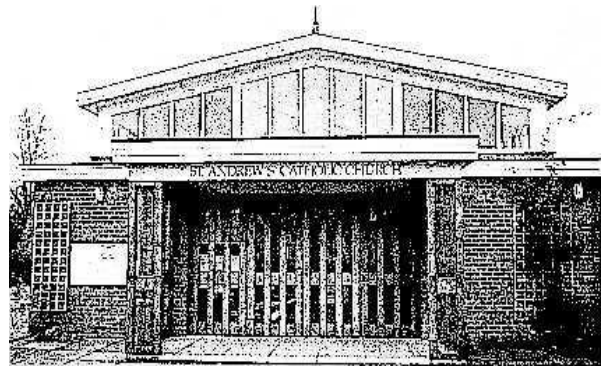

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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



9th December 2018 2nd Sunday of Advent (C)

Message from Deacon Tony

18 December 2016 is a day burned into my memory. I was preaching at the morning Masses. In my homily I referred to the preaching themes of Advent, death, judgement, heaven and hell. I spoke of how these are things we tend to overlook in our preparation for Christmas, whereas Advent is to remind us exactly of these things, the things we should spend our lives preparing for.

Outside Mass I was berated by one lady who was very cross with me for giving such a negative homily and I was absolutely wrong in my understanding of the themes of Advent. She explained the themes are actually hope, faith, joy and peace. I accepted the lesson with (I believe) good grace but I was actually rather shaken to have been accosted this way. The next time I saw her she was all apologies. Having spoken of our conversation she had been advised that I was correct about the preaching themes. Hope, faith, joy and peace are the things the candles in the advent wreath symbolise.

The first purple candle, symbolises hope. Sometimes called the 'Prophecy Candle' in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the 'Bethlehem Candle' as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The rose candle is called the 'Shepherd's Candle,' rose is the liturgical colour for joy. It is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of the Messiah.

This final candle, again purple is the 'Angel's Candle.' symbolises peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: 'Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.'

I shall leave death, judgement, heaven and hell for next year's Advent message.

This Sunday's Readings

Baruch 5:1-9	God means to show your splendour to every nation
Psalm 125	What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11	Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ
Luke 3:1-6	All mankind shall see the salvation of God

Diary for the Week

Sunday 9th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent (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	Legion of Mary Private Intention Henry Victoire RIP (Anniv) Parishioners
Monday 10th December Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26	7.30am Mass 10.00am Funeral Mass 5.45 – 7.15pm Beavers (hall) 7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery 7.00pm Family Holy Hour 7.30 – 9.00pm Scouts (hall)	J. Okoroafor & Family Dorothy Gomes RIP
Tuesday 11th December St Damasus 1 Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 12noon Funeral at Streatham Park Cemetery: Denis Mannion RIP 6.30pm R.C.I.C. 7.45pm R.C.I.A.	Mr Atimomo RIP Ron Hill RIP
Wednesday 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 2.00pm Active Retirement Group 6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	Mr Mgbemere RIP Fr John Ehichioya RIP
Thursday 13th December St Lucy Is 41:13-20, Mt 11:11-15	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00 – 8.30pm Cubs (St James the Great)	For the Suffering Souls RIP Mr C Nwafor RIP
Friday 14th December St John of the Cross Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19	6.30am Mass 10.00am Funeral Mass	For the Suffering Souls RIP John Porter RIP
Saturday 15th December Eccl 48:1-4. 9-11 Mt 17:10-13	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday 12 – 5.00pm St Andrew's children Christmas parties	Peter Pires & Piedade Fernandes RIP Filipina D'Silva RIP (50th Anniv)
Sunday 16th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent (C)	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 3.30pm Rehearsals Children's Nativity 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)	Parishioners George Barrett RIP (Anniv) D D'Souza



Money Matters

Collection Last Sunday	£1,697.00 (£1.69 per person)
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 761.00</u>
Total offertory	£2,458.00

Thank you for your generosity

Altar Servers

This week Team 3
 Next week Team 1



Church Cleaners

This week Judie's Crew
 Next week Fifi's Group

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

WELCOME FR WILFRED

We would like to welcome to St Andrew's Fr Wilfred Obina. 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 THIS WEEKEND

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 this weekend, 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 for your continued support.

THE GHANAIAN COMMUNITY

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

FAMILY HOLY HOUR

Once a month we have the Family Holy Hour during which time we are trying to strengthen our faith and love for the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Scripture is read, hymns are sung, bidding prayers offered up and there is also a time of silence. Please join us in the Church on Monday, 10th December from 7.00 - 8.00pm, even if only for 10/15 minutes - it will bring a blessing on you, your family and our parish.

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 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.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

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.

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.

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 on 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.

CALLING ALL CAROL SINGERS!

You are invited to join choir members to bring a little of the true Christian spirit of Christmas to the public this year. Members of St Andrew's choirs will be carol singing in Thornton Heath Tesco on Saturday December 15th from 4-5p.m. We will also be carol singing around the wards of Croydon University Hospital on Wednesday December 19th. Please meet in the hospital chapel no later than 6:45p.m. Please let Mary know if you would like to join on either or both occasions, as she needs to know numbers in advance. Mary Cameron 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.

NIGERIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

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


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

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

Luke 3:4

	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