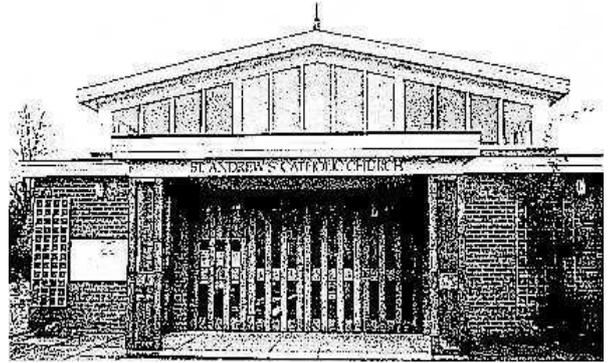

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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
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.

26th July 2020 17th Sunday of the Year (A)

Message from Fr Emmanuel

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Through last Sunday's gospel, Jesus described the Kingdom of God in several different ways; the Kingdom of God is like a small mustard seed and the Kingdom of God is like yeast. This Sunday, Jesus continues to talk about and describe God's Kingdom using more images and symbols.

Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is like a treasure buried in a field. The Kingdom of God is like someone looking for rare and precious pearls. When one such pearl is found, the person who finds it will sell everything to own this priceless gem.

What are we to make of this today? Over the centuries, there have been countless kings, queens, generals and even dictators who claimed to have the biggest and most powerful of kingdoms. In many of these cases, these 'kingdoms' have been gained through war, battles and much loss of life. These kingdoms were often maintained through fear and oppression. This is not the sort of Kingdom Jesus is describing or the kingdom he came to create and establish.

It is worth noting that nowhere in the gospels does Jesus call it *his* Kingdom; it is God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom is not built on power, but through peace. It is not about fear, it is about faith. God's Kingdom is built on justice, mercy, forgiveness, compassion and concern for the poor.

The Kingdom of God is about how we live our lives with each other as followers and disciples of Jesus. We are called to promote and build the Kingdom of God here and now as we prepare to enter into the fullness of the Kingdom at the end of time. The work of building God's Kingdom begins here and now. If I don't help to build God's Kingdom who will? I don't do it here, where will I do it? If I don't do it now, when will I?

As missionary disciples, each of us is called not only to be a member of God's Kingdom, we are also called to do all we can to promote and build it. We are called to build God's Kingdom, not our own, and this *Kingdom will have no end. The Kingdom of heaven waits to receive all who seek it!*

Enjoy your summer with positive values of a dedicated disciple of the Kingdom.

Diary for the Week

Sunday 26th July <i>17th Sunday of the Year</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass	For the people of the Parish
Monday 27th July	9.00am Mass	Vincent Dwyer RIP
Tuesday 28th July	9.00am Mass	Maureen Harkins RIP
Wednesday 29th July	9.00am Mass	Archbishop John Wilson (25 th Anniv of Priesthood)
Thursday 30th July	9.00am Mass	For Our Lady of Africa
Friday 31st July	9.00am Mass	
Saturday 1st August	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Mary Josephine Wells
Sunday 2nd August <i>18th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass	Stephen D'Souza RIP

Church cleaners: this week: Fifi's Group, Sancho's Dusters 5.8.20, St Jude's Group 12.8.20, Judie's Crew 19.8.20, Fifi's Group 26.8.20, Sancho's Dusters 2.9.20, St Jude's Group 9.9.20 - *thank you all very much*

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Gift Aid envelopes will be available for collection after the 9:30 and 11:30 masses this weekend Sunday 26th July. Parishioners attending the Saturday 6:00pm mass are requested to give your name and box number to the priests when mass ends. We will have your boxes available for collection the following week from the priests.

In view of the circumstances we are currently in, and if you are in a position to do so, we would encourage you to set up a direct debit online or complete a standing order form. Please make sure you provide your box number to the bank as a reference. This method is so cost effective and administratively efficient. St Andrew's is immensely grateful for your generosity.

CONFIRMATIONS

Our new Confirmations date is Saturday 26th September at 11.00am. Please note that due to current social distancing measures, we are limiting the number of attendees therefore we can only allow the candidates, parents and sponsors to attend.

SCHOOL REFERENCES

Fr Emmanuel will see parents and carers for the school priest references on the following dates: Tuesday 1st September 3-6pm; Wednesday 2nd September 7-9pm; Monday 7th September 7-9pm; Tuesday 8th September 3-5pm; Wednesday 9th September 7-9pm; Monday 14th September 7-9pm and Tuesday 15th September 3-6pm. ***Please note that these will be the only dates that Fr Emmanuel will see you to sign the school forms, so please make every effort to attend one of these dates – no excuses!***

MASSES

Please note the following:

- a) Everyone is required to wear a face mask or covering and you **MUST** sanitise your hands before entering the church.
- b) **Please note that our Sunday 6.00pm mass from Sunday 26th July will be suspended until further notice because we currently only have Fr Emmanuel here.**

NEWSLETTER

This is the last newsletter before the summer break. Due to staff absences we will not be producing the diary for the week during August. Our next newsletter will be on Sunday 13th September.

Thank you all for your patience, your prayers and continued support.

We wish all our parishioners a safe and restful break