

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.

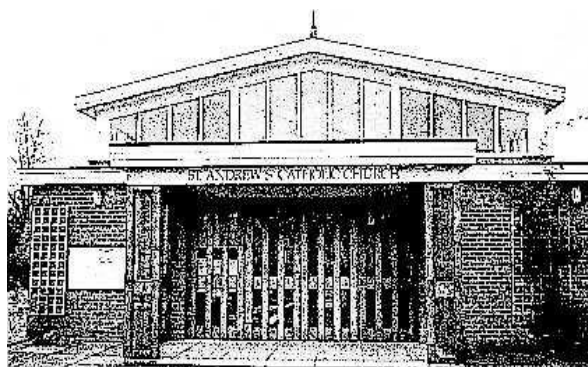
Fr Brendan Ona C.S.Sp.

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.



5th May 2024 6th Sunday of Easter (B)

Message from Fr Brendan C.S.Sp.

John 15:9-17

“Jesus is the model of love”

Christ's love for Christians is a reflection of the love the three divine Persons have for one another and for all men. Saint John said we love because he loved us first. 1Jn 4:19. Here Jesus talks about the love that binds him to the Father, and the love that should bind the disciples to him and to one another. Hence Jesus love is modelled on that of the Father. This implies that the disciples should model themselves on the Son: as he has observed the Father's commandments, so they should observe his.

The certainty that God loves us is the source of Christian joy Jn15:11, but it is also something which calls for a fruitful response on our part, which should take the form of a fervent desire to do God's will in everything, meaning, to keep his commandments, in imitation of Jesus Christ, who did the will of the Father. Jesus insists on a **'new commandment'**, which he himself keeps by giving his life for us. St John will insist too on the need to practise this commandment of the Lord and on the demands it implies (cf. 1Jn 2:8; 3:7-21). Love of neighbour was already contained in the Old Testament but Jesus gives the precept of brotherly love a new meaning and content by saying "even as I have loved you". The love of neighbour called for by the Old law did also in some way extend to one's enemies (Ex 23:4-5), however, the love which Jesus preaches is much more demanding and includes returning good for evil (cf. Mt 5:43-44).

We cannot give love unless we have first received it. This was true even of Jesus. He said to his disciples, "***As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you***". The love he shared so generously with his disciples and with the people at large was the love he had received from the Father. It is not a sign of weakness to admit our need of love. We should be grateful for the love we have received from others. As far as God's love is concerned, we don't have to earn it. It is God who first loved us. God loved us not because we are good, but because he is good. Our very existence is a sign of God's love. All we have to do is receive it, and then try to share it with others.

Love is well being. To refuse to love is to begin to die. To love is to begin to live. Few get the opportunity of showing their love for others by dying for them. But all have the opportunity to do something that is just as good and maybe, in the long run, harder, namely, **to live for others**. You can do something good for others, just be fruitful. There is a prayer that goes like this, "Lord, don't let me die yet, because I haven't loved enough". It is a prayer we might make our own. ***Lord, don't let me die yet, because I have not loved enough.*** Shalom.

This Sunday's Readings

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalm 97

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

The Holy Spirit has been poured out on the pagans too

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations

God is love

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his

Diary for the Week

Sunday 5th May <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	6.00pm (Saturday)	First Mass of Sunday	Mrs Nancy McGovern - Birthday Denice Koduah – Wellbeing & Recovery Edwin Athayde RIP Anniv For the people of the parish
	9.30am	Mass	
	11.30am	Mass	
International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians	5.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For the people of the parish
	6.00pm	Mass	
	7.00 - 9.00pm	Charismatic Prayer Group	
Monday 6th May <i>Bank Holiday</i>	10.00am	Mass	Roque & Rosalind Cabral RIP
Tuesday 7th May	7.30am	Mass	Angela Berriman RIP Jude & Marlene Nathaniel – Wedding Anniv
	10.00am	Mass	
Wednesday 8th May	7.30am	Mass	Mrs Leonie Sequeira - Birthday Kwabena Danso-Dapaah RIP
	10.00am	Mass	
	6.00pm	Junior Praesidium (hall)	
	7.30pm	Legion of Mary (hall)	
Thursday 9th May <i>The Ascension of the Lord - Holyday of Obligation</i>	7.30am	Mass	Tony Lawrence RIP Mary Rawitzer RIP 2 nd Anniv For the people of the parish
	10.00am	Mass	
	8.00pm	Mass	
Friday 10th May	7.30am	Mass	Raphael Etuka – Speedy recovery Agnes Danso-Dapaah’s Family – Wellbeing
	10.00am	Mass	
	10.30 – 12noon	Adoration	
	6.30pm	Brownies/Guides (hall)	
Saturday 11th May	9.00 - 9.20am	Divine Mercy Prayers	Irineu Santana Fernandes & Hilrem Marilyn Fernandes–Wedding Anniv & Thanksgiving Robert Rutledge RIP Anniv
	9.30am	Mass	
	10.00 – 10.30am	Confessions	
	5.00 – 5.30pm	Confessions	
Sunday 12th May <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>	6.00pm	First Mass of Sunday	Mr & Mrs Jacintha & Darryl D’Cruz – Thanksgiving 39 th Wedding Anniv Chuks Etuka – Special Intentions For the people of the parish
	9.30am	Mass	
	11.30am	Mass	
	5.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	7.00 - 9.00pm	Charismatic Prayer Group	

Church cleaners: this week: Fifi’s Group, next week: Charismatic 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: CAFOD - URGENT APPEAL FOR SUDAN

CAFOD are launching an emergency appeal for the people of Sudan and are asking 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. All donations will be warmly welcomed – thank you. Call CAFOD for more info 0808 58 58885

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 MEETING

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

MONDAY BANK HOLIDAY – 6TH MAY

Please note on Bank Holiday Monday there is no 7.30am Mass and no Parish Surgery in the evening.

DAN TURNER'S ORDINATION TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

We congratulate Dan Turner who is receiving his Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. This will be held on Saturday 27th July at 12:30pm. The Ordination will be conducted by Archbishop John Wilson at St. George's Cathedral.

Please diarise and it would be wonderful to see as many parishioners at the service as possible in support of Dan. Once again, congratulations to Dan.

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.

EASTER RAFFLE

There are still some prizes from our Easter Raffle to be claimed. They are Green ticket no.7, Green ticket no.315, Yellow ticket no.282. and Brown ticket no.405 still to be collected. If any unclaimed by 10th May the prizes will be given away. Please call Alex 07827 611769.

NEW ALTAR SERVER APPLICATIONS

Applications are now open for those young people in Year 5 and above who wish to become an Altar Server. The application forms may be found at the back of the church. The forms should be returned to the Priests' house by Friday 24th May latest.

OUR LADY OF AFRICA

Thank you to everyone who took part with the celebrations of Our Lady of Africa on Saturday 4th May.

MASS FOR THE SICK

Please note that we are now only holding one Mass for the Sick on the last Friday of every month at 6.00pm. Please let all your family and friends know - come and receive God's healing and anointing.

ALL NATIONS CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC GROUP UK FOODBANK

The next one will be held in St Andrew's Church hall on Saturday 11th May 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.

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.

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.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN), the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The CCN seeks to be of service both to the Church and the world in offering professional channels of communication and provides support for the Bishops of England and Wales and wider Church in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues.

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 which started 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.

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.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR EASTERN CHRISTIANS

This Sunday 5th May, the *Sixth Sunday of Easter*, is the annual International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians. It is an opportunity to renew our prayers for Peace, unity, and reconciliation, most especially at this time in the Holy Land and Ukraine.

Last week, Archbishop John had the privilege of meeting with Father Gabriel Romanelli, the Parish Priest of Gaza's Latin Rite parish of The Holy Family. Archbishop John heard how Holy Family Parish Church compound serves as a refuge for those affected by the conflict regardless of creed or background and how recent bombardments on the parish complex have caused significant damage to its water tanks, solar panels, and other facilities. With limited fuel, no electricity, and scarce and grossly price-inflated food, water, and medicine, the situation is dire. The complex also houses a convent and mission of the Missionaries of Charity, who find themselves caring for a great many orphaned children, many from Muslim backgrounds. Thank you for your continued prayers.