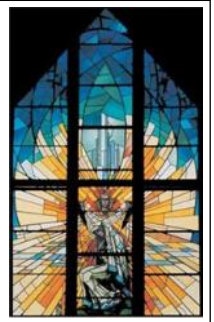




# Our Lady of the Annunciation



**Parish Priest:** Fr. Keith Sylvia      **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Tomasz Margol  
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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

## 7th April Second Sunday of Easter (page 255 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR B

### Establishing Divine Mercy Sunday for the Entire Church

When St. Pope John Paul canonized Sr. Faustina (making her St. Faustina), he also, on the same day, surprised the entire world by establishing Divine Mercy Sunday (the feast day associated with the message) as a feast day for the entire Church. The feast day falls on the Second Sunday of the Easter season. On that day, John Paul II declared, "This is the happiest day of my life."

### Entrusting the World to Divine Mercy

In 2002, the Pope entrusted the whole world to Divine Mercy when he consecrated the International Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Lagiewniki, a suburb of Krakow in Poland. This is where St. Faustina's mortal remains are entombed. The saint lived in a convent nearby.

### John Paul II – the Divine Mercy

"The peace brought by the Risen One is consequently the *triumph of Divine Mercy*. What is mercy if not the boundless love of God, who, confronted with human sin, restrains the sentiment of severe justice and, allowing himself to be moved by the wretchedness of his creatures, spurs himself to the total gift of self, in the Son's cross? "O happy fault ... which gained for us so great a Redeemer!" (Easter Proclamation)

To understand the depth of this mystery, we should take Jesus' disconcerting revelation seriously: "... there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance" (Lk 15:7). God is truly the Shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to go in search of the one that has strayed (Lk 15:4-6); he is the Father who is always ready to welcome a lost son (Lk 15:11-31). Who can say he is free from sin and does not need God's mercy?

As people of this restless time of ours, wavering between the emptiness of self-exaltation and the humiliation of despair, we have a greater need than ever for a regenerating experience of mercy. We should learn to say repeatedly to God with the faith and simplicity of children: "Great is our sin, but even greater is your love!" (Vespers hymn during the season of Lent)

Opening ourselves to mercy, we must not be content with mediocrity and sin, but on the contrary, we must be revived by resolutions to lead a new life.

### Mass Intentions This Week

#### 6 April: Easter Saturday

10:00 Anthony Simons RIP

18:00 Joan McHugh RIP

#### 7 April: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

08:30 All Parishioners

10:00 UCM: José Fernandez, Thomas Corduff & All Members' Lost Loved Ones RIP

11:30 Jim Clancy RIP

15:00 *Divine Mercy Sunday Exposition & Prayers*

#### 8 April: Monday

##### THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

10:00 Christalina D'Costa

& Deceased Family Members RIP

#### 9 April: Tuesday FUNERAL MASSES

10:00 Merle Rosemeyer RIP

12:30 Kevin McKenna RIP

#### 10 April: Wednesday FUNERAL MASS

10:00 Michael Turjansky RIP

#### 11 April: Thursday SAINT STANISLAUS

10:00 Nora Maher RIP

19:30 Philip Jones (of Wrexham) RIP

#### 12 April: Friday FUNERAL MASS

10:00 José Fernandez RIP

#### 13 April: Saturday

10:00 Mervyn Lissenburg

& His Brother, James RIP

18:00 Mr & Mrs Joseph Rasanayagam RIP

#### 14 April: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

08:30 Della Barcellos RIP

10:00 All Parishioners

11:30 Packie Duignan RIP

### MEETINGS

**SVP:** Tuesday 9th at 8pm (PRC)

**Adult Catechesis:** Wed 10th at 11.15am (Large Hall) & 7.45pm (Small Hall)

**RCIA:** Wed 10th at 8pm (Church) **Group Mass & Reflection**

**Men of St Joseph:** Thursday 11th at 8.15pm (PRC)

**Young Adults' Fellowship:** Friday 12th at 7pm (PRC)



### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm**

In The Sacred Heart Chapel

### OFFERTORY

Palm Sunday      £2793.00

Easter Sunday      £7620.31

*Many thanks  
for your generosity!*

### \*\*\* DEFIBRILLATOR \*\*\*

A defibrillator is located on the right hand side of the porch as you enter the church.

### COLLECTIONS

The Good Friday collection for **Holy Places** amounted to £1123. Many thanks

This week there will be an ACC collection for **Little Sisters of the Poor**.

**We pray for the sick in our Parish:** Elizabeth Damsel, Lauren Horwood, Elizabeth Casey, Brian Kearney, Mary Ariaratnam, Christina Cahill, Marie Griffin, Ernie & Mary, Anna Maria Caruana, Arthur Hughes & all others

**We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week:** Mark Carter, Sarah Scanlan, Violet Fahey, Dorothy Morrison, Jerome Simons, Peter White, Dorothy Martynski, Grace McSweeney, Joan Duffin, Blanche Paul, Daniel T. White, Jack Stoyel, Mary Bernadette Nolan, Iso Halata, Glyn Jones-Davis, Nora Maher, Archie White, Tony Sollé, Paul Boateng, John McCaughey, Catherine A. Charles, Sister Bernadette, Milton Chatelier

### SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

*A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club*

**Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm**

7th April: Theresa Rodgers

14th April: Ally Harron & Marian Curry

21st April: TR Dallas

28th April: Cross Keys

5th May: **Bank Holiday Special** - Kenny Paul

12th May: The Duets

26th May: Frank Nelson

- The winners of the 200 Club Across Draw for March 2024 are:

£100: Celine Roberts

£50: Mary Daly (Snr)      £50: Ciaran Kenison

Cheques have now been sent to all of the winners. If you would like to join **the 200 Club**, please go to the website ([www.anerleyacross.org.uk](http://www.anerleyacross.org.uk)) and download an application form.

- The **Bacon & Cabbage Dinner and Dance** on Friday, 26th April is a **complete Sell Out**. No tickets will be available on the door.

- The **Strictly Come Dancing Evening** takes place on Friday, 17th May. Entertainment will be Kieran White. This will be a **Fun Evening & entries will be taken on the Night**. To reserve tickets - Members: £5.00 & Guests: £6.00, please call Pat Winston on 07734 250375

**OUR PARISH ASCENT GROUP: Is part of Life Ascending International** in England, which is designed to meet the needs of Catholics, especially older members of the Church.

We have been meeting in our Parish, every second Tuesday, after morning Mass, for 21 years. After tea/coffee, between 10 and 20 of our members attend.

We produce a programme for each meeting and pray to our Heavenly Father for an increase in Faith Hope and Charity. Our programme usually includes prayer to the Holy Spirit, prayers of intercession and ends with a hymn appropriate to the focus of our meeting.

We invite a variety of speakers each year, including the Sisters of Mary and Joseph, who all teach and encourage us in an adult understanding of our faith, and in our personal prayer life.

**All are welcome 10.45am in the Small Hall.**

9th April: *Meeting cancelled due to Merle Rosemeyer's funeral.*

23rd April: Sr. Annette Lawrence, DMJ - "Earthen Vessels"

7th May: Sr. Sheila Barrett, DMJ

21st May: Sr. Sheila Moloney - "An Hour With Our Blessed Lady"

### B SYLVIA FITNESS

Big news alert! B Sylvia Fitness is officially on social media!

Dive into the action on Facebook: B Sylvia Fitness

Get ready to double-tap on Instagram: [@bsylviafitness](https://www.instagram.com/bsylviafitness)

Unlock your warrior potential - Book CombatX classes now at [www.bsylviafitness.com](http://www.bsylviafitness.com)

Stay tuned for class updates, exclusive content and all the motivation you need to crush your goals!

**Don't miss out - Join the #bsylviafitness community today!**

### JOB VACANCY

Administration role in construction company based in Shirley. Must have experience, good admin skills, be able to multi task, work with a team, have a knowledge of Excel and a good telephone manner.

Salary 28-30k (depending on experience)

Hours 8:30-5:30pm Monday - Friday

Please email your CV to [lee@lmbgrouppltd.co.uk](mailto:lee@lmbgrouppltd.co.uk) or call **07904 484963**

### CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS

Fr Tomasz delivers catechesis for adults **every Wednesday from 11.15am (during coffee morning) in the large hall, and at 7.45pm in the small hall.**

**Topic for this week:** Church's Teaching on IVF

### RECENT DEATHS & FUNERAL ARRANGMENTS

We are sad to announce the recent deaths of **Kevin McKenna**, whose funeral will be at Our Lady's on **Tuesday 9th April, Sybil Whitworth** and **Fr Barry Hughes**, whose funeral details will follow in due course. May they all Rest In Peace.

The funeral of **José Fernandez** takes place here at Our Lady's on **Friday 12th April at 10am.**

The funeral of **Helené Bambi** will also be held here at Our Lady's on **Wednesday 17th April at 10am.**

The funeral of **Thomas (Tom) Corduff** will be here on **Thursday 25th April at 10am.**

### DIVERSITY SUPPORT GROUP

Dear Parishioners, you are invited to our next meeting on **Sunday 14th April at 12.30pm**, (straight after the 11.30am Mass) in the **large hall**. We will review actions from our last meeting, finalise our guiding document, discuss our Big Lunch on 2nd June plus other plans for the year. Thanks, peace and friendship, *Sylvia*.

### SAFEGUARDING MEETING

**Saturday 13th April Small Hall 09.30 - 11am**

CSAS, and the Diocese have instructed us to implement new safeguarding training for all volunteers. This session will include a training video, a chance for ID verification and a member of the safeguarding team will be in attendance to answer any questions. **This MUST be attended by all volunteers in the parish:** EMs, readers, all catechists, children's liturgy, SVP, toddler group leaders, florists, cleaners, choir/music groups, those who bring vulnerable parishioners to Mass regularly etc. There is an option to complete online if you are unable to make the session. Please email [addiscombedbs@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:addiscombedbs@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

**UCM COFFEE MORNING TODAY:** Come and join us in the large hall after the 10am Mass today, for tea, coffee and cake!

### PARISH FILM SHOW

This year's show will take place at **7.30pm on Saturday 20th April** in the **Small Hall**. A variety of short films will be shown using film projectors (not digital). Proceeds will support The Brain Tumour Charity.

Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend, or you can book by emailing [adrianw\\_8-16@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:adrianw_8-16@tiscali.co.uk) or calling **020 8656 0168**.

### COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIR 2025 CALENDAR YOUR PHOTOS & YOUR MEMORIES

We are now asking for any photographs you have that represents the variety and history of our church, sacramental life & parish life including the many groups that have existed and exist from the past 100 years to the present. This could be the buildings, the people and events etc. We know some of our parishioners have photographs of the previous Parish Priests. We would love to see what you have and aim to include a range and variety of them in the calendar. We are hoping to arrange a display of all the photographs submitted for all to see.

We would prefer digital photos which can be emailed to the parish office describing and dating the image. If you have printed copies, please put them in an envelope with your contact details, whether you want them returned and notes describing and dating the image. We are sure we will enjoy looking at the photographs you hand in. If you have particular memories but do not have any photographs, please write them down, again giving your name and as many details as you can remember.

*Thank you! The Calendar Girls*

### WEEKLY MASS - CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

There will be a Mass every **WEDNESDAY at 12 noon** in the Chapel at Croydon University Hospital, starting on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April**. All are most welcome.

**For Collection:** *K Duignan*

**Baptism certificates:** COLLECT FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

**Rotas:** *Eucharistic Ministers (April)*

*Readers (Mar/April)*

## A Sample from the Magisterium of the Catholic Church on Contraception

### Pastoral letter of Bp Glennon Flavin, diocese of Lincoln USA 1991

Today we live in what could be accurately called "a contraceptive culture." The use of contraception is widely practiced. Even some Catholic couples use this method to prevent conception and some Catholic physicians do not hesitate to recommend the use of this means of birth control and even to prescribe contraceptives. To have certitude of faith in regard to use of marriage, and indeed in regard to all teachings of the Catholic Church, we must understand the nature of the Church. Christ, Who cannot be deceived and cannot deceive us because He is God, is still in the world today as He promised, teaching us through His Church what we must believe and how we must live; and the voice of His Church is the successor of Peter, now Pope John Paul II. This is our Catholic faith: We believe that when Pope John Paul II teaches in matters of faith and morals, the Church teaches; and when the Church teaches, Christ the God-man teaches. Therefore, we who have been blessed by God with the gift of the Catholic faith can have no doubt about the immorality of contraception. The Catholic Church clearly teaches that the use of contraception in all its forms, including direct sterilisation, is gravely immoral, is intrinsically evil, is contrary to the law of nature and nature's God. This is and always has been the uninterrupted teaching of the Catholic Church from the beginning.

The ban on contraception is not a disciplinary law of the Church, like abstinence of Friday, which the Church can enact and which the Church can dispense for good reasons. Rather, it is a divine law which the Church cannot change any more than it can change the law of God forbidding murder. Contraception is wrong, not because the Church says it is wrong (it was wrong before Christ established the Church); it is wrong because God Himself, through the revelation of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, has declared it to be wrong. Because contraception is intrinsically evil, it may never be practiced for any reason, no matter how good and urgent. A good end never justifies the use of an evil means.

Catholic physicians and others who prescribe contraceptives or recommend their use are cooperators with those who use them. Such cooperation is gravely sinful. The same is true for physicians who advise contraceptive sterilisation, or perform this procedure or refer a person to another physician for this purpose. In doing so they, too, commit grave sin.

It should be obvious that Catholics who practice birth control and those who cooperate with them in their immoral actions may not receive Holy Communion without committing sacrilege. Only the worthy reception of the Sacrament of Penance, which requires genuine sorrow for sin and the sincere intention to discontinue the sinful practice, will bring God's forgiveness, restore grace to the soul and make one worthy to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. While contraception is always immoral, there is a morally acceptable way by which married couples may space the births of their children. For good and sufficient reasons, spouses may regulate births by abstaining from the marital act during the wife's easily identified fertile periods. This practice is known as Natural Family Planning. Recent scientific research has so refined the methods of Natural Family Planning that today, couples may space their children in ways that are altogether reliable, medically safe, and morally acceptable. Dear Catholic spouses, there can be no true happiness in your lives unless God is very much a part of your marriage covenant. To expect to find happiness in sin is to look for good in evil. Sin is a bane to married life, as it is to all life. Like a cancer, it destroys everything that is good and joyful in your marriage relationship. On the other hand, to keep God in Your married life, to trust in His and love and to obey His laws in the use of the marriage privilege will merit His special graces for you during the difficult times in married life, will deepen your love for each other and will bring to you that inner peace of mind and heart which is the reward of a good conscience. You will find the desire and the strength to follow God's law through the frequent and worthy reception of Holy Communion, the regular reception of the Sacrament of Penance and daily prayer.

### Plus XI *Casti Connubii* (1930) 54,56

No reason, however grave, can make what is intrinsically contrary to nature to be in conformity with nature and morally right. And since the conjugal act by its very nature is destined for the begetting of children, those who in exercising it deliberately frustrate its natural power and purpose are acting against nature, and are doing something that is base and intrinsically vicious... Our mouth proclaims anew, any use of marriage exercised in such a way that through human effort the act is deprived of its natural power to procreate human life violates the law of God and of nature, and those who commit such an action are stained with the guilt of grave sin.

**Vatican II *Gaudium et Spes* (1965) 51**

Sons of the Church may not undertake methods of birth control which are found blameworthy by the teaching authority of the Church in its unfolding of the divine law.

**Paul VI *Humane vitae* (1968) 14**

Therefore We base Our words on the first principles of a human and Christian doctrine of marriage when We are obliged once more to declare that the direct interruption of the generative process already begun and, above all, all direct abortion, even for therapeutic reasons, are to be absolutely excluded as lawful means of regulating the number of children. Equally to be condemned, as the magisterium of the Church has affirmed on many occasions, is direct sterilisation, whether of the man or of the woman, whether permanent or temporary. Similarly excluded is any action which either before, at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is specifically intended to prevent procreation—whether as an end or as a means.

**John Paul II *Familiaris Consortio* (1981) 32**

When couples, by means of recourse to contraception, separate these two meanings that God the Creator has inscribed in the being of man and woman and in the dynamism of their sexual communion, they act as "arbiters" of the divine plan and they "manipulate" and degrade human sexuality—and with it themselves and their married partner—by altering its value of "total" self-giving. Thus the innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife is overlaid, through contraception, by an objectively contradictory language, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other. This leads not only to a positive refusal to be open to life but also to a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love, which is called upon to give itself in personal totality.

**Pope Francis *Message to Participants in the Womb International Congress* (2023)**

There is a need always to keep in mind the inseparable connection between the unitive and procreative meanings of the conjugal act. The former expresses the desire of the spouses to be one, a single life; the latter expresses the shared desire to generate life, which endures even at times of infertility and in old age. When these two meanings are consciously affirmed, the generosity of love is born and strengthened in the hearts of the spouses, disposing them to welcome new life. Lacking this, the experience of sexuality is impoverished, reduced to sensations that soon become self-referential, and its dimensions of humanity and responsibility are lost.

**Catechism of the Catholic Church 2399**

The regulation of births represents one of the aspects of responsible fatherhood and motherhood. Legitimate intentions on the part of the spouses do not justify recourse to morally unacceptable means (for example, direct sterilisation or contraception).

**John Paul II *Address to the Bishops of USA* (1987)**

It is sometimes reported that a large number of Catholics today do not adhere to the teaching of the Church on a number of questions, notably sexual and conjugal morality, divorce and remarriage. Some are reported as not accepting the Church's clear position on abortion. It has also been noted that there is a tendency on the part of some Catholics to be selective in their adherence to the Church's moral teachings. It is sometimes claimed that dissent from the Magisterium is totally compatible with being a "good Catholic" and poses no obstacle to the reception of the sacraments. This is a grave error that challenges the teaching office of the bishops of the United States and elsewhere. I wish to encourage you in the love of Christ to address this situation courageously in your pastoral ministry, *relying on the power of God's truth* to attract assent *and on the grace of the Holy Spirit* which is given both to those who proclaim the message and to those to whom it is addressed.