

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

8th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (page 133 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR A

Following upon the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavoring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden! (*Loyola Press*)



We continue to pray for Fr Cajetan and his family, following the death of his brother Camillus in Nigeria. May he Rest In Peace.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Please note that the parish office will be unattended on a Thursday and Friday for the next few weeks. Stephanie will be working from home to produce a newsletter and respond to emails etc, but she will only have limited access to documents. Masses can still be booked in the usual way with Rachel on a Monday or Tuesday.

Sorry for any inconvenience, we hope to be back to normal soon!

MEETINGS

Ascent Group: Tuesday 10th at 10.45am (Small Hall)

SVP: Tuesday 10th at 8pm (PRC)

1st Holy Communion Parents' Meeting: Tuesday 10th at 8pm (Large Hall)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm

In The Sacred Heart Chapel

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 675.02
Loose cash	£ 567.02
S/Os (Approx)	£ 1340.00
Total	£ 2582.02

COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection for **Racial Justice Sunday** amounted to £425.43. Many thanks.

Next week there will be a Diocesan second collection for **The Clergy Support Fund**. See note overleaf.

**** Don't forget - Next weekend is Foodbank Sunday! Please leave donations in the porch. Thank you. ****

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Lauren Horwood, Mary Ariaratnam, Christina Cahill, Ann Page, Peggy Wall, Canon Peter Stodart, Joseph Anand, Pat Joyce, Paddy Ryan, Dave Freegard, Lorraine Quinlivan, Westley Adaken, Mervat Nasri & all others

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: David Tuckey, Eusemiano Lopes, Maureen Woodcraft, Sheila Merredew, Joan Griffiths, Charles Fowley, David Barwell, Catherine Winston, Jean Garner, Margaret Blackford, Judy Maharaj, Tony Borfiga, Kathleen Davies, Mary Ann Gomez, David Holder, Maureen Towner, Sarah Rees, Anthony Cummins, Nora McGowan, Hilda Chow, Anthony Curry, Chris Pearce, Jack Mulcahy, Stuart White, Catherine Wilson, Edward Scanlon, Bernadette Moynihan, Patrick Murphy

Mass Intentions This Week

7 February: Saturday

10:00 Birthday Wishes for Kathleen Davey
18:00 Harry, Harold & Michael Sweeney RIP

8 February: FIFTH SUNDAY

08:30 Agnes Cuffey-Pratt RIP *
10:00 Paddy, Nora & John Walsh RIP * +
11:30 Pio & Doreen Perera RIP

9 February: Monday

10:00 Maryla & Sebastian Gomez RIP

10 February: Tuesday

SAINT SCHOLASTICA
10:00 Wellbeing of Elena White

11 February: Wednesday

10:00 Theresa Cody RIP

12 February: Thursday

10:00 Mary Madigan RIP
19:30 Nadia Ghawi RIP (Birthday)

13 February: Friday

10:00 Tony Borfiga RIP

14 February: Saturday

SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS
10:00 Ian Brooks RIP
18:00 Christine Rogers RIP ~

15 February: SIXTH SUNDAY

08:30 All Parishioners ~
10:00 Simon Nolan RIP ~
11:30 Diarmuid MacSweeney RIP ~
16:00 Reception of the Body of
William (Bill) O'Sullivan RIP

* With Children's Liturgy

+ With Baptism

~ 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.

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm

8th February: Kieran White
15th February: Theresa Rodgers
22nd February: Kevin Kearney
1st March: Shane & Mervyn Owens
8th March: Pat Jordan
15th March: **St Patrick's Celebration** - Glen Flynn
22nd March: **First appearance** - Family Affair
29th March: Kieran White

- Thank you to the Parish Community & Members of the Social Club for your support of the **Quiz Night**. The event raised £3,400.00+; these resources will be used to provide Music Therapy for Patients coming out of 6+ weeks in Critical Care at King's College Hospital, London.

- The winners of the **200 Club Across Draw** for January 2026 are:

£100: Mary Ann McGuigan
£50: Margaret Moriarty
£50: Carmelita Winston

Cheques have now been sent to all of the winners.

- **Jiving sessions are returning:** J & M will be facilitating Jiving Sessions in the Hall on Sundays, 15th & 22nd February and 1st & 8th March commencing at 5:00pm. For more information, call **Della Reilly on 07403 227935**.

- The **Bacon & Cabbage Dinner & Dance** will take place on Friday, 13th March. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm and **Dancing to Frank Nelson** will commence at 8:00pm. **The Keady Academy of Dance** will provide a display of Dance during the evening. All proceeds from this event will be given to the **Anerley ACROSS, a charity which will be taking a party of disabled people to Lourdes in June**. To reserve tickets for the above event, please call **Ben Cahill on 07958 903410**

UCM CHARITY EVENT SUPPORTING SARCOMA UK MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

Saturday 11th April from 7pm in the church hall

£15 per ticket

Bring your own food and drink for your table

To book tickets please contact **Marie Tross 07774 643159**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - NIGERIA 6th March at 7pm in Church

This year, the women of Nigeria invite us to come to our Church and rest in Jesus in our frantic and tired world. Please do come along, and if you wish to join in the service or perhaps read a part, please contact Anne Barcellos via the parish office email.

PARISH ASCENT GROUP

Are you an Adult Catholic, perhaps already retired, and interested in some up-to-date on-going Faith Formation? Would you like to strengthen your personal relationship with Jesus Christ? *Could you be free to join us in the Small Hall, on the second and fourth Tuesdays at about 10.45 after 10.00am Mass?*

It is not always easy to share our Catholic Faith. Learning how to share and also support relatives, friends and neighbours through a bereavement may help us. *Join us on Tuesday 10th February to hear from a Bereavement Counsellor. Everyone is welcome!*

SAFEGUARDING: It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. Further safeguarding info can be found on the Diocesan website:

safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk

Rotas: Eucharistic Ministers (February)

Readers (January/February)

PRAY THE ROMERO ROSARY AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary **every Friday at 5pm** throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer.

Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on **Ash Wednesday (18th February) at 5pm**, and again on **Friday 6th and Friday 27th March**.

On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary

RACE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Saturday 21st March

The **28th Croydon Scout Group** warmly invite parishioners, friends, and families to a fun **Race Night** fundraiser on **Saturday 21 March, 7:00pm–10:30pm**, in the **large hall of Our Lady of the Annunciation church**.

The evening will include eight races, a final auction race, a raffle, bar, and tuck shop. Entry is **£2 per person**, which includes a free bet, with additional £1 bets available on the night. No experience is needed — just come along and enjoy a relaxed and sociable evening.

This event forms part of our fundraising efforts to raise **£20,000 in 2026 to replace the roof on our Scout HQ**, helping ensure the building remains safe and usable for young people, volunteers, and the wider community.

All are very welcome — please come along, bring a friend, and support local Scouting.

More info at www.28thcroydon.scoutsonline.co.uk

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND SECOND COLLECTION

The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for parishes.

You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible! Find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at:

www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF

You can also donate via telephone (office hours Mon - Fri) **020 7960 2504**, or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available today in the church porch. *Please continue to keep Priests in your prayers.*

WITH THANKS!

I would like to thank all the members of the church for their generous support of our recent cake and craft sales, in aid of our charity, The Wings of Hope. *Thanks to you, we raised £300!* Your continued support and encouragement is highly appreciated and will contribute towards children's education. With thanks, Neevh Gonsalves

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE WITH MATHS? We can help!

We will be offering Maths tuition for **years 1 to 'A' level** On **Sundays in Our Lady's small hall between 1 - 5pm**.

£25 p/h for years 1 - 9
£30 p/h for GCSE & A Level

To register your interest please contact:

Joseph 07714 203973 or Grace 07516 396009

THE GOOD COUNSEL BLACK TIE BALL

Saturday 14th February from 6pm

The Good Counsel Black Tie Ball will take place at 6pm on St Valentine's Day, Saturday 14th February 2026 in Kensington, London. With a Live Band and Silent Auction.

London's Catholic Pro-Life Ball raising money to help save lives and change lives. Tickets £135 each. Or a table of ten for £1,300.

For bookings and enquiries email GCNBall@gmail.com or telephone **07795 205117**

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS & MUSICIANS: Please see the 3rd page of this newsletter, accessible online via the website.

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS & MUSICIANS

All choirs and music units in the church are always ready to welcome new members. This "appeal" is aimed, to a degree, at those who have started a new instrument at school last September and are now feeling "at home" with it. Playing in church is a way of rehearsing without the pressure of either a forthcoming exam or of a teacher ticking you off for a duff note. We have always had the approach that, if you're not comfortable playing in (say) Ab or F#, don't! Perhaps play what you can and stop when you can't - or simply sing instead. This way you can play your instrument without pressure.

"Aiming" at young people just starting on an instrument doesn't mean that we won't welcome people who are, or who were, comfortable playing an instrument. Whether you currently play, or would like to resume playing after a gap, do come along and help us to help the congregation's worship.

This "appeal" is also aimed at people who enjoy singing and would like to sing *with others* and not "just" as a member of the congregation. All are welcome with (as always) a special welcome to boys and men and ladies who can sing the alto line. Pianists are always welcome, as this is the one instrument (beside the organ) which can best give a clear "lead". It's also a very, very long time since we had any brass instruments with us (not that these are suited to all hymns and Mass settings - but, then, neither are harps, tambourines or sopraninos; each has its place and each is welcome).

Music is offered at all Saturday evening and Sunday Masses, with the organ leading the congregation at 8.30 (with no choir) and with music of various types at other Masses. Please see details of who to contact for these Masses, on the parish website under "Music at Mass". Go on - make yourself (and your family & friends??) proud ...