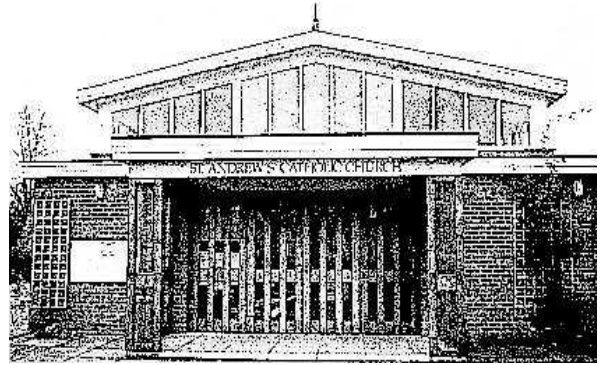

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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 James S. M. Kubendra Raj
Fr Hyacinth Edokwe C.S.Sp.
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.

15th March 2020 Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Message from Fr Emmanuel

“It shouldn't have been like this”

As the Hebrews left slavery in Egypt, we can imagine they thought they would have a great future ahead of them. They trusted Moses' leadership and that God was finally freeing them. But now in the first reading (Ex 17:3-7) we see that all is not going well. We can imagine them saying, “It shouldn't have been like this.” They are tormented by thirst and they are complaining. Now that they have run out of water, they feel that God is distant. They no longer trust God. They complained about why they were in the desert. Instead of trusting in God they did the very opposite, they put God to the test. We know what they earned for themselves by testing God instead of trusting in God; they were not allowed to enter the Promised Land; it was their children who entered Canaan.

Elsewhere Scripture tells us that what happened to them in the desert is a warning to us (1 Cor 10:11). Maybe sometimes we murmur because we focus on what we don't have or what we think we should have, rather than focusing on what God has already done for us. The Hebrews in the desert forgot one fundamental point; God had a plan for them and would see that plan through. Do we forget God has a plan for us and will provide for us? The first reading is not just about the Hebrews in the desert. The first reading is also about us. So, when things are not as we think they should be, “Keep calm and carry on.” God knows what we really need, not what we think we need, and God knows what will best prepare us for our future. God is to be first in our lives. God is the one who will make us happy. When things are not as we thought they would be, remember God has a plan.

Therefore, we want to make our own the sentiments of the Psalm (Ps 95). Even when we are thirsty let us ring out our joy to the Lord and come before him giving thanks. Our whole body can praise God; the Psalm invites us to bow, bend low, kneel, and sing. So, when we worship, we can trust and obey with our whole body. Today we have a choice, murmur like the Hebrews in the desert or trust in God's plan for us. OH THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE! HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART AS AT MERIBAH.

This Sunday's Readings

Exodus 17:3-7	Give the water to drink
Psalm 94	O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts'
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8	The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us
John 4:5-42	The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life

Diary for the Week

Sunday 15th March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	6.00pm (Saturday)	First Mass of Sunday	Parishioners
	9.30am	Mass	Jessica Mary Badu RIP
	11.30am	Mass	Samuel Osei Boadu RIP
	4.00pm	Confirmation Group	
	5.00pm	Rosary	
	5.15 – 5.45pm	Exposition and Benediction	
	6.00pm	Mass	Loraine Viegas RIP
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
7.00 - 9.00pm	Charismatic Prayer Group		
Monday 16th March <i>2 Kings 5:1-15</i> <i>Luke 4:24-30</i>	7.30am	Mass	Andradi Family (Wellbeing) Special Intention of Patricia Wocial
	10.00am	Mass	
	5.45 – 7.15pm	Beavers (hall)	
	7.00 - 8.00pm	Parish Surgery	
Tuesday 17th March <i>St Patrick</i> <i>Daniel 3:25. 34-43</i> <i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	7.30am	Mass	Frank (Wellbeing) George Whitney RIP
	10.00am	Mass	
Wednesday 18th March <i>St Cyril of Jerusalem</i> <i>Deuteronomy 4:1. 5-9</i> <i>Matthew 5:17-19</i>	7.30am	Mass	Mrs Apolonia Okoroafor RIP John Messina (Anniversary)
	10.00am	Mass	
	2.00pm	Active Retirement Group	
	6.00pm	Lectio Divina Group (hall)	
Thursday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i> <i>2 Samuel 7:4-5. 12-14. 16</i> <i>Matthew 1:16. 18-21.24</i>	7.30am	Mass	Frank Lane RIP (F) Mary Collins RIP
	10.00am	Mass	
	7.00 – 8.30pm	Cubs (St James the Great)	
	7.30 – 9.00pm	Lent Scripture Project (hall)	
Friday 20th March <i>Hosea 14:2-10</i> <i>Mark 12:28-34</i>	7.30am	Mass	Archbishop Peter Smith RIP Paul Etuka RIP
	10.00am	Mass	
	10.30am – 10pm	Adoration all day in Church	
	6.30pm	Brownies/Guides (hall)	
Saturday 21st March <i>Hosea 5:15-6:6</i> <i>Luke 18:9-14</i>	9.20 – 11.15am	First Holy Communion	For our Suffering Souls
	9.30am	Mass	
	10.00am	Rosary	
	10.00 – 10.30am	Confessions	
	5.00 – 5.30pm	Confessions	
	6.00pm	First Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 22nd March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Mother's Day</i>	9.30am	Mass	Donovan Family (F) Jessica Mary Badu RIP
	11.30am	Mass	
	4.00pm	Confirmation Group	
	5.00pm	Rosary	
	5.15 – 5.45pm	Exposition and Benediction	
	6.00pm	Mass	
	7.00 - 9.00pm	Charismatic Prayer Group	

Money Matters

Collection Last Sunday	£1,170.34
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 700.00</u>
Total offertory	£1,870.34
Collection CAFOD's Family Fast Day	£1,014.41

Thank you for your generosity

Altar Servers

This week Team 3
Next week Team 1



Church Cleaners

This week Sancho's Dusters
Next week St Jude's Group

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

ARCHBISHOP PETER SMITH RIP

Following the sad news of the death of Archbishop Peter Smith RIP arrangements are being put in place for his Funeral. Sunday 29th March: 6pm: Reception into St George's Cathedral followed by Cathedral Mass: Archbishop John Wilson to preside. 8pm: Vigil Service, after which the Cathedral will close.

Monday 30th March: 7am: Cathedral opens. 7.30am: Cathedral Mass. **12.30pm: Funeral Mass:** Archbishop John Wilson to preside. Burial in the Cathedral Crypt at the end of the Mass.

LENT 2020

Lenten Reflections on the God who speaks

As part of celebrating the Year of the Word, during Lent we will be having reflections on our Lent Scripture Project. These will be held every Thursday evening for six weeks with the last one on 2nd April, at 7.30 – 9.00pm in the hall. The hall will be open from 7.00pm when teas and coffees will be served. Please check our poster in the porch for more details. All welcome.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays 10.30am and at 8.00pm. Also after 10am Mass on Wednesdays.

Parish Penitential Service

We will be holding our Parish Penitential Service on Monday 6th April at 7.30pm. This is a great way to prepare for Easter and there will be other Priests available to hear individual confessions.

Friday Masses

During Lent please note that this year, our normal 7.30am Mass will continue to be at this time as we are not able to facilitate by bringing it forward to 6.30am.

Lenten Masses in Croydon University Hospital

Every Monday during Lent at 12 noon, in the hospital Chapel (near Woodcroft Road). All are most welcome.

GHANAIAN MEETING

The group will be meeting today Sunday 15th March after the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/2021

Gift aid envelopes for 2020/2021 are available for collection during the weekends of 22nd and 29th March after each Mass. Please remember to collect your boxes because every £10 you generously donate will allow the parish to claim back £2.50 from the tax authorities. Everyone who pays tax are actively encouraged to join the Gift Aid Scheme as this will generate an additional 25% extra income for the parish. Last year 80 boxes (40%) were not collected. Each box costs £1.66. Source 2018 accounts: Envelopes 21% Standing orders 36% Money in baskets 43% (no tax can be claimed on these potentially the parish could have claimed an extra £11,382). Please contact Albert Tang, Gift Aid Organiser for more information.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT GROUP

The group is sorry to advise that due to the Coronavirus they will postpone meetings until after Easter. After Easter please check the newsletter for an update or contact Gwen and Bill on 01883 620864.

MY DAY BY DAY BOOKS

The Easter books for adults as well as the Junior and Infant books are available to purchase now, £1 for the adult books and 50p for the Junior and Infant books.

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

The Order of the Knights of St Columba Council 204 will be holding their monthly meeting here at St Andrew's on Friday 20th March at 8.15pm in the hall to encourage recruitment from the Parish to their Order. The Knights of St Columba is a male Catholic laity organisation with the purpose of supporting the Church and the Clergy. We hope that men of the Parish will attend this meeting to find out the useful work that the Order undertakes and will hopefully help you decide to join.

ST ANDREW'S SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The St Andrew's Social Committee invites you to a sparkling afternoon tea on Saturday 18th April between 2.00 – 5.00pm. Come along for a glass of sparkling wine, all the tea (and coffee) you can drink, scones and cream, cakes and

sandwiches. There will be a raffle as well. All proceeds will be put towards the new votive light stands for St Andrew's. Tickets cost £7.00 and will be on sale after all weekend Masses so please do join us for a fun afternoon.

ALTAR SERVERS

Applications are now open for those young people in Year 5 and above who wish to become an Altar Server. If you are interested in applying, please send an email to mc.saintandrewschurch@gmail.com.

WEEKLY ADORATION

Please join us in the weekly Friday Adorations which will take place every Friday here at St Andrews from 10.30am – 10pm, except on First Fridays when the time is 10.30am – 6.00pm. All are very welcome to attend at any time.

Since we will now have Friday Adorations every Friday, this will replace our usual Family Holy Hours and our 4th Monday Adorations which will not take place now.

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. The next one will be on Saturday 28th March, please see the notice board for full programme details and contacts.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF THE WORD – 2020

Living God, You walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures. Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another. Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. **Amen.**

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.

R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation	<i>Pray for us</i>
St Matthew	<i>Pray for us</i>
St Jerome	<i>Pray for us</i>
St Andrew	<i>Pray for us</i>

CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR THE CHURCH

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has issued guidance for the Church concerning coronavirus. The best way of protecting us from spread is for everyone to use universal good hygiene, which will effectively disrupt the spread of the virus.

The Archbishop has issued the following special measures which are effective immediately to 6th April when they will be reviewed.

- *Holy Communion from the chalice shall cease to be offered*
- *Holy Communion will only be received by hand*
- *The sign of peace is to be suspended at Mass*
- *Our Holy water stoup in the porch will be emptied*
- *Shared hymnbooks and Mass books should cease to be used (we are using single-use hymn sheets)*
- *All Ministers should wash and sanitise their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion*

Teas and coffees in the hall after Mass will also be suspended for the moment. Thank you everyone for your continued support and understanding.

Quote of the Week

When we take up the sacred Scriptures in faith and read them with the Church, we walk once more with God in the Garden.

St Ambrose

Contact Numbers

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

