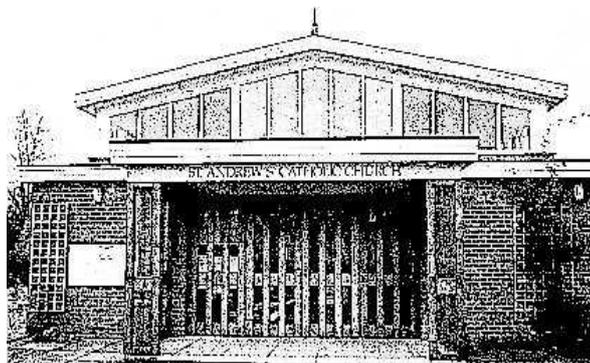

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery
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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.

19th December 2021
4th Sunday of Advent (C)

Message from Deacon Tony

Advent and Lent will often be conflated. This is understandable when you look at the parallels; they have the same liturgical colour, violet, with an infusion of rose (not pink) in the second half of the season. We refrain from praying the Gloria during Mass and we are asked to give. Think back to last week's gospel when John the Baptist spoke of giving away your second tunic and sharing your food.

Advent should be a time of hope and expectant preparation for the return of the messiah. But in reality, no matter how observant one is in the faith, it becomes a time of slightly fraught preparation for the coming of family for whom we need to buy presents that we fret about them liking. We live with a slight dread of the embarrassing relation who we will gladly wave off when the time comes and in the third millennium we have to get our heads around the lactose/dairy/gluten intolerance which didn't seem to exist years ago.

It is so easy to lose sight of that old cliché 'the true meaning of Christmas', well what about the true meaning of Advent? When do we really make hopeful preparation for Jesus' return? How do we prepare? A few years ago I was introduced to this prayer, I add this to my daily prayers at this time, and it reminds me what is important.

In Advent we wait for you, God the maker, Jesus the storyteller, Holy Spirit of life.

In Advent we cry to you, God of justice, Jesus of Bethlehem, Holy Spirit of hope.

In Advent we long for you. You, God, are our love, our warmth, our light.

This Sunday's Readings

Micah 5:1-4

Psalm 79

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved

Here I am! I am coming to obey your will

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Diary for the Week

Sunday 19th December <i>4th 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 Mr & Mrs Charles Nkamuo & Family – Thanksgiving Betty Oppong – Wellbeing Henry Victoire RIP Anniv
Monday 20th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Paul Etuka RIP Joseph Okoroafor – Wellbeing
Tuesday 21st December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Mary Ellen Slattery RIP Lewin & Leong-Chung Families – Wellbeing
Wednesday 22nd December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Debbie Diplock – Birthday & Wellbeing
Thursday 23rd December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Patrick & Margaret McGovern (F) Marion Patient RIP
Friday 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 10.30 – 12noon Adoration 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas 9.00 – 10.30pm Christmas Carols Starting 11.00pm Midnight Mass	Sr Mary Martin RIP Darren Kowlessar RIP
Saturday 25th December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i> <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	8.00am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass	‘Frank’ - Illhealth For the people of the parish Ana Maria D’Souza RIP
Sunday 26th December <i>The Holy Family of Jesus,</i> <i>Mary and Joseph</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Ron Hill RIP Neville Haynes RIP Catherine & Christine Barrie RIP

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

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.

CHURCH LIVE STREAMING

Message from Fr Emmanuel “I am pleased to let you know that finally we now have a service! We have switched from Talk Talk to BT and hopefully this will run smoothly from now on. Again we are very sorry for the disruption this has caused as we are very aware that many of our parishioners rely on this service, so thank you for your continued patience”.

DONATION MACHINE

Our donation machine in the Church porch is also working – thank you to everyone who donate to us in this way.

CHURCH HEATING

Due to the new regulations regarding Covid, we are now required to open the doors and windows in the church for good ventilation and air throughout. This will of course drastically affect the heating in the church, so please keep yourselves warm by wearing appropriate clothing with many layers! Again thank you for your continued patience.

CHRISTMAS CARD/ENVELOPES

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.

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.

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 NATIVITY

We are sorry to have cancelled 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.

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. 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.

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.

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE

Here is a gift for husbands and wives, an opportunity to spend a morning online exploring and improving your relationship. It's for couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to make them a bit better. There is no group sharing. The date: Saturday January 8th, 9am – 1pm. Booking is essential: phone 07983 524 727 or email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk There is a nominal charge of £10 per couple.

COME HOME INITIATIVE

The diocese has produced the *Ultimate Relationship Booklet and invitation cards*. These have been produced to help us to reach out to parishioners who might have drifted from practice. We will be handing out the Invitation Cards as you leave Mass and we encourage you to think of those you haven't seen in a while and to give the card to them. If you want to personalise these cards by adding your contact details, please do so.

Also we have The Ultimate Relationship Booklets which are also being handed out and will hopefully be an opportunity for those receiving them to rediscover what our faith has to offer.

We want to let everyone know that they are very welcome in our Church and although this is still a very challenging time for us all, we know that in Christ Jesus He will be here for us and we want to share this with everyone.

CAFOD

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict and Covid. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON COVID-19 OMICRON VARIANT – GUIDANCE FOR CHURCHES

Please refer to our noticeboard for the further updates from the Diocese.

PARISH OFFICE/NEWSLETTER

There will be a newsletter next Sunday which will cover the next three weeks. The office will be closed from 22nd December and will re-open again on Monday 10th January.

A special thank you to everyone for your continued support and understanding through another challenging year. Thank you also for the many cards and gifts received.

*Frs Emmanuel, Sylvester and Anthony
Deacons Tony and Errol and Sisters Jennie and Sheila
Wish you all Christmas Joy and Peace*