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# ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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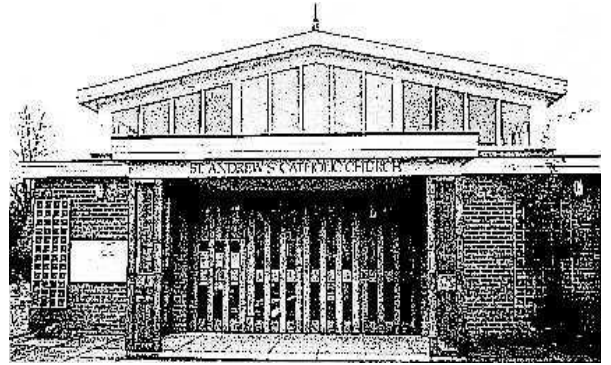
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RC Archdiocese of Southwark - A Registered Charity No. 1173050

## **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

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## 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (C)

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### Message from Fr Len

#### **Christmas - A Time of Joy and Hope**

I have been told that I can be very serious, I think that is true but then life is serious, after all we call it life or death. Each moment is precious and needs to be lived to the full. However, Christmas gives us a different viewpoint because Christmas is a time of Joy and Hope! You might be going through some very serious things in your life right now, you might be missing someone who is no longer with you. We look at the news and everything is very serious, chaotic even but at Christmas we realise the fact that all of life is a gift and that we should concentrate on the joy of being alive. We know that whatever we are going through will pass, God remains forever. The God who created us, seeks us out and desires to have a relationship with us, one that will never stop growing but we need to nurture it, to take care of it and allow it to grow. All that is symbolised by the fact that God loves us so much he became one of us. Even more he entrusted himself to the care of human beings. Mary and Joseph cared for him, nurtured him, protected him, allowed him to grow and we are encouraged to do the same with our faith. Jesus wants to be anew in your lives this Christmas and that is a cause for pure joy!

Try and think of the conditions that Christ allowed himself to be born into, they were less than perfect and he was willing to be born into those conditions because of his love for us. He loves you in the same way and no matter what circumstances that you find yourselves in this year this is a great opportunity to start again. To renew your faith with commitment and vigour, to take into your hearts him who gives you life and allow him to transform your life and to make it the meaningful wonderful life that he means it to be. There is no circumstance he cannot change, no obstacle that he cannot climb which is a cause of great hope. Hope for our world, our families, our society and most of all hope for you who are a beloved child of God.

Have a great and meaningful Christmas. Thank you for all that you have done for St Andrew's this year and rejoice in the birth of our Saviour.


### This Sunday's Readings


As Parish Mass Book

## Diary for the Week

<p><b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday</p> <p>9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass <b>3.30pm Rehearsals Children's Nativity (Church)</b> <b>5.00pm Rosary</b> <b>5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction</b> 6.00pm Mass <b>7.00 – 9.00pm Choir practice (Church)</b></p>	<p>Private Intention</p> <p>Patrick &amp; Margaret McGovern "Elizabeth"</p> <p>Parishioners</p>
<p><b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-11, 16 Lk 1:67-79</p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>6.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas Carols for Midnight Mass</b> <b>11.15pm</b></p>	<p>Jerick Villamor RIP Luis Du Toit RIP Hanne Post RIP</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Nativity of the Lord Holyday of Obligation</p>	<p><b>Midnight Mass</b> <b>8.00am Mass</b> <b>9.30am Mass</b> <b>11.30am Mass</b></p>	<p>Parishioners Paddy Farrelly RIP Ana Maria D'Souza RIP William &amp; Mary Brown &amp; Family RIP</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Stephen Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22</p>	<p>10.00am Mass <b>3.00pm Syro Malabar Mass</b> <b>7.00 – 8.30pm Legion of Mary (EA room)</b></p>	<p>Sr Mary Wrobel RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p><b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> St John 1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 20:2-8</p>	<p>10.00am Mass</p>	<p>Deceased Members of Tatt Family RIP</p>
<p><b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Holy Innocents 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18</p>	<p>10.00am Mass</p>	<p>Deceased Members of Hamlyn Family RIP</p>
<p><b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Thomas of Canterbury St Thomas Becket 1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35</p>	<p>9.30am Mass <b>10.00 – 10.30am Confessions</b> <b>5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions</b> 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday</p>	<p>William Freeman RIP</p> <p>Rosaleen Callery</p>
<p><b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</p>	<p>9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass <b>5.00pm Rosary</b> <b>5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction</b> 6.00pm Mass <b>7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group</b></p>	<p>Parishioners Our Lady of Africa</p> <p>Joseph Cyril Phokeerdoss RIP</p>
<p><b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> St Sylvester 1 Jn 2:18-21, Jn 1:1-18</p>	<p>10.00am Mass <b>Midnight Mass: Welcome in New Year</b></p>	<p>Pat Timms Parishioners</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> Mary, The Holy Mother of God Num 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21</p>	<p>12noon Mass</p>	<p>Salvina Lanzalaco RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b> St Basil the Great St Gregory Nazianzen 1 Jn 2:22-28, Jn 1:19-28</p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)</b></p>	<p>Athayde Family Assiz De Souza RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p><b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b> The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Jn 1:29-34</p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass</p>	<p>James Conroy RIP For the Church</p>

<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>First Friday</i> <i>1 Jn 3:7-10</i> <i>Jn 1:35-42</i>	7.30am 10.00am  <b>6.30pm</b>	Mass Mass <b>followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/ Benediction</b> <b>Syro Malabar Mass</b>	Private Intention Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>1 Jn 3:11-12</i> <i>Jn 1:43-51</i>	9.30am <b>10.00 – 10.30am</b> <b>11.00am</b> <b>5.00 – 5.30pm</b> 6.00pm <b>7.00pm</b>	Mass <b>Confessions</b> <b>Syro Malabar Mass</b> <b>Confessions</b> First Mass of Sunday <b>Feast of The Epiphany Celebration</b>	Special Intention of C.C.  Vincenzo Lanzalaco RIP (Anniv)
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9.30am 11.30am <b>5.00pm</b> <b>5.15 – 5.45pm</b> 6.00pm <b>7.00 - 9.00pm</b>	Mass Mass <b>Rosary</b> <b>Exposition and Benediction</b> Mass <b>Charismatic Prayer Group</b>	William Freeman RIP (Anniv) Parishioners  Holy Souls

<b>Money Matters</b>		
	Collection Last Sunday	£1,186.32 (£1.18 per person)
	Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 761.00</u>
	Total offertory	£1,947.32
	Collection for Parish Building Maintenance Fund	£ 752.85
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>		

<b>Altar Servers</b>			<b>Church Cleaners</b>	
This week	Team 2 (23.12.18)		This week	Sancho's Dusters (26.12.18)
Next week	Team 3 (30.12.18)		Next week	St Jude's Group (2.1.19)
	Team 1 (6.1.19)			Judie's Crew (9.1.19)

## St. Andrew's Parish Notices

### NEWSLETTER

This newsletter covers the Christmas and new year period. The next newsletter will be on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

### CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

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

### 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 rehearsal in the Church today Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 3.30 to 5pm. Please contact Bernadette by "WhatsApp" on 07729 322571. Everyone is welcome to take part. Thank you.

### CALLING ALL CAROL SINGERS!

**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 even if you can't make a regular commitment. Remaining choir practice at 7pm in the Church today Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ladies also welcome. Call Mary Cameron 020 8689 8360 or text 07928 670639.

### 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.

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Adults will be greeted with a glass of mulled apple cider on arrival. There is a licensed bar and raffle on the evening. Tickets £6 for adults and £3 for children under 10 years and will be on sale at weekend Masses. Raffle tickets will also be on sale.

## CONFIRMATION 2019

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

## SECOND COLLECTION NEW YEAR'S DAY

There will be a second collection on New Year's Day for the Parish Building Maintenance Fund, in particular for Church furniture.

## ST ANDREW'S GROUPS/SURGERY

Parish Surgery will resume again on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

The Active Retirement Group will resume again on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The Lectio Divina Group will resume again on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January. New members are always welcome, please come along to join the group on Wednesdays 6.00pm in the hall or call Maria for more info 020 8660 6451.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Catechists will be selling the books in the hall after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January ready for the first session on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January. The books cost £15 for children's workbook and £7 for the parent's book. Those families who have registered please come along and bring the correct change if you can, £22 total for both books. Thank you.

## 9.30AM MASS ON SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

All parents who have had their children baptised in the last year have been invited to attend this Mass. We hope to see as many of you as possible and afterwards you are invited into the hall to share a cup of tea or coffee!

## CRIB OFFERING 2018

This Christmas, as last year, we will be offering our Crib donations to support the Catholic Children Society's Crisis Fund which was launched in our Archdiocese in 2015. This fund provides one-off grants to support children and families who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every penny raised through your Crib offering will be given out through emergency grants to local children and families who are in dire need. There are special gift aid envelopes in the porch for you to use.

*Fathers Len, Francis and Wilfred, Deacons Tony and Errol and the Sisters  
wish you all a Blessed Christmas and New Year*

### Quote of the Week

"And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him"

*1 John 4.9*

	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