

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.

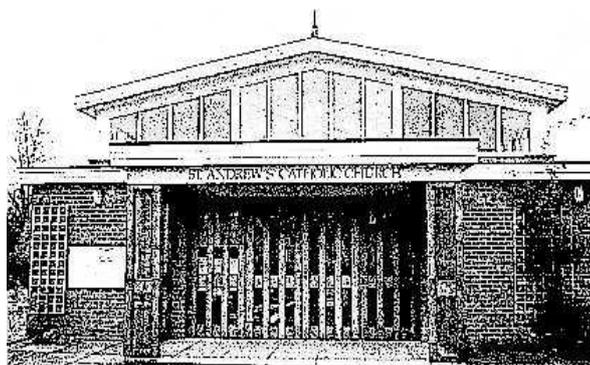
Deacons:

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.

28th November 2021 1st Sunday of Advent (C)

Message from Deacon Errol

Advent, My Preparation

This week we begin the season of Advent. Whatever your circumstance, Advent reminds us of what we take for granted - TIME. We do not know what TIME the Lord will come or call us out of this world as we look forward to celebrate His birth. Archbishop Peter (God bless his Soul) stated in his Pastoral Letter: "*The season of Advent is given to us as a "spiritual wake-up call" as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and look, in the longer term, to the final coming of Christ and the completion of the Kingdom of God at the end of time.*" The word "Advent" (Coming) indicates a time when we prepare for an ever more intimate relationship with the Lord, opening up to Him who wants to share our human condition in loving care.

The first week of Advent encourages us to be watchful in prayer, and open up to Christ and his message in scripture, with our hearts filled with wonder and praise when he comes. Prayer will help us cope better in the confusion of daily life as our Lord Jesus comes to save us.

The second week of Advent highlights how society would be much better if all would heed the guiding principle of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus Christ is the God-given Leader and His Leadership in the Second Advent is the answer to the frightening questions of life. He came to establish God's kingdom on earth through the Universal (Catholic) Church- A kingdom of justice, love and peace. On him rests the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge and fear of the Lord.

On the third week of Advent a Christian's theme of life is being "Joyful in hope" as Christian hope opposes despair; Christian hope knows how to handle challenges and depression. You get on your knees knowing that a loving Father must be listening.

The fourth week of Advent exhorts us that as Christians all we need is our faith in God, who approaches us in the Lord Jesus. He "Emmanuel" (God with us) is willing to step into the darkness to bring us into His marvelous light if we let Him enter.

Therefore, as Christmas draws near, may we grow in faith, hope and charity to celebrate the birth or coming of Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

This Sunday's Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 24

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Luke 21:25-28; 34-36

I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness when Christ comes

Your liberation is near at hand

Diary for the Week

Sunday 28th November <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	For the people of the Parish November List Jessica Mary Badu RIP Mr & Mrs Charles Nkamuo & Family – Thanksgiving
Monday 29th November	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	November List Jessica Mary Badu RIP
Tuesday 30th November	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	November List In Honour of Our Lady of Africa
Wednesday 1st December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Timothy & Clela Andradi RIP Paul Etuka RIP
Thursday 2nd December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Cheryl Sequeira RIP Sr Mary Martin RIP
Friday 3rd December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 10.30 – 12noon Adoration 6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall)	Ray McCann – Illness Ann McGleenon RIP
Saturday 4th December	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Cheryl Sequeira RIP For the people of the Parish
Sunday 5th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Rosaleen Doyle RIP Anniv Pasquelina (Rina) Fernandes RIP Peter Sequeira – 17 th Birthday

Church cleaners: this week: St Jude's Group, next week: Judie's Crew

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

FACE MASKS

Please can we ask you to continue to use a face covering if you are able to and to use the hand sanitiser when entering our Church.

WINDOWS IN THE CHURCH

Fr Emmanuel says: "Whoever is opening the windows in the Church, he asks please can this stop and for the windows to remain closed now as the heating is fully on".

MASS SUNG IN LATIN DURING NOVEMBER

During the month of November, the 11.30am Choir, the Mass will be sung in Latin.

NOVEMBER PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

During the month of November we particularly pray for those who have died. A list of the deceased whose funerals took place here at St Andrew's will be displayed in the front of the Altar. Anyone who has a relative or friend who has died elsewhere in the last year should give in their names and date of death to the office or to one of the Priests and the name will be added.

Please put the names in a Holy Souls envelope together with your offerings in the basket before the Altar from the beginning of November. These envelopes will be brought up during each Mass in the month of November.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

In preparation for Christmas we have extra Confessions. We are holding our Parish Penitential Service on Monday 13th December at 7.00pm.

ADVENT - JESSE TREE

This weekend, 28th November, is the 1st Sunday of Advent and as the season of Advent begins we will place 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 through Advent. The SVP Group will use our donations for those in need in the Parish by making up parcels for families for Christmas.

Some information about the Jesse Tree:

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus. The four symbols on the tree this week are Adam and Eve, Noah Abraham and Jacob. Thank you for your continued support.

DBS CERTIFICATES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Please could existing volunteers who need DBS (Disclosure and Barring) checks please email their full name to thorntonheathsg1@safeguardraos.org.uk

The online process will then be actioned. This includes; Eucharistic Ministers, Catechists for Children, Adult Altar Servers, Children's Liturgists and any parish group helpers for vulnerable adults or children. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that our parish is a safe place and the DBS certificate issued must be through the RC Diocese of Southwark and not another body even if it is current and valid.

ST ANDREW'S CHOIR

The Choir at St. Andrews warmly welcome parishioners who would like to join the choir. If you can play an instrument, read music or have a love for singing you are most welcome. For more details or to sign up please speak to one of the choir leaders after Mass.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Please join us as our group has resumed prayer meetings every Sunday evening in the Church from 7.00 – 9.00pm. All are very welcome to come along and join us in praises, prayers, Bible studies and youth group ministry. For further details please call Stella on 07983 775879.

A DAY WITH JESUS

The A Day with Jesus Group have resumed their meetings in St Andrew's Church. Please join them to pray together, sing praises, worship, say the Rosary, Divine Mercy and Adoration. The group meet every fourth Saturday of every month (27th November and but not this December) from 12.30 – 4.00pm. All are very welcome to come along, for further information please call Simon on 07947 493683.

ADORATION

Please come in and spend some time in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration every Friday from 10.30am – 12noon.

ALL NATIONS CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC GROUP UK FOODBANK

The group have launched a food bank project in order to help families who are in need of extra help with regards to some food items. This will be held in St Andrew's Church hall every second Saturday every month until the end of the year the next one will be on Saturday 11th December approximately from 12.00 – 1.00pm. We would welcome any food donations, tinned, dry packets, etc. Please see the poster in the porch for more info and contact details. If you know of any families who may benefit from this, please let them know.

ROSARY GROUP

Our Rosary Group meet in the Church every Monday to Saturday after the 10am Mass during the week and on Saturdays after the 9.30am Mass. If you would like to join us please do come along, all are very welcome.

REPOSITORY

The Repository will be open after the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses on Sunday. We have some 2022 calendars and Christmas cards already and other gifts and cards so please visit to make your purchases early.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

There will be a second collection for flowers in our Church – thank you for your generosity.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Please take home with you a CAFOD World Gifts booklet for 2021-22. By buying World Gifts you are standing in solidarity with people suffering injustices all over the world and giving an opportunity to build a better future.

CHURCH CLEANERS WANTED URGENTLY

We really need more people to help with the task of cleaning God's house. Especially over the past year the burden has fallen on just a few who are having to cope on their own so if you can spare an hour or two and would like to help by joining one of our groups, please contact Fifi on 07932 764273. Thank you.

ST ANDREW'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

St Andrews will be having a Christmas Party for children up to 11 years of age on the Saturday 11th December from 11am to 2pm. Tickets cost £3 per child. Please contact Bernadette for tickets on 0772932257. All are welcome to come along. If you are able to help in any way do let us know, older children can be helpers too. Let's make this Christmas really special for the children so if you can help in any way, please do get in touch.

ST. ANDREWS GOLDEN CLUB

Calling all retired and senior citizens within the parish and friends of our parish to join our new year event. Start the New Year with a bang date is 7th January 2022, time: 12.00noon to 4.30pm. Join us for bingo, raffle and music to dance the afternoon away. Food and drinks will be on sale. Tickets are only £2.00. Book early to avoid disappointment. Contact: Juliette DeMenezes-D'Costa on 0208 765 0258 / 07958 537314.

MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals provides life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children every school day. They are a no-frills charity with a simple idea that works: by providing one good meal in a place of learning, children are drawn into the classroom where they can receive an education that could one day free them from poverty. Mary's Meals is named after Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty. They consist of, respect and reach out to people of all faiths and of none. Their vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education.

Mary's Meals are pleased to announce their Double the Love campaign. From 1st November to 31st January 2022, all donations up to a total of £1.6 million will be matched by a generous group of private donors. Every little act of love for the hungry children who eat Mary's Meals will be doubled during this period, so please consider supporting this campaign and praying for its success. There are many ways to donate, including choosing Mary's Meals gift cards as a meaningful gift this Christmas, or setting a virtual place at your Christmas table – find out more at marysmeals.org.uk.

THE ANGELUS PRAYER

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,

The Lord is with Thee;

Blessed art thou among women,

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary. . . .

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary. . . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.