The school is having a 125th Year Celebration Ball on Saturday 7th July, 6.30 – 11.00pm. Please see the poster for more details.

ST CHAD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

You are invited to attend The Feast of Divine Mercy Celebration at St Chad's Catholic Church, 5 Whitworth Road, SE25 6XN on Sunday 8th April starting at 1.00pm.

GOSPEL CONCERT: ADOREMUS – THE RIVER OF LIFE, FRIDAY 23RD MARCH AT ST GEORGE'S RC CATHEDRAL 7 – 9PM

On Friday 23rd March, from 7pm - 9pm, the Christ The King (CTK) Gospel Choir will be one of eight different Gospel choirs that will perform at St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR. The seven other choirs performing on the night will be: St Bernadette's RC Primary School; St Michael's RC College; St Thomas the Apostle College; St Catherine's RC School; St Matthew Academy; St Philomena's RC School; and La Retraite RC School. The music will be played live by a Gospel band. Tickets cost £5 in advance or £8 if purchased from the Cathedral on the night of the performance.

Quote of the Week

God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening
is the beginning of prayer

Saint Teresa of Calcutta



Contact Numbers



Chair of the PPC	Maureen Jones	020 8239 0615
Convent	Sr Jennie Eldridge	020 8689 0454
Gift Aid Organiser	Albert Tang	020 8688 8703
400 Club Organiser	Jonathan Prins (email: club_400@hotmail.com)	
Minibus Bookings	Frances Gilbert (Parish Groups only)	020 8689 7319
Parish Secretary	Danielle Lewin	020 8684 3013
Primary School	St. James the Great	020 8771 3424