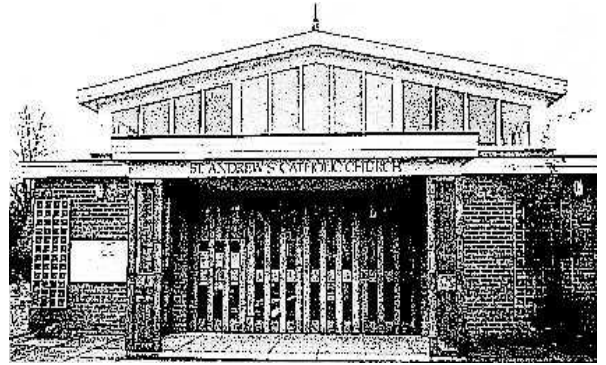

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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.

20th December 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

Message from Fr Emmanuel

Awaiting the promise messiah

To make a promise is always to put yourself in debt; it invites another person to trust in you until you can deliver on your word. To believe a promise is an act of trust in the person who makes it; it is to live in expectation holding fast to someone's word.

Of course, in all this we know that we cannot retire completely from giving and receiving promises. Life itself comes to us as a promise, and trust has to be exercised in the midst of real frailty within and around us. So, when it comes to God's promise we feel hopeful that at least he will deliver. Christmas is a season of great expectation about the promise of the coming messiah — God becoming man to pitch his dwelling among humanity.

In today's Gospel we celebrate the extravagant love of God who freely chose Mary to be the mother of his beloved son. The Gospel does not begin with what Mary does; it begins with what God does through Mary. When Mary is chosen to be the mother of God's son, God's choice of her is not a reward for dedicated work or an answer to Mary's prayer. Rather, God's Choice of Mary is the result of God's freedom to choose Mary from among all women to fulfil his promise.

As we await the promised messiah at Christmas let us be grateful to God who has fulfilled his promise to us. May we be grateful like Mary by saying to God thank you for your fulfilled promise of sending your son to come and be with us. May the coming of the son of man bring us joy, peace and healing in our troubled times!

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

This Sunday's Readings	
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16	The Kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord
Psalms 88	I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord
Romans 16:25-27	The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear
Luke 1:26-38	Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son

Diary for the Week

Sunday 20th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass	For the People of the Parish Deceased Members Freeman Family RIP Henry Victoire RIP Anniv Catherine Barrie RIP
Monday 21st December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Paul Etuka RIP Tesfa Michael Kidane RIP Anniv
Tuesday 22nd December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Mr Fernandes RIP Lesley Hill (Wellbeing)
Wednesday 23rd December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Patrick & Margaret McGovern (F) James & Joe Brennan RIP
Thursday 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas 9.00pm–10.00pm Christmas Carols 10.00pm Midnight Mass	Sr Mary Martin RIP Fr Adolfo Pacheco
Friday 25th December <i>The Nativity of The Lord</i> <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	8.00am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass	Paul Etuka RIP For the People of the Parish Ana Maria D'Souza RIP
Saturday 26th December <i>St Stephen's Day</i> <i>Boxing Day</i>	10.00am Mass 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Remembrance Grandparents Cleta & Timothy Andradi Hayward & Carlyle Families (Wellbeing)
Sunday 27th December <i>The Holy Family of Jesus,</i> <i>Mary and Joseph</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass	St Damien Helpers & their Families Josephine Little RIP For the People of the Parish
Monday 28th December <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Private Intention JR Fr Adolfo Pacheco
Tuesday 29th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	The Wocials Deceased Relations Hampshire Family RIP
Wednesday 30th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	In Honour of Our Lady of Africa (Da Silva Dorothee) William Bernard Freeman RIP
Thursday 31st December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.30pm Vigil Mass: Welcome in New Year	Josephine Little RIP Fr Adolfo Pacheco
Friday 1st January <i>Mary, the Holy Mother</i> <i>of God</i>	10.00am Mass 12.00noon Mass	Athayde Family (Wellbeing) Lewin Family (Wellbeing)
Saturday 2nd January	9.30am Mass 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Fr Adolfo Pacheco Private Intention JR
Sunday 3rd January <i>2nd Sunday after Nativity</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass	William Bernard Freeman RIP Anniv St Damien Helpers & their Families For the People of the Parish
Monday 4th January	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Fr Adolfo Pacheco Private Intention JR
Tuesday 5th January	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Deceased Relations Ritchie Family RIP
Wednesday 6th January <i>The Epiphany of The</i> <i>Lord (B)</i> <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Fr Adolfo Pacheco
Thursday 7th January	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Fr Adolfo Pacheco Virginia Athayde RIP
Friday 8th January	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Fr Adolfo Pacheco

Saturday 9th January	9.30am 10.00 – 10.30am 5.00 – 5.30pm 6.00pm	Mass Confessions Confessions First Mass of Sunday	For the People of the Parish
Sunday 10th January <i>Baptism of The Lord</i>	9.30am 11.30am 6.00pm	Mass Mass Mass	

Church cleaners: this week: Sancho's Dusters, next week: St Jude's Group (30.12.20), Judie's Crew (6.1.21)

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

ADVENT

Please take our Christmas booklet home with you with all the details of the services and Mass times over the Christmas period. Also available are the envelopes for the Christmas offering which is personal to the Priests of the parish. Christmas Carols: Please join us on Christmas Eve at 9.00pm – 10.00pm for some joyful Christmas singing followed by our Midnight Mass.

THE JESSE TREE

During the season of Advent, 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 during Advent. The SVP group will use our donations for those in need in the Parish. Thank you for your continued support.

SECOND COLLECTION: APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

The second collection this week, 20th December, will be for Sea Sunday. This is a Catholic charity supporting seafarers worldwide, providing practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality, belief or race, further info from Stella Maris www.stellamaris.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS 2020

As soon as Advent finishes, our Christmas Crib will be put on our Altar. The tradition of erecting a Crib was started by St Francis of Assisi because of the fact that many people could not read at that time. He would erect the Crib at the beginning of December and it would be there until the end of February. That tradition is continued in Rome where the Crib in St Peter's Square stays up until that time. Our Crib will be here until the end of January at least.

This year, as before, our Christmas Crib Offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society's Crisis Fund. Since March the Catholic Children's Society (CCS) has provided emergency food and essentials, as well as mental health services, for over 5,500 children and their parents/carers. These families have faced desperate situations due to the pandemic. There are many more families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. Every penny donated will be given out via CCS's Southwark Crisis Fund to support local families in need. Due to Covid, a special page has been set up at www.cathchild.org.uk/crib if you want to donate online. Thank you for your continued support.

ST ANNE'S (TOY COLLECTION)

Message from 26th Croydon Scout Group: "Thank you to everyone who kindly donated to our St Anne's appeal in lieu of Toy Sunday - together we raised a massive £1,265! St Anne's were absolutely delighted and have asked us to pass on their grateful thanks. Also thank you to everyone who generously gave to our Harvest Appeal in October, we took a huge amount of food, toiletries and cash donations to Spires in Streatham". A big thank you to the Scout Group for arranging all of this.

REPOSITORY

The Repository will be open after the 9.30am Mass on Sundays. For access you will need to re-enter the Church at the front entrance after exiting through the side doors.

PARISH OFFICE

Please note that the office will be closed from 23rd December, reopening on Monday 4th January 2021.

A special thank you from our Clergy to everyone for your continued support and understanding through this year's challenging and special circumstances. Thank you also for the cards and gifts received. We hope you all have a Blessed Holy Christmas and a blessed and safe 2021

*Frs Emmanuel, Sylvester and Thaddeus
Deacons Tony and Errol and Sisters Jennie and Sheila
Wish you all Christmas Joy, Peace and a Happy New year*