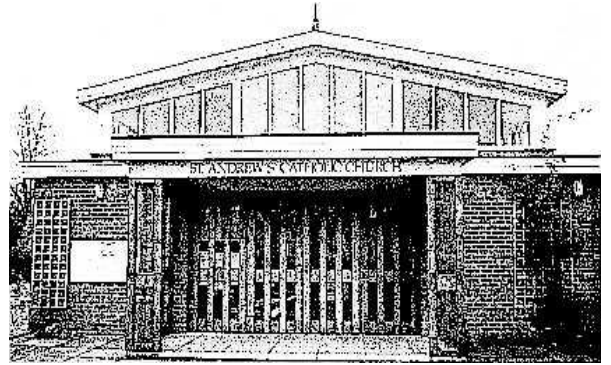


ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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

Deacons: Rev. Tony Flavin, Rev. Errol Quagraine

Parish Sister: Sr. Jennie Eldridge DMJ

Croydon University Hospital Chaplaincy: Sr. Sheila DMJ

31st March 2019 4th Sunday of Lent (C)

Message from Fr Francis

LENT IS THE PERFECT TIME TO 'COME HOME'

The parable of the Prodigal Son is well known, arguably the most famous of Jesus' parables. It might more correctly be called the parable of the Father's Love, for it is a powerful depiction of God's love and mercy. John Paul II explained that God is not just Creator, but "He is also Father". The father, in this parable, exhibits a serene, pervasive holiness that reveals the heart of the Heavenly Father.

As a father, would you have objected to such a request from your son, even refused to consider it? Yet our Heavenly Father does not object; He respects our freedom – His great gift to us – even when we use it to rebel against Him. So the father divided up the property; in doing so, grace was destroyed and communion was severed. The familial bond was broken, and the son took his money into the "far country," a reference to a place of utter emptiness and spiritual desolation.

What is farther away? Surely whoever separates himself from Christ is an exile from his country. How did the son come to his senses? By God's grace, he recognised his sinfulness. The Prodigal Son could not believe that his father's mercy would reach far beyond what he deserved. Yet, even as the Prodigal Son tried to articulate a cry for mercy, he was wrapped in mercy - held, kissed, clothed, and restored to life. He was overwhelmed by the lavish banquet that restored him to the father's love. Such is the generosity that invites us, week by week, to the Lord's Eucharist.

Thus Parable of the Prodigal Son helps us to correctly understand the mercy, justice, and love of our Heavenly Father. God does wait, longing for the return of every lost soul "to the bosom of His family, which is the Church." (CCC 1439). Let us never forget that the purpose of this parable was to call us to become merciful as the Father is merciful.

This Sunday's Readings

Joshua 5:9-12	The People of God keep the Passover on their entry into the promised land
Psalms 33	Taste and see that the Lord is good
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	God reconciled us to himself through Christ
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	Your brother here was dead and has come to life

Diary for the Week

<p>Sunday 31st March 4th Sunday of Lent</p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p>6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass (2nd Scrutiny for Catechumens RCIA)</p> <p>4.00pm Confirmation Session 6 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group</p>	<p>In Honour of Our Lady of Africa Felix Chukwudi Onyia RIP Michael Maloney RIP</p> <p>Parishioners</p>
<p>Monday 1st April <i>Acts 2:14, 22-32</i> <i>Mt 28:8-15</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 12noon Mass in Hospital 5.45 – 7.15pm Beavers (hall) 7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery 7.30 – 9.00pm Scouts (hall)</p>	<p>Francis D'Souza RIP (Anniv) J. Okoroafor & Family</p>
<p>Tuesday 2nd April <i>St Francis of Paola</i> <i>Ezk 47:1-9, 12</i> <i>Jn 5:1-16</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.30pm FHC Parents Meeting (hall) 7.45pm R.C.I.A.</p>	<p>Lurdina Da Cruz (w/b) Michael Maloney RIP</p>
<p>Wednesday 3rd April <i>Is 49:8-15</i> <i>Jn 5:17-30</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross 2.00pm Active Retirement Group 6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)</p>	<p>Special Intention of C.C. Barbara Scott RIP</p>
<p>Thursday 4th April <i>St Isidore</i> <i>Ex 32:7-14</i> <i>Jn 5:31-47</i></p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00 – 8.30pm Cubs (St James the Great) 7.15pm Lenten Film (hall)</p>	<p>T.W.M. Group Theresa McSorley RIP</p>
<p>Friday 5th April <i>First Friday</i> <i>St Vincent Ferrer</i> <i>Wis 2:1, 12-22</i> <i>Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30</i></p>	<p>6.30am Mass 10.00am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross 6.30pm Syro Malabar Mass 8.00pm Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>Mr Riffat RIP Mr & Mrs I. D'Cruz RIP</p>
<p>Saturday 6th April <i>Jer 11:18-20</i> <i>Jn 7:40-53</i></p>	<p>9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 10.15 – 11.30am Friends of the Holy Family 3.00 -4.00pm Rehearsals: Children's Stations of the Cross 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday (3rd Scrutiny for Catechumens RCIA)</p>	<p>Private Intention</p> <p>Mr Thomas (Intention)</p>
<p>Sunday 7th April 5th Sunday of Lent</p>	<p>9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 4.00pm Confirmation Session 7 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group</p>	<p>Parishioners Paul Etuka RIP</p> <p>Franklyn Pereira RIP (Anniv)</p>

Money Matters

Collection Last Sunday	£1,294.39
Payment by Standing Order	£ 761.00
Total offertory	£2,055.39

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

MISSIO RED BOX COLLECTIONS

There will be a collection of all monies this weekend 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.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2019/2020

Gift Aid envelopes for 2019/2020 will be distributed this weekend 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.

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.

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY

All children from St. Andrew's parish, years 1 to 6, are invited to take part in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Please come along to rehearsals on Saturday 6th April and 13th April in the Church from 3.00 - 4.00pm in readiness for Good Friday 19th April at 10.00am to get costumes and be ready for Stations of the Cross at 10.45am. The younger children will carry banners and take part in the procession and the older children will read the stations. It is very important that all children involved attend the rehearsals. For further information, please contact Ized 07798 941387 and Bernadette 07729 322571.

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

During Lent we will be showing some films of Stories from the Bible. The next one will be on Thursday 4th April showing "The Story of Esther" 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.

Parish Penitential Service

We will be holding our Parish Penitential Service on Monday 15th April at 7.00pm This is a great way to prepare for Easter and there will be other Priests available to hear individual confessions.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

There is a parents meeting on Tuesday 2nd April at 6.30pm in the hall.

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 today, 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.

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.

THE PASSAGE

The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give until 12 noon Monday 1st April to support its work with homeless people moving from Street to Home. Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If you would like to donate and give £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20. Donate at www.thebiggive.org.uk/thepassage2019

Quote of the Week

"Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come"

2 Corinthians 5:17

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