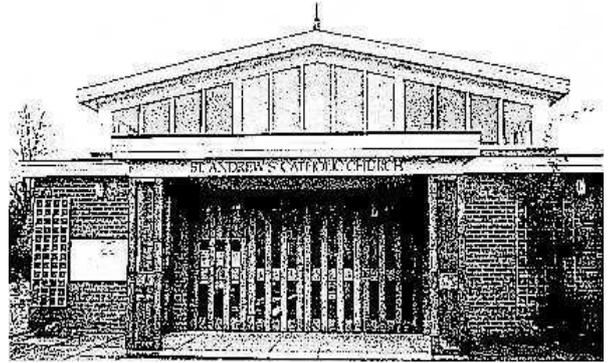

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery
45 Brook Road **Tel:** 020 8684 3013
Thornton Heath **Fax:** 020 8684 6626
Surrey CR7 7RD **E-mail:** thorntonheath@rcaos.org.uk
Website: www.standrewsthorntonheath.org.uk

RC Archdiocese of Southwark - A Registered Charity No. 1173050

PASTORAL TEAM

Priests: Fr Len Tatt
Fr Francis Nonyelu
Fr Wilfred Obina
Deacons: Rev. Tony Flavin, Rev. Errol Quagraine
Parish Sister: Sr. Jennie Eldridge DMJ
Croydon University Hospital Chaplaincy: Sr. Sheila DMJ



16th December 2018 3rd Sunday of Advent (C)

Message from Deacon Errol

A Way to Rejoice

Today is the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday). You may be wondering why the clergy wear a rose colour vestment and we light the pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent. The reason is we are called to rejoice at the imminent coming of the Saviour of the world, Christ our Lord. The pink candle signifies light is overcoming darkness which also means that Christ's birth is very near.

We rejoice in the Lord, because whatever our ailments and anxieties we know we can turn to him. You may wonder why rejoice when situations are bad. Today's readings show us the how – "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by **prayer** and **supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, bring your request to God." *Philippians 4:6*

Think of a perfect world created by a perfect God; think of humankind put in charge of this amazing world to explore and develop, not apart from the Creator, but with the Creator as co-creators. But humankind chose to go it alone and see the extent 'darkness' has spread in our society and elsewhere in the world.

However, do not despair because when we think of the darkness of human life and think of winter and the gradual increase of daylight towards spring, our hearts are filled with hope in that light that prevails over darkness. We have the opportunity each day to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, so that through prayer and meditating on God's word we might grow in faith and be transformed. So we rejoice, knowing that greater is he that is in us, than he that is in the world.

May the Lord give us the grace to reflect on the true Light, Christ our Lord, who comes into our hearts to shine his light in the dark places of our being for good to overcome evil, love overcome hatred, life overcome death.

This Sunday's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-18	The Lord will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival
Psalms 124	Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel
Philippians 4:4-7	The Lord is very near
Luke 3:10-18	What must we do?

Diary for the Week

Sunday 16th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent (C)	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 3.30pm Rehearsals Children's Nativity (Church) 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00 – 9.00pm Choir practice (Church) 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group (hall)	Filipina D'Silva RIP (50th Anniv) Parishioners George Barrett RIP (Anniv) D D'Souza
Monday 17th December Gen 49:2. 8-10 Mt 1:1-17	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.45 – 7.15pm Beavers (hall) 7.00pm Parish Penitential Service 7.30 – 9.00pm Scouts (hall)	Lissenburg Family Deceased RIP Patrick Atimomo RIP (Anniv)
Tuesday 18th December Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-24	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00pm Parish PPC Meeting 7.45pm R.C.I.A.	Deceased Freeman Family RIP Timothy Andradi (Senior) RIP
Wednesday 19th December Judges 13:2-7. 24-25 Lk 1:5-25	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	Clea Andradi RIP Special Intention of "C.C."
Thursday 20th December Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	7.30am Mass 10.00am Funeral Mass 7.00 – 8.30pm Cubs (St James the Great)	For the Church Anna-marie Goswell RIP
Friday 21st December St Peter Canisius Songs 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45	6.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Phillip Tatt RIP Iain McKay RIP
Saturday 22nd December 1 Sam 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 11am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls Special Intention
Sunday 23rd December 4 th Sunday of Advent (C)	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 3.30pm Rehearsals Children's Nativity (Church) 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00 – 9.00pm Choir practice (Church)	Patrick & Margaret McGovern "Elizabeth" Parishioners

Money Matters



Collection Last Sunday	£1,593.46 (£1.59 per person)
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 761.00</u>
Total offertory	£2,354.46
Second collection for Parish Building Maintenance Fund	

Thank you for your generosity

Altar Servers

This week Team 1
 Next week Team 2



Church Cleaners

This week Fifi's Group
 Next week Sancho's Dusters

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

TOY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who supported St Anne's Community Centre by bringing in a toy last weekend. The Centre has asked us to pass on their thanks again to you all for your kind generosity.

INTERNATIONAL CAROL SERVICE

A big thank you to everyone who joined us last Saturday evening to sing carols in their national language. It was a very enjoyable evening and the food afterwards was a very welcome addition after all that singing! Let's repeat it again next year!

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

The second collection will be for our Parish Building Maintenance Fund. The money raised so far has helped considerably with the long list of jobs that need fixing for the Church, hall and priest's house but we still have a way to go. Thank you for your continued support.

NIGERIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The group will be meeting today Sunday 16th December after the 11.30am Mass for their Christmas celebration in the hall.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY: CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00PM MASS

Calling all budding actors and superstars! On Christmas Eve, our Church will see the beautiful re-enactment of the nativity story during the Vigil Mass for Christmas at 6.00pm. If you would like to take part please come to the remaining rehearsals in the Church today Sunday 16th December 3.30 to 5pm and Sunday 23rd December 3.30 to 5pm. Please contact Bernadette if you are interested in taking part by "WhatsApp" on 07729 322571. Everyone is welcome to take part. Thank you.

PARISH SURGERY

Please note that Parish Surgery has been cancelled for Monday 17th December. We will resume again on Monday 7th January.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

In preparation for Christmas we have extra Confessions. Please see our Christmas card with details of the extra Confession times and we will be holding our Parish Penitential Service on Monday 17th December at 7.00pm.

FRIDAYS IN ADVENT

Please note that the early Mass on Friday is at **6.30am** and not at 7.30am. Tea/coffee and croissants provided after Mass in the hall.

ADVENT – JESSE TREE

As the season of Advent begins we have placed our Jesse Tree on the Sanctuary. The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse tree is also our Giving Tree and we ask all Parishioners to donate non-perishable food in the box provided through Advent. The SVP group will use our donations for those in need in the Parish. Thank you for your support.

PRAYER AFTER MASS

During Advent we are asking if people could be particularly aware of quiet in the Church after Mass, keeping our chatting to outside (or in the hall) to allow anyone who would like to spend a few minutes in quiet prayer and thanksgiving after Mass on Sundays.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: CONTACT DETAILS

Can all Eucharistic ministers please send their contact details (full name, email address and telephone number) to the following email address mc.saintandrewschurch@gmail.com. We need to update our records and it shall assist us in sending out any necessary information as we prepare for the masses – thank you.

An **urgent** reminder also: Please can all Eucharistic Ministers let us know their availability for the Christmas period. Please can you send a note into the office with your availability – thank you.

CHRISTMAS CARD AND COLLECTION

Please take our Christmas card home with all the details of the services and Mass times over the Christmas period and take one too for anyone who might want the information.

Also available are envelopes for the Christmas offering which is personal to the Priests of the parish.

FEAST OF EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

St Andrew's is celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany (or the Feast of the Three Kings as it is known in some countries) on Saturday 5th January at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. We will have a curry meal followed by ice cream with pizza/hot dogs for children under the age of 10 where required and a non-curry option for anyone one who would prefer this. Adults will be greeted with a glass of mulled apple cider on arrival. There is a licensed bar and raffle on the evening. Tickets are £6.00 for adults and £3.00 for children under the age of 10 and will be on sale at weekend Masses. Raffle tickets will also be on sale at the same time.

CALLING ALL CAROL SINGERS!

We will be carol singing around the wards of Croydon University Hospital on Wednesday December 19th. Please meet in the hospital chapel no later than 6:45pm. Please let Mary know if you would like to join, 020 8689 8360 or 07928 670639.

Also men wanted (young or old!) Can you sing Tenor or Bass and read music a little? Would you like to join the choirs for Christmas? If so, we would love to hear from you. We have just a handful of men so **DO** join us for Christmas, even if you can't make a regular commitment. Choir practices at 7pm in the Church on Sunday December 16th and 23rd. Ladies also welcome. Call Mary Cameron 020 8689 8360 or text 07928 670639.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (S.V.P.)

The group would like to thank everyone for their support for all the fundraising held throughout the year. All the money and donations will be used specifically for those in the Parish who are in need and it is very much appreciated by those who need support.

CONFIRMATION 2019

Bishop Paul Hendricks will be coming to St Andrew's to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 25th May 2019. All those in Year 9 and above who wish to be confirmed are asked to speak to Sr Jennie and our Catechists giving their reason to be confirmed, after Sunday Masses in January commencing weekend 5th/6th January 2019.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The group would like to invite all parishioners to their Christmas celebration on Sunday 23rd December in the hall from 1.00 – 5.00pm.

NEW SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORIES FOR 2019

The new directories are available for purchase in our Repository, spiral bound £3.50 or standard bound £3.

Quote of the Week

Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas.

Dale Evans

Contact Numbers

 Chair of the PPC	Maureen Jones	020 8239 0615
Convent	Sr Jennie Eldridge	020 8689 0454
Gift Aid Organiser	Albert Tang	07703 263631
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

