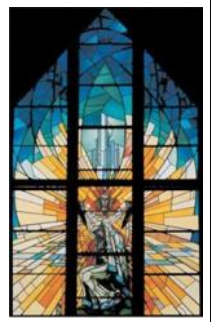


Our Lady of the Annunciation



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

8th August 2021 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time YEAR B

Two elderly gentlemen in a retirement home were sitting on a bench when one turns to the other and says: "Jim, I'm 83 years old, and full of aches and pains. I know you are about my age. How do you feel?" Jim says, "I feel just like a newborn baby." "Really? Like a newborn baby?" asked his surprised friend. "Yeah! No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet myself."

Nowadays, we are very conscious of what we eat. The trend is to eat only foods that are healthy and nutritious. This is because we want to avoid illness, and prolong life. We all want to remain young. We would queue for years should we ever develop a food that would help us live forever. But is this possible? This Sunday, the third in the series of five Sundays, Jesus is telling us that he is not just giving us material food, like the manna in the desert and the bread that he multiplied. Rather, he says that he is the bread himself: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven". To live for ever is a bread and butter concept for Christians, at the heart of our faith. In the sacrament of the Eucharist, yes, it is possible: "Whoever eats this bread will live forever." And this bread is the body of Jesus himself: "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

In our time, there are those who insist on the idea of the Eucharist only as a community meal. Pope Benedict XVI objects to this kind of understanding. He said: "It is not enough to describe the Eucharist as the community meal. It cost the Lord his life, and only at this price can we enjoy the gift of the Resurrection." The Eucharist is more than just a meal. It is the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary being made present to us in the here and now. It is his body and blood that we partake. We do so with reverence, humility and with great rejoicing.



We have been contacted by a company offering car park management services. Equipment and services are supplied to us free of charge. It is something that Fr. Keith has been considering looking into as he is experiencing increased hostility when he approaches those who use the car park at all hours without good cause, that is, who are not conducting business in church or the halls. In essence it will be a system where legitimate users record their number plate on entering the buildings, and a number plate recognition camera issues tickets to the registered keeper of vehicles not entered on the system after 10 mins.

Please let Fr. Keith or Fr. Jackson know your thoughts.

If you are going away for a break have a great time, and do pass on our best wishes to the communities you visit on Sunday Morning's.

Mass Intentions This Week

7 August: Saturday

10:00 Intentions of Dominic Moloney

18:00 Jerry McLelland RIP

8 August: NINETEENTH SUNDAY

08:30 Intentions of the Okeke Family

10:00 Wellbeing of Alexandra Osborn & Her Baby

11:30 All Parishioners

9 August: Monday

SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS

10:00 Phyllis Finnegan RIP

10 August: Tuesday SAINT LAWRENCE

10:00 Thanksgiving for

Alvin Jude Vethanayagam

11 August: Wednesday SAINT CLARE

10:00 Wellbeing of Christine Brooks

12 August: Thursday

10:00 Helen McDonell RIP

13 August: Friday

10:00 Ethel Paul RIP

14 August: Saturday

SAINT MAXIMILIAN MARY KOLBE

10:00 John Walsh RIP

18:00 Patricia, Goeffrey & Paul Emson RIP

15 August: SUNDAY

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

08:30 John Flannagan RIP

10:00 Birthday Wishes for

Kay & John Devereux

11:30 All Parishioners +

+ With Baptism



Our 10am Mass each Sunday is LIVE STREAMED through our Facebook page and on the 'Live Masses' page of the parish website.

CHURCH CLEANING

12th AUGUST - TEAM D

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes £ 424.05

Loose cash £ 392.00

S/Os (Approx) £ 1055.00

Total £ 1871.05

PLEASE NOTE:

There will not be a 7.30pm Thursday evening Mass during the month of August. They will resume in September upon Fr Keith's return.

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Geoffrey Bird, Phyllis Donnelly, Elizabeth Casey, Florence Okugbe, Ethan Patel, Fr Alan Sharpe, Eileen McMurray, Karen Pearson, Jonathan Leiper, Brian Kearney, Duncan Pears

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Poric Fowley, Muriel D'Rozario, Charlotte Agacy, Fr Martin Kensington, Mary Lee, Eileen Turner, Baby Helen Barrett, Ethel Paul, Anne Marie Ryan, Concetta Winchester, Charles Wilson, John Kilkelly, Patrick McKee, Sophia Chesher, Dorothy Bertha Martin, Carolina Lopes, Angela Cravato, Lucy Warnock, Augustine Williams

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club

On behalf of the Social Club, I hope that you are all safe and well!

Annual ACROSS Charity Golf Classic

Anerley ACROSS is a Charity which takes disabled children on annual pilgrimage to Lourdes

*De Vere Selsdon Estate -
Friday, 17th September 2021
(please note change of date)*

10.00am: Arrival with Bacon Rolls and Tea/ Coffee

11.00am: 18 Holes of Golf

The Golf Day is available at **£50.00 per person**

You can also support the event by
Sponsoring a Hole at £50.00
Donating items for the Auction/ Raffle

**For more information, please contact
Ben Cahill on 07958 903410 or
bernardcahill2004@yahoo.co.uk**

Save the date - Sunday, 5th September: There will be a meeting at 6pm to discuss proposals for the reopening of the *Social Club: The Ballroom of Romance*. Further details of the structure of the meeting will be available at the start of September.

RECENT DEATH: We are sad to announce the recent death of *Hannah Beston* on Monday 2nd August. Details of her funeral will follow. Hannah was a well know parishioner of many years and will be greatly missed. Please keep her in your prayers at this sad time.

SUNDAY COFFEE MORNINGS FROM SEPTEMBER

We are pleased to say that the our Sunday Coffee Mornings after 10am Mass will resume in September! Many thanks to all those who have supported them in the past. A new rota is up in the church porch for any parish groups or individuals who wish to sign up and run one.

SVP - AN INVITATION!

The SVP would like to invite all parishioners to join us for coffee/tea & biscuits after the 11:30am Mass on Sunday, 22nd August, in the large hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

WOODSIDE BEREAVEMENT SERVICE AFTERNOON TEA FUNDRAISER

Please join us for freshly make sandwiches, scones and cake, with free flowing tea, coffee and juice, and support this worthy cause!

Saturday 14th August 2 - 4pm

**The Waterside Centre
26 Avenue Rd London SE25 4DX**

Price: £5 per person

RSVP to: wbs@thelisteningear.org or ring 020 3256 2009

Like so many voluntary services, COVID has negatively affected our fundraising, while the number of clients has increased. We would love you to join us for this event, however if you are unable to do so, but would still like to support our fundraising efforts, there is a donation function on the WBS website. Alternatively, you can leave a donation in an envelope clearly marked WBS, with the Parish office.

Thank you in advance for your support!

CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES 2020

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

OUR LADY'S TODDLER GROUP

We are pleased to announce that we shall be re-opening our doors on **Thursday 9th September at 9.30am in the large hall!** We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back.

This Toddler Group was set up many years ago by The Young Wives Committee and is affiliated with the church. Over the years we have been fortunate enough to have had some brilliant volunteers who have helped make this group very successful and a pleasure to run.

We are now looking for someone to help us to continue to run this lovely group each Thursday (term time only) 9am - 12pm.

For more information please contact
Andrea on 07952 664224

ACCOMMODATION TO LET: Addiscombe Catholic Housing Association has a second floor, two room bed-sit with a shared bathroom, utility and garden in Addiscombe, close to the shops, buses and tramlink to let.

Applicants should be 55+, not a homeowner or have savings or equity over £30,000 and able to live independently. If interested and require more details, please email carolinenestor@acha.org.uk. If you do not have access to email, call **07795 269533**.

NEEDED ESSENTIALY:

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.

FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

We would very much like to resume Adoration on a Friday in September. However, in order to sustain the timeframe of 10.30am to 8pm, we need 18 people on our list ideally, as the Blessed Sacrament should not be left unattended. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, many of our regulars can no longer attend.

Are you able to commit one hour of your day to the Lord?

Please think about spending this time with God & contact Fr Keith or the parish office if you would like to put your name on our list.

WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING IS BACK!!!

Please join us in the hall **after the 10am Mass** for a cuppa, company and a raffle ticket! It may be your lucky day! A small donation towards costs would be appreciated. If anyone is willing to help, even occasionally, please come along and introduce yourselves.

CLIMATE PRAYER SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL WELCOMING THE YCCN RELAY

The Young Christian Climate Network relay or walk from Cornwall to the UN climate negotiations, COP26, in Glasgow in November is coming to Westminster Cathedral in London in August. Join them on **Friday 6th August, 3.30 - 4.00pm** for an ecumenical service to pray for climate justice. *People of all ages and denominations are welcome.*

Please book in advance at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/163372454409>

A CHALLENGE

In the Parable of The Talents, different people get given different levels of "gift" and use them differently. Well, not quite – the ones with five and with two do the same – they use them. It's the person who doesn't use what they are given who is castigated. The parable could perhaps make the point better if the person with five had done nothing and the person with one had doubled it.

At the Annual Meeting a theme ran through constantly – there was a cry of "we need volunteers" from a high proportion of those telling the meeting what their group had been doing in the last year or so. There was also mention of the old saw "if you want something done, ask a busy person".

I have met a lady who, after organising an event (to include doing the catering), took home the tea-towels to wash; she was challenged by her husband asking whether no-one else might feel deprived of a chance to do their bit – maybe they couldn't organise the overall event, maybe they couldn't temporarily fund the catering costs, maybe they wouldn't dare stand in front of microphone and MC the event – but they *could* wash tea-towels. Except that they couldn't because *she* had.

Everyone has talents (they might not recognise them as such!!), whether that involves master-minding the opening ceremony of the London Olympics, washing a dozen tea-towels, listening patiently to someone sounding off for an hour, or making tea and coffee all afternoon – and if we fail to use those talents, we're like the person in the parable who buried their talent in the ground. *Do we wish to be castigated by the Lord?*

Is your life full of unsatisfying things? I'm thinking of the time after I retired when I was advised not to take up any new volunteering roles until six months had passed. By then, I was told, I would be tired of pointless daytime TV, I'd have run out of "nice to do" jobs and I'd be raring to go, itching to use my brain, whether volunteering or taking an evening class or whatever. Is your life a little like that? Do you find your leisure time pursuits unsatisfying?

Surely, then, it's time to examine yourself and ask "what am I good at?" – some will recognise that they're good with numbers, or words, or their hands, or young people, or old people, or one-to-ones or publicity or fund-raising ... and they'll see that they do have a talent which could benefit someone. Are you like that? Do you have a talent from which society – or some part of society – would benefit?

And don't say "I couldn't possibly ..." because if you look at life, you already are (whether it's running a house, running a job, washing a dozen tea-towels, whatever) – and don't say "I don't know enough about ..." because there's always room to learn. We learn constantly, from listening, from reading, from *doing*, whether we recognise it as "training" or not – and any body worth its salt will have a programme of learning, whether formal (sending you "back to school") or informal (choir rehearsals ...)

So, when you hear someone say "we need volunteers", ask yourself whether that's *you* they're talking to and whether this is your opportunity to become an *active* Disciple, promoting the Kingdom in this world. As St Francis may or may not have said, "go out and preach the Gospel. Use words if you have to".

Don't say "I'm too busy" and then be ready to discuss in detail a contrast between X Factor and Britain's Got Talent. Or Bake-off and the Sewing Bee. Or BBC Sport vs Sky Sports.

And don't say "I'm too young" unless you want to say that to William Pitt the Younger (PM at age 24) or "I'm too old" unless you're prepared to say that to the 84-year-old Pope!



WE NEED YOUR VOTES IN STORE!

Tesco's Bags of Help have selected the St Thomas Becket Parents Association (STBSA) to go up for a public vote in stores against two other organisations, from 12th July until 30th September 2021.

The winners of this vote will receive a cash prize to go towards a project that will benefit the community. The project the STBSA have selected is 'IT equipment for children for home learning'.

To vote for us, when you make a purchase within a store, of any value, *you should ask the cashier for a Bags of Help token*: it's one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

Thank you so much for your support!

BISHOP PAUL - FUNDRAISING FOR LOURDES

Last summer, my cat went missing for a fortnight. During that time, my prayer had new urgency and I realised that, until then, my prayer for others hadn't been anything like as intense! From then, I made a special effort to say the whole Rosary each morning, while I was out walking before breakfast, saying each of the 20 decades for a particular intention. As we come up to the time when dioceses would normally be preparing for their Lourdes pilgrimage, I'm asking people to sponsor me to raise money for the Lourdes Sanctuaries. This will help them maintain their facilities for pilgrims and people who need particular assistance, at this time when little money is coming in from visitors, because of travel restrictions. If you would like to help, please visit:

<https://catholicassociation.enthuse.com/pf/bishop-paul-hendricks>

Many thanks, Bishop Paul

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.

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.

RECYCLING - PLEASE NOTE

We continue to recycle milk-bottle tops and blister packs, but I'm sorry to say that people are leaving other things we can't handle. We can't handle plastic "wallets" that some blister packs come in, for example; we can only handle the blister packs themselves. The "wallet" should be put in your household recycling.

As for bottle tops, oh, please!!!! If it says "Coca Cola" on the top, it didn't come from a milk bottle!! If it clearly is part of a bottle of hand-pumped liquid soap or hand cream, it's not from a milk bottle!! We can only recycle milk-bottle tops, and anything else should be disposed of via your Council recycling bin.

Please don't get me wrong, we're very happy - very happy indeed - to continue recycling the blister packs and the milk-bottle tops - so please don't leave anything else in the church porch for me to take home, identify and throw in my recycling bin. Throw it in your own!

Many thanks - *Andy Bebington*