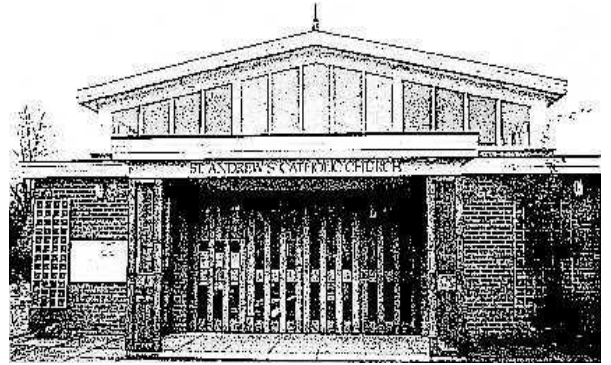


ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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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

24th March 2019 3rd Sunday of Lent (C)

Message from Deacon Tony

On Monday we commemorate the most important agreement for mankind ever, not the treaty of Versailles, not an accord to the Irish border backstop (as if) but the acceptance by The Virgin Mary to be the mother of the messiah. Two questions pondered over by theologians are:-

1. Could she have said no?
2. What if she had said no?

Firstly, she most certainly could have said no. There is the argument that as she was born without stain of sin she would have been totally obedient to the will of God. But this denigrates her to nothing more than a robot, programmed to do the work assigned. But she was a human being. Mary was in possession of all the human emotions that any of us have. Luke's Gospel tells us she was deeply troubled by Gabriel's words but we can be assured that God would have imparted her with the wisdom to say yes and the knowledge of how to succeed in such a mission, however frightening it may be.

What if she had said no? The prophets had told us the messiah would come from the House of David but do we really think Gabriel would have popped off to another young girl, approximately 15 years old, engaged to a suitable chap? Gabriel was a messenger from God, not a representative for a recruitment agency. Mary was able to say yes equipped with all that was needed.

Some theologians believe had Mary said no, that salvation would have been put back thousands of years some believe she was, possibly, not the first to be asked. However, God knows our hearts, and he knows our human condition, when he asks of us, we may ponder it, and we may ponder it for some considerable time, but ultimately, we always end up saying yes.

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Psalms 102

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Luke 13:1-9

This Sunday's Readings

I Am has sent me to you

The Lord is compassion and love

The life of the people under Moses in the desert was written down to be a lesson for us

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did

Diary for the Week

Sunday 24th March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass (1 st Scrutiny for The Elect RCIA) 11.30am Mass 4.00pm Confirmation Session 5 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Canon Francis Moran RIP Private Intention Parishioners Lesley Fitzsimmons RIP
Monday 25th March <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i> 2 Kg 5:1-5 Lk 4:24-30	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 12noon Mass in Hospital 5.45 – 7.15pm Beavers (hall) 7.00 – 8.00pm Exposition and Adoration 7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery 7.30 – 9.00pm Scouts (hall)	Chapman Family “Frank” (w/b)
Tuesday 26th March <i>Dan 3:25. 34-43</i> <i>Mt 18:21-25</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.30pm R.C.I.C. 7.45pm R.C.I.A	Kidane Family (w/b) George Barrett RIP
Wednesday 27th March <i>Deut 4:1. 5. 9</i> <i>Mt 5:17-19</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Funeral Mass followed by Stations of the Cross 2.00pm Active Retirement Group 6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	Power & Fennelly Families Joy Grant RIP
Thursday 28th March <i>Jer 7:23-28</i> <i>Lk 11:14-23</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm St James the Great School: Stations of the Cross 7.00 – 8.30pm Cubs (St James the Great) 7.15pm Lenten Film (hall)	Leterufael & Kidane RIP Pamela Buckley RIP
Friday 29th March <i>Hos 14:1-10</i> <i>Mt 12:28-34</i>	6.30am Mass 10.00am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross 8.00pm Stations of the Cross	Amilcare Fernandes RIP Annette Curry (birthday)
Saturday 30th March <i>Hos 6:1-6</i> <i>Lk 18:9-14</i>	9.30am Mass 9.50 - 11.15am First Holy Communion 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls In Honour of Our Lady of Africa
Sunday 31st March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Mother’s Day</i> <i>(clocks forward 1 hour)</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass (2 nd Scrutiny for Catechumens RCIA) 4.00pm Confirmation Session 6 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass (3 rd Scrutiny RCIA) 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Felix Chukwudi Onyia RIP Michael Maloney RIP Parishioners

Money Matters

Collection Last Sunday	£1,364.54
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 761.00</u>
Total offertory	£2,125.54
CAFOD Lent Fast Day	£1,175.07

Thank you for your generosity

Altar Servers

This week Team 3
 Next week Team 1



Church Cleaners

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

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

FR WILFRED OBINA

We are sorry to say that Fr Wilfred has had to leave us and return to Uganda. Although his time with us was short, we are grateful for his ministry here at St Andrews and we wish him well for the future.

TEA/COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 9.30AM MASS

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

GHANAIAN COMMUNITY MEETING

The group will be meeting today Sunday 24th March after the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

CAFOD FAST DAY

Thank you so much for supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day. Our parish raised a fantastic £1,175.07 for CAFOD's Family Fast Day. Your support will bring us closer to a world where no one is beyond reach of the love and care they need to flourish. Thank you for fasting in solidarity, and please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers throughout Lent.

LENT 2019

Lenten Masses in Croydon University Hospital

There will be Mass every Monday during Lent at 12noon in the Hospital Chapel. All are most welcome.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays 10.30am Stations of the Cross (led by parishioners) and at 8.00pm (led by different Parish groups) and also after 10am Mass on Wednesdays (led by parishioners).

Friday Masses

During Lent please note that our usual 7.30am Mass will be at **6.30am** on Fridays.

Films of Stories from the Bible

This year during Lent we will be showing some films of Stories from the Bible. There will be six films in total. The next one will be on Thursday 28th March showing "The Story of Jeremiah" starting at 7.15pm. All films will be shown on Thursdays in our hall starting with teas and coffees at 7.00pm. Please see the poster in the porch for more details.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2019/2020

Gift Aid envelopes for 2019/2020 will be distributed over three weekends and the next one will be week ending 23/24 and 30/31 March. Please collect your envelopes after each Mass. This is also a good opportunity for you to sign up if you are not already in the scheme. The Gift Aid Scheme allows the parish to claim 25p tax back from HMRC for every £1 you donate. It will not cost you any extra. The only requirement is you must be paying UK tax. For further details please contact Albert Tang, contact details on the back of the newsletter.

MEMORIES OF CANON FRANCIS MORAN

Canon Francis Moran had spent 14 years at St. Andrew's and had initiated many positive changes within our Parish. He touched many of the lives in our Parish with his gentle, kind and determined nature. Following his passing, we thought it would be a nice gesture to present his family with some of the memories from our Parishioners. We would like you to send any pictures, poems, notes etc. that we will put into an album that we are going to prepare for Canon Francis' family. Once this has been done, we will leave space for you to write a personal message to his family about the memory you have of Canon Francis.

Please can you arrange for the pictures/poems or notes etc to be put into an envelope marked "Canon Francis Moran" and dropped into the Parish office. These will be collected and organised. If, however, you have pictures on your phone, please can you arrange for them to be sent to 07958 537314. All material needs to be received by 31st March.

CELEBRATION FOR THE FEAST OF ST GEORGE: SATURDAY 27TH APRIL

The Social Committee will have a celebration for the feast of St George, Patron Saint of England, on Saturday, 27th April, the Saturday after Easter. It will commence at 7.00 for 7.30pm and will start with a glass of Mead followed by a three course meal. Adults - £10.00, children under the age of 10 - £5.00. Tickets will be on sale after all weekend Masses. There will be music, a licensed bar and a raffle.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FAMILY

An invitation to all our families, young adults and children, please join us on Saturday 6th April from 10.15am to 11.30am in the hall for a power-point presentation shown as a visual aid to pray the Rosary and there is also a short children's DVD on saints. All are most welcome.

MISSIO RED BOX COLLECTIONS

There will be a collection of all monies on the weekend of 30/31 March. Please can all red box holders bring their boxes to be emptied before the Mass. If you are unable to attend Mass, please contact Savio on 07902 933534. Also please collect your copy of the Mission Today Spring 2019 booklet from the porch to read about the work of Missio around the world.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check our porch area as there are a lot of items left. We will dispose of them soon if not collected.

ST ANDREW'S 50 FOR 50 GOLDEN FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2019

Marking St Andrew's Golden Anniversary

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our fundraising campaign so far and if you have already donated. Fr Len hopes to arrange a meeting soon so everyone can have an opportunity to make their comments, be kept informed of progress and we can then answer any questions too.

WHY BE A CATHOLIC?

G. K. Chesterton once wrote "The difficulty in explaining 'why I am a Catholic' is that there are ten thousand reasons all amounting to one reason: that Catholicism is true". Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ founded the Catholic Church to preserve the truth He gave us and hand it down through the centuries, helping people all around the world encounter the love of God.

Over the years, there have been an untold number of questions and objections raised about the Catholic Church's teachings and practices. The answers are there, and it's worth your time to find them. As the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said, "There are not even 100 people in this country who hate the Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they think the Catholic Church to be."

The Lord wants us all to know and understand His truth, so we can embrace it wholeheartedly and live by it. Christ reminds us, "The truth shall make you free". *John 8:32*

Please take a leaflet from the porch "Why Be A Catholic?" and go along to the Catholic Conference being held at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 4th May from 9.00 – 6.00pm. There will be many speakers with a full schedule on the day and all are welcome. Further info: 020 8857 9950 or info@familyandlife.org.uk . Pre-book to ensure your place, entrance £10.

Quote of the Week

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:38

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
Primary School

Danielle Lewin
St. James the Great

020 8684 3013
020 8771 3424