

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery

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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.

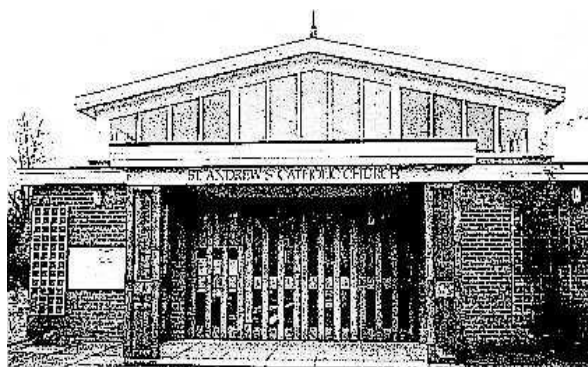
Fr Sylvester Oyeka C.S.Sp.

Deacons: Rev. Errol Quagraine, Rev. Dan Turner

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.



27th October 2024 30th Sunday of the Year (B)

Message from Fr Brendan C.S.Sp.

"I fear Jesus may pass by and not come back"

Today we hear the story of the blind man Bartimaeus, it is as much a call story as a healing story. As Jesus went down the road, a blindman heard that He was passing by, so he cried out, he shouted, ***'Have mercy on me Jesus, son of David'***. The blindman recognised and acknowledged Jesus as messiah and son of David while those who claim that they see clear are still battling with faith in Jesus. But the crowd rebuked him and told him not to bother Jesus. Why? Often there are those who would ridicule Christianity and try to keep you from coming to Jesus. But we are to be like Bartimaeus, we are to pay no attention to them. He never gave up, he cried even louder, 'son of David, have pity on me'.

The blind man of Jericho is quick to use the opportunity presented by Christ's presence. We should not neglect the Lord's grace, for we do not know if he will offer them to us again. St Augustine described very concisely, the urgency with which we should respond to God's gifts, to his passing us on the road: ***I fear Jesus may pass by and not come back. For, at least on some occasion, in some way, on daily basis, Jesus passes close to everyone.***

Then Jesus stopped. He always stops when we call on him. He is never too busy to answer our cries. Jesus said, call him here' so they called the blind man. 'Courage' they said 'get up he is calling you'. Can you imagine his joy? It cannot be overestimated. Same persons who asked him to shut up, same people delivered the message that Jesus wants him personally. He jumped up and went to Jesus. Isn't that great?

Then the question for his intention. 'What do you want me to do for you?' some may be confused at the moment at not knowing what to ask for or how to answer Jesus. They may not request for the most important thing that matters. He responded correctly. ***Rabbuni, master, let me see again, that I may see.*** No wonder Jesus filled with compassion told him ***'Go your faith has saved you'***.

What is the message for us. His is an active faith; he shouts out, he persists, despite the people getting in his way. He manages to get Jesus to hear him and call him. This teaches us how we should believe and how we should pray - with conviction, with urgency, with simplicity, until we manage to get Jesus to listen to us. ***'Lord let me receive my sight'*** say it in the moment of doubt. When you cannot understand the reason behind God's plan. It is a prayer for those who are in search of God and who do not yet have the great gift of faith. ***Lord, restore my sight.*** Shalom.

This Sunday's Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-9

I will comfort the blind and the lame as I lead them back

Psalm 125

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad

Hebrews 5:1-6

You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever

Mark 10:46-52

Master, let me see again

Diary for the Week

Sunday 27th October <i>30th Sunday of the Year</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	Len Highland RIP 4 th Anniv Mr & Mrs A Etuka – Wedding Anniv Pobrina Fernandes RIP Birthday For the people of the parish
Monday 28th October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Paul Etuka RIP David Dantas – Wellbeing
Tuesday 29th October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Maria Rebello RIP Birthday Jim McConway RIP
Wednesday 30th October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Junior Praesidium (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	Deacon Dan Turner Sr Mary Martin RIP
Thursday 31st October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Chuks Etuka – Special Intentions “Frank” to B.V.M. – Recovery & Wellbeing
Friday 1st November <i>All Saints Day</i> <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 10.30 – 12noon Adoration 8.00pm Mass	November List Paul Etuka RIP For the people of the parish
Saturday 2nd November <i>All Souls Day</i>	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	Sophie & Johnnie Fernandes RIP November List
Sunday 3rd November <i>31st Sunday of the Year</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 5.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	Paul Etuka RIP Frank Duff & Deceased Legionaries RIP For the people of the parish

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

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

ST ANDREW’S FEAST DAY

On Saturday 30th November in celebration of the Feast of St Andrew’s, you are all invited to attend the 6pm Mass and this will be followed by a Fish & Chips supper in the hall – tickets available for sale this weekend adults £10, children to age 11 - £5.

ALL SAINTS DAY

Friday 1st November is the Feast of All Saints Day and is a Holyday of Obligation. There will be Masses at 7.30am, 10am and 8pm. Please do join us.

ALL SOULS DAY

Saturday 2nd November, The Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed (All Souls Day). Please do join us for Mass.

NOVEMBER PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

During the month of November, the month of Holy Souls, we particularly remember and pray in a special way for those whom God has called from this life, especially members of our families and friends. A list of the deceased whose funerals took place here at St Andrew’s will be displayed in the front of the Altar. Anyone who has a relative or friend who has died elsewhere in the last year should give in their names and date of death to the office or to one of the Priests and we will add your names to our November prayers.

If you would like to have any of your departed family and friends remembered, please take one of the special Holy Souls envelopes (in the porch) and enclose the names together with your offering and place in the basket before the Altar from the beginning and during the month of November. These envelopes will be brought up during each Mass in the month of November and we will say at least one Mass for those souls everyday. On Saturday 30th November at 9.30am we will hold our annual Bereavement Mass for those who have died in the last year, we hope you can join us.

RCIC CATECHISM GROUP

This group is for children in Year 4 or older who have not been baptised or received their First Holy communion yet and would like to enrol on the preparation programme this year. Sessions take place on alternative Tuesdays at 6.30pm. For more information email John at sdcm meetings@gmail.com

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic and joining the Church? Have you been baptised as a Catholic and would like to prepare to receive the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation? Or would you like to learn more about the Catholic Faith? If the answer is "Yes", why not come along to the RCIA evenings on Tuesdays at 7.45pm in the church hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATIONS

For the First Holy Communion programme 2025, we are asking parents of children who are in year 3 or 4 from September 2024 to register their children for the programme commencing in January 2025 using the link <https://forms.gle/K7fFkuyiRVYdxaLj9> (please note this is not for children in school year 5 and above).

WARM HUB

The Warm Hub has started again on Tuesday mornings from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Please come along to the parish hall where you will receive a warm welcome. Hot drinks will be served and there will be a simple soup lunch available. All good reasons to pop in and see friends – any donations welcome.

PARISH SURGERY

There is no parish surgery this week as it is half term.

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.

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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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.

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.

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.

CELEBRATION OF SR SHEILA'S 60TH RELIGIOUS LIFE, DIAMOND JUBILEE

On Tuesday 5th November at 7.00pm, you are all invited to the special Mass in celebration of Sr Sheila's 60th Religious Life, Diamond Jubilee, here at St Andrew's. Archbishop John Wilson will be here to celebrate the Mass followed by a small reception in the hall afterwards. We will be presenting Sr Sheila with a gift from St Andrew's

so if you would like to contribute, please take an envelope in the porch with your donation inside and hand to a priest – thank you.

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

The group will be having a meeting in the hall on Sunday 3rd November following the 11.30am Mass.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS YOUTH PRAYER GROUP

Deacon Dan together with members of the Junior Legion of Mary invite youngsters of all ages with your parents/guardians to attend the Sacred Heart of Jesus Youth Prayer Group every second Friday of the month. The next service is on Friday 8th November at 6.00-7.00 pm in St Andrew's Church. We are looking for young people who would like to sing, read, play an instrument and share your talents for Jesus. "Let the children come to me...." (Luke 18:16)

ST ANDREW'S YOUTH GROUP

The group are meeting in the hall on Saturday 2nd November at 7-9pm. If you would like to join them, just come along and speak to the leaders for more info. Please see the poster in the porch for more details too.

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.

THE 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.

THE CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The CCRS is a knowledge-based, internationally recognised qualification that provides participants with an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic faith. Please visit aec.rcaos.org.uk/ccrs for further information. Closing date is 4th November.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The group invite all our parishioners to celebrate with them the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday 24th November at the 11.30am Mass followed by a reception in the hall afterwards.

DEANERY RETREAT DAY

St Aidan's parish Coulsdon are hosting a retreat day for Readers & Special Ministers of Holy Communion in the Croydon Deanery on Saturday 30th November 10-3.30pm

The day includes a presentation by Canon Gerard Bradley on the new Lectionary translation. There will be a session on guided prayer using a Gospel meditation with Trudy Kilkullen. Venue: St Aidan's Church Hall - Coulsdon, Chipstead Valley Road, CR5 3DD. Please bring a packed lunch, hot drinks provided. Parking available – please register your car to avoid a parking penalty. No need to book. Please see church noticeboard for the full programme.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL - URGENT

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales would like to urgently bring to your attention regarding the assisted suicide legislation that is currently working its way through Parliament. Please visit the *Right to Life UK* website which lays out the Catholic position on assisted suicide, and what you can do to stop its legalisation. Please see the poster in the porch which has a QR code and links to the *Right to Life UK* website. It provides a simple digital form and a suggested letter which will assist parishioners in making contact with their MP in order to ask them to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law.

CAFOD-DEC MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected desperately need our help. CAFOD kindly asks if you can please donate today to the CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and support our local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter. Thank you for your donations cafod.org.uk/give. Please see the poster for more details.