



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

11th January The Baptism of the Lord Sunday (page 118 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR A

On this feast of The Baptism of the Lord, we stand with Jesus on the bank of the Jordan and quietly watch heaven open. Jesus, sinless and beloved, steps into the water not because He needs cleansing, but because He chooses closeness. He chooses to stand where we stand.

There is a story, a father teaching his young child to swim. The child trembles at the edge of the pool, afraid of the water's depth. Instead of calling from the side, the father steps into the water first, opens his arms, and says, "I am here." Only then does the child dare to jump. That is what Jesus does with His baptism - He enters our human waters - our fears, struggles and doubts, so we will know we are not alone.

As Jesus rises from the Jordan, the Father's voice declares "This is my beloved Son." In that moment, we are reminded of our own baptism, when the same love was spoken over us.

The Baptism of the Lord invites us to remember who we are: beloved children, claimed by God. Sent into the world not to be afraid, but to live as light, carried by the assurance that God already stepped into the waters ahead of us.

Remember, in baptism we participate in the tripartite functions of Christ, as the Priest, the King and the Prophet! (Nothing is far from God - says St Monica)

Fr Cajetan

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**In the first newsletter of 2026,
may we wish you all a blessed and happy New Year.**

Thank you all for the support you give throughout the year to Fr. Cajetan and myself as we seek to serve you all faithfully as priests, and for your overwhelming generosity in the Christmas offering.

Fr Keith

God Bless. +

Fr Cajetan

MEETINGS

First Holy Communion Classes: Mon 12th OR Tues 13th at 6pm (Large Hall)

Ascent Group: Tuesday 13th at 10.45am (Small Hall)

SVP: Tuesday 13th at 8pm (PRC)

PPC: Thursday 15th at 8pm (PRC)

Arts & Crafts Group: Friday 16th at 2pm (Small Hall)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm

In The Sacred Heart Chapel

OFFERTORY

20th/21st Dec '25 £ 2608.28

27th/28th Dec '25 £ 2299.75

3rd/4th Jan '26 £ 2625.57

Mass Intentions This Week

10 January: Saturday

10:00 Mary Farrell RIP

18:00 Kathleen McHugh RIP

11 January: SUNDAY

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

08:30 Gretta Linehan RIP *

10:00 Brendan Moss RIP 5th Anniversary *

11:30 Michael Mullins RIP

12 January: Monday

10:00 Annie Dowd RIP

13 January: Tuesday

10:00 Rachael & Freddy D'Silva RIP

14 January: Wednesday

10:00 Dick Walsh RIP

15 January: Thursday

10:00 Margaret & Tom Carr RIP

19:30 Jim & Betty McHugh RIP

16 January: Friday

10:00 50th Wedding Anniversary Wishes for
Noel & Nora Murphy

17 January: Saturday SAINT ANTHONY

10:00 Boase Family RIP

18:00 Alan Walsh RIP ~

18 January: SECOND SUNDAY

08:30 All Parishioners ~

10:00 Thecla, Ian & Kim Sulzdorf RIP ~

11:30 Neville Cornabe RIP ~

* With Children's Liturgy

~ 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: Your *Christmas Offerings* to Fr Keith and Fr Cajetan amounted to £9091.24. *Crib Offerings* amounted to £612.00 Many thanks for your generosity. This week there will be an ACC collection for *SPUC - White flower Appeal*. Next week there will be an ACC second collection for *Pax Christi*. Please pick up an envelope in the porch.

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: Jennifer Jones, Betty Reynolds, Eileen Andrew, John Ellicott, Gaetano Mansi, Louisa White, Colm Folan, Irene Foley, Maura Brophy, Daniel Gibbs, Peter Rooney, Monica Grant, Brendan Moss, Cynthia Hadfield, Denise Pepper, Anne Overton, Doris Corazzo, Luis Fernandez, John Fowley, Dorothy Rowland, Alfred McSweeney, Agnes Solle, Elsie Keane, Cynthia Forage, Agnes Donlon, Elizabeth McHugh, Mark Murphy, James McHugh, Claire O'Dwyer, Eric Stammers, John O'Flaherty, Valerie Cotta, Kathleen Marsh, Arthur Donegan, Terry McGuire, Richard Harvey, Irene Rozario, Elvira Molda, Randolph Coombs, Patrick Mulholland, Lydia Nasse, Isobel Anderson, Fr. Tom Connelly, Norman Cunningham, John Scanlon, Joan Ringrow, Mary Finigan, Kathleen O'Brien, Lena Crinnegan, Juliet Dias, Celino Rodrigues, Rosalie Hughes, Vera O'Neill, Sr. Mary Leontine, Ian Sulzdorf

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm

11th January: Shane & Mervyn Owens
18th January: Finbar & Paul
25th January: Cross Keys
1st February: Martin Ruddy
8th February: Kieran White
15th February: Theresa Rodgers
22nd February: Kevin Kearney
1st March: Shane & Mervyn Owens

- The winners of the **200 Club Across Draw** for December 2025 are:
£200: James Doherty
£100: Cianan Kenison £50: Mary Walsh

Cheques have been sent to all of the winners.

- **Jiving sessions are returning:** J & M will be facilitating Jiving Sessions in the Hall on Sundays, 18th January, 15th & 22nd February and 1st & 8th March commencing at 5:00pm. For more information, call **Della Reilly on 07403 227935**.

- 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.**

- **The Motown Tribute Evening** takes place on Friday, 6th February from 7:00pm. All proceeds from this event will be used to support the development of **Youth Football at Round Towers GFC**. You can also support this event by donating an item for the Raffle/ Auction. Tickets at £20.00 each can be reserved by calling **Ben Cahill on 07958 903410**.

RECENT DEATHS & FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

We are sad to announce the recent death of **Colin Larkin** on 1st January, and also the sudden, unexpected death of **Bill O'Sullivan** this week.

Colin's funeral will take place here at **Our Lady's on Friday 6th February at 10am** and details of **Bill's** funeral will be published once known.

We ask that you remember Colin and his wife Jane, along with Bill and his children Betina, Kevin and Maria, in your prayers at this very sad time. May they **Rest In Peace**.

ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP

The Arts and crafts group will be meeting on **Friday 16th January** from **2-4pm in the small hall**. Do please come along and bring some ideas with you so that we can share our knowledge and teach each other any new skills.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further details or help. **Dulcie 07305 779202**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026

Please note that our First Holy Communion classes for all enrolled children start next week, on (depending on your session day) **Monday 12th or Tuesday 13th January, 6 - 6.45pm in the large hall**. We look forward to welcoming all the children.

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?*

The next meeting, the first of 2026, will be on **Tuesday 13th January** when we shall be reading and sharing together the good news of John 1: 29-34

Everyone is welcome!

PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SALE AT COLOMA SCHOOL IN AID OF THE LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Sunday 18th January 9am - 1pm

In the Coloma School Performing Arts Centre

See poster in the porch for full details. Please support this cause!

Diocesan Safeguarding Office: safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk

MARY'S MEALS: Thank you for your wonderful support of the recent second collection for Mary's Meals.

If you're thinking about New Year resolutions, could you spare a few hours during the year to help? We are looking for parish reps, volunteer speakers (training and support provided!) and volunteers who can help at events. We are very much a volunteer-led movement, so any little you can offer will make a huge difference to the children we serve in some of the world's poorest communities. Please contact Roy Peachey (roy.peachey@marysmeals.org or **07593 447297**) if you can help.

To find out more about Mary's Meals, please visit marysmeals.org.uk. *Thank you for your support!*

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON REFUGEE/RESETTLEMENT GROUP

Please note; the bank account connected to the refugee/resettlement group will shortly be closed. **All Standing Orders or Direct Debits to this account should be cancelled as soon as possible.** Thanks.

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

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - SOUTHWARK DIOCESE

Join our pilgrimage to Lourdes travelling overnight by luxury coach from 9 - 14 February. It is always a beautiful and deeply spiritual experience soaking in the Spirit of Jesus as we travel to honour Our Blessed Mother.

Leaving Slough and Ealing Broadway on 9th Feb and departing Lourdes on 13th February for a visit to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Rue de Bac, Paris on 14th February morning and arriving in London in the day.

Full board, exciting festival devotional program, experience the Blessed Sacrament Procession of the Sick, the Candlelight Marian Rosary Procession and the International Mass on the Feast Day followed by Stations, Confessions and Adoration with Hour of Mercy. Travel, full board and program cost £590. Call Millie on 07957 594646 for more info.

NEW BEAVER COLONY LAUNCHES AT 28TH CROYDON SCOUTS

We are delighted to share the good news that 28th Croydon Scouts, proudly sponsored by Our Lady of the Annunciation, is launching a new Beaver Scout Colony.

Beavers is for children aged 6-8 and offers a safe, welcoming environment where young people can grow in confidence, friendship and service to others through fun activities, teamwork and outdoor adventure.

If your child may be interested, or if you feel called to support this work as a volunteer, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

For more information, please visit
www.28thcroydon.scoutsonline.co.uk.

CALLING ALL PARISH CHOIRS: Our choirs are thrilled to be hosting an all-day workshop with the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir on **Saturday 31st January at St Andrew's Church, Thornton Heath**. This unique event is designed to re-energise our choirs with fresh material and new arrangements and will culminate with a special 6pm Mass showcasing what we've learned and featuring singers from the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir. This free event is open to everyone from other local parishes – the more the better as all are welcome!

Registering for the workshop is easy. Just scan the QR code on the poster in the porch, or go to: Singingworkshop.eventbrite.co.uk

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 aycyouthclub11@gmail.com to express your interest so we can get an idea of numbers.

Rotas: Eucharistic Ministers (January)
Readers (January/February)

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS & MUSCIANS

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 ...