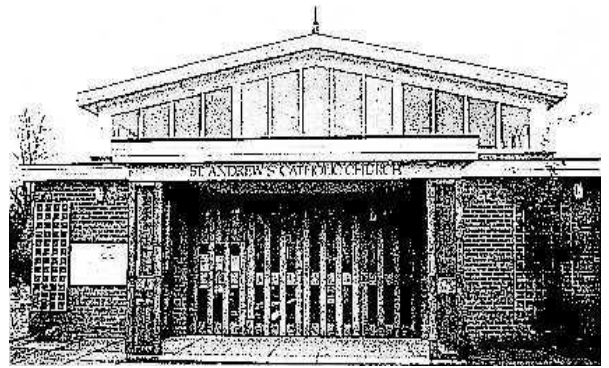

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery
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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



6th January 2019 The Epiphany of the Lord (C)

Message from Fr Wilfred

Today we celebrate the solemnity of Epiphany, and in a most special way, the day of the three kings who brought Jesus very costly and symbolic gifts of gold, Mire, and frankincense. The term Epiphany is of Greek origin, *epiphaninen*. It is a verb which means "to reveal," or "to manifest." It celebrates the many ways through which Jesus has revealed himself to us and our world. These include the three events that bring to light his mission and divinity: the visitation of the three kings or Magi (Mtt 2, 10-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mk 1, 9-11), and the miracle at Cana (Jh 2, 1-11).

So, today God reveals himself to us because he is good and loving. The light that shines forth upon us today is the light of life through which we must shine. Today, the Lord Jesus Christ further extends and expands the horizon of his love to us by not being selfish. Instead, He allows himself to illumine the darkness of our lives.

The lesson from all of these is that we must also make our lives better and allow our light shine on others. We must shine our light so that others can see with it as Christ illumines our way and life this New Year with his own light and divine presences.

First, the three kings came to offer Christ a genuine worship as the King of kings. Therefore, our worship must be sincere and from our hearts like that of the three wise Kings. It must not be like the proposed false worship of King Herod.

Second, we must be ready to offer Jesus something precious. We must not appear before the Lord empty handed. So, we must ask ourselves today, what do I offer the Lord for his goodness to me? The only gift we must offer God for his goodness to us is ourselves. It is the gift of good life, the gift of love, the gift of obedience, the gift of humility, the gift of peace to our families and the gift of sacrifice for one another.

Also, we must learn to be generous to others as the three wise kings were to Jesus. Children, as you expect gifts from your parents today, try to be generous to others too, especially, towards your parents. Parents, let us also be generous towards our children today by giving them gifts as the wise kings gave to Christ. Therefore, let us ask God as the church prays: *Father, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ in the Eucharist and welcome him with love, for he is Lord forever.*

This Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6	Above you the glory of the Lord appears
Psalms 71	All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6	It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance
Matthew 2:1-12	We saw his star and have come to do the king homage

Diary for the Week

Sunday 6th January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday	Vincenzo Lanzalaco RIP (Anniv)
	9.30am Mass	William Freeman RIP (Anniv)
	11.30am Mass	Parishioners
	5.00pm Rosary	
	5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction	
	6.00pm Mass	Holy Souls
Monday 7th January <i>St Raymond</i> <i>1 Jn 3:22-4:6</i> <i>Mt 4:12-17. 23-25</i>	7.30am Mass	Priests of St Andrews
	10.00am Mass	Joseph Okoroafor
	7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery	
Tuesday 8th January <i>Feria of Christmas Time</i> <i>1 Jn 4:7-10</i> <i>Mk 6:34-44</i>	7.30am Mass	Holy Souls
	10.00am Funeral Mass	Daniel Messina RIP
	6.30pm R.C.I.C. (hall)	
Wednesday 9th January <i>Feria of Christmas Time</i> <i>1 Jn 4:11-18</i> <i>Mk 6:45-52</i>	7.30am Mass	Intention of C.C.
	10.00am Mass	Holy Souls
	2.00pm Active Retirement Group	
	7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	
Thursday 10th January <i>Feria of Christmas Time</i> <i>1 Jn 4:19-5:4</i> <i>Lk 4:14-22</i>	7.30am Mass	Athayde Family
	10.00am Mass	Manuel John Nunes RIP
Friday 11th January <i>Feria of Christmas Time</i> <i>1 Jn 5:5-13</i> <i>Lk 5:12-16</i>	7.30am Mass	Theresa Crystal
	10.00am Mass	Elizabeth Salapare RIP
Saturday 12th January <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</i> <i>1 Jn 5:14-21</i> <i>Jn 3:22-30</i>	9.15 – 11.15am First Holy Communion	
	9.30am Mass	Private Intention
	10.00 – 10.30am Confessions	
	5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions	
	6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls
Sunday 13th January <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.30am Mass	Private Intention
	11.30am Mass	Parishioners
	4.00pm Confirmation Catechists Meeting (EA room)	
	5.00pm Rosary	
	5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction	
	6.00pm Mass	Priests of St Andrews
	7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	

Money Matters

Collection Last Sunday	£1,153.20 (£1.15 per person)
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 761.00</u>
Total offertory	£1,914.20

Thank you for your generosity

Altar Servers

This week Team 1
Next week Team 2



Church Cleaners

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

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We wish you all a Holy, Happy and Prosperous New Year from Frs Len, Francis and Wilfred, Deacons Tony and Errol and the Sisters.

THANK YOU

The Priests thank you for your most generous Christmas offerings. Thank you also from the Pastoral team for the many cards and gifts given to them personally and for your continued prayers and support. To those who worked so hard behind the scenes for all our Christmas celebrations, helping in the hall with our festivities, the choirs, Christmas Crib, Altar Servers, Church flowers, cleaners, the Parish Council and all the other many many jobs – thank you very much because our Church needs you all and you all have a very important part.

9.30AM MASS ON SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY

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

TEA/COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 9.30AM MASS

You are all invited to go along to the hall after every 9.30am Sunday Mass where tea/coffee and cakes are always served. All are most welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Catechists will be selling the books in the hall after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 6th January ready for the first session on Saturday 12th 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.

CONFIRMATION 2019

Bishop Paul Hendricks will be coming to St Andrew's to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 25th 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 this weekend 5th/6th January.

CHURCH CLEANERS WANTED

We really need more people to help with the task of cleaning God's house. So, if you can spare an hour or two and would like to help by joining one of our groups, please contact Fifi on 07932 764273. Thank you.

FOREIGN COINS

We are increasingly receiving foreign coins in our collections. Please can we ask you not to put these in our collections as they often get trapped in our counting machine and the bank will not accept foreign currency from us. You can donate your foreign currency to the many charities who do accept them.

PARISH SURGERY

Every Monday evening, between 7pm and 8pm, one of the Pastoral Team is available in the Presbytery to see parishioners without an appointment. It is an opportunity to collect forms (e.g. Baptism), to ask a question about the Parish, or to arrange an appointment to discuss whatever you want. We realise that the only opportunity many people have to speak to us is on a Sunday and then we can be quite busy. The Pastoral Team take Surgery in turn and are also available at other times, so please do ask if you want to see one of us. Surgery resumes again on Monday 7th January at 7.00pm in the Presbytery (45 Brook Road).

ST ANDREW'S GROUPS

The Active Retirement Group will resume again on Wednesday 9th January. Also members of the group were able to send to the Homeless Charity, Crisis, a total of £312 which provided 11 meals at Christmas for the homeless – thank you everyone for your support.

The Lectio Divina Group will resume again on Wednesday 16th January. Please consider joining our Lectio Divina group who meet every Wednesday evening at 6.00pm for one hour in the hall. Pope Benedict spoke about Lectio Divina on 16th September 2006: “I would like to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of Lectio Divina: the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart. If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church – I am convinced of it – a new spiritual springtime”. Please come along to the group on Wednesdays as new members are always welcome or call Maria for more info on 020 8660 6451 or 07720 444940. All are most welcome.

THE ROSARY

The Rosary is prayed each weekday after the 10am Mass (and Saturday 9.30am). After Mass and after a few minutes of silence the Rosary will be prayed and then, after a short pause, other devotional prayers will be prayed. All are welcome to join however long you can stay – there is no formal membership, just a desire to pray the Rosary.

NEW SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORIES FOR 2019

The new directories are available for purchase in our Repository. This contains all the information about the diocese and the liturgical calendar for the coming year. Spiral bound £3.50 or standard bound £3.

ST ANDREW'S 50 FOR 50 GOLDEN FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2019

2019 marks St Andrew's Golden Anniversary

It will be 50 years since our Church was rebuilt, with the anniversary of the first Mass celebrated falling on 21st September 2019.

So we're launching a golden fundraising campaign to get our Church back into good order – its 50th birthday make-over. We recently revamped the hall, but now the Church and Priest's house is in serious disrepair; the **50 for 50** Fundraising Campaign will fix that.

Here's how it'll work: Fr Len needs £50,000 to make the Church and Priest's house comfortable. So we're launching a 50-week campaign. Asking everyone here to raise £50 each. But it's not all about 'donations' – let's raise the money together! Kids and uniform groups can find fun ways to raise their funds (sponsorships maybe). Adults, you can use the hall for cake and jumble sales. Let's make 2019 a fun year.

Once you've raised your £50, you'll become a Golden Hero who'll be announced at Mass. Plus, your name will go into our **50 For 50 Celebration Book**. We'll keep you updated with a fundraising gauge in the Church. 50 weeks starting now. Let's give our Church a Christmas present next Advent! **HAVE FUN FUNDRAISING!** Please speak with Fr Len for more information.

Quote of the Week

“So when they saw the Star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy”

Mtt 2, 10-12

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

