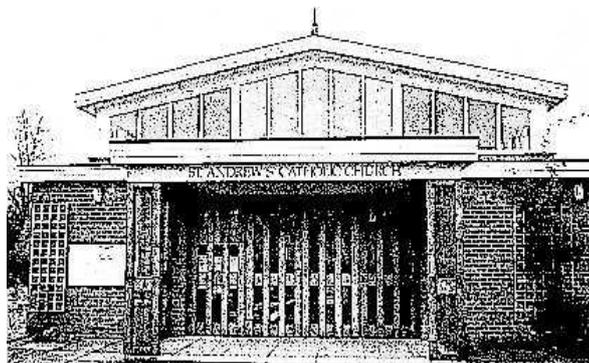

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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 Anthony Saffa 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.

9th May 2021 Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

Message from Deacon Tony

This coming Thursday is the Feast of the Ascension, a Holy Day of Obligation. Apart from a hiatus from 2006 to 2017 it has always been on a Thursday. As I child in the 60s I recall Catholic schools being closed on Ascension Day and our class teachers asking us 'What happened in Mass yesterday?' to make sure we had actually observed the obligation.

Throughout much of Europe Ascension Day is observed as a national holiday. Countries such as France, Italy, Germany, the Nordic countries, the Benelux countries, all of whom are secular states have a bank holiday on Ascension Day.

I have been in France on Ascension Day and the Church was packed to the rafters, I saw other Churches where people were queuing to get in, long before we had to queue for Tesco's.

In 2003 there was a television series called The Second Coming which told a tale of Jesus returning at that time. Needless to say, like last time, Jesus was killed. The writer was Russell T Davies, who is an atheist. A voiceover in the final shots said that with Jesus dead we 'didn't need religion, we all just help each other', which is exactly what Jesus taught us to do.

After he ascended to Heaven the apostles went throughout the world caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, and setting the example given to them by the Lord. From just twelve quite ordinary people, Christianity and all its principles has spread to the ends of the earth, as we hear in the day's first reading.

The world has never been the same since Jesus walked among us, he left us to carry on his work, we have been doing so for 2000 years, and will continue to do so until he really does return.

This Sunday's Readings

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalm 97

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

The Holy Spirit has been poured out on the pagans too

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations

God is love

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends

Diary for the Week

Sunday 9th May <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass	Richard Palmer (80 th Birthday) Victoria & Vincent Athayde RIP Elizabeth Omenaka Charles RIP For the People of the Parish
Monday 10th May	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Mr & Mrs Stone & Baldrice (son) Mr Diego & Mrs Lily Paes RIP Anniv & RIP Birthday
Tuesday 11th May	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Robert Rutledge RIP Anniv Jacinta & Darry D'Cruz (37 th Wedding Anniv)
Wednesday 12th May	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Rita Coggins RIP Marcus Rocha RIP
Thursday 13th May <i>Ascension of the Lord</i> <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Eliza Maria Roza Fernandes RIP
Friday 14th May	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Paul Etuka RIP
Saturday 15th May	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Rui Casseres RIP
Sunday 16th May <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass	Sr Mary Martin RIP Mrs Mary Mensa Kuma RIP For the People of the Parish

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

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

LIVE STREAMING EQUIPMENT FOR ST ANDREW'S

We hope to be up and running soon. Again I apologise for the length of time this has taken for the problems to be fixed. Thank you for your patience (unlike me who has been very impatient with Talk Talk!) and thank you again to everyone for your kind generosity. *Fr Emmanuel.*

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.

ST DAMIEN'S GROUP

The St Damien's group are here and still happy to help anyone who is confined to home and need help with collecting prescriptions or shopping etc. We are also able to help with transport if it's needed to take anyone to have the vaccination. If you need help please phone Jane Ritchie on 07999 693052 before you make your appointment so that together a convenient date can be organised.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Gift Aid envelopes for 2021/22 are available in the porch for collection. Please collect your envelopes after each Mass. This is also a good opportunity for you to sign up if you are not already in the scheme. The Gift Aid Scheme allows the parish to claim 25p tax back from HMRC for every £1 you donate. It will not cost you any extra. The only requirement is you must be paying UK tax. Please collect the relevant forms from the porch or pass your contact details to the parish office.

JUSTGIVING

“ACTIVE SOLES WALK FOR ST ANDREW'S THORNTON HEATH”

As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic the parish finances have diminished substantially so that we are unable to carry out essential maintenance work to our Church. I know that I am asking again if you can help St Andrew's

raise some more money for Church maintenance and I am sorry to have to ask but any help that you can give us would be most welcome.

I am therefore asking all parishioners to participate in the 'Active Soles Walk' which will commence on Easter Monday, 5th April, and finish on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday 24th May. I hope this will be a fun and healthy way for all of us to participate especially as the weather has improved!

At this time it is not possible to do this together as a parish, but families or individuals are encouraged to set themselves a distance to walk during this period. You could choose to walk any distance from 5km up to 50km that will challenge you and ask relatives and friends to sponsor you. If you can help us reach the target of £1,500 that would be amazing! *Thank you to everyone who have donated so far – it is much appreciated. Fr Emmanuel*

Here's our page's web address: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/standrews21>

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

The second collection, 16th May, will be for World Communications Day. This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN) the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The CCN seeks to be the service both to the Church and the world in offering professional channels of communication and provides support for the Bishops of England and Wales and the wider Church in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues. Its office is the focus for media enquiries on national matters, and seeks to develop the public profile of the Church and its teachings. The CCN provides up-to-date news releases, features and podcasts, information from the Bishops' [Conference of England and Wales and trains spokesmen and women](#).

POPE FRANCIS GLOBAL ROSARY MARATHON FOR THE END OF THE PANDEMIC

Pope Francis is requesting that during this entire month of May the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic and, in a special way, he has invited all of us to pray fervently for those most closely affected by it.

During each day of May, guided by a calendar with specific intentions, all the Shrines around the world, united in a communion of supplication, will lift up their prayers, which, like the fragrance of incense, will rise up to heaven. Thirty Marian Shrines will take turns leading this prayer throughout the Church and offering the faithful a series of prayer moments for them to participate throughout the entire day.

The highlight of the 30 days of prayer will be the Recitation of the Holy Rosary, prayed according to local traditions and customs, for the end of the pandemic and for the particular daily intention entrusted by Pope Francis, according to the directions provided in the Prayer Calendar.

It is important to emphasise that, in addition to the recitation of the Holy Rosary, Shrines, churches, individuals are invited to promote during the entire day other moments of prayer. Help unleash the Power of Catholic Hope and Prayer. Just imagine the possibilities when the whole Church comes together in an organised fashion and moves as one body to spread hope, light and an end to the pandemic.

Please join the world uniting with Pope Francis urgent call to pray the Rosary daily for the end of the pandemic. Please see the poster in the porch with information on video links and websites.

Also as part of this global Rosary Marathon, St Andrew's will host a Rosary Prayer session on 12th May starting at 5.00pm in collaboration with the Shrine of Our Lady of Africa. Please join us if you can – all welcome.

CAFOD: CORONAVIRUS APPEAL FOR INDIA

As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation and quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give. Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic. Thank you.

COVID WEBINAR

The Diocese has asked us to publicise this Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar which has been organised for the faithful of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will take place on Saturday 15th May

from 10am to 11.30am and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccines. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617. Please be assured that participation is completely anonymous and registration is not required. The recording of the previous webinar, held prior to Easter, is available to view at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/vaccination-confidence-webinar/>