

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

Website: 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.

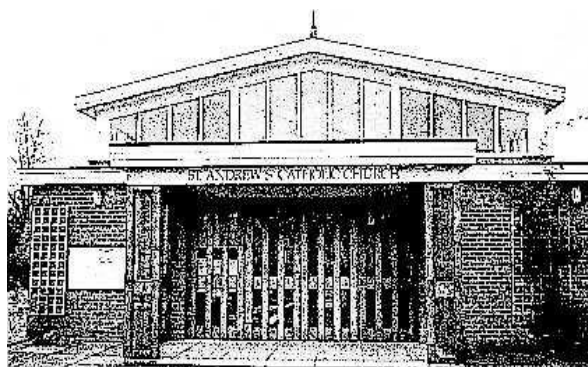
Fr Brendan Ona C.S.Sp.

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.



10th March 2024 4th Sunday of Lent (B)

Message from Fr Brendan C.S.Sp.

4th SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B Jn 3: 14-21

This is part of Jesus' dialogue with Nicodemus. The first time Nicodemus appears in the Gospel is the passage we have just read. He had heard about the kind of things Jesus was saying and doing and he was impressed. To him it was clear that the hand of God was in them. So he wanted to meet him. He came to see Jesus under the cover of darkness, which suggests that he didn't want to be seen Jn 3:1. Given the fact that he was a Pharisee, it was a wonder that he came at all. Jesus honoured him with a long dialogue. By the time Nicodemus puts in his second appearance, opposition to Jesus had hardened. Jn 7:51. The Pharisees had made up their minds to kill him and were ready to do so without even giving him a trial. But Nicodemus intervened, declaring that Jesus should at least be given a fair hearing as the law demanded. This was a more public involvement with Jesus.

The 3rd time Nicodemus appears is on Good Friday evening Jn 19:39. He assisted at the burial of Jesus. He provided a large quantity of expensive spices for the burial. After that we hear no more about him.

What significance is the above meeting with Jesus has for us?

- The first appearance shows that he was an open-minded man, and a genuine seeker of the truth.
- The 2nd shows that he was a fair-minded man, insisting that Jesus should not be condemned without a trial.
- The 3rd shows that he was a wealthy man, but also a generous and a compassionate man.

We see a growth in his relationship with Jesus. He begins by showing an interest, and wanting to know him. He goes on to defend him in public. And by assisting at his burial he is seen to associate with him at his hour of shame and humiliation.

The story and the qualities of Nicodemus show us that we need to grow in our relationship with Christ. And we need to deepen our commitment to him and to the values of the Gospel. This will involve a journey out of darkness to light. We should not be ashamed or afraid to opening profess our faith in Jesus, and to be ready to pay whatever price is required for doing so. Those who believe in Jesus will not be lost, but will have eternal life. But it is not simply a matter of believing, but of living according to what we believe in. It is not the one who speculates about the truth but the one who does the truth who comes to the light. Shalom.

This Sunday's Readings

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Psalm 136

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21

The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved

Diary for the Week

Sunday 10th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Mother's Day</i>	6.00pm (Saturday)	First Mass of Sunday	Katherine Hynes - Wellbeing Noel Rozairo RIP Paul Etuka RIP For the people of the parish
	9.30am	Mass (RCIA 2 nd Scrutiny)	
	11.30am	Mass	
	5.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	4.00pm	Confirmation Session	
	6.00pm	Mass	
	7.00 - 9.00pm	Charismatic Prayer Group	
Monday 11th March	7.30am	Mass	Jonathan Da Cruz – Birthday Jacquelyn Caulker RIP
	10.00am	Mass	
	7.00 – 9.00pm	Parish Surgery	
Tuesday 12th March	7.30am	Mass	Pat Holland RIP
	10.00am	Mass	
	7.45pm	RCIA	
Wednesday 13th March	7.30am	Mass	Christina Etuka – Special Intentions
	10.00am	Mass	
	6.00pm	Junior Praesidium (hall)	
	7.30pm	Legion of Mary (hall)	
Thursday 14th March	7.30am	Mass	Anthony Britto RIP Anniv
	10.00am	Mass	
Friday 15th March	7.30am	Mass	Paul Etuka RIP
	10.00am	Mass followed by Stations of the Cross	
	6.30pm	Brownies/Guides (hall)	
	8.00pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 16th March	9.00 - 9.20am	Divine Mercy Prayers	Sancho Family RIP Liane Da Cruz - Birthday
	9.30am	Mass	
	10.00 – 10.30am	Confessions	
	5.00 – 5.30pm	Confessions	
	6.00pm	First Mass of Sunday	
Sunday 17th March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	9.30am	Mass	Mr & Mrs Charles Nkamuo & Family – Thanksgiving & Wellbeing Mr & Mrs Flannery For the people of the parish
	11.30am	Mass	
	5.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	6.00pm	Mass	
	7.00 - 9.00pm	Charismatic Prayer Group	

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

RECEIPTS

Receipts for the month of February, basket £2,348, standing orders £3,431, card reader £363, Total £6,142

Second collections: Crib offerings £237.51, Sick & Retired Priests £564, CAFOD £475

- *thank you for your generosity*

Payment to Diocese for Diocesan assessments for the month of February £5,458

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

LENT 2024

Stations of the Cross

Please join us on Fridays after the 10am Mass and also 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.

Lenten Masses in Croydon University Hospital

There will be Mass in the Hospital Chapel at 12noon on Monday 11th and Monday 25th March. All are most welcome.

Children's Easter sponsored walk

On March 23rd, the children of the parish will be taking part in a sponsored walk to raise money for the maintenance of the parish. They will be walking around the Recreation Park four times, please can our parishioners help to support them by sponsoring them. After the walk there will be an Easter party for the children and their families with food and games. All are welcome. Please let Bernadette know if you are coming 07729322571. Thank you.

On March 29th we will have the Children's Stations of the Cross at 10am. All children are invited to be part of the service. We will need singers, banner carriers, readers and actors. Please let Bernadette know if you can be there and help. Thank you.

Good Friday – Walk of Witness

Please join us for the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, 29th March. This is organised by members of churches in Thornton Heath. We always have a good turn-out from St Andrew's Church so we look forward to seeing you all there again. Please meet outside the Job Centre in Thornton Heath High Street at 11.45am - see the poster for more details.

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.

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY GROUP

The group will be meeting today Sunday 10th March following the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

ST ANDREW'S GOLDEN CLUB

St. Andrew's Golden Club invites you to the Easter Monday social on Bank Holiday Monday - 1st April. The event will be held in the church hall commencing at 12.30 - 7.30pm. 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. Some of our raffle prizes are - four tickets to Hampton Court Palace Tulip Festival or 4 Tickets to the Artisan Festival, M&S Hamper valued at £120.00, A Luxury Spirits and Wine Hamper, 2 Mystery Prizes, Russell Hobbs Rapid Digital Air Fryer, Pamper Hamper for Her, Electric Egg Boiler and many more. Raffle tickets are £1 per strip or 6 strips for £5. All profits will go towards the renovations of the church. Tickets for the event and raffle tickets are available after the Sunday Masses or from Juliette on 07958 537314 or Jason on 07507 472288. Book early to avoid disappointment.

LITURGY GROUP

There will be a meeting on Thursday 14th March at 7pm in the Presbytery for the group to discuss the Easter Liturgies and what cover is needed. Please can those who attended the last meeting endeavour to attend or send apologies to the parish office. We need to ensure there are representatives for the following groups; Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, RCIA/RCIC, Choir Leaders.

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. The warm hub will close for this winter on Tuesday 19th March.

MASS FOR THE SICK

There will be no Mass of the sick until after Easter.

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

There will be no Adoration on Fridays until after Easter as there will be Stations of the Cross after the 10am 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.

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 (in the porch) and if you have ticked to say that you pay tax, please complete a separate gift aid form too (also in the porch).

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.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Next week the second collection will be for Poor Parishes. Formally the Needs of the Diocese collection, this collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

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.

MASS OFFERING BOOKINGS AND DONATIONS THROUGH PAYPAL

If you would like to use the facility to book your mass intentions and make donations through Paypal, please go on our website where you will find the "Donations" menu. Please follow the instructions given there. Mass bookings can still be booked in the normal way using envelopes in the porch. Please post your Mass Offering envelopes through the presbytery door or hand over to a Priest.

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. It is an agency of the Bishops' Conference with responsibility for carrying out the social mission of the Church in England and Wales. Archbishop John will celebrate Mass at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 16th March at 12.30pm. 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.

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.

CATHEDRAL MASS CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th or any later wedding anniversary this year, you are invited to renew your marriage vows at a Mass to be celebrated at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, at 3pm on July 13th. Close family members can attend with you. In order to receive a personal invitation from Archbishop John, email to mflsw@rcaos.org.uk the following details: your full names, address, phone number, anniversary being celebrated and parish. The deadline for applying is May 31st.

ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK DAY PILGRIMAGE

For the Year of Prayer 2024 Bishop Philip Moger has arranged a Diocesan day pilgrimage to Our Lady at Walsingham, Norfolk on Saturday 27th April. Bishop Philip will be leading the day itself. Coaches have been arranged so far from three parishes; Virgo Fidelis Upper Norwood, St George's Cathedral and Precious Blood in Borough. If you would like to join the pilgrimage please see the poster for contact information and costs.

MAKING A NEW START

Beginning Experience is a residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. The next programme will be on April 12-14. For details phone 0208 647 4760 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com