

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery

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RC Archdiocese of Southwark - A Registered Charity No. 1173050

PASTORAL TEAM

Priests: Fr Anthony Saffa C.S.Sp.

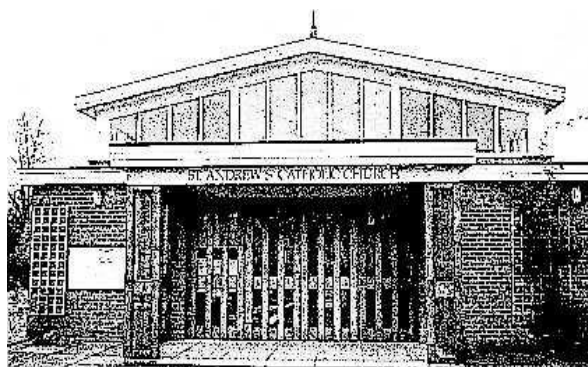
Fr Brendan Ona C.S.Sp.

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.



18th February 2024 First Sunday of Lent (B)

Message from Fr Brendan

First Sunday of lent (Mk 1:12-15)

We have started the season of lent. Lent recalls the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, fasting and praying. The example of Jesus struggling against temptation, should as a spur to us in our struggles with temptation.

Just immediately after His baptism Jesus was led into the desert. With the emergence of the beloved son in a new era has begun. An essential feature of this new era is the overthrow of the evil. God confirmed his divine Sonship and anointed him with the Spirit, Jesus went into the desert, no doubt to prepare for his mission. We read that he spent forty days in the desert. The gospel of Mark did not mention his fasting. He is reliving the history of his people, who spent forty years in the desert. Like the Israelites he too is tested in the desert. He was with the wild beasts but the angels helped and guided him and waited on him.

The temptation of Jesus may not be an outward experience but may likely be a battle fought in the mind and heart of Jesus. But that does not make them less serious. The most subtle and dangerous attacks are the ones that originate inside us. They are also the most difficult to deal with because they involve self-denial, something that is never easy. What did the temptation mean for Jesus? Remember that the temptation came immediately after his baptism where he received a mission from his Father to inaugurate the kingdom of God. The devil sought to undermine Jesus in his faithfulness to the Father. And to the mission he had received from the Father. And his tempting was not a one-off event. Temptations never are. The temptations continued through his ministry. His victory in the desert was not the winning of the war, but merely the winning of a battle. The same is true for us. Some people think that they should reach a stage when they will be beyond temptation. Jesus never reached that stage, neither did the saints. There is no definite victory while we are on earth ... St Basil.

Just like Jesus, we have to struggle against the evil in others and in society. But the hardest struggle of all is against the evil that originates inside us. The hardest victory of all is over oneself. We are born with conflicting impulses. Doing good is always possible but never easy. Jesus shows us what we need to in order to be victorious over temptation.

1. We need prayer. This means having recourse to God for help.
2. We need fasting. This means self-denial in some shape or form, because the real battle is with ourselves. We need mortification this time.
3. We need obedience to the word of God. This means doing God's will rather than our own will. The Holy spirit was with Jesus in the desert. We too can rely and count on the help of the Holy Spirit in our struggle. Shalom.

This Sunday's Readings

Genesis 9:8-15

God's covenant with Noah after he had saved him from the waters of the flood

Psalm 24

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant

1 Peter 3:18-22

That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now

Mark 1:12-15

Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him

Diary for the Week

Sunday 18th February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass (RCIA Rite of Election) 11.30am Mass 5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Tony Fernandes RIP Mr & Mrs Charles Nkamuo & Family- Thanksgiving and Wellbeing Joseph & Antoinette Underwood RIP For the people of the parish
Monday 19th February	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00 – 9.00pm Parish Surgery	Sr Teresa Clements RIP Anniv Jude-Martin & Romina Etuka – Special Intentions
Tuesday 20th February	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Mary Ann Jones (F) F. Cunningham to BVM – Good health and Wellbeing
Wednesday 21st February	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Junior Praesidium (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	James Power (F) Tony Green RIP
Thursday 22nd February	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Fr John Ehichioya (F) Pat Holland RIP
Friday 23rd February <i>CAFOD Family Fast Day</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 10.30 – 12noon Adoration 6.00pm Mass for the sick 6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall) 8.00pm Stations of the Cross	Fr Edward Mostyn (F) Francis D’Souza RIP
Saturday 24th February	9.00 - 9.20am Divine Mercy Prayers 9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Pasquelina (Rina) Fernandes RIP Birthday Rose Freeman RIP Anniv
Sunday 25th February <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 3.30pm Confirmation: Meeting with parents/candidates 5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	In Honour of Our Lady of Africa – for Celeste Joseph Acoosi Esther Oyeyinka & Family – Protection and Wellbeing For the people of the parish

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

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

LENT 2024

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 25th 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.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

The second collection this weekend 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. 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.

FR ANTHONY'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

Fr Anthony would like to thank everyone who attended his special Birthday Mass last Friday and the reception afterwards. Also he would like to thank you all for your many cards, gifts and good wishes.

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, please take home a special CAFOD envelope and return next weekend. Thank you to Frank Hayward and Frances Gilbert who will be speaking on behalf of CAFOD at the weekend. More info cafod.org.uk

GHANAIAN COMMUNITY MEETING

The group will be meeting today in the hall following the 11.30am Mass.

400 CLUB

Prize winners for the January 2024 draw are:

No. 114 Samuel Williams - 1st prize £20
No. 17 Alexandrina De Souza - 2nd prize £10
No. 115 Stephen McDonagh - 3rd prize £10

EASTER RAFFLE DRAW

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Easter raffle draw. We are happy to say that all our tickets have now been sold and we look forward to seeing you all at the draw on Monday 1st April starting at 11am - please come along and join us in the hall for teas and coffees too on the Easter Monday. If you would still like to support us by giving us a cash donation for the hall and church maintenance fund you are still welcome to do so – please give any money directly to Fr Anthony in an envelope marked “Easter Raffle Donation”. Also we have received many donations – thank you again – maybe we will have to keep a few until our next raffle! Thank you all very much for your support.

CONFIRMATION – REMINDER

There will be a parents/candidates meeting in the Church on Sunday 25th February at 3.30pm. Afterwards the candidates will meet in the hall at 4.00pm for their first session.

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 2nd 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 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!

ALL NATIONS CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC GROUP UK FOODBANK

The next one will be held in St Andrew's Church hall on Saturday 24th February 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.

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.

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

The Southwark Catholic Youth Service has re-launched several activities in 2024 for those aged 10-35. For more details about what is on offer, please sign up to tinyurl.com/scysnetwork or see the posters in the porch.

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 16th 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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic lay organisation whose members seek out and help those in need in the community. It would like to recruit a Membership Support Officer (MSO) for the Southwark diocese. This is a part time, home-based role. If you are interested please see the poster in the porch.

FOR THE BEREAVED

Grief In Loss: Hope In Christ is a weekend for those who have been bereaved. This weekend, March 22-24, will take place away from the pressures of day-to-day life and can help one begin to come to terms with bereavement. It is a time for quiet, prayer, talking and acceptance. The residential cost is £230 for a single, £210 for a shared room. Due to the special nature of this weekend retreat, held at Aylesford Priory in Kent, places are ordinarily limited and subject to a telephone call to determine if it is right for you. Tel: 01622 717 272. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.