



Our Lady of the Annunciation



Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Jackson Sebastian
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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 3pm Wednesday: Closed

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
 Monday - Saturday: Before or After 10am Mass or By Appointment

4th July 2021 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time YEAR B

Today's readings introduce Jesus as a prophet and explain how prophets and other messengers from God inevitably suffer rejection. The readings challenge us to face rejection and hardship with prophetic courage. The first reading, taken from the book of the prophet Ezekiel, tells us about his call from God to be a prophet. Yahweh warns Ezekiel that he is being sent to obstinate and rebellious Israelites in exile in Babylon. Hence, as God's prophet, he will have to face rejection and persecution for giving God's message. In the second reading, St. Paul gives us the same warning from his own experience, that not only prophets, but apostles and missionaries will encounter hardships and rejection in their preaching mission. Today's Gospel passage, **Mark 6:1-6**, shows us that many people of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth did not accept him as a prophet because they "knew" Jesus and the family. They also "knew" that this "son of the carpenter" could not be the promised Messiah who would come from Bethlehem as a descendant of David's royal family. **Life message:** Today's Scriptures challenge us to face rejection with prophetic courage and optimism. Very often our friends, families, or childhood companions fail to listen to us and refuse to accept the words of grace, love, and encouragement that we offer to them because they are so familiar with us that they are unable to see us as God's appointed instruments, the agents of God's healing and saving grace.

As mentioned a few weeks back in the news letter, we propose to change the 12.00pm Sunday Mass back to 11.30am to regularise the time between Masses and allow for Baptism outside the Mass at 1.00pm every first Sunday. No one has indicated violent opposition to this but if you have an opinion please speak with Fr Jackson or Fr Keith or email the office by next weekend. This will come into effect this August when we propose Mass times return to 'normal.' Thank you.

Fr Keith.

**REMINDER - PARISH MEETING ON 21ST JULY
 8pm in the LARGE HALL**

To discuss the restoration of a Parish Pastoral Council

We would like to invite **ALL** the bodies associated with the parish to give a very brief verbal account (2 mins) of how they have fared through the pandemic, their plans for start-up as restrictions ease and their aspirations and concerns for the future. We will be contacting the leaders directly with an invitation to take part. We hope as many people as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to engage once again with the local church, and it's witness through the satellite activities of our parish, as well as being prepared to commit to new initiatives to insure we continue to function as a dynamic and vibrant community who know they are loved and guided by God.



*Our 10am Mass each Sunday is
 LIVE STREAMED
 through our Facebook page.*

**CHURCH CLEANING - 8th JULY
 TEAM C**

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 399.20
Loose cash	£ 367.00
S/Os (Approx)	£ 975.00
Total	£ 1741.20

Mass Intentions This Week

3 July: Saturday SAINT THOMAS

10:00 Anthony McCloskey RIP
 17:30 All Parishioners
 18:30 Mary Rayner RIP

4 July: FOURTEENTH SUNDAY

09:00 Thanksgiving for Lauren DaSilva
 10:00 UCM: All Children Making Their
 First Holy Communion
 11:00 Basilio Magno Pereira RIP
 12:00 Jackie Farrell RIP

5 July: Monday

10:00 Norma Bird RIP

6 July: Tuesday

10:00 Wellbeing of Hannah Beston

7 July: Wednesday

10:00 Sylvia Nazareth & Family RIP

8 July: Thursday

10:00 Harry Simons RIP
 19:30 Florence Boase's Intentions

9 July: Friday

10:00 Anna Joseph RIP

10 July: Saturday

10:00 Thanksgiving for the Connor Family
 12:00 *First Holy Communion Mass*
 17:30 Guido Pucciarello RIP
 18:30 Mary & Anthony McDowell RIP

11 July: FIFTEENTH SUNDAY

09:00 May Ward
 10:00 Mary Rayner RIP
 11:00 Peter Finnegan RIP

First Holy Communion Mass

12:00 All Parishioners

*We kindly request that parishioners **DO NOT ATTEND** a First Holy Communion Mass next weekend, unless they are part of the programme or are invited guests of a family that is, as we are still operating under limited capacity in the church due to the pandemic.*

Many thanks

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Elizabeth Damsel, Fr David Peck, Lauren Horwood, Sharon Gillett, Dominic Audibert-Moloney, Elizabeth Casey, Florence Okugbe, Ethan Patel, Eileen McMurray, Jonathan Leiper, Brian Kearney

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Margaret McGovern, Wilfred Lodge, Frank Cowley, Patrick Clancy, John Creamer, Thomas Alan Evans, Eileen Moran, Maurice Gomeze, Agnes Boyd, Margaret Lilley, Eugene Williams, Michael Ogonovsky, Heather Marion Watson, Nancy McKenna, Cecilia Tye, Delia Roberts, Sylvia Nazareth, Eddie Gallacher, Kathleen Clark, Joyce Edwards, Steve McGing, Mary Roberts, Reginald Stevens, Bill Jones, Kathleen Pinder, Michael Harry

*** POLITE REMINDER ***

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILST IN CHURCH. OUR SEATING IS CLEARLY MARKED TO INDICATE WHERE IT IS SAFE TO SIT. **DO NOT SIT WHERE THERE IS RED TAPE ON A PEW UNLESS YOU ARE IN YOUR FAMILY BUBBLE.** THANK YOU.

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club

The Golf Day at Farleigh raised in excess of **£20,000.00** for the *Brain Tumour Charity*. At the end of the event, Sheila & Garry Jordan thanked the three main sponsors for their support; they also acknowledged the magnificent support from Family, Friends & members of Our Lady's Community who had sponsored holes, donated items for the Silent Auction & Lucky Dip, made donations to the Charity and supported the preparation & facilitation of the event.

A number of presentations were made; *Paddy Nolan, a member of Parish Community*, was the individual winner of the Tournament.

John Flanagan, a long standing member of the Social Club, has died following a long illness - May His Gentle Soul Rest in Peace. Please remember John, his Family & Friends in your prayers at this sad time.

Reserve the date: The *Annual ACROSS Charity Golf Day* will take place on *Friday, 10th September* at the *De Vere Selsdon Estate Golf Course*. More information will be available in mid-July.

MASS TIMES FROM AUGUST 2021

As mentioned previously, the number of Masses offered will return to normal for the beginning of the holiday season in August, though with one slight alteration. From...

Saturday 31st July: Mass 6pm

Sunday 1st August: Mass 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am

In moving the last Mass of the day forward the gap between Masses is unified and it allows us to continue to offer Baptism outside the Mass at 4pm on Saturday and 1pm on Sunday, though from August we expect Baptism to be celebrated within the Mass once again.

Many thanks, Fr Keith

GIFT AID NEW YEAR!

THE NEW SETS OF ENVELOPES ARE NOW IN USE!

If you have not yet collected your new box, (or small set for the Standing Order donors) they are available from the table in the porch.

Please recycle the old yellow envelopes now. Many scheme numbers have changed including all between 220 and 260. Many thanks.

**NEEDED ESSENTIALLY:
SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PARISH**

This post (vacant for a year) is key to the good standing of the parish and the protection of all its members. The safeguarding of all children and young people as well as vulnerable elderly people, is required both by the Church and Government.

The post holder will be responsible to Fr. Keith for all aspects of Safeguarding, especially ensuring that Disclosure & Barring (DBS) checks for involved parishioners are completed; that essential personal records are kept; and that suitable training is organised.

A commitment of time and energy, balanced by satisfaction, will be required of the post holder.

No specific qualifications are required but relevant experience is desirable.

PLEASE NOTE: We now have a QR CODE for the church, which is displayed at all entrances and exits, for use by those who have the NHS COVID19 App. The church mobile number (07548 868418) for Track and Trace is still in use if you do not have the App.

**ST THOMAS BECKET CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Open Morning Visits for Admission to Reception in 2022**

We will be holding three open mornings for you to visit and have a tour of the school on **Thursday 30th September, Wednesday 13th October and Thursday 21st October** starting at **9.30am**.

If you would like to book onto one of these tours please email: admin@thomasbecket.croydon.sch.uk

Alternatively, you can ring the office on **020 8654 3006**

We will be holding a prospective Reception parents information open evening, at the school, on **Thursday 4 November 2021**

We have reduced the distance between some of the seating in church to accommodate greater numbers at one or two of our Masses.

We are still maintaining over a meter's distance, (and in some areas two) and we are still asked to wear masks and to maintain social distancing when moving around the building and the grounds.

THANK YOU.

1st HOLY COMMUNION GIFTS & CARDS

We have a wonderful selection in our Repository shop at great prices, so please pay us visit **BEFORE OR AFTER** Mass at the weekend!

CONFIRMATION 2021

If you are currently in Year 8 (moving into Year 9 in September) or above, you are eligible to join this year's cohort for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The documents you need are posted on the web site, and you have about a month to fill them in and deliver them to Fr. Keith or Fr. Jackson **by hand** as stated in the handbook. We look forward to meeting you all.

SEA SUNDAY - 11th July 2021

Next week is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. For an appeal talk from Bishop Paul Mason, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday. To donate and for more information please visit: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations so please give generously. Thank you.

**ST THOMAS BECKET SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
SUMMER RAINBOW RAFFLE**

The St Thomas Becket School Association are hosting a Summer Rainbow Raffle. 10% of proceeds will be donated to the NHS. Star prizes include rainbow hampers. **Draw date 17th July.**

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://raffall.com/242260/enter-raffle-to-win-the-stbsa-rainbow-raffle-2021-hosted-by-stbsa>

Everyone is welcome to enter. Thank you for your support!



THE NEW NORMAL - WHAT DO WE WANT AS A PARISH?

Much has been said about "the new normal" when the pandemic allows things to settle down. The sort of comments heard have been:

- what did we *used* to do, that (for a year) we haven't and that we miss? How soon can we re-start?
- what did we *used* to do, that (for a year) we haven't and we *don't* miss? Do we *have* to pick them up again?
- what have we done in lockdown that we didn't do before but we want to keep doing?
- what have we done in lockdown that we didn't do before and will happily drop again?

An example of these might be "doing jigsaws was lovely, but after a year it's time to stop", or "having my shopping delivered was lovely but I do miss visiting the high street", or "I really missed hugging the family".

Those are all at a personal level - but what about at a parish level? We haven't had the Mass attendances of yesteryear - do those who've stayed away want to come back? I know that I do ... and the Obligation will be reintroduced at some point. Do we want to have social events again (probably "yes")? What have we missed that we can still do without? What have we done differently that we'd rather do the "old" way (like attending Mass without a mask, or receiving Holy Communion at the "usual" point of the service)?

The time has come, or is soon to arrive, when we will need to address these thoughts both as individuals and as a parish - as Fr Keith has said, it is our parish and we have a responsibility to run things while the Priests undertake their sacramental and pastoral roles. How can we do that? Do we need committees or working groups to coordinate (for example) the summer fair, the worship, the buildings and grounds, outreach and mission, so forth?

If so, who would serve on those groups? A comment has been made that some such groups are seen as parallel to the wider community's view of the Church of England - most of them don't go or get involved *but they feel comfortable knowing that it's there*. If someone in the parish feels that there should be (for example) a worship committee to assist the Priests with preparations for Easter or Christmas, what would they say if no-one stepped forward to serve on that committee?

Putting it bluntly, what only happens now because one or other of the Priests does it? And how would you feel if they stopped doing it (as being outside their sacramental and pastoral role) and it didn't happen? Would you be ready to step forward and say "I valued that; I want to ensure it continues; how can I help?" ... or would you let it die?

It's time to think ...

Andy Bebington

OFFERING A MASS INTENTION

If you wish to offer a Mass intention at this time, please either visit the parish office, use an 'Intentions' form & envelope located in a tray by the church exit, or download it from our website under the **COVID 19** tab. Please complete the form and return it via the parish office letterbox with stipend enclosed. Many thanks.

Our Repository shop has an excellent selection of Mass cards.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

In case anybody is interested, **Saint Mary Magdalene Church in Canning Road** is now open for food bank donations. Food is collected by the Salvation Army and Croydon Voluntary Association weekly to go into food parcels for the community.

The church is open from **10am to 2pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays**. All dried and tinned food is welcomed.

CAFOD: THANK YOU! Thanks to your support, CAFOD has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic. Just in Zambia, in the past year, our reports show we've been able to reach 1,234,200 people with messages on COVID-19, provide 13,312 people with access to safe water, train 392 frontline health workers from Zambia's 11 dioceses on how to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in their local communities and donate over 1000 handwashing hygiene stations in communities to support handwashing measures. Thank you for standing alongside people in Zambia and for supporting people in more than 30 other countries worldwide.

SUMMERTIME 2021

Tuesday 3rd – Friday 6th August

Following last year's cancellation, we are pleased to announce that this annual activity is back, and commend it to boy and girl altar servers aged 10 - 15 years within Southwark Diocese.

Summertime 2021 will take place at the Oratory School in Reading and will open with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson.

Activities will include talks, discussions, prayer, daily Mass, as well as sport, a trip to Thorpe Park and swimming.

A coach is being provided from St. Anselm's, Dartford, and the cost of £165 covers all board and lodging, Thorpe Park and swimming.

For more details please contact Fr Stephen Boyle, Chaplain to the Guild of St. Stephen.

Tel: **01322 220075** Email: dartford@rcaos.org.uk

CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES 2020

Confirmation certificates for 2020 can now be collected from the Parish Office. Please ring before collecting. *Many thanks.*

Lord Jesus,

*When you walked with us on earth
you spread your healing power.*

*We place in your loving care all
who are affected by Coronavirus.*

Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.

*Bring relief to our sick, console our bereaved,
protect those who care for us.*

*We lift our prayer to you Lord,
and trust in your infinite mercy,
as we wait for the daybreak.*

Amen.