

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.

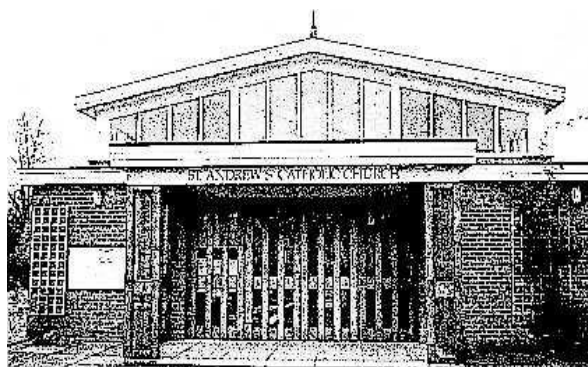
Fr Brendan Ona C.S.Sp.

Deacon: 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.



28th April 2024
5th Sunday of Easter (B)

Message from Deacon Errol

Branches bear fruit only when truly joined with the Vine

Jesus said, "I am the vine and my Father is the vinedresser" Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes to make it bear even more. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing." *John 15:1-8* Elsewhere, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." *John 14:6*. This was a huge summary of the reality of God's Presence and of Jesus' essential oneness and unbreakable union with God, the Father. Jesus makes significant use of metaphor to provide His disciples a glimpse of the profound mystery of the Divine Presence, the importance of His work and mission to be carried on by all who follow Him, and of the hope, He had tried to instil in them.

What does this teach us? He shows the Father's willingness to include us in this awesome bond of love for the salvation of the world. Jesus, our resurrection and life is in the mission of saving everyone, and excluding no one. If there is any exclusion to be made, then, we are the ones that cut ourselves off from Jesus the Vine, making us unfruitful in the work of salvation. If we belong to Jesus, our growth, fruitfulness, and our very life is informed, empowered, and nourished by His life and teachings. Joined with Jesus, the true Vine, we gain strength and find our identity and purpose. We are most to be pitied if we remove ourselves from Jesus, and think we are ok.

Beloved of Christ, when we remain with Jesus, we teach what he taught, we serve the way he served, and care about what he cares about. Where He leads, we follow, and where He has gone, we will go too.

May God multiply His grace and peace on all of us. Amen.

This Sunday's Readings

Acts 9: 26-31

Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey

Psalm 21

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly

1 John 3:18-24

His commandments are these: that we believe in his Son and that we love one another

John 15:1-8

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty

Diary for the Week

Sunday 28th April <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	For the people of the parish In Honour of Our Lady of Africa Madeline Victoire – 95 th Birthday Esther Oyeyinka & Family – Wellbeing and Protection
Monday 29th April	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00 – 9.00pm Parish Surgery	Kitty Fernandes – Birthday & Thanksgiving Robert & Marie Curry RIP
Tuesday 30th April	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	In Honour of Our Lady of Africa Winnie Rojo Sosa & Family Souls RIP
Wednesday 1st May <i>St Joseph the Worker</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Junior Praesidium (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	Timothy & Clea Andradi (F) Roque & Ana Rita Fernandes RIP
Thursday 2nd May	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Steve & Angela Bradshaw – Wellbeing Chuks Etuka – Special Intentions
Friday 3rd May	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 10.30 – 12noon Adoration 6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall)	Luis & Piedade Fernandes RIP Ronald Haslam RIP Anniv
Saturday 4th May <i>The English Martyrs</i>	9.00 - 9.20am Divine Mercy Prayers 9.30am Mass followed by Our Lady of Africa intentions 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday 7-9pm Youth Club (hall)	Power & Fennelly Families (F) Mrs Nancy McGovern - Birthday
Sunday 5th May <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Denice Koduah–Wellbeing & Recovery Edwin Athayde RIP Anniv For the people of the parish

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

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

KEEP THE DATE

Fr Anthony Saffa is delighted to invite you all to his Induction Mass as Parish Priest of St Andrew's Church. This will be carried out by Bishop Philip Moger on Thursday 16th May 2024 at 7.00pm. There will also be a reception in our hall following the Mass. Please do come along and join Fr Anthony in the celebrations.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: MAINTENANCE OF ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

St George's Cathedral, Southwark, is the mother church of the diocese. This collection helps meet the cost of the upkeep of the cathedral. St George's Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship. You can also donate online: www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral

PARISH DAY OUT TO AYLESFORD

Once again we shall have a parish day out to Aylesford on the 20th July. The cost will stay the same as last year at £20 per adult and £10 per child. We hope that this year more people will be able to join us before the summer holidays are in full swing. Coaches need to be booked and so we will be taking names, mobiles and payment after each Mass this Sunday.

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.

EASTER RAFFLE

Thank you again to everyone who supported our Easter raffle. There are still some prizes to be claimed, Green ticket no:7, Green ticket No:315, Yellow ticket no:282 and Brown ticket no:405. Please call Alex 07827 611769.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2024/2025

There are still a few Gift Aid Envelopes 2024/2025 for collection. The boxes are placed on the shelf by the side of the font.

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.

REPOSITORY

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

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.

READERS

Readers for the 9.30am Sunday Masses: We need more readers for this mass so we can reintroduce first and second readers like we used to have. If you are interested in becoming a Reader please speak to Lesley Brennan or email the parish office. Full training will be given.

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. We will resume again on Saturday 6th April at 9am.

YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club will be meeting on Saturday evening 4th May, 7-9pm, in the hall. If you would like to join, just come along or come and speak with the leaders for more info.

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY MEETING

The group will be meeting on Sunday 5th May following the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

MAINTENANCE OF OUR CHURCH FABRICS - FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thank you to everyone who has already returned their forms. If you would still like to donate to our repair works to the Church and hall roofs, 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). 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.

MASS REQUESTS AND OFFERINGS

Please post your Mass Offering envelopes through the Presbytery door. There are envelopes in the porch which can be handed in to the collection baskets or give to Father after Masses.

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.

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.

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 a few groups 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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

WEEKLY MASS IN CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

There will be regular weekly Masses in the hospital. Mass will be on every Wednesday at 12noon in the Chapel. All are most welcome.

THE ALL NATIONS CHARISMATIC GROUP (ANCCG)

The All Nations Catholic Charismatic Group (ANCCG) would like to invite you all to the 'Life in the Spirit Seminar' programme starting on 7th April until 2nd June here at St Andrews. This seminar is to take place in line with Pope Francis' address to the worldwide retreat for clergy to organise seminars of Life in the Spirit in parishes. The programme will consist of talks on various topics every Sunday from 7-9pm by prominent speakers helping the participants to be ignited with the power of the Holy Spirit. All are most welcome to come along.

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.

CAFOD

A Year of Encounter

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including an online session on Saturday 4th May to learn more.

ANNUAL MASS FOR LONDON MIGRANT WORKERS

The Annual Mass for London Migrant Workers in honour of St Joseph the Worker is on Monday 6th May at St George's Cathedral at 12.30pm. All are invited. Please come early. You are welcome to come in national dress if you would like to take part in the banner procession at 12.15pm. The Mass is hosted by the three London Catholic Diocese, supported by the Justice and Peace Commissions and Ethnic Chaplaincies, Caritas Brentwood and London Citizens UK in celebration of all the people who live, work and contribute to life across our city, Presider: Archbishop John Wilson.

CAFOD: URGENT APPEAL FOR SUDAN

We have been asked by CAFOD to do an emergency appeal for the people of Sudan. CAFOD are launching an emergency appeal for donations to get aid to them as soon as possible. When violence broke out last year in Sudan between government and paramilitaries, most aid agencies were evacuated. Now humanitarian workers are struggling to get back into Sudan to help, meaning severe delays in getting aid to people. But the Church and CAFOD's local partners are still there. The situation has gone from serious to desperate very quickly. The UN is calling it 'the world's worst displacement crisis'. At least eight million people have had to flee their homes; famine looms.

How your donations can help in Sudan: Food: Millions of families who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and are now facing yet another urgent crisis – hunger. Donations now will help provide emergency food packages, as well as other essentials like medicine. **Water:** Water pipelines have been damaged, meaning that families are having to fetch water from unsafe locations. With your support, work can repair damage to pipelines and build new ones so that clean water can reach the communities who need it. **Sanitation:** Emergency sanitation is being provided in several of Sudan's largest refugee camps. This is a desperate need especially for the sick, the elderly, those with young children.

We are asking if you can donate next weekend, 4th and 5th May, all donations will be warmly welcomed – thank you.