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# ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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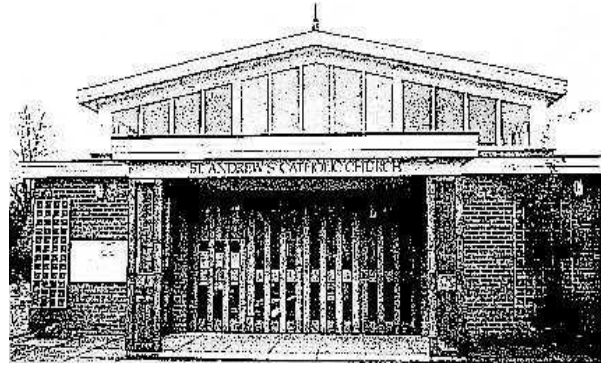
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RC Archdiocese of Southwark - A Registered Charity No. 1173050

## 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

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## 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (B)

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### Message from Fr Len

Christmastide is the time of year when we take stock of where we are in our lives, another year has passed and the New Year will give us many opportunities to begin again, to make a new start and put all that we don't want in our lives behind us. We are especially encouraged to live in the spirit of peace and good will to all. Christmas is a time for renewal of spirit and of asking God to be in our lives in a more meaningful way so that we can live our lives in the light of God's love for all of his creation. The glow from the crib which heralds the birth of the Christ-Child warms the hearts of young, and the not so young, when we allow it to do so.

In the Charles Dickens novel, A Christmas Carol, we read how even the miserable and hard-hearted Ebenezer Scrooge, was transformed into an entirely new person - a much more lovable person who is at last at peace with himself and the world around him. This is a vital part of the Christmas message for all of us, to allow our better selves to blossom and grow and to make the world around us a better place.

This Christmastime let us try to care for those around us who are in any need. It is an opportunity to spread warmth and happiness in a world that, for many, is challenging in these difficult and troubling times.

May we all hear in our hearts the song of the Angels at Bethlehem, on that first Christmas night, heralding peace and good-will, may we experience the coming to fruit of what is best in each one of us.

At this holy time, let us remember in our prayers all those who are going through a difficult time - especially those who are sick. We pray for our beloved Priest, Father John and wish him a speedy recovery.

For many, Christmas is the time for coming home to family and friends. It is important to be close to those who are dear to us. Let us also come home to the Holy Family as we gather at the Crib.

For Christians throughout the world, the Holy Night resonates with the wonder of what happened on that special night in Bethlehem so many years ago. It is a night of joyful thanksgiving.

This time can also be a moment of new discovery and decision, new opportunities, as we prepare for the New Year. The love of God, which entered our world in such a spectacular way at the Birth of the Christ-Child, takes on a new force. It can turn us away from the forces of darkness and negativity and open our minds and hearts with a new and realistic optimism.

The sense of eternity enters our world of here and now. Peace and good-will to all is the Christmas cry of the Christian at this holy time as we gather at the Crib.

*Come, let us worship!*

**This Sunday's Readings  
As Parish Mass Book**

## Diary for the Weeks

<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> (B)	6.00pm (Saturday) First Mass of Sunday  9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass <b>5.00pm Rosary</b> <b>5.15 – 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction</b> 6.00pm Mass <b>7.00 - 9.00pm Charismatic Prayer Group</b>	Martin Gonsalves RIP  Maria Piedade Fernandes RIP (Anniv) Parishioners  Michelle Osei-Appiah (Birthday)
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Num 24:2-7. 15-17</i> <i>Mt 21:23-27</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>8.00pm Reconciliation Service</b>	Ayleen & Tony Phokeerdoss Abiola Ajibade
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Zeph 3:1-2. 9-13</i> <i>Mt 21:28-32</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>8.00pm PPC Meeting</b>	Jessie Mary Nancy Ghansah & Joseph Ofori
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Is 45:6-8. 18. 21-26</i> <i>Lk 7:19-23</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass <b>7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)</b>	Catherine Barry RIP (Anniv) Botelho & Carrasco Families
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b> <i>St Peter Canisius</i> <i>Is 54:1-10, Lk 7:24-30</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Rose Headlam Tesfa Michael Kidane RIP (Anniv)
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> <i>Is 56:1-3. 6-8, Jn 5:33-36</i>	<b>6.30am</b> Mass 10.00am <b>Funeral Mass</b>	“Elizabeth” Jessica Mary Mansah Badu RIP
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> <i>St John of Kanty</i> <i>Gen 49:2. 8-10</i> <i>Mt 1:1-17</i>	9.30am Mass <b>10.00 – 11.00am Confessions</b> <b>5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions</b> 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls  Patrick & Margaret McGovern
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am Mass <b>10.30am Confessions</b> 11.30am Mass <b>6.00pm Vigil Mass</b> <b>11.15pm Carols for Midnight Mass</b>	Parishioners  William & Mary Brown RIP  Mary Gian Meiyi
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Nativity of Our Lord</i> <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	<b>Midnight</b> Mass 8.00am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass	Parishioners Special Int (Anniv of Death) Mary Jiang RIP Ana Maria D’Souza RIP
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St Stephen</i> <i>Ac 6:8-10; 7:54-59</i> <i>Mt 10:17-22</i>	10.00am Mass <b>2.30pm Syro Malabar Mass</b>	Veronica Braganza
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St John</i> <i>1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 20:2-8</i>	10.00am Mass	Darryl D’Cruz (Birthday)
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>The Holy Innocents</i> <i>1 Jn 1:5-2:2, Mt 2:13-18</i>	10.00am Mass	Sarah Notaro RIP (Anniv)
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St Thomas Becket</i> <i>1 Jn 2:3-11, Lk 2:22-35</i>	10.00am Mass	Blasio Braganza RIP

<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>1 Jn 2:12-17</i> <i>Lk 2:36-40</i>	9.30am <b>10.00 – 10.30am</b> <b>5.00 – 5.30pm</b> 6.00pm	Mass <b>Confessions</b> <b>Confessions</b> First Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls  Philip Phokeerdoss RIP
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> <i>Holy Family</i>	<b>9.30am</b> 11.30am <b>5.00pm</b> <b>5.15 – 5.45pm</b> 6.00pm <b>Midnight</b>	<b>'International' Family Mass</b> Mass <b>Rosary</b> <b>Exposition and Benediction</b> Mass <b>Welcome in New Year Mass</b>	John Lourenco Fernandes RIP Parishioners  Bernard Brown RIP Parishioners
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> <i>Mary, Mother of God</i> <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Num 6:22-27</i> <i>Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21</i>	Midday	Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b> <i>SS Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</i> <i>1 Jn 2:22-28, Jn 1:19-28</i>	7.30am 10.00am	Mass Mass	Filipina Fernandes RIP Salvina Bartholomeuse
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b> <i>Most Holy Name of Jesus</i> <i>1 Jn 2:29-3:6, Jn 1:29-34</i>	7.30am 10.00am <b>7.30pm</b>	Mass Mass <b>Legion of Mary (hall)</b>	Okoroafor Family Irene Michael RIP (Anniv)
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>1 Jn 3:7-10</i> <i>Jn 1:35-42</i>	7.30am 10.00am <b>8.00pm</b>	Mass Mass <b>Baptism (Convent)</b>	Adeniyi Family Benjamin Magny RIP
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>First Friday</i> <i>1 Jn 3:11-12</i> <i>J</i> <i>n 1:43-51</i>	7.30am 10.00am  <b>6.30pm</b>	Mass Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament / Benediction <b>First Friday Syro Malabar Mass</b>	Maries-Lourdes Soule RIP Clementina Fernandes RIP
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>1 Jn 5:14-21</i> <i>Jn 2:1-12</i>	9.30am <b>10.00 – 10.30am</b> <b>5.00 – 5.30pm</b> 6.00pm	Mass <b>Confessions</b> <b>Confessions</b> First Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls  John Carrapiette RIP (Anniv)
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9.30am 11.30am <b>5.00pm</b> <b>5.15 – 5.45pm</b> 6.00pm <b>7.00 - 9.00pm</b>	Mass Mass <b>Rosary</b> <b>Exposition and Benediction</b> Mass <b>Charismatic Prayer Group</b>	William Bernard Freeman RIP (Anniv) Errol Quagraine (Birthday)  Parishioners

### Money Matters



Collection Last Sunday	£1,162.44
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 975.00</u>
Total offertory	£2,137.44

*Thank you for your generosity*

### Altar Servers

This week	Team 3	(17.12.17)
Next week	Team 1	(24.12.17)
	Team 2	(31.12.17)



### Church Cleaners

This week	The Rockers	(20.12.17)
Next week	Sancho's Dusters	(27.12.17)
	St Jude's Group	(03.01.18)

## St. Andrew's Parish Notices

### TOY SUNDAY LAST WEEK

A big thank you to everyone who supported the toy weekend last week for the St Anne's Community Centre in Vauxhall. As always your response was fantastic and St Anne's send their many thanks.

### INTERNATIONAL CAROL SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who supported our International Carol service, it was wonderful to hear so many voices singing in many different languages. We raised £821 in aid of the victims of the Grenfell tragedy.

### INTERNATIONAL FAMILY MASS: SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 9.30AM

At this Mass we are inviting families to come along wearing their national costumes.

### ST ANDREW'S GROUPS/SURGERY

Parish Surgery will resume again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

The Active Retirement Group will resume again on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

The Lectio Divina Group resume again on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. New members are always welcome, please come along to join the group on Wednesdays 6.00pm in the hall or call Maria for more info 020 8660 6451.

### NEWSLETTER

This newsletter covers the Christmas and New Year period. The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please collect your rota for Christmas on the table by the Sacristy.

### CALLING ALL CAROL SINGERS

As usual this year St Andrew's choir members will be carol singing around the wards at Croydon University hospital. Please meet in the hospital Chapel (Woodcroft Road entrance) at 7pm sharp on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Please let Mary Cameron know if you are coming 020 8689 8360 / 07928670639.

### CRIB OFFERING 2017


This year, as last year, we will be offering our Crib donations to support the Catholic Children's Society's Crisis Fund which was launched in our Archdiocese in 2015. This fund provides one-off grants to support children and families who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every penny raised through your Crib offering will be given out through emergency grants to local children and families who are in dire need.

*Fathers Len, John and Nishant, Deacons Tony and Errol and the Sisters  
wish you all a Blessed Christmas and New Year*

#### Quote of the Week

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth

*John 1:14*

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