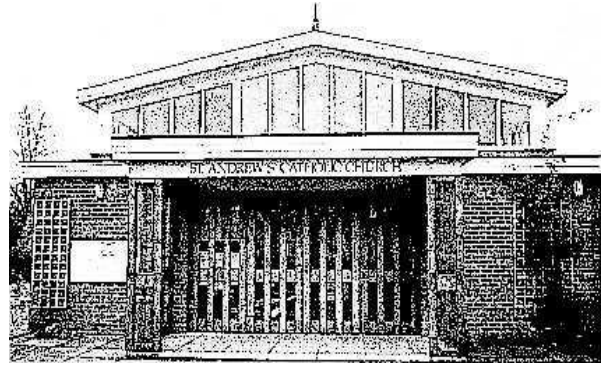

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery
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RC Archdiocese of Southwark - A Registered Charity No. 1173050

PASTORAL TEAM

Priests: Fr Emmanuel Ahua C.S.Sp.
Fr Francis Nonyelu
Fr James S. M. Kubendra Raj
Deacons: Rev. Tony Flavin, Rev. Errol Quagraine
Parish Sister: Sr. Jennie Eldridge DMJ
Croydon University Hospital Chaplaincy: Sr. Sheila DMJ



Welcome to St Andrew's RC Church. Worship has been offered here since 1905. You are all very welcome to join in the hymns and other parts of the service as much as possible. Please switch mobile phones off and refrain from taking photographs, filming or recording.

1st December 2019 First Sunday of Advent (A)

Message from Fr Emmanuel

Season of Advent

This week, we begin the season of Advent expectant waiting as we seek to prepare again, in a new way, the way for the Lord. We will try to straighten out the highway - whatever that might mean for us personally. And in the midst of all of this, at this particular juncture of our vocational journey, we ponder in hope our faith and our life, our humanity and our discipleship, our desire for conversion and the reality of our struggles.

In this season of Advent, I want to invite you all to open up your hearts where the Lord Jesus can be born once more. Remember, It is the real and contemporary you and me, not the ideal or future you and me, within whom the Lord Jesus wishes to be born again. Advent invites us to accept again the Father's gift, to embrace the Lord Jesus who walks before, behind, below, above, beside and within us. The Lord Jesus comes afresh: to comfort and console His people.

The readings for this first Sunday of Advent are full of movements. In the first reading, Isaiah envisioned a nation streaming towards mount Zion and lay down their weapons making peace. Paul urges the Romans to wake up, throw away the amour of darkness and put on the amour light. The Gospel invites us to be vigilant, being awake offer us the avenue to prepare for the coming of Christ.

We are invited in this season to allow God's vision of peace to inspire us to be vigilant and attentive for the coming of the son of man. I pray that this vision of Isaiah and Paul exultation will inspire you to prepare for Advent.

This Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5	The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom
Psalms 121	I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'
Romans 13:11-14	Our salvation is near
Matthew 24:37-44	Stay awake so that you may be ready

Diary for the Week

Sunday 1st December <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday	Parishioners
	9.30am Mass	Michael Ryan RIP
	11.30am Mass	Janet Badu-Mensah
	5.00pm Rosary	
	5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction	
	6.00pm Mass	Julian (Well-being)
Monday 2nd December <i>Isaiah 4:2-6</i> <i>Matthew 8:5-11</i>	7.30am Mass	Deceased Members De Souza Family (John, Ophelia, Edward, Maisie, Nina) Mr Eustace Clarke RIP
	10.00am Funeral Mass	
	5.45 – 7.15pm Beavers (hall)	
	7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery	
Tuesday 3rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i> <i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i> <i>Luke 10:21-24</i>	7.30am Mass	Maria McCafferkey Peter Lewis
	10.00am Mass	
Wednesday 4th December <i>St John Damascene</i> <i>Isaiah 25:6-10</i> <i>Matthew 15:29-37</i>	7.30am Mass	Special Intention of Patricia Wocial Rosaleen Doyle RIP (Anniv)
	10.00am Mass	
	2.00pm Active Retirement Group	
	6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall)	
	7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	
Thursday 5th December <i>Isaiah 26:1-6</i> <i>Matthew 7:21. 24-27</i>	7.30am Mass	Special Intention of Richie Family Our Lady of Africa
	10.00am Mass	
	7.00 – 8.30pm Cubs (St James the Great)	
Friday 6th December First Friday <i>St Nicholas</i> <i>Isaiah 29:17-24</i> <i>Matthew 9:27-31</i>	6.30am Mass	Mr & Mrs McCormack Frank (Well-being)
	10.00am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Benediction	
	6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall)	
	6.30pm Syro Malabar Mass	
Saturday 7th December <i>St Ambrose</i> <i>Isaiah 30:19-21. 23-26</i> <i>Matthew 9:35 – 10:1. 6-8</i>	9.30am Mass	Wijeyratne (Deceased Members)
	10.00am Rosary	
	10.00 – 10.30am Confessions	
	5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions	
	6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 8th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am Mass	Denis Bernard Mannion RIP Paul Etuka RIP
	11.30am Mass	
	5.00pm Rosary	
	5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction	
	6.00pm Mass	
	7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	
	Parishioners	

Money Matters

Collection Last Sunday	£1,292.92
Payment by Standing Order	£ 700.00
Total offertory	£1,992.92
Collection for Catholic Youth Work	£ 618.00

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

HOME-MADE GREETING CARDS FOR SALE

Today Sunday 1st December, there will be a sale of home-made greeting cards including Christmas cards after the 9.30am Mass in aid of our Golden Fundraising Campaign. Please go along to the hall and help support this event.

400 CLUB

The 400 club winners for November are:

Margaret O'Leary - £20 No: 103, Juliette de Menezes - £10 No: 61, Sonia Clarke - £10 No: 51

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Please check the notice board giving information about our timeline for the introduction of Perpetual Adoration in our parish. Further details to follow.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN (R.C.I.C.)

The next session will be on Tuesday 10th December at 6.30pm in the hall.

THANKSGIVING MASS IN HONOUR OF FRS EMMANUEL AHUA, C.S.Sp & DANIEL ADIYI, C.S.Sp

The provincial and council has the honour to invite all to the graduation thanksgiving Mass in honour of our two brothers, Emmanuel Ahua and Daniel Adayi who recently defended successfully their Doctoral dissertations in USA and Portugal respectively. A reception shall follow in the Parish hall afterwards. The date is Friday December 6th starting 7pm at St Chad's Parish, South Norwood, 5 Whitworth Road, South Norwood, London, SE25 6XN. All parishioners of St Andrew's are invited to this special Mass.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE

You are invited to join us for this years 'Parish Carol Service' which will be held on Saturday 14th December at 7pm. Following on from previous years we will be singing Carols in several languages. All Parish groups are asked to sing in their 'native language'. So please do join us for an enjoyable evening and let Maureen know through the Parish office what your group will be singing.

ADVENT

Please note that the early Mass on each of the Fridays in Advent is at **6.30am** and not 7.30am. Tea/coffee and croissants provided after Mass in the hall.

Our Parish Penitential Service is on Monday 16th December at 7.00pm.

Please take our Christmas card home with all the details of the services and Mass times over the Christmas period.

Also available are envelopes for the Christmas offering which is personal to the Priests of the parish.

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 are asking all our 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.

A DAY WITH JESUS

You are invited to the 'A Day with Jesus' Ministry being held here at St Andrew's Church on every fourth Saturday of every month from 12 – 4.00pm. Please check the notice board for the full programme details and contacts for further information.

TOY SUNDAY ON 8TH DECEMBER

Every year we collect toys to use as Christmas presents for disadvantaged children. Once again this year we are giving to St Anne's Community Centre in Vauxhall. Please can we ask you to bring in any toys to Masses on the weekend of 7th/8th 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. A representative from St Anne's Community Centre will be here 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.

CALLING ALL CAROL SINGERS

As usual this year St Andrew's choir members will be carol singing around the wards at Croydon University hospital. You are all welcome to join us, the more the merrier! Please meet in the hospital Chapel (Woodcroft Road entrance) at 6.45p.m. sharp on Wednesday December 18th. We return to the chapel after an hour for refreshments. Please let Mary know if you are coming. Mary Cameron 020 8689 8360 / 07928670639.

We have also been invited to sing carols outside Thornton Heath Station on Saturday December 7th from 2.30 pm while the community Christmas tree is being erected and decorated. Please come, all are welcome!

NIGERIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The group will be meeting on Sunday 8th December after the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY REHEARSALS

This year the children of the parish will be retelling the story of the Nativity at 5.15pm on December 24th. If you would like your children to take part, there will be two rehearsals in the Church on 14th December 2.00pm to 3pm and 23rd December from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. All children are welcome to take part. For more info contact Bernadette 07729322571.

ST JAMES THE GREAT SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

You are all invited to the school's Christmas Fayre today, Sunday 1st December from 11.00 – 3.00pm. Please go along to enjoy crafts, homemade cakes, Santa's grotto, hot food and much more. All are very welcome.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUES

Please take one of the CAFOD World Gifts catalogues in the porch and consider buying one of these special life-changing gifts this Christmas for your families and friends.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S FEAST

St Francis Xavier's feast is being celebrated in aid of St Andrew's Church 50/50 project this year on the 7th of December. There will be Mass at 6.00pm followed by a social. Please make every effort to support this cause. Tickets priced at £12 adults, £6 children and includes a four course hot meal and cake. There will also be a licensed bar, music, raffles, games and spot prizes. SFX feast has been enthusiastically celebrated at St Andrew's Church since the first Goans came to our parish from Africa and this year we are marking the 47th anniversary of the feast celebrations. For details or if anyone would like to participate in the further planning of the event please contact Jennifer/Cyril Da Silva 07712273024, Vanessa/Paul 07791709861, Adele 07764944163, Tess 07846914179 or Kettie Garwe 07908697038.

PILGRIMAGE

The following pilgrimage is being arranged. Parish/Spiritans Pilgrimage to Prague/Poland 22nd to 29th May 2020: Beginning from Prague in Czech Republic, visiting Zakopane, Cracow, Wadowice, Auschwitz, Czestochowa & Warsaw. The sites to be visited include: the shrine of Infant Jesus of Prague, National Sanctuary of Our Lady (Black Madonna) of Czestochowa, the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, Pope John Paul II Centre, Wadowice (town of Karol Wojtyła – Pope John Paul II), Auschwitz (Concentrated Camp of II World War), and many more. Holy Masses will be celebrated at these sites and others too. The weeklong pilgrimage is open to parishes and communities in London served by the Spiritans at the cost of £650 inclu flight, lodging, breakfast/dinner. Although £200 deposit before the end of November is needed, contact Juliet 07729391661 urgently.

THE ANGELUS PRAYER

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,

The Lord is with Thee;

Blessed art thou among women,

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary. . . .

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary. . . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Quote of the Week

God does not demand that I be successful.

God demands that I be faithful.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

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