

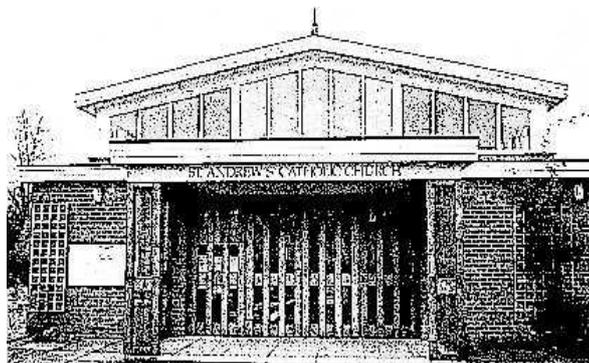
ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery
45 Brook Road
Thornton Heath **Tel:** 020 8684 3013
Surrey CR7 7RD **E-mail:** thorntonheath@rcaos.org.uk
Website: www.standrewsthorntonheath.org.uk

Live Mass streaming <https://www.churchservices.tv/thorntonheath>
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.

12th December 2021 3rd Sunday of Advent (C)

Message from Fr Anthony



“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE!”

Today, the Church calls us to rejoice, to have joy in Christ. And this we do by entering into a loving relationship with Christ and advance in our journey of faith by loving others. In our Readings of today, as people who are preparing for 'the **parousia**,' the second Coming of Christ - we are given a glimpse of what that may be like. Yes, we will greet a victorious and glorious Lord - but one who comes among us and dances with us and joins in the songs of joy at our own salvation.

This third Sunday in Advent is often called “Gaudete Sunday,” which means “Rejoice”. As we are approaching closer to Christmas, our joy gets more and more intense as we advance in our journey of faith. Therefore, this Third Sunday of Advent are a hymn to joy. All the three Readings give the message of hope that fills us with joy. Joy is the theme of today: “Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!”

This Sunday's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Isaiah 12

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

The Lord will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel

The Lord is very near

What must we do?

Diary for the Week

Sunday 12th December <i>3rd 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 James, Joe & Bill Brennan RIP Owen & Jude Simon RIP Anniv Bob & Tracey Suckling RIP and their families
Monday 13th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Paul Etuka RIP For Our Suffering Souls Anniv
Tuesday 14th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Mrs Assiz De Souza RIP Anniv For Our Suffering Souls Anniv
Wednesday 15th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Sr Mary Martin RIP D. D'Souza – Thanksgiving
Thursday 16th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Paul Etuka RIP
Friday 17th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 10.30 – 12noon Adoration 6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall)	Alec Eldridge RIP
Saturday 18th December	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Sr Mary Martin RIP For the people of the Parish
Sunday 19th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Mr & Mrs Charles Nkamuo & Family - Thanksgiving Betty Oppong – Wellbeing Henry Victoire RIP Anniv

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

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

FACEMASKS

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.

LIVE STREAMING

Message from Fr Emmanuel: "As some of you are aware, we have been having some difficulties with our Live Streaming and our donation machine in the Church porch. Talk Talk, with whom we have the internet contract, have been most unhelpful. We are very sorry for the disruption this has caused as we are very aware that many of our parishioners rely on this service. Despite many calls chasing them, lodging a complaint etc., we are still waiting to receive a visit from an engineer to sort out the problem. I am as fed up with the situation as you so I am in the process of cancelling our contract with them and renewing with BT – I hope they will be better! Again, I am sorry for the disruption this has caused many of you and I hope this problem will be sorted out very soon."

CHURCH HEATING

Message from Fr Emmanuel: "Again I am sorry to say that the heating in the Church has not been working properly! British Gas has been to check but the engineer was "unsure" of the problem! As of 8th December (when the newsletter goes to print), we have an engineer booked to come along on Friday 10th December, so hopefully we will be warmer after this date! Thank you for your patience".

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.

JESSE TREE

As the season of Advent begins 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 through Advent. The SVP Group will use our donations for those in need in the Parish by making up parcels for families for Christmas. Thank you for your continued support.

Please take home with you our Christmas card with all the details of the services and Mass times over the Christmas period and also our Christmas poster.

Also available are envelopes for the Christmas offerings which is personal to the Priests.

DBS CERTIFICATES AND RENEWALS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Please could existing volunteers who need DBS (Disclosure and Barring) checks please email their full name and details of their role to thorntonheathsg1@safeguardrcaos.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.

We are also having a drop in session on Saturday 8th January between 10.30 and 12.30 in the Presbytery especially for the people who have completed DBS forms and need to bring in their ID documents to be verified or for those who need help completing the forms. Also for any general DBS enquiries so that new volunteers can start their roles and existing ones requiring a DBS renewal can continue in their roles within the parish. Can group leaders ensure they are fully aware of the status of their volunteers DBS and if in doubt email Lesley Brennan at thorntonheathsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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.

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.

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.

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".

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

You are invited to join us for our Christmas Carol Service in the Church on Christmas Eve from 9.00 – 10.30pm. As in previous years we would like to ask all our groups representing our diverse parish who would like to take part and perhaps sing a Carol in their national language to come along and sing. If you would like to be a part of this, please can you speak to one of our choir leaders from this weekend onwards to let them know. We look forward to listening to you!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY/ NATIVITY PLAY

We regret that we have had to cancel the Children's Christmas party due to the current situation regarding Covid. With apologies for the short notice.

Also for the same reason we have had to cancel the Children's Nativity play on Christmas Eve. However, at the Vigil Mass for Christmas at 6pm on Christmas Eve, we would like to invite children who would like to dress up in their Nativity costumes to do so. Bernadette, who will be sitting in the choir area, will have a few spare costumes if you would like to borrow one.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Further to our notice last week informing you that Eric Kings RIP had died recently, his funeral has now been confirmed on 21st December in the West Chapel at Croydon Crematorium at 10am.

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.

UPDATE FROM THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Please find an update from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales concerning the Covid-19 Omicron variant.

Covid-19 Omicron variant - *Guidance for Churches*

With respect to the current situation with the Omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- Hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.
- There is a strong recommendation for people to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) during the act of worship.
- There is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind everyone to wrap up well in church!
- A positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab, when able, is delivered whenever possible.
- People who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick, and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

We have been informed that there is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of transmission is through breath and nasal aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient. If these guidance points are supported, then the churches will continue to be safe places for people to gather for acts of public worship, including over the Christmas period.