

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.

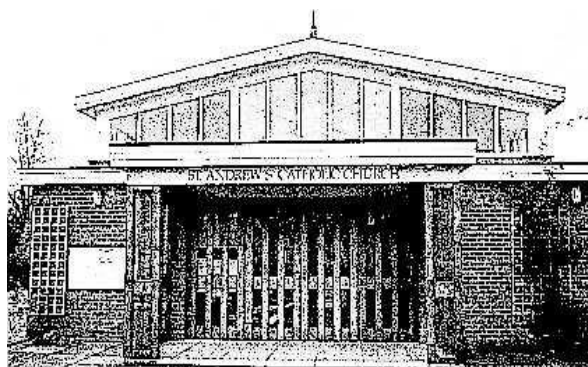
Fr Sylvester Oyeka C.S.Sp.

Deacon: 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.



6th October 2024 27th Sunday of the Year (B)

Message from Deacon Errol

Male and Female, God created them

This Sunday, our Lord Jesus addresses marriage and divorce in society. The reason for the creation of man and woman is to love God and a loving union between the two leading to procreation as God intended.

The world has reached a stage where the marriage of man and woman is contested by some of God's creation. While some accept the Christian idea of the union of man and woman as God's plan and the foundation of the family structure, expressed in a loving relationship in the presence of God, others find it difficult to comprehend. Therefore, it is difficult to speak about marriage between man and woman without others feeling offended or condemned. However, it is our christian duty to make such people feel loved and welcome, as Jesus came for the whole world.

The reading from the book of Genesis Chapter 2 teaches us that men and women come from the same being, designed to be together as one, both physically and emotionally, face life together, support, love and challenge each other. Adam saw his wife and was pleased he had a friend, a companion, someone he could trust and spend his life with, someone who was so much like him that when they came together they became one. The woman is not inferior to the man; they are one, and their coming together creates something new. They complete each other.

The vocation of marriage is wonderful in its entirety, when two people come together to give the sacrament to each other, and walk alongside each other through thick and thin.

I am blessed to have Angela walk by my side on the journey of life. Christ is at the centre of our union to guide our hearts and minds to each other, and blessed with lovely children growing closer to Christ through the changing scenes of life.

Sometimes, marriage between a man and woman does not lead to children, but God blesses the couple for loving each other, and God who knows their challenges, walks with them.

In today's Gospel from St Mark, Jesus is teaching us that marriage is a gift from God, between a man and a woman, and that divorce is not God's plan. We must therefore accept God's plan as little children (Mark 10:2-16). We must stand with God in His plan for marriage and children. May the Lord enlighten our hearts and minds to know His plan for us and lead us to eternal life. Amen.

This Sunday's Readings

Genesis 2:18-24

They become one body

Psalm 127

May the Lord bless us all the days of our life

Hebrews 2:9-11

The one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock

Mark 10:2-16

What God has united, man must not divide

Diary for the Week

Sunday 6th October <i>27th 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	For the people of the parish Paul Etuka RIP Nigerian Catholic Community Thanksgiving Anniv Samuel and Emily Ward (F)
Monday 7th October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Parish Surgery	Juliana Osekpo & Julius Eromosele (F) Paul Etuka RIP
Tuesday 8th October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Andradi Family – Wellbeing Alzira Miranda – Good health
Wednesday 9th October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Junior Praesidium (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	Deacon Dan Turner Heather Nicholas – Wedding Anniv
Thursday 10th October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Jude-Martin & Romina Etuka – Special Intentions Special Intention FP
Friday 11th October	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 10.30 – 12noon Adoration 6.30pm Brownies/Guides (hall)	Rev. Mgr. Patrick McCoy (F) Winnie Rojo Sosa & Family Souls RIP
Saturday 12th October	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	Santano Rebello & Magdalena Colaco RIP Henry George Bailey
Sunday 13th October <i>28th 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	Abigail Rodrigues – Birthday Goan Community – Feast of Our Lady of Fatima For the people of the parish

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

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

Thank you to our PPC members who are counting the numbers.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND 6TH OCTOBER

For the White Flower Appeal 2024. The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. SPUC's vision is for the world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis. Thank you to Gill Gilhooly who will speak at the Saturday evening and Sunday morning masses.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy is on Sundays during 9.30am Mass, term-time only. All children above the age of 3 years are welcome.

NIGERIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Following the Thanksgiving Mass at 11.30am this Sunday 6th October, the Nigerian Community are having an Anniversary Thanksgiving celebration in the hall and you are all welcome to attend.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

The CAFOD Family Fast Day was on Friday 4th October, the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi. Please see the poster in the porch showing Daniel, a 21 year-old carpenter from Goma, in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. He says "If God helps and this work expands, I can do greater things", these are the hopeful words of Daniel who took carpentry classes at a training centre run by CAJED, CAFOD's local partner in Goma. Please support CAFOD by using the envelopes in the porch with your gift inside or give online cafod.org.uk/envelope

FOOD DONATIONS NEXT WEEK FOR CHARITY NIGHTWATCH

Next week on Sunday 13th October at the 9:30am Mass there will be a harvest collection for Nightwatch a charity which supports the homeless in Croydon. We are asking if you can help Nightwatch by bringing in donations of any food with a long shelf-life such as tinned soup, tins of fruit or vegetables and tinned meat as well as packets of rice and pasta. New toiletries are also welcome. The items will be collected during Mass by our Scout Group. We thank you for your support and thank you to Ian Carlyle for organising.

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 Tuesdays at 6,30pm. Registration and our next session will be in the Parish hall on Tuesday 8th October. 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).

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 11th October 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)

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

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. Frs Brendan and Sylvester will be here to meet with you.

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.

OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is a month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary is prayed each weekday after the 10am Mass and Saturday 9.30am Mass (Fridays 10.30 – 12noon Adoration). All welcome to join our Rosary Group.

SAVE THE DATE: 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 celebrating the Mass followed by a small reception in the hall afterwards.

ST ANDREW'S FEAST DAY

On Saturday 30th November 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 from the beginning of October in celebration of the Feast of St Andrew's.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

On the 7th December from 11am to 3pm, we will be having the parish Christmas party. Everyone is welcome, old and young! Tickets are £5 for children over 2 years. Children will get to meet Santa, receive a lovely gift, have lunch and have lots of fun and games. Tickets have already started to be sold and will go very quickly. Please text Bernadette on 07729322571 for tickets by the end of October.

PARISH NATIVITY PLAY

Calling all budding actresses and actors, narrators, costume designers and dreamers. Our nativity play is on the 24th December at 5.00pm and will precede the 6.00pm Family Mass. Practices will start mid October. If you would like to take part, please let the Children's Liturgy leaders know.

ALL NATIONS CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC GROUP UK FOODBANK

The next one will be held in St Andrew's Church hall on Saturday 12th October 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. *There is a box in our porch to collect any food donations. Please feel free to drop your food items in the box which will be emptied by the group regularly – thank you for your donations.*

THE ST ANDREW'S GOAN COMMUNITY

The St. Andrew's Goan Community in conjunction with The Goan Association (UK) invites you to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima at 11.30am on Sunday 13th October. This is the actual day of one of the Apparitions. Holy Mass will be celebrated by the Goan Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Renato Andrade, sfx. in the presence of the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima, that has been blessed by Pope Pius XI in 1917. Holy Mass will be followed by Adoration, Benediction and Rosary. You are warmly invited into the hall for a hot lunch. Should you wish to make any donations towards the hot lunch in cash or kind, these would be gratefully received. For further details, please see the poster in the porch or contact Domenica Pires on 07854 347414 or Juliette DeMenezes-D'Costa on 07958 537314

MASS FOR THE SICK

The next Mass for the Sick will be on Friday 25th October at 6.00pm. Please let all your family and friends know - come and receive God's healing and anointing.

DAY FOR PARISH READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We encourage as many of our parish readers and Eucharistic Ministers to attend the day for Parish Readers and Eucharistic Ministers on the New Translation of the Lectionary which is soon to be brought into use. On Saturday 19th October, 11am – 4pm at the Sacred Heart Parish, Wimbledon. Their parish Mass is at 10am for those who wish to attend. Please bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee provided. Register directly via wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk. Please see the poster for more details.

FR JAMES RAJ

Fr James who was an Assistant Priest with us in 2019 and 2020 for over a year has just become the Parochial Administrator of St Ann's Catholic Church, Kingston Hill, London KT2 7LX. Fr James would like to invite you to his Induction Mass on Friday, 18th October at 7:00 pm. If you are able to attend, Fr James would very much look forward to meeting you again.

MONTH OF OCTOBER – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Please take home with you a copy of the letter from Canon Victor Darlington in the porch.

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. It enhances the understanding that education within the Church is a life-long process which leads to greater intimacy with Jesus Christ. The CCRS is designed and intended to support the Archbishop's vision of missionary parishes and schools by cultivating an evangelistic spirit. Participants will be equipped to make an informed and practical contributions to their chosen field of ministry within the Church. Please visit aec.rcaos.org.uk/ccrs for further information. Closing date for applicants this year is 4th November.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS

If you would like to join the weekly SDC Bible group meetings, the meetings take place online on Zoom every Friday at 7.30 p.m. Once a month, on the second Friday, they also meet in person at the SDC House at 38 Ryefield Road, Upper Norwood SE19 3QU. Meetings include reflections, readings and prayer. To join online Zoom website at pwa.zoom.us/jc and enter the Zoom ID: 4454292726. More info email sdcreetings@gmail.com