

# 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](mailto:thorntonheath@rcaos.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.standrewsthorntonheath.org.uk](http://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 Anthony Saffa C.S.Sp.

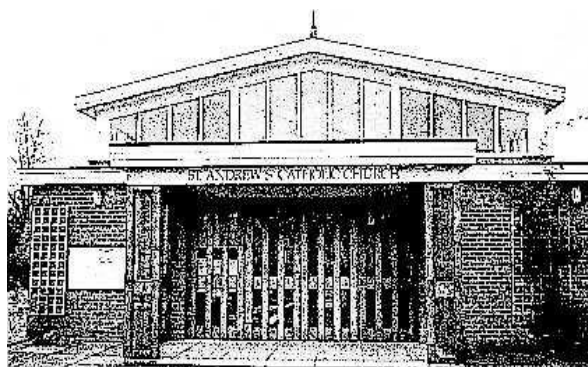
Fr Brendan Ona C.S.Sp.

**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.*



## 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (B)

### Message from Deacon Errol

### God's Word is Powerful and Liberating

Last Sunday we heard about God's call, and our response determines the sort of relationship we enjoy with Him. The Lord reminds us that time is not on our side, and calls us to repentance. This Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear God speaks to Moses, that the Lord would raise a prophet like Moses to lead His people to the Promised Land. So why can Moses not be the leader going forward, although he instructs the people to listen to God? The background to this passage is that Moses and Aaron have disobeyed God many times in the past. God told Moses and Aaron to gather the assembly and speak to the rock and water would come forth. Moses took the staff and gathered the men. Then, seemingly in anger, Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses struck the rock twice with his staff (Numbers 20:10-11). Water came from the rock, as God had promised. However, God immediately told Moses and Aaron that, because they failed to trust Him enough to honour Him, the holy God, they would not lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. This rock was a spiritual rock that followed them, which is Christ (1Cor 10:4). Disobedience to God has consequence, and we will be held to account.

In the Gospel, hear the power and authority behind Jesus' word, as He begins to teach, something beyond human comprehension. Much of Jesus' work will consist of teaching, of communicating his message, his vision of life. People are deeply impressed because, unlike the Scribes, he speaks with authority. Jesus' authority is empowering and liberating; it is not oppressive or subjugating. Jesus tells us in John's Gospel:

*..You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.* (John 8:32), in other words, know Jesus who is Truth and He will set us free, if we listen to Him.

Imagine yourself in a synagogue listening to Jesus. He does not shout, nor appear extraordinary, yet those who have 'ears' listen and are astounded. What gives Him such authority in His speech? Like the afflicted man, may we recognise Jesus as the Holy One of God, the Rock of Ages, and the Promise Keeper.

### This Sunday's Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-20	I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth
Psalms 94	O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts
1 Corinthians 7:32-35	An unmarried woman can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy
Mark 1:21-28	He taught them with authority

## Diary for the Week

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass (RCIA Rite of Welcome) <b>5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> 6.00pm Mass <b>7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group</b>	Rose Bartholomew – Special Birthday John Carrapiett RIP Anniv Esther Oyeyinka & Family – Thanksgiving  For the people of the parish
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>7.00 – 9.00pm Parish Surgery</b>	Joseph Underwood RIP Phillip Johnson RIP and deceased family members
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Our Lady of Africa Romina Etuka – Special Intentions
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</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 For Our Suffering Souls Anniv
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Mrs Irish May Williams RIP Anniv Ajibola Oyeyinka RIP Anniv
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> <i>Presentation of the Lord Candlemas Day</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>10.30 – 12noon Adoration</b> <b>6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall)</b>	Anthony Rebello – Wellbeing Mr & Mrs D’Cruz – Thanksgiving
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</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	Tony Green RIP  Mary & Pat – Wellbeing
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>5<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>	Julian – Wellbeing Pasquelina (Rina) Fernandes RIP 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniv  For the people of the parish

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

## St. Andrew's Parish Notices

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

Racial Justice Sunday is today 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.

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

Please go into the hall after the 9.30am Mass, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January, as we have agreed for the Croydon BME Forum to come in and carry out free NHS approved health checks. So please do go along for your checks whilst enjoying your cup of tea/coffee - all are welcome. These checks are free and aim to improve our health and wellness and the checks include: blood pressure check, BMI, waist measurement and diabetes risk assessment. See poster in the porch for more info.

### 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. 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 this weekend 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.

### **CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY MEETING**

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

### **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.

We are sorry to say that the Warm Hub will not be open on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** due to a Deanery meeting being held on that day in the hall. With apologies for the inconvenience.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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. Please speak directly with Fr Anthony if you would like more information.

### **ST ANDREW'S GOLDEN CLUB**

St. Andrew's Golden Club invite you to the Easter Monday social on Bank Holiday Monday - 1st April. The event will be held in the church hall commencing at 12.30hrs to 19.30hrs. Join us for bingo, raffle and dance the afternoon away to the sounds of Maz & Gaz. A licensed bar will be available. Tickets at £17.50 include an entrance drink and a four course meal. All profits will go towards the renovations of the church. Tickets available from Juliette on 07958 537314 or Jason on 07507 472288. Book early to avoid disappointment.

### **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.

### **ST ANDREW'S UNDER 5'S MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP**

The group are looking for volunteers to help on a Monday morning, 9.30-11.30am. If you can help, please contact Maggie 07971882753 for more information.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **CAFOD LENT FAST DAY**

The Lent Fast Day will be on Friday 23rd February. This year's appeal focuses on hardworking people like James who is a fisherman in Liberia and to give him and others the resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. The collection for the Lent Fast Day takes place on Sunday 25th February, with special envelopes being available nearer the time, more info [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

### **NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK**

This national event runs from February 7-14. For a rich resource of information, prayers and events please see the Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/marriage-week-2024/>

### **BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE**

How to get the marriage you want out of the marriage you have. This course, either a morning online or a day face to face, is aimed at couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to make them better. There is no personal sharing between couples. Various venues around the diocese are used. For details and dates email [mflsw@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflsw@rcaos.org.uk)