



Our Lady of the Annunciation



Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Cajetan Dara
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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 December Second Sunday Of Advent (page 85 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR A

SUNDAY REFLECTION

The second Sunday of Advent calls us to prepare our hearts with hope, just as John the Baptist prepared a way for the Lord in the wilderness. Isaiah tells us that a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse, reminding us that God brings life even from what seems dead. Many of us carry 'stumps' in our lives - areas of failure, loss or exhaustion - yet Advent invites us to believe that new beginnings are still possible.

I remember an old man in a small village who refused to cut down a storm-damaged tree that had been reduced to a stump. For months he watered it, cleared the weeds around it and cared for it while everyone else insisted it was useless. One Spring morning, a small green shoot appeared, fragile but full of promise, and the old man wept with joy.

That tree eventually grew back and bore sweeter fruit than before, becoming a sign of hope for the whole village.

Like that patient gardener, God never gives up on us, even when others, or ourselves, believe nothing good can grow anymore.

John the Baptist tells us to repent, not to condemn us, but to clear away what blocks the new life God wants to bring.

As we continue this Advent journey, may we trust that God can make hope blossom again in every barren place of our hearts.

+ KNOW THAT GOD LOVES YOU +

Fr Cajetan

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Should anyone want to help lead the congregational singing at the Mid-night Mass this year, do email the parish office.

Alternatively make yourself known to Jacqueline or Fr Keith.

MEETINGS

Ascent Group: Tuesday 9th at 10.45am (Small Hall)

SVP: Tuesday 9th at 8pm (PRC)

RCIA: Wednesday 10th at 8pm (PRC) *Mary - The Mother of God*



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm

In The Sacred Heart Chapel

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 543.90
Loose cash	£ 602.11
S/Os (Approx)	£ 1340.00
Total	£ 2486.01

Mass Intentions This Week

6 December: Saturday

10:00 Angelo Perera RIP

Followed by Reflection with Canon Gerard

18:00 Dec. Mems. of the Heskin & Sweeney Families RIP

7 December: 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08:30 All Parishioners

10:00 UCM: All Expectant Mothers

11:30 Michael Cafferkey RIP

8 December: Monday

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10:00 K Adaikalam RIP

9 December: Tuesday

10:00 Celine Santamaria RIP

10 December: Wednesday

10:00 Myra Hannon RIP

11 December: Thursday

10:00 Birthday Wishes for Osi Anthony Okeke

19:30 Geraldine (Gerry) Grehan RIP

12 December: Friday

10:00 Tom Browne RIP

13 December: Saturday SAINT LUCY

10:00 Wellbeing of Michael John Small

18:00 Arthur Fairservice RIP *

14 December: 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08:30 All Parishioners *

10:00 Mr & Mrs Abiodun RIP *

11:30 Thanksgiving for the Mirindi Children & Speciose Kalimira *

14:00 Everyone's Nativity

* With Foodbank Sunday

*** DEFIBRILLATORS ***

There is a defibrillator located on the right hand side of the porch as you enter the church, and another on the wall outside the large hall entrance.

COLLECTIONS

This weekend, is our annual **Toy Collection**. Next weekend there will be an ACC collection for **Mary's Meals**.

**** Don't forget - Next weekend is Foodbank Sunday! See note overleaf & please leave donations in the porch. Thank you. ****

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Jonathan Leiper, Marie Griffin, Christina Cahill, Ursula & Anthony Kennedy, Peggy Wall, Joseph Anand, Pat Joyce, Darren Ngasseu, Paddy Ryan, Dave Freegard, Lorraine Quinlivan, Westley Adaken & all others

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Molly Wynne, Darrell Williamson, Maria Hernandez, Ernest La Rue, George Horsley, Maria Tagliarini, David Mahoney, Candida "Peggy" Corner, Baby Martin Moss, Salvatore Parise, Bridget Coughlan, Rodney Burleigh, Michael McGowan, Ralph Rayner, Mary Sims, Elena Braiotta, Iris D'Rose, Monica O'Donnell, Christine Brooks, Kazimierz (Charlie) Martynski, Adam Coleman, Baby Lilly Beaven, Irene D'Rosario, Kathleen Evans, Maureen Hayes, Freda Santry, Eugene Baptiste, Martin McCorry, Anthony McGuane

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm

7th December: Shane & Mervyn Owens

14th December: Glen Flynn

21st December: **Christmas Celebration** - Kieran White

28th December: Pat Jordan

4th January: Kieran White

11th January: Sane & Mervyn Owens

18th January: Finbar & Paul

25th January: Cross Keys

- The winners of the **200 Club Across Draw** for November 2025 are:

£100: Eileen Purcell

£50: Gerry Sweeney

£50: Michael McHugh

Cheques have now been sent to all of the winners.

- The Social Club's **Christmas Celebration** will take place on Sunday, 21st December at 7:30pm. Entertainment will be by **Kieran White & a Buffet** will be served during the evening.

- A **Quiz Night** will take place on Friday, 30th January commencing at 7:30pm. All proceeds from this event will be given to the Critical Care Centre at King's College Hospital to provide funding for Music Therapy for Patients recovering from serious head & brain injuries. **Please bring your own Nibbles et al - No Nuts!! To reserve tickets at £10.00, please call Sheila Jordan on 07921 235141.**

FOODBANK SUNDAY - 14th DECEMBER

Please note that for December only, Foodbank Sunday will be the **2ND Sunday of the month** - 14th December. The Shrublands food bank requires the following:

coffee, tea, custard, instant desserts, marmite, milk, pasta sauces

And Christmas treats:

Chocolate Coins, Christmas Biscuits, Stuffing, Gravy Granules, Sauces - red & brown, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Cranberry Sauce, Mince Pies, Christmas Puddings and Crackers, Small Boxes of Chocolates & Sweets

DIVERSITY CHRISTMAS BASH 13.12.2025

Hello Parishioners, trust all is well. Our Diversity Christmas Bash is on **Saturday 13th December** in the small hall from 1 - 5pm. Everyone is invited including minors under parental guidance. Bring your favourite dish, mindful of allergies, & drinks to share. Bring gifts costing £5-7, labelled male/female to exchange including for children. Sing favourite carols with accompanying keyboard music and dance to others. Enjoy festive games. Make new friends, celebrate old ones and promote community cohesion. Contact Sylvia on **07870 508790** or **sylviauw3k@gmail.com** for more info.

MASSES IN CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The final Mass in the Hospital for 2025 will be on Wednesday 10th December. NO MASSES on 17th, 24th, 31st

WEDNESDAY MASSES resume on 7th JANUARY 2026

at 12 noon in the Hospital Chapel.

All are most welcome

PARISH ASCENT GROUP

Our Parish Ascent Group is part of "Life Ascending International". It is a Catholic Movement, a Confraternity, for men and women. The three aims are first, Friendship, then growing in Spirituality, and then finally supporting our Catholic Church's Mission at home and abroad. **All parishioners are very welcome to join us.**

We meet over tea and coffee to share, in different ways, an understanding and experience of our Catholic Faith, in the **Small Hall after 10.00 o'clock Mass on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.**

ST THOMAS BECKET SCHOOL OPEN DAY

St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School have added an additional Open Day Event on **Friday 12th December at 2pm**. Please book in using the following:

<https://www.thomasbecket.croydon.sch.uk/open-events-2/>

Diocesan Safeguarding Office: **safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk**

UCM COFFEE MORNING - TODAY!

The UCM will be holding a coffee morning after 10am Mass TODAY to raise funds for **First Touch**, a charity based at St George's specialising in supporting sick and premature babies.

Please join us and support this very worthy cause!

GOLDEN PENNY JARS: Please remember to bring in you Golden Penny Jars! They can be left in the church porch, the parish office or be given directly to me! With thanks, *Nike*.

CALLING ALL MARYS, JOSEPHS, ANGELS, SHEPHERDS & KINGS!!

You are welcome to Everyone's Nativity!

Come dressed as your favourite Nativity character (which could be the donkey) to celebrate this very special time. Nativity acted in church, followed by Arts & Crafts and refreshments in the large hall.

From 2pm on Sunday 14th December

MEMORIAL SERVICE WITH D A LINDSAY & SONS Friday 19th December at 7pm at Our Lady's

Please join us at our annual service to remember our dearly departed loved ones, at this special time of year.

Should you wish for your loved one's name to be read out / their photo to be shown during the service at a time of reflection, please contact our office on

020 8654 4466 / holly@dalindsayandsons.co.uk

All photos must be emailed across by Friday 12th December to ensure they are included in the slideshow

This event is free to attend, however should you wish to make a cash donation, we will be raising funds for Nightwatch, Croydon.

AYC: Is delighted to offer a **FREE PARENT & CHILD DRUGS WORK SHOP** to be held on the **24th January 2026 4-5pm in the large hall**. The first half will consist of an interactive presentation with videos, then we have **drunk and drug goggles**, and the second half is trying to complete simple tasks to see how this can impact whilst under the influence. It is also a good opportunity for any questions. There will also be leaflets to take away. *This is for school years 7 & above*. Please email **aycouthclub11@gmail.com** to express your interest so we can get an idea of numbers.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE FUNDRAISER

A massive thank you to all parishioners who came and supported the Coloma 6th form students at their coffee morning and cake sale last weekend.

They managed to raise £389!

Thank you again, and there will be more fundraising events for the New Year!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - NIGERIA 6th March 2026

This year, the women of Nigeria invite us to come to our Church and rest in Jesus in our frantic and tired world.

Planning for this annual evening of prayer and music has begun. If you wish to join the service, preparations, use your ideas for promoting this event, sourcing decorations and planning the refreshments, please contact Anne Barcellos via the parish office.

BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING TRAINING www.thelisteningear.org.uk

Do you have a listening ear? Do you have a desire to help others? Do you have some spare time? ***Then why not consider joining our 50 hour Bereavement Training Course starting 19th January 2026.***

For an information pack, please email **wbs@thelisteningear.org.uk**

REPOSITORY: Christmas cards, 2026 diaries and calendars are now available in the repository. ***The Christmas cards include Our Lady's design at 50p a card.*** OLA tote bags are also available.

Baptism Certificates: Please collect from the Parish office.

Rotas: Eucharistic Ministers (December)

Readers (Christmas & January/February)