

# 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 Anthony Saffa C.S.Sp.

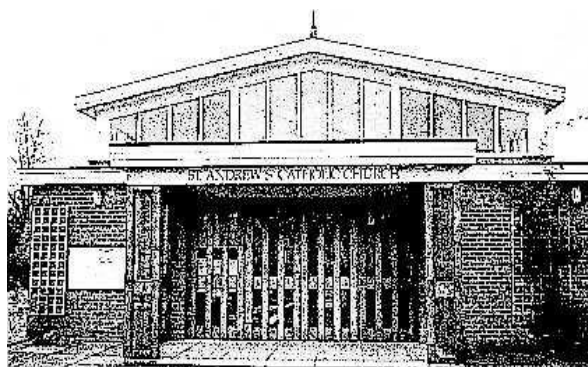
Fr Brendan Ona C.S.Sp.

**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.*



## 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (B)

### Message from Deacon Errol

#### Called to Pray, Fast and Almsgiving

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February (St Valentine's Day), until March 28, with liturgy on Maundy Thursday, the start of the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil). Lent is a period of 'spiritual stocktaking'. Stocktake leads to replenishing; therefore, we look into our lives to see areas that need working on; our prayer life, our relationship with God, and with each other.

During Lent, we are asked to do three things, *prayer, fasting and almsgiving*. To pray is to make room for God at the centre of our day. This releases us from the shackles of evil into the light of God. Remember, all power is with Christ, and so a Christian who does not pray is 'power-less', and open to the wiles of the Devil, the father of deceit (John 8:44). In His earthly life, Jesus showed His followers the importance of communing with God to help them grow in faith. Mark 6:46 tells us that after Jesus had fed the multitude, he went up on the mountain to pray. Again, immediately before choosing his twelve apostles, Luke 6:12, tells us, 'In these days he went into the hills to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God.' Jesus' followers must delight in prayer, like the early disciples who in St Luke's account asked the Lord to teach us how to pray (Luke 11:1). Pope Francis has designated 2024 as 'Year of Prayer' in preparation for the Jubilee Year in 2025, so let us dedicate some time in prayer, as our troubled world needs divine intervention.

Communion with God gives us the grace to do all things including fasting and almsgiving, and good works, which makes us triumphant over sin and be raised up from the dead as Christ exemplified at the Resurrection at Easter.

As the faithful prepare during Lent for Easter, some of our sisters and brothers (catechumenate and candidates) desiring to become full members of the Catholic Church go to the Cathedral to celebrate the Rite of Election, which is on the first Saturday of Lent. We join the Elect in their spiritual preparation for their great night at the Easter Vigil, when they will be baptised and/or confirmed and be admitted to the Eucharist for the first time. The Elect will observe the same things as the rest of the Church community, in prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works.

May the Lord grant us the grace to have a fruitful Lenten Season. Amen.

#### This Sunday's Readings

**Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46**

**The leper must live apart: he must live outside the camp**

**Psalms 31**

**You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation**

**1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1**

**Take me for your model, as I take Christ**

**Mark 1:40-45**

**The leprosy left him at once and he was cured**

## Diary for the Week

<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</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>	Christine Monahan – Thanksgiving The Etuka Family – Special intentions Christian Ilunga & Ilunga Family – Thanksgiving and wellbeing  For the people of the parish
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Carol and Apolonia Okoroafor RIP Paul McLellan RIP
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP Sharon Tucker – Special intentions
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>6.00pm Junior Praesidium (hall)</b> <b>7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)</b> <b>8.00pm Mass</b>	Sr Mary Martin RIP Millie Martins RIP  For the people of the parish
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Paul Etuka RIP Pepe Pacheco
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>10.30 – 12noon Adoration</b> <b>8.00pm Stations of the Cross</b>	Kenneth Childs – unwell All Souls in Purgatory RIP
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>9.00 - 9.20am Divine Mercy Prayers</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  Tony Fernandes RIP
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am Mass (Rite of Election-RCIA)  11.30am Mass <b>5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> 6.00pm Mass <b>7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group</b>	Mr & Mrs Charles Nkamuo & Family- Thanksgiving and wellbeing Joseph & Antoinette Underwood RIP  For the people of the parish

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

### RECEIPTS

Receipts for the month of January, basket £2,838, standing orders £3,663, card reader £529, Total £7,030 -  
*thank you for your generosity*

Payment to Diocese for Diocesan assessments for the month of January £5,458  
(second collections £294 for Pax Christi and £248 for Racial Justice)

## St. Andrew's Parish Notices

### LENT 2024

#### Ash Wednesday: 14<sup>th</sup> February

This marks the start of Lent and is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. Masses at 7.30am, 10am and 8pm. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

#### Stations of the Cross

Please join us on Friday evenings at 8.00pm.

#### Parish Penitential Service

Please join us for our Parish Penitential Service on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm. This is a great way to prepare for Easter so please join us if you can. We hope to have other priests in attendance too to hear confessions.

#### Croydon University Hospital: Mass on Ash Wednesday

There will be Mass on Ash Wednesday in the Chapel at Croydon University Hospital at 12noon. All are most welcome.

## **FR ANTHONY'S 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Fr Anthony will be having a special Mass to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm followed by a reception in the hall. All parishioners are invited to come along and share this joyful celebration.

## **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**

This is the last weekend we are accepting requests from those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. 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.

## **RECEIPTS**

For your information we will start to publish on a monthly basis the amounts that St Andrew's receives and the amounts payable to the Diocese too.

## **PARISH SURGERY**

There will be no parish surgery on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February as it is half-term. We will resume Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.

## **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 at 6.00pm. 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) and if you have ticked to say that you pay tax, please complete a separate gift aid form too (also on the table).

Thank you to everyone who has already returned their form. 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 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.

### **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 on sale after Saturday and Sunday Masses or available from Juliette on 07958 537314 or Jason on 07507 472288. Book early to avoid disappointment!

### **SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: CLERGY SUPPORT FUND**

The second collection next week is for the clergy in our Archdiocese who have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for parishes.

You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF). You can also donate via telephone office hours Mon-Fri 020 7960 2504 or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available at the back of Church and returning next weekend. Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.

### **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.

### **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 FAMILY FAST DAY - LENT APPEAL**

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)

### **CAFOD: DAILY LENT REFLECTIONS**

CAFOD would like to invite you to join them to receive their daily Lent reflections delivered straight to your inbox. This year, as part of their reflections on one of the readings of the day, CAFOD will be sharing the stories of people from a fishing community in Liberia, as well as a daily prayer and suggested action you might like to take. Join this journey by signing up for CAFOD's daily Lent email, go to CAFOD's website.

### **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<sup>th</sup> 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.