

# ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery

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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 Anthony Saffa C.S.Sp.

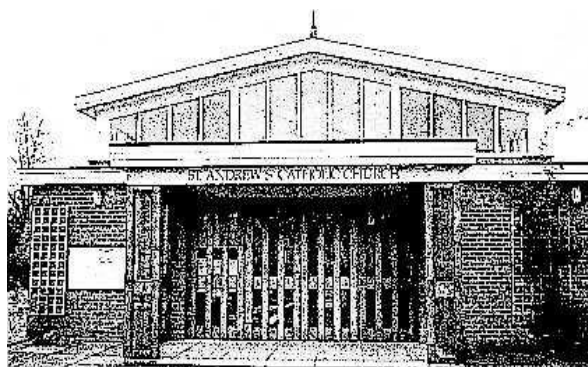
Fr Brendan Ona C.S.Sp.

**Deacons:** 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.*



## 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year (B)

### Message from Fr Anthony

### THE URGENCY AND SHORTNESS OF OUR TIME

On this third Sunday of ordinary time, the church reminds us of a certain urgency, the shortness of our time in this world. This is the theme that runs through the three readings of this Sunday. If time is short, so, we must not hold tenaciously to this world that is quickly passing away. Rather, we must believe the **GOOD NEWS** and live for the kingdom of God. In the first reading, Jonah lamented and warned the Ninevites: "Only forty days, and Nineveh will be destroyed." The inhabitants of Nineveh heard the message, believed it, repented and God had mercy on them.

If they do, why are we still the way we are today? Why is wickedness, corruption, hatred, killing, immorality, and injustice persisting and increasing in our world? Most times, one hears compliments like: However, the question is, does the message actually make any impact on us? Jonah preached just a brief and urgent sermon. Quickly, the people of Nineveh believed in God, repented and fasted with sack cloths. The good news must be treated as a matter of urgency. In the second reading, Paul also reminds us that: "Our time is growing short...for the world is passing away!" Paul simply, refers to the notion of sensitivity and urgency that should mark our lives and actions. He draws our attention to the signs of the time. Unfortunately, many of us ignore these signs. Perhaps, because we are economically and materially comfortable. However, the truth is that none is safe! Events in history have proved that we are all vulnerable, and can only be safe with God's grace.

In today's gospel, Christ preached the same urgent message preached by Jonah and John the Baptist: "the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news." Like the Ninevites, the disciple of Christ, heard this message responded to it with urgency, each being sensitive, and knowing that there was no more time to waste. The Disciples heard the word of the master: "Follow me," So, Jesus continues to invite us to participate in his mission: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." This is a life transforming invitation and mission. Our response to it should be urgent and positive. this is because, it is for our good, and that of others. Fishers of Men simply means partners in the kingdom.

Finally, my brethren, if our time is short, if our world is passing away, if we have only forty days left, and if the kingdom of God is close at hand, why waste the little time we have hating, sinning, and running only after material things? We must use it to seek and worship our God, to live in peace and love with others, to affect others and our society positively. We must use this short time to "seek what is good and pure, what is noble and true" (Phil 4:8).

### This Sunday's Readings

**Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

**The people of Nineveh renounce their evil behaviour**

**Psalm 24**

**Lord, make me know your ways**

**1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

**The world as we know it is passing away**

**Mark 1:14-20**

**Repent, and believe the Good News**

## Diary for the Week

<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>  <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass <b>5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> 6.00pm Mass <b>7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group</b>	For the people of the parish William Freeman RIP Mr & Mrs Charles Nkamuo & Family – Thanksgiving and wellbeing  Richard Cowie (F)
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>7.00 – 9.00pm Parish Surgery</b>	Mr & Mrs D’Cruz RIP Noreen & Kitty & Family – Wellbeing
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Tony Green RIP Paul Etuka RIP
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>6.00pm Junior Praesidium (hall)</b> <b>7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)</b>	Marie Edgely RIP Joseph Okoroafor & Family - Wellbeing
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Kenneth Childs – Unwell
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>10.30 – 12noon Adoration</b> <b>6.00pm Mass for the sick</b> <b>6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall)</b>	Linda & Socrates Papapetrou RIP
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.00 - 9.20am Divine Mercy Prayers</b> <b>9.00am First Holy Communion class</b> 9.30am Mass <b>10.00 – 10.30am Confessions</b> <b>5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions</b> 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Pepe Pacheco  Rose Bartholomew – Special birthday
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass <b>5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> 6.00pm Mass <b>7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group</b>	John Carrapiett RIP Anniv Esther Oyeyinka & Family – Thanksgiving  For the people of the parish

**Church cleaners:** this week: Fifi’s Group, next week: St Jude’s Group

## St. Andrew's Parish Notices

### EASTER RAFFLE DRAW

For fundraising we are holding an Easter raffle draw to raise some much needed funds for the maintenance of our Church and hall. Please “save the date” and join us in the hall for tea and coffee on Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April starting at 11am for our raffle draw. The raffle tickets will cost £1 for one strip of tickets or £5 for 6 strips. Some of the fabulous prizes include a £100 cash prize, bread maker, M&S vouchers, whiskey bottle and much more. We are also looking for donations for the raffle. Tickets will be on sale after Sunday masses from today Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Please see the poster for more details or call Alex 07827 611769 or Juliette 07958 537314.

### CONFIRMATION 2024

We will be accepting requests from those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation starting this weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> January and the following weekends on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> February. The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 11am in St. Andrew’s church. Those who apply must be in year 9 or above. Please make your request to Sr. Jennie or a Catechist after any of the Masses and be prepared to say why you wish to be confirmed.

### GHANAIAN COMMITTEE MEETING

The group will be meeting today Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January after the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

### ALTAR SERVERS AND PARENTS

A meeting has been arranged for all Altar Servers and their parents on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm in the hall with Fr Anthony – please make every effort to attend.

### **CROYDON BME FORUM: HEALTH CHECKS FOR ST ANDREW'S PARISHIONERS**

We have agreed for the Croydon BME Forum to come in and carry out free NHS approved health checks. These checks are free and aim to improve our health and wellness. The checks include: blood pressure check, BMI, waist measurement and diabetes risk assessment. This will be held in the hall after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January so please do go along - all are welcome.

### **CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS 2023**

Our Christmas Crib is still on our Altar. The tradition of erecting a Crib was started by St Francis of Assisi because at that time many people could not read. He would erect the Crib at the beginning of December and it would be there until the end of February. This tradition is continued in Rome where the Crib in St Peter's Square stays up until that time. This year our Christmas Crib Offerings will be donated to the Friends of the Holy Land. The Friends of the Holy Land, is a non-political Christian Charity. Their mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan - the part of the world that Christians call the Holy Land.

### **PARISH SURGERY**

Please come along if you need to see a member of the Clergy to discuss baptisms, marriage etc to our parish surgery on Monday evenings from 7.00 – 9.00pm, term-time only.

### **WARM HUB**

Please come along and join us from 11am - 4pm every Tuesday, in the parish hall in Quadrant Road. Come along and receive a warm welcome, perhaps meet old friends and/or make some new ones. Hot drinks will be served, and there will be a simple soup lunch available. All good reasons to just pop in and see – any donations welcome.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

The Children's Liturgy is on Sundays during 9.30am Mass, term-time only. Please can parents note that the class is only for children who have not had their First Holy Communion.

### **MASS FOR THE SICK**

We will be having Mass for the Sick in St Andrew's every 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Fridays of every month. Please let all your family and friends know - come and receive God's healing and anointing.

### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Please join us every Sunday evening before the 6pm Mass starting at 5.00pm and finishing at 5.45pm.

### **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.

### **CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY MEETING**

The group will be meeting on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January in the hall after the 11.30am mass.

### **JUNIOR PRAESIDIUM**

We meet every Wednesday in St Andrew's Church Hall from 6.00pm to 7.10pm. You are more than welcome to join us if you are aged between 7 and 17 years old.

### **DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS**

Please join us in the Church every Saturday morning, 9.00–9.20am for devotions including the Divine Mercy Chaplet. All are very welcome to attend.

### **ALL NATIONS CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC GROUP UK FOODBANK**

The next one will be held in St Andrew's Church hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 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.

### **REPOSITORY**

The Repository will be open after the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses on Sunday.

## **MAINTENANCE OF OUR CHURCH FABRICS - FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Money is always a difficult topic to broach; however, the roof of the church needs to be repaired and as you may have noticed the hall ceiling is leaking. These issues need to be dealt with as quickly as possible.

St Andrew's are hoping to set up a 'repair fund' to manage this. We need to raise this money as quickly as possible and would ask parishioners to consider whether they would be able to give the amount they earn in one hour per month as a standing order towards these repairs. Having a standing order means that the church is confident of receiving this money and can plan ahead. We are all aware of the difficulties that many families are in financially and if an hour a month is not possible, £1 a week would help. No amount is too small! Please consider taking a standing order form and filling it in (on the table in the porch).

If you are not working but would like to make a small donation each month it would be gratefully received. We greatly appreciate your support for maintenance of our church building and the hall.

## **CHURCH CLEANING – URGENT APPEAL**

We are very grateful to those who help to clean our church. We are still appealing for more hands to help with this important task of cleaning God's house. Our groups have now been reduced to two groups from five so if you can spare an hour every couple of weeks we would love to hear from you. All are welcome regardless of age! Please contact Fifi on 07932 764273. Thank you.

## **SECOND COLLECTION: RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

Racial Justice Sunday will be on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and wider society. On that day, Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate a Mass at St Georges Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HY at 10am followed by a light refreshment at the upper deck of the Amigo Hall. Please see the poster in the porch for more info. If you would like to attend, please let the parish office know as we are required to give an approx. number attending from our parish.

## **FEAST OF CANDLEMAS**

On the feast of Candlemas, there will be a Mass at Southwark Cathedral with Archbishop John to celebrate the world day of prayer for consecrated life on Friday 2nd February starting at 2pm followed by refreshments in Amigo Hall. Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend as we are required to give an approx. number attending from our parish.

## **ROSARY GROUP**

The Rosary is prayed each weekday after the 10am Mass and Saturday 9.30am Mass (Fridays 10.30 – 12noon Adoration). After Mass and after a few minutes of silence the Rosary will be prayed and then, after a short pause, other devotional prayers will be prayed. All are welcome to join however long you can stay – there is no formal membership, just a desire to pray the Rosary.

## **CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

Please join our group for 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 info please call Stella on 07983 775879.

## **CAFOD – THE BIG LENT WALK**

The Big Lent Walk is back! You are invited to take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk with the challenge to walk 200km over 40 days to help people overcome poverty. Please see the poster for more details and to sign up to CAFOD.

## **CARITAS SOUTHWARK**

This March, we celebrate the first anniversary of Caritas Southwark. To mark the occasion, Archbishop John will celebrate Mass at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 16 March at 12.30pm. Kindly save this date in your diaries and there will also be an event in Amigo Hall afterwards, where you can hear about some of the wonderful projects happening in our parishes.

## **DEALING WITH DIVORCE**

People suffering from relationship breakdown are the focus of Restored Lives which runs non-denominational online and face-to-face courses to help adults and their children deal with the trauma of separation and divorce. Their next online course starts on January 22<sup>nd</sup> – for details visit: <https://www.restoredlives.org>