
ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery

45 Brook Road

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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.

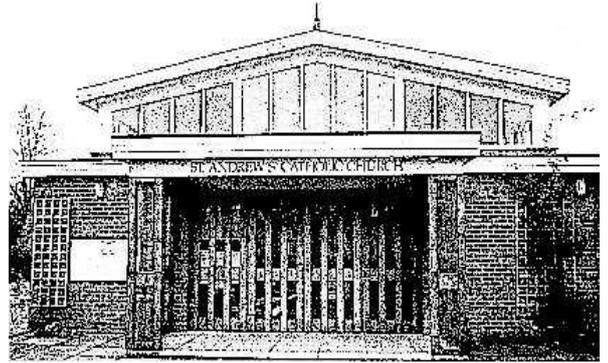
Fr Sylvester Adeniyi C.S.Sp.

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.

5th December 2021 2nd Sunday of Advent (C)

Message from Fr Sylvester

The voice of St. John the Baptist in the wilderness: voice of Courage

Today, there are many voices that bring consolation to us, amidst our troubled world: the voices of artists of all sorts, not least, the tiny voices of children in our homes that remind us of our fragility and God's power to make what is fragile strong and powerful. Perhaps the gospel today talks about a unique and distinct voice, a voice of courage and conviction, a voice of love and tenderness; indeed, a voice that calls for action – the proclamation of the good news that God reigns, therefore, we should not worry about the predictions of an imminent doom's day. John the Baptist's voice called the people of his day to repentance and belief in God's salvation in Jesus Christ. His voice was distinct because it was a voice of courage that challenged people to change their evil ways. It was a voice of love and tenderness because he wanted the people of his day to obtain salvation. Failure to preach the good news today makes you and I haters of humanity because we refuse to offer human beings the opportunity to enjoy salvation. For you and me, what do we use our voices for, to insult others and gossip? Do we spread discouraging or bad news? Are we argents of hope, that our God is bigger and stronger than all that ails our society? Do we make people believe in a God, who is the God of science and makes the impossible possible? In our plannings and budgeting, has God a place in them?

Prepare the way of the Lord' and bidding the people to get ready for the arrival of the Messiah. John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments.

Like John the Baptist, are we a voice for the Lord or a voice against the Lord? Do we prepare a way for him or do we block his ways through our life style? Do we hear Jesus' voice, follow him and as well point him out to others or do we rather take offence at the Lord's voice like the Pharisees?

In fact, we are all called like John the Baptist in our Christian vocation to be a voice for the Lord in our world today. We should all be a voice that encourages the weak, a voice that consoles the wounded and sorrowful hearts rather than a voice that inflicts pains and sorrows on people around us.

This Sunday's Readings

Baruch 5:1-9

Psalm 125

Philippians 1:4-6; 8-11

Luke 3:1-6

God means to show your splendour to every nation

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad

Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ

All mankind shall see the salvation of God

Diary for the Week

Sunday 5th December <i>2nd 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 Rosaleen Doyle RIP Anniv Pasquelina (Rina) Fernandes RIP Peter Sequeira – 17 th Birthday
Monday 6th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Deceased Wijeratne Family Members RIP Pedro Sequeira RIP Anniv
Tuesday 7th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Deceased Andradi Family Members RIP Paul Etuka RIP
Wednesday 8th December <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Francis Ritchie – Wellbeing Sr Mary Martin RIP
Thursday 9th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Valerie Rodrigues – 4 th Birthday Len Highland RIP
Friday 10th December	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 10.30 – 12noon Adoration 6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall)	Sr Mary Martin RIP “Frank” to B.V.M.
Saturday 11th December	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Peter Nicholas – 60th Birthday For the people of the parish
Sunday 12th December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	James, Joe & Bill Brennan RIP Owen & Jude Simon RIP Anniv Bob & Tracey Suckling RIP & their families

Church cleaners: this week: Judie’s Crew, next week: Fifi’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.

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 (as of Wednesday 1st December) 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.”

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

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

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”.

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.

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.

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!

TOY SUNDAY

We would normally hold our annual Toy Sunday in December (19th December) where we collect toys for a children's charity for Christmas. In previous years we collected for St Anne's Community Centre in Vauxhall, but regrettably they have now closed down. We tried to find an alternative charity but we have not been successful this year. We do hope to be able to carry this on again next year with a new charity as St Andrew's parishioners have always been so generous and we always have a great response. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

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 (this December only it will be held to the side of

the 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.

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.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY ON CHRISTMAS EVE

We are holding our Children's Nativity play on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm in the Church. We are asking for all children from ages 3years and upwards who would like to take part to come along. Please contact Bernadette on 0772932257 if you would like to take part. We will be holding rehearsals on 12th and 19th December from 2.00 – 3.00pm in the Church so can the children please attend with their parents. We look forward to seeing you!

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

It is with sadness that we have to let you know that Eric Kings RIP died peacefully on 25th November. Eric was a long time parishioner of St Andrew's and St Chad's until 2019. Our condolences and prayers go out to the family.

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.

