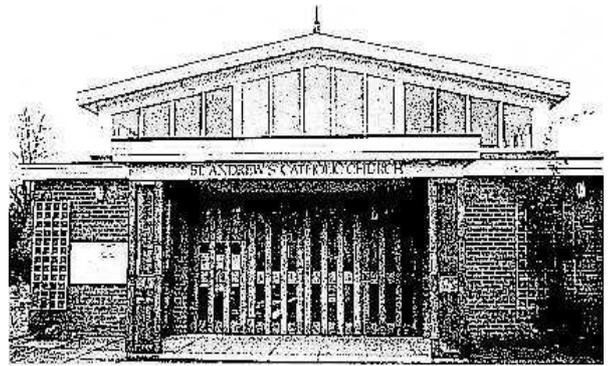

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery
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Website: www.standrewsthorntonheath.org.uk
RC Archdiocese of Southwark - A Registered Charity No. 1173050



PASTORAL TEAM

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

2nd December 2018 1st Sunday of Advent (C)

Message from Fr Francis

ADVENT: A TIME OF HOPE

Happy New Year! This is the first Sunday of the Church's year and the beginning of the Advent season. The purpose of Advent is to prepare us for a deep, personal, and life-changing encounter with Christ this Christmas season. Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation; a time to be vigilant and prayerful (Lk 21:36). It let Christ come alive in our lives once more because to be "awake" means to be alive. "We live always during Advent, we are always waiting for the Messiah to come." (Jean Daniélou)

Advent calls us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is said that while there is life, there is hope. This has even a deeper meaning in reverse: while there is hope, there is life. Hope gives power to life, for hope is strength. It inspires the will to live. As long as there is hope in the Lord, no situation is impossible.

Furthermore, Advent is a time a "voice" is crying for a listening ear and an understanding heart. The Lord assures us in the first reading that, "The days are coming when I will fulfill the promise..." (Jeremiah 33:14). For us to celebrate a spirit-filled Christmas, we must: pray the Holy Mass with so much love that Mass becomes the center of our lives; be immersed in repentance and express this by Advent confession(s); share the Christmas gifts and cards with God's words; and gladly support the parish by being committed and joining in all the activities.

Christ is coming in a new way this Christmas. "... Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand" (Lk 21:28). Get ready this Advent for the King of the Universe!

This Sunday's Readings	
Jeremiah 33:14-16	I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David
Psalms 24	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2	May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness when Christ comes
Luke 21:25-28; 34-36	Your liberation is near at hand

Diary for the Week

Sunday 2nd December <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> (C)	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Alphonsius & Mabel Scurry Joseph Kwame Baffoe RIP Jessica Mary Badu RIP (Anniv) Parishioners
Monday 3rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i> <i>Is 2:1-5</i> <i>Mt 8:5-11</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.45 – 7.15pm Beavers (hall) 7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery 7.30 – 9.00pm Scouts (hall)	Mr & Mrs J D’Cruz Private Intention
Tuesday 4th December <i>St John Damascene</i> <i>Is 11:1-10</i> <i>Lk 10:21-24</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.45pm R.C.I.A.	Paddy Callery RIP Paul Etuka RIP
Wednesday 5th December <i>Feria</i> <i>Is 25:6-10</i> <i>Mt 15:29-37</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 2.00pm Active Retirement Group 6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	Peace in Family “Fondette & Piero”
Thursday 6th December <i>St Nicholas</i> <i>Is 26:1-6</i> <i>Mt 7:2, 24-27</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00 – 8.30pm Cubs (St James the Great)	John Lawrence Fernandes RIP Maurine Lydon (80 th birthday)
Friday 7th December <i>St Ambrose</i> <i>First Friday</i> <i>Is 29:17-24</i> <i>Mt 9:27-31</i>	6.30am Mass 10.00am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament / Benediction 6.30pm Syro Malabar Mass	Salus Fernandes RIP (Anniv) Canon John O’Toole (40 th Anniv of Ordination)
Saturday 8th December <i>The Immaculate</i> <i>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> <i>Gen 3:9-15, 20</i> <i>Lk 1:26-38</i>	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 3.30pm Rehearsals Children’s Nativity 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday 7.00pm International Carol Service	Holy Souls Legion of Mary
Sunday 9th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> (C)	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Private Intention Henry Victoire RIP (Anniv) Parishioners

Money Matters



Collection Last Sunday	£1,149.91 (£1.14 per person)
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 761.00</u>
Total offertory	£1,910.91
Collection for Catholic Youth Work	£ 559.45

Thank you for your generosity

Altar Servers

This week Team 2
 Next week Team 3



Church Cleaners

This week St Jude’s Group
 Next week Judie’s Crew

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

FR DENIS OCAYA

Fr Denis is leaving us this weekend to return to Uganda. We would like to thank him for his time with us over the summer and to wish him a safe journey back home. Please keep him in your prayers. There will be a small celebration after the 9.30am Mass in the hall to say goodbye to Fr Denis. Please join him for a farewell cup of tea or coffee!

WELCOME FR WILFRED OBINA

We would like to welcome to St Andrew's Fr Wilfred Obina who joins us on Friday 7th December. Fr Wilfred will probably be known to many of you as he joins us from St Boniface in Tooting and he was also the hospital Chaplain at St George's Hospital for a while. Fr Wilfred is also the brother of Fr Denis Ocaya! We hope Fr Wilfred will be happy with us here at St Andrew's and as he joins us during a very busy period before Christmas, we are sure he will be made to feel very welcome by us all as he joins in our many celebrations.

TOY SUNDAY ON 9TH DECEMBER

We are collecting toys to use as Christmas presents for disadvantaged children. Once again this year we are giving to St Anne's Community Centre in Vauxhall. We ask that you to bring in any toys to Masses on the weekend of 8th/9th December. The ages for the children are from 3 to 11 years. St Anne's would also be grateful for any wrapping paper but they do ask that you do not wrap the presents. Monica, the Centre Manager, from St Anne's Community Centre will be here and has asked Deacon Tony to speak on her behalf at the 9.30am Mass to talk about the work they do. We always have a great response and thank you in advance for your continued support.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please note that the closing date for applications is today, 2nd December.

FRIDAYS IN ADVENT

Please note that the early Mass on each of the Fridays in Advent 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 the needy 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.

Czy jesteś z Polski? Você é Português? Esti Din Romana? Ste zo Slovenska? Ar tu iš Lietuvos? Vagy Magyarországról?

You are invited to join us for our International Carol Service on Saturday 8th December at 7.00pm. All our groups representing our diverse parish are invited to come forward and sing a carol in their national language on the evening as part of our Christmas celebrations. We also plan to have a get together afterwards and hope that you can make a national dish of your choice that we can all share – please can you bring any food to the hall before the start of the service and also supply us with a list of ingredients. Please speak with Fr Len or Maureen Jones, on 020 8239 061, if you think your group can sing on the evening. We look forward to hearing from you.

THE GHANAIAN COMMUNITY

The group will be meeting on Sunday 9th December after the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

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 from this weekend. Raffle tickets will also be on sale at the same time.

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 rehearsals which will take place in the Church on Saturday December 8th at 3.30 to 5pm, 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.

RAINBOW LEADER AND VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We urgently need to recruit a new Rainbow Leader and volunteers to join from Christmas time for our 1st Thornton Heath Rainbows. If you can help in any way please do get in touch otherwise regrettably the unit will have to close. All enquiries should be directed to Susie Rogers srodgers.guiding@gmail.com.

DANIEL MESSINA RIP

Please pray for Daniel Messina RIP of Raymead Avenue who died recently (aged 44 years). Our condolences and prayers as a parish go out to the family. Funeral details to follow.

ST JAMES THE GREAT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

You are all invited to the school's Christmas Fayre today, 2nd December from 11 - 3pm. There will be lots of food, drinks and lots and lots of festive stalls, adults £1.

TAKE SOME TIME TO REFLECT THIS ADVENT

So often in our fast paced world we find ourselves run off our feet and exhausted by the frantic build up to Christmas and we completely lose this special time to take stock and renew our relationship with God. To help make some space and focus on the development of this most precious relationship, the Diocesan Stewardship Team have once again produced a handy daily email to enable reflection. The focus will be on the readings for each Sunday in Advent. Every day there will be a different reflection; so each week, Monday and Tuesday will focus on the First reading, Wednesday on the Psalm, Thursday and Friday on the Second reading and Saturday and Sunday on the Gospel. The brief reflection will be sent directly to your inbox to make it as easy as possible to take a little time out each day. So wherever you are, and whatever time you can invest in your personal Advent preparation – you will have the resources to hand! To receive your daily reflection – simply sign up at: <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/>

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAYS FOR 2019

Please see the notice regarding the Southwark Diocesan 2019 marriage preparation courses. Approved by Archbishop Peter, these courses comply with all the requirements of the diocese. The content includes a focus on the spirituality and sacramentality of marriage as well as coverage of Natural Family Planning. If you are interested in attending, please can you speak with Fr Len.

Quote of the Week

“Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another
as God has forgiven you in Christ”

Ephesians 4:32

	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