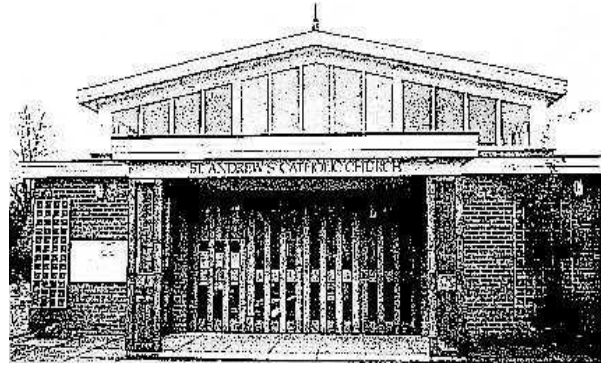

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery
45 Brook Road **Tel:** 020 8684 3013
Thornton Heath **Fax:** 020 8684 6626
Surrey CR7 7RD **E-mail:** thortonheath@rcaos.org.uk
Website: www.standrewsthorntonheath.org.uk

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.

22nd December 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Message from Deacon Tony

I am, as you might have noticed, very keen to understand the symbolism we find in scripture. Notice how three times throughout the wider nativity story angels appear, firstly Zechariah, then Gabriel appears to Mary, and thirdly the angels appear to the shepherds and on each occasion, the angels say "do not be afraid".

Why would the angels invoke fear you have to ask. My theory is that they had, in the first two instances, come out of the blue. I am sure if an angel appeared to me in my kitchen I would be running for the back door!

In the case of the shepherds, I can understand their terror. We hear in the English translation that a 'host' of angels appear, but the Greek word used by Luke when writing his account is στρατός (stratos) which means 'army', however, the shepherds' terror soon turns to curiosity and finally joy in finding the Lord.

Now let's think about the Magi. We don't know how many wise men visited Jesus, but tradition has given us three thanks to the number of gifts they bought. Have you ever considered the idea that in order to find their way to the infant king, they could only travel at night? And let us recall there were no maps, roads, street lights or sat navs to help them navigate their journey.

It would have been the same for most long-distance travellers at that time, the stars were their maps, but in the case of the Magi, they were looking for an infant king whose birth had not been announced in the media. I cannot help but wonder if there was any doubt in their mind at any time on their sojourn.

But this is an analogy for us all, when we are travelling through the darkest times in our lives, keep focused on the Word of God, and we will be led to Jesus, the Saviour.

This Sunday's Readings

As Parish Mass Book

Diary for the Week

<p>Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 3.00pm Decorating Church 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>Jack Oyeary RIP Parishioners Errol Quagraine Jnr (Birthday)</p> <p>Holy Souls</p>
<p>Monday 23rd December Saint John of Kanty Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66</p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 2.00 – 3.00pm Children rehearsals for Christmas Nativity Legion of Mary (hall) 7.00pm</p>	<p>Patrick & Margaret McGovern Mrs Lilly Paes RIP</p>
<p>Tuesday 24th December 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Luke 1:67-79</p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 5.15pm The Nativity with our Parish children 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas 11.15pm Carols for Midnight Mass</p>	<p>Jullian (Well-being) Francis John Hampshire RIP</p> <p>Paul Etuka RIP James Bradley Cooney (Well-being)</p>
<p>Wednesday 25th December The Nativity of the Lord Holyday of Obligation Isaiah 52:7-10 John 1:1-18</p>	<p>8.00am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass</p>	<p>Jennifer Fullwiller (Special Intention) Richie Family Patricia Wocial (Special Intention)</p>
<p>Thursday 26th December Saint Stephen Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Matthew 10:17-22</p>	<p>10.00am Mass</p>	<p>Yodit, Tirhas, Jo & Hdile (Well-being)</p>
<p>Friday 27th December Saint John 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:2-8</p>	<p>10.00am Mass</p>	<p>Mrs Irene Michael (10th Anniv)</p>
<p>Saturday 28th December The Holy Innocents 1 John 1:5-2:2 Matthew 2:13-18</p>	<p>9.30am Mass 10.00am Rosary 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday</p>	<p>Mr Cecil Lobo RIP</p> <p>Priscilla Jackson (Anniv)</p>
<p>Sunday 29th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Parshioners Majorie Agnes (Birthday)</p> <p>Sarah Notaro RIP (Anniv)</p>
<p>Monday 30th December 1 John 2:12-17 Luke 2:36-40</p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00pm Legion of Mary (hall)</p>	<p>Our Lady of Africa William Bernard Freeman RIP</p>
<p>Tuesday 31st December Saint Sylvester 1 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18</p>	<p>10.00am Mass Midnight Mass Welcome in New Year</p>	<p>Deceased Liegueiaires RIP Parishioners</p>
<p>Wednesday 1st January Mary, the Holy Mother of God Numbers 6:22-27 Luke 2:16-21</p>	<p>Midday Mass</p>	<p>Mr Alphonsus Alan Ogwuke RIP</p>
<p>Thursday 2nd January Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen 1 John 2:22-28 John 1:19-28</p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass</p>	<p>F.O.S.S. (For Our Suffering Souls) Janet Badu-Mensah (W/B, Thanksgiving)</p>
<p>Friday 3rd January The Most Holy Name of Jesus First Friday 1 John 2:29 – 3:6 John 1:29-34</p>	<p>7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/ Benediction 6.30pm Syro Malabar Mass</p>	<p>Angela & Family (W/B, Thanksgiving) William Bernard Freeman RIP (Anniv)</p>

<i>Saturday 4th January</i> <i>1 John 3:7-10</i> <i>John 1:35-42</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00 – 10.30am 5.00 – 5.30pm 6.00pm	Mass Rosary Confessions Confessions First Mass of Sunday	Meiso D'Souza RIP Parishioners
<i>Sunday 5th January</i> <i>The Epiphany of The Lord</i>	9.30am 11.30am 5.00pm 5.15 – 5.45pm 6.00pm 7.00 - 9.00pm	Mass Mass Rosary Exposition and Benediction Mass Charismatic Prayer Group	Dorothy James RIP John Carrapiett RIP (Anniv) Mary Josephine Wells RIP

Money Matters	
Collection Last Sunday	£1,237.78
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 700.00</u>
Total offertory	£1,937.78
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	

Altar Servers		Church Cleaners
This week Team 3		This week Sancho's Dusters
Next week Team 1		Next week St Jude's Group
Team 2 (5.1.20)		Judie's Crew (8.1.20)

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

SVP COFFEE MORNING AND TABLE TOP SALE

The SVP group are having a coffee morning and table top sale today 22nd December in the hall. Please go along and help support the group. They will also be selling tickets for the Afternoon Tea fundraiser at the same time.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The group would like to invite all parishioners to their Christmas party today Sunday 22nd December in the hall starting from 1.00pm – all are very welcome.

CHURCH DECORATION FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas again today Sunday 22nd December at 3 - 4pm. Please come and lend a hand to make our parish Church look beautiful for Christmas. The more the merrier, you are all welcome.

ST ANDREW'S

The next newsletter will be on Sunday 5th January 2020.

Parish Surgery will resume again on Monday 6th January at 7.00pm.

The Active Retirement Group will resume again on Wednesday 8th January.

The Lectio Divina Group will resume again on Wednesday 8th January. New members are always welcome, please come along to join the group on Wednesdays 6.00pm in the hall or call Maria for more info 020 8660 6451.

NEW YEARS DAY

There will be an offertory collection at the midday Mass.

50 FOR 50 GOLDEN FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thank you all again for all the support throughout 2019 for our fund which now finishes at the end of the year. So many of you have been so generous with your time, money, support and understanding. We hope to use the money raised carefully to fix the many jobs for our Church, hall and house. As of 15th December the money raised is £29,309.14. Once again, thank you all very much.

FR EMMANUEL

Fr Emmanuel is delighted to let you all know that his Induction Mass at St Andrews will be on 10th January at 6.30pm. You are all very welcome to attend.

ADVENT

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.

CONFIRMATION 2020

Bishop Paul Hendricks will be coming to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 6th June at 11am Mass. Sr. Jennie and the catechists will receive requests from those who are in year 9 and above who wish to be confirmed after all Sunday Masses in January. Please be prepared to give your reasons for wanting to be confirmed.

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.

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 note that the group will not be meeting on Saturday 28th December). Please see the notice board for full programme details and contacts.

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, please attend the next rehearsal in the Church on 23rd December from 2.00 to 3.00pm. All children are welcome to take part. For more info contact Bernadette 07729 322571.

ST ANDREW'S AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

Due to the success of the last Afternoon Tea party, we will be holding another one on Saturday 25th January 2020. Tickets will be on sale at the weekends and will cost £6.50. They will be strictly limited, so if you are stuck for ideas on what to give someone special for Christmas, please consider buying one (or two!) which will support those in need in the Parish.

CRIB OFFERING 2019

This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund. This fund provides emergency grants for children and families in our Archdiocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be given out via these grants. Thank you for your support.

Quote of the Week

Mankind is a great, an immense family ... This is proved by
what we feel in our hearts at Christmas

Saint John XXIII

*Fathers Emmanuel, Francis and James, Deacons Tony and Errol and the Sisters
wish you all a Blessed Christmas and New Year*

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