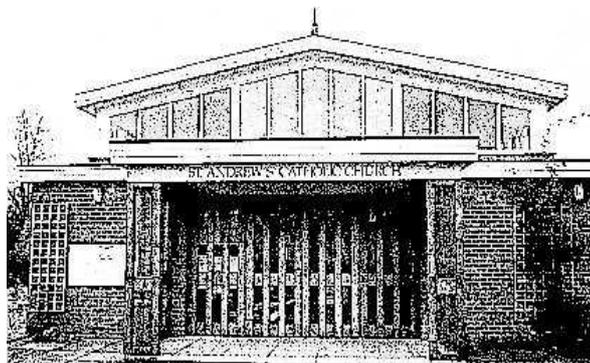

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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 Sylvester Adeniyi C.S.Sp.
Fr Thaddeus Oparah 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.

27th September 2020
26th Sunday of the Year (A)

Message from Fr Sylvester

Show your faith in action!

The parable in today's gospel makes us understand that, between the two sons, the first son who refused to go and work in the vineyard, later obeyed and went. The second Son initially expressed obedience, but actually disobeyed and refused to work in the vineyard. The son who ultimately did the will of his father was the first son Jesus Christ likens to tax collectors and prostitutes, the outcasts of Jewish Society, because they believed John the Baptist and accepted "the way of righteousness" (v32). This simple parable is turned into a fierce polemic against the religious leaders and elders during the time of Jesus, they refused and rejected the message of repentance as preached by John. They had said yes to God. They carry around the books of the Law and meditate on it day and night, yet they failed to follow where it leads. Sinners in town heard the same message of John and repented. Who did the will of God?

The gospel speaks volumes about what it means to be faithful to God. God is not nearly as concerned about polite words and appearances, He is about genuine, heartfelt repentance. To repent means to change both our hearts and lives in the imitation of Christ.

Do I make promises to others that quickly go out of windows? It is one thing to speak about what you intend on doing with your faith, it's another thing to actually follow God's call to act. Jesus wants us to reconsider where we are not doing well enough and change our lives. Promises can never replace virtuous actions. St James says "show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do" (Jam 2 :18).

This Sunday's Readings

Ezekiel 18:25-28	When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live
Psalm 24	Remember your mercy, Lord
Philippians 2:1-11	In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus
Matthew 21:28-32	He thought better of it and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you

Diary for the Week

Sunday 27th September <i>26th Sunday of the Year</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass	For the people of the Parish Colin East RIP Alphonus Ogwuke RIP (Anniv) Anne Dunne (Well being)
Monday 28th September	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Jacob Billington RIP Edwin Athayde RIP
Tuesday 29th September	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Paul Etuka RIP Abigail Rodrigues (Birthday)
Wednesday 30th September	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Francis & Ursula Kershaw (F) Margaret Grillo RIP
Thursday 1st October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	For Our Lady of Africa Patrick & Custodio Mascarenhas RIP
Friday 2nd October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Salvina Bartholomews (Birthday)
Saturday 3rd October	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Paul Etuka RIP Alister Alban Alexis RIP
Sunday 4th October <i>27th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass	For the people of the Parish

Church cleaners: this week: Sancho's Dusters (30.9.20), next week: St Jude's Group

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

WELCOME

We welcome to St Andrew's Fr Thaddeus Oparah who joins us from Belgium. Fr Thaddeus has been a priest for over 15 years and we hope he will be very happy here with us.

CAFOD – 4TH OCTOBER

This week our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of the envelopes in the porch and return to us next weekend. Thank you for your continued support.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

- a) Everyone is required to wear a face mask or covering, please adhere to social distancing rules and you **MUST** sanitise your hands before entering the church.
- b) The social distancing rules means that you are not allowed to sit with your friends, only those from the same household are allowed to sit together.
- c) There will be no singing, no sign of the peace and no bidding prayers.
- d) Please do not gather outside the church or in the porch before or after mass. Once mass has finished you are required to leave the premises immediately.
- e) The hall remains closed to parish groups.
- f) The parish office is open from Monday – Wednesday mornings only, **but please only visit if essential.**
- g) Thank you to our stewards who stay behind after masses to help with sanitising and cleaning, we are immensely grateful for your help.
- h) Also our sincere thanks to all our Catechists who have worked so hard to ensure our candidates are ready for their Sacraments.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Please collect your Gift Aid envelopes from the porch. 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.

PLEDGE FORM

As you know our church has had to make many changes as we adapt to Coronavirus. As such our parishioner numbers have fallen and this includes the donations normally given to the church. It is the honest truth to say that we are having to make many changes to our financial position as we struggle to ensure that we can continue as a church and parish. This is having a huge impact on us. If you are able to help us in any way by making a donation to our parish, please find attached a pledge form for you to complete and return to us. We are grateful for any help you can offer us and thank you for your continued support.