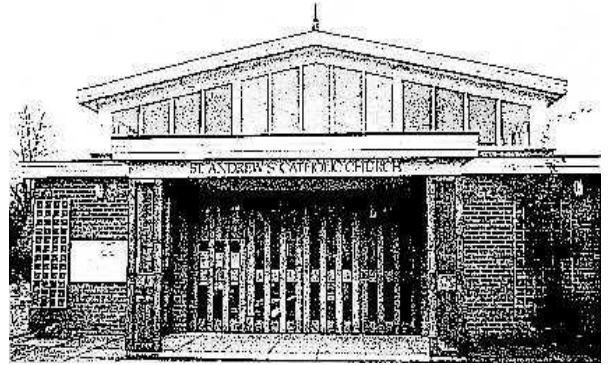

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

St. Andrew's Presbytery
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RC Archdiocese of Southwark - A Registered Charity No. 1173050

PASTORAL TEAM

Priests: Fr Len Tatt
Fr John Ehichioya
Fr Nishant Irudayadason
Deacons: Rev. Tony Flavin Rev. Errol Quagraine
Parish Sister: Sr. Jennie Eldridge DMJ
Croydon University Hospital Chaplaincy: Sr. Sheila DMJ



10th December 2017 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

Message from Deacon Errol

Nurturing each other's Greatness

Advent is the time when we are reminded of the coming of the redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ, and have to wait, keeping watch and being alert. We cannot see God; we can only wait patiently for God to let himself be known. And when we wait for God we admit our own incompleteness; we acknowledge that there is always more to God than what we know, and proclaim our hope in him. Our waiting for God must not be overshadowed by material gains that will not last; our waiting must be a prayer to testify to our own spiritual poverty and to God's omnipotence. Advent is meant to be joyful if our preparation is focused on Christ.

In Christ Jesus God lavishes us with a love that is boundless, a love that refuses to allow hate and indifference; a love that seeks to bring out the best in us. And we are called to walk in this love and to make others experience it through our action.

We are encouraged to foster a relationship with God to an extent that benefits others. In the Gospel of today *Mark 1:1-8*, John the Baptist and Jesus' relationship teaches us that generosity in recognising the goodness in others can help bring out the good that is in ourselves. John the Baptist spoke not of his own greatness, but Christ's.


So let us make the contribution we can for Christ to be born into not only our own hearts but the hearts of others too. To do this we must first look at ourselves and work quietly and humbly on the darkness that hides within us; to be selfless, to learn to forgive and to love. In that way we bring the light of the good news to so many people, working with each other as parts of one body, and NOT against each other.


This Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11	Prepare a way for the Lord
Psalms 84	Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help
2 Peter 3:8-14	We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth
Mark 1:1-8	Make his paths straight

Diary for the Week

Sunday 10th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent (B)	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass 7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group	“Leo” RIP George Barrett RIP (Anniv) Lucia Di Maio RIP Parishioners
Monday 11th December <i>St Damasus I</i> <i>Is 35:1-10</i> <i>Lk 5:17-26</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery 7.00 – 8.00pm Family Holy Hour	Maureen Fallon RIP Pobrina Fernandes RIP
Tuesday 12th December <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> <i>Is 40:1-11</i> <i>Mt 18:12-14</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.30pm R.C.I.C. 7.45pm R.C.I.A.	Gill Patient RIP Anne Hopkins RIP
Wednesday 13th December <i>St Lucy</i> <i>Is 40:25-31</i> <i>Mt 11:28-30</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	F.O.S.S. (Anniv) Tom McSorley RIP (Anniv)
Thursday 14th December <i>St John the Cross</i> <i>Is 41:13-20</i> <i>Mt 11:11-15</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Salus Fernandes RIP Pascal Houndegla RIP
Friday 15th December <i>Is 48:17-19</i> <i>Mt 11:16-19</i>	6.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	J. Okoroafor & Family D. D’Souza
Saturday 16th December <i>Eccl 48:1-4. 9-11</i> <i>Mt 17:10-13</i>	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls Martin Gonsalves RIP
Sunday 17th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent (B)	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass 5.00pm Rosary 5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction 6.00pm Mass	Maria Piedade Fernandes RIP (Anniv) Parishioners Michelle Osei-Appiah (Birthday)

Money Matters		
	Collection Last Sunday	£1,287.52
	Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 680.00</u>
	Total offertory	£1,967.52
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>		

Altar Servers This week Team 2 Next week Team 3		Church Cleaners This week Judie’s Crew Next week The Rockers
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St. Andrew's Parish Notices

TOY SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND

Once again this year we are giving to St Anne's Community Centre, Vauxhall. Brian Murphy from St Anne's Community Centre will be here at the 9.30am Mass to talk about the work they do. Thank you for your support.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

As part of the International Carol Service on Saturday evening in aid of the victims of the Grenfell tragedy, the second collection this weekend will also be for Grenfell.

GHANAIAN COMMUNITY MEETING

The group are meeting today Sunday 10th December after the 11.30am Mass in the hall.

FAMILY HOLY HOUR

During this advent season, please take time out and bring your families to pray in the presence of Our Lord for peace in our hearts, our homes, our families and the whole world. Join us on Monday, 11th December from 7 to 8 pm, even if only for 10 minutes. It will bring a blessing on you, your family and our parish. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS CARD/CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Please take our Christmas card home with all the details of the services and Mass times over the Christmas period and take one too for anyone who might want the information.

Also available are envelopes for the Christmas offering which is personal to the Priests of the parish.

ADVENT – JESSE TREE

As the season of Advent begins we have placed our Jesse Tree on the Sanctuary. The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse tree is also our Giving Tree and we ask all Parishioners to donate non-perishable food in the box provided through Advent. The SVP group will use our donations for the needy in the Parish. Thank you for your support.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

One thing many people do in preparation for Christmas is to go to Confession. Please see our Christmas card with details of extra Confession times and we will be holding our Advent Penitential Service on Monday 18th December at 8pm.

MASS WELCOME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We would like volunteers to come forward who can be 'Mass Welcomers'. We would ask you to meet parishioners who may not have been to Mass for a while and may need you to guide them to a seat and perhaps answer any questions they may have. Please speak to Fr Len if you think you can help.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday June 9th 2018. Anyone wishing to be confirmed must be in year 9 and above. Personal requests to be confirmed will be received by Sr. Jennie and the catechists after all Masses commencing Sunday 6th January 2018.

CALLING ALL CAROL SINGERS

As usual this year St Andrew's choir members will be carol singing around the wards at Croydon University hospital. You are all welcome to join us, the more the merrier! Please meet in the hospital Chapel (Woodcroft Road entrance) at 7pm sharp on Thursday December 21st. We return to the chapel after an hour for refreshments. Please let Mary Cameron know if you are coming 020 8689 8360/07928670639.

St. Andrew's choir and parishioners have also been invited to sing at the Thornton Heath Christmas festival and street market on Saturday December 16th, 1.30 - 2.30pm. We will be accompanied by members of Croydon Brass Band. Come and help make it a really festive occasion! Please contact Mary for more details.

FR LEN

On Tuesday 12th December Fr Len graduates from Heythrop University where he has just passed with merit a Masters degree in Theology. Fr Len is now putting together a Proposal for a doctorate which he hopes to do at St Mary's University in Twickenham.

CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00PM CHILDREN'S MASS

This year the first Mass for Christmas will be at 6.00pm and is a Mass for families with children. Some of the children will be acting out the Gospel reading. If you would like to take part in the play, please contact Bernadette on 07729 322571. All children are welcome to take part.

MASS ON SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER AND CHRISTMAS DAY

All Catholics have a solemn obligation to attend Mass on Sundays if possible and also on Holy Days of Obligation. Christmas Day is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Attending Mass on Sunday evening 24th December does not fulfil the Sunday obligation. Attending Mass on Sunday morning 24th December does not fulfil the obligation for Christmas Day.

Sunday Obligation 23rd/24th December: the following Masses fulfil the Sunday Obligation: Saturday 23rd 6.00pm and Sunday 24th 9.30am and 11.30am.

Christmas Day Obligation: the following Masses fulfil the Christmas Day Obligation: Sunday 24th 6.00pm. Midnight Mass. Monday 25th December 8.00am, 9.30am and 11.30am.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The group are having an end of year celebration on Sunday 17th December in the hall from 1.00 – 5.00pm. All are invited to come along to enjoy the festivities.



HYMN BOOKS

Due to our many missing hymn books, we will shortly be ordering another 100 new books. We are asking for the new books to be sponsored as before. If you would like to sponsor a book on behalf of a family or in memory of a loved one, we will place a paper plaque inside each book saying to whom it is dedicated. If you'd like to dedicate a book for someone at £7 each, please put the money in an envelope together with the name(s) for the dedication and pass to one of the pastoral team or put it through the letterbox at the Presbytery, 45 Brook Road, clearly marked.

Quote of the Week

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness”

Desmond Tutu

	Contact Numbers	
Chair of the PPC	Maureen Jones	020 8239 0615
Convent	Sr Jennie Eldridge	020 8689 0454
Gift Aid Organiser	Albert Tang	020 8688 8703
400 Club Organiser	Jonathan Prins (email: club_400@hotmail.com)	
Minibus Bookings	Frances Gilbert (Parish Groups only)	020 8689 7319
Parish Secretary	Danielle Lewin	020 8684 3013
Primary School	St. James the Great	020 8771 3424