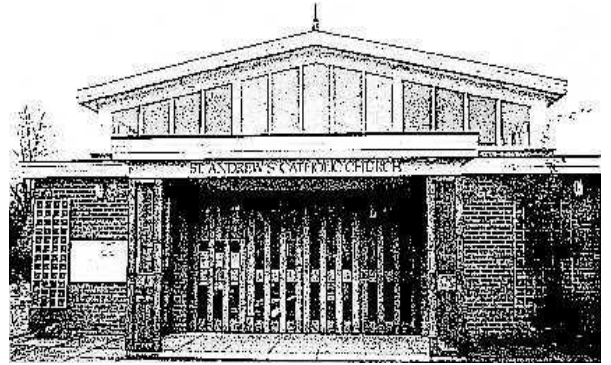


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# ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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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.*

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## 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Second Sunday of Advent (A)

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### Message from Deacon Errol

#### Nurturing each other's Greatness

The preparation in Advent for the coming of the redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ, teaches us three fundamental values in life; to wait, keeping watch and being alert. We cannot see God; we can only wait patiently for God to let himself be known. And when we wait for God we admit our own incompleteness; we acknowledge that there is always more to God than what we know, and proclaim our hope in him. Our waiting for God must not be overshadowed by material gains that will not last; our waiting must be a prayer to testify to our own spiritual poverty and lack of understanding, and to God's omnipotence. Advent is meant to be joyful if our preparation is focused on Christ.

In Christ Jesus God lavishes us with a love that is limitless, a love that refuses to allow hate and indifference; a love that seeks to bring out the best in us. And we are encouraged to walk in this love and to make others experience it through our actions. This way, we foster a relationship with God to an extent that benefits others.

In the Gospel (*Matthew 3:1-12*), John the Baptist and Jesus' relationship teaches us that generosity in recognising the goodness in others can help bring out the good that is in ourselves. John the Baptist spoke not of his own greatness, but Christ's.

So let us do all we can for Christ to be born into not only our own hearts, but the hearts of others too. To do this we must first look at ourselves and work quietly and humbly on the darkness that hides within us; to be selfless, to learn to forgive and to love. In that way we bring the light of the Good News to so many people, working with each other as parts of one body, and NOT against each other.

#### This Sunday's Readings

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**He judges the wretched with integrity**

**Psalms 71**

**In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails**

**Romans 15:4-9**

**Christ is the saviour of all men**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand**

## Diary for the Week

<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday  9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass <b>5.00pm Rosary</b> <b>5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction</b> 6.00pm Mass <b>7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group</b>	St Francis Xavier Feast  Denis Bernard Mannion RIP Paul Etuka RIP  Parishioners
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> <i>Genesis 3:9-15. 20</i> <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>5.45 – 7.15pm Beavers (hall)</b> <b>7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery</b> <b>7.00 – 8.00pm Family Holy Hour</b> <b>7.30 – 9.00pm Scouts (hall)</b>	Francis John Hampshire RIP Gill Patient RIP
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Feria</i> <i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i> <i>Matthew 18:12-14</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>6.30pm R.C.I.C. (hall)</b>	Tony (Well-being) John Lawrence & Pobrina Fernandes RIP
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St Damasus</i> <i>Isaiah 40:25-31</i> <i>Matthew 11:28-30</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>2.00pm Active Retirement Group</b> <b>6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall)</b> <b>7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)</b>	Vincenzo Lanzaloca RIP Elizabeth Salapare RIP
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> <i>Isaiah 41:13-20</i> <i>Matthew 11:11-15</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am <b>Funeral Mass</b> <b>7.00 – 8.30pm Cubs (St James the Great)</b>	Mawa Loftus RIP John Brennan RIP
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Saint Lucy</i> <i>Isaiah 48:17-19</i> <i>Matthew 11:16-19</i>	<b>6.30am</b> Mass 10.00am Mass <b>6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall)</b>	Mr Tarragona RIP F.O.S.S. (For Our Suffering Souls)
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Saint John of the Cross</i> <i>Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4. 9-11</i> <i>Matthew 17:10-13</i>	9.30am Mass <b>10.00am Rosary</b> <b>10.00 – 10.30am Confessions</b> <b>2-3pm Children rehearsals for Christmas Nativity</b>  <b>5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions</b> 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday <b>7.00pm Parish Carol Service</b>	Debra Diplock (Birthday)   Mrs Assiz De Souza
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass <b>5.00pm Rosary</b> <b>5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction</b> 6.00pm Mass <b>7.00 – 9.00pm Choir practice (Church)</b> <b>7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group (hall)</b>	George Barrett RIP (Anniv) Parishioners  Doris Chin

### Money Matters

Collection Last Sunday	£1,557.73
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 700.00</u>
Total offertory	£2,257.73

*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

### **TOY SUNDAY TODAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 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 bring in any toys to Masses over the weekend. 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 thank you for your continued support.

### **NIGERIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

The group will be meeting today Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December after the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

### **FAMILY HOLY HOUR**

Children, families and parishioners are invited to come and join us to pray for peace in our hearts, our homes, our families and the whole world. Please join us on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 7 – 8.00pm in the Church.

### **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 10<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm in the hall.

### **PARISH CAROL SERVICE**

You are invited to join us for this years 'Parish Carol Service' which will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup>. We return to the chapel after an hour for refreshments. Please let Mary know if you are coming. Mary Cameron 020 8689 8360 / 07928670639.

### **CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY REHEARSALS**

This year the children of the parish will be retelling the story of the Nativity at 5.15pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. If you would like your children to take part, there will be two rehearsals in the Church on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm to 3pm

and 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. All children are welcome to take part. For more info contact Bernadette 07729322571.

### **GHANAIAN COMMUNITY MEETING**

The group will be meeting on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December after the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

### **CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

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

### **ST ANDREW'S AFTERNOON TEA PARTY**

Due to the success of the last Afternoon Tea party, we will be holding another one on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Tickets will be on sale from weekend 14/15 December 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.

### **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.

### **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**

“Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.”

*Epicurus*

#### **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