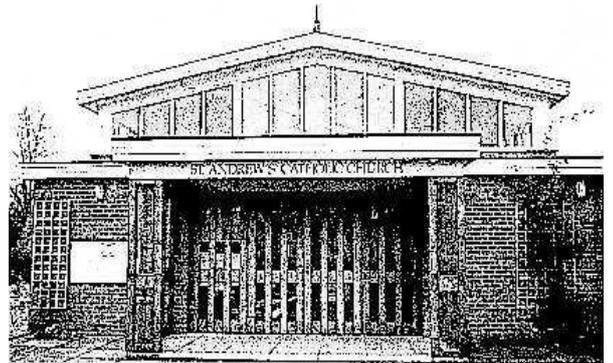

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – THORNTON HEATH

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

3rd December 2017
1st Sunday of Advent (B)

Message from Fr Nishant

LIVING ADVENT TODAY

The preparation of carols, Christmas trees and gifts is a great way to prepare family and friendly Christmas festivities. But to worry too much about it, we risk once again to miss the riches of the Advent season. That the Lord has come, lived among us and would come again, should mark our Christian life. How to have a meaningful celebration of the Advent season or, more broadly, how to make our whole existence an experience of Advent?

By re-reading their history, believers in the Bible have recognized the presence of a God who loves and who comes, who accompanies and frees his people. Jesus' friends recollected, after Easter, all that they had lived with Jesus. They understood that in him God responded to the expectation of his people by coming to visit them and save them; they testify to this in the New Testament.

To live the coming of the Lord today is to see how to participate in the work of divine liberation. Saint Paul speaks of living "according to justice." This expression does not exclude the meaning we give to this word. But it has a broader and deeper meaning. It means to fulfill in all things the will of the Lord. In particular, put into practice, with all our strength, the two commandments that are like the keystone of the whole Bible: to love God and our neighbour. And it is not only a personal affair. The practice of these two commandments also takes on a community and even an international dimension. A better distribution of the wealth of this world, understanding among peoples, respect for the environment, a better quality of life, can be as many ways of living the coming of the Lord.

The one we celebrate during Advent is the "just judge." When he comes at the end of time, he will give to those who have lived according to the law, "the crown of righteousness," as Saint Paul says. The criterion of this judgment will be the love we have had for our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest of them, wherever they are in the world. It is not to make us anxious that the liturgy of Advent keeps this perspective of judgment under our eyes, but to encourage us to love God, and our brothers and sisters eagerly. This is why the Church, during Advent, offers us, with greater insistence than usual, to "put on" Jesus Christ and to strive to have in us the feelings that were his. Without the strength that Christ gives us, it is impossible for us to live according to the heart of God.

This Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8
Psalm 79

1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and
we shall be saved

We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed
Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of
the house is coming

Diary for the Week

Sunday 3rd December <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> (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	Patrick Sheehan RIP (Anniv) Parishioners Gilda M. James RIP Clementina Fernandes RIP
Monday 4th December <i>St Damascene</i> <i>Is 2:1-5</i> <i>Mt 8:5-11</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.00 - 8.00pm Parish Surgery	John Fernandes RIP Philip Johnson RIP
Tuesday 5th December <i>Feria</i> <i>Is 11:1-10</i> <i>Lk 10:21:24</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 7.45pm R.C.I.A. (hall)	Vincent Thurajrajah RIP Vincenzo Lanzalaco RIP (Anniv)
Wednesday 6th December <i>St Nicholas</i> <i>Is 25:6-10</i> <i>Mt 15:29-37</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 2.00pm Active Retirement Group 6.00pm Lectio Divina Group (hall) 7.30pm Legion of Mary (hall)	Dorothy Borthwick RIP Franzy Miranda (Birthday)
Thursday 7th December <i>St Ambrose</i> <i>Is 26:1-6</i> <i>Mt 7:2, 24-27</i>	7.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Thanksgiving Carmelina Idinha Pinto RIP (Anniv)
Friday 8th December <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> <i>Gen 3:9-15, 20</i> <i>Lk 1:26-38</i>	6.30am Mass 10.00am Mass	Legion of Mary Jessie Mary
Saturday 9th December <i>Feria</i> <i>Is 30:19-21, 23-26</i> <i>Mt 9:35-10:1, 6-8</i>	9.30am Mass 10.00 – 10.30am Confessions 5.00 – 5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm First Mass of Sunday 7.15pm International Carol Service (followed by refreshments)	Margaret Rabbitt RIP ‘Leo’ RIP
Sunday 10th December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> (B)	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	George Barratt RIP (Anniv) Lucia Di Maio RIP Parishioners

Money Matters



Collection Last Sunday	£1,302.33
Payment by Standing Order	<u>£ 365.00</u>
Total offertory	£1,667.33
Collection for Catholic Youth Work	£ 534.81

Thank you for your generosity

Altar Servers

This week Team 1
 Next week Team 2



Church Cleaners

This week St Jude's Group
 Next week Judie's Crew

St. Andrew's Parish Notices

SVP COFFEE MORNING

Please do go along to support the SVP coffee morning today Sunday 3rd December in the hall. The group will also be selling tickets for their raffle. Fantastic prizes to be won including a hamper, a toiletries hamper, a bottle of rum, homemade Christmas cake and a game. All proceeds will be for those in need in the Parish and any support received is much appreciated.

REPOSITORY

Please visit our Repository to look at our Christmas stock and to make your purchases soon as many items are selling quickly!

TOY SUNDAY ON 10TH DECEMBER

Every year we collect toys to use as Christmas presents for disadvantaged children. Once again this year we are giving to St Anne's Community Centre, Vauxhall. Please bring any toys to Mass on the weekend of 9th/10th December. The ages for the children are from 3 to 11 years. They are also grateful for wrapping paper but please do not wrap the presents. Brian Murphy from St Anne's Community Centre will be here at the 9.30am Mass to talk about the work they do. We always have a great response and thank you in advance for your support.

FRIDAYS IN ADVENT

Please note that the early Mass on each of the Fridays in Advent is at **6.30am** and not at 7.30am. Tea/coffee and croissants provided after Mass in the hall.

INTERNATIONAL CAROL SERVICE

You are invited to join us for an International Carol Service on Saturday 9th December at 7.15pm followed by refreshments in the hall. The carol service is being held in aid of the victims of the Grenfell tragedy. We would like to ask all groups representing our diverse parish to come forward and sing a carol in their national language. Please contact Maureen Jones on 020 8239 0615.

PRAYER AFTER MASS

A lot of people have been commenting on how difficult it is to spend a few minutes in quiet prayer and thanksgiving after Mass on Sundays. While it is good to greet each other as members of a community it is also important to be aware of those who would like to spend some personal time with Our Lord. During Advent we are going to ask if people could be particularly aware of quiet in the Church after Mass, keeping our chatting to outside (or in the hall).

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.

ST ANDREW'S CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY – 10TH DECEMBER 3 – 5PM

St Andrew's Children's Committee will be having a Christmas Party for children aged 11 and under. Santa will be visiting and there will be party games and arts and crafts for the children. Tickets cost £2 per child and parents will be asked to provide a present and bring an item of party food. If you would like to come tickets from Bernadette 07729 322571. Tickets will also be available after 9.30am Mass in the hall from Edyta. Parents if you are able to help in any way, please let Bernadette know.

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 - 2.30 pm. 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.

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.

GHANAIAN COMMUNITY MEETING

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

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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for "Catholic Education" in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

ST JAMES THE GREAT CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The school is having their Christmas Fayre today Sunday 3rd December from 11am to 3pm. Please go along to enjoy their Christmas stalls, Santa, food and festive fun.

Also if you are going to the Fayre today, please visit the stall in aid of the CAFOD Lily May Alice Carlyle Fund. The Carlyle and Hayward families will be selling a variety of jams and preserves, cuddly toys and Christmas novelties, cards and artwork. Hope to see you all there.

URGENTLY REQUIRED: WHEELCHAIR

We have been asked if we could help The Salvation Army with their ministry with refugees and victims of human trafficking at the Brigstock Road Centre. They urgently need a wheelchair for a refugee who will need it in order to leave the hostel. If you think you can help, please contact [@barbaramcgeary@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaramcgeary@hotmail.com) or 07875 268798. Thank you.

Quote of the Week

At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern

Saint Mother Teresa, Love: A Fruit Always in Season

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