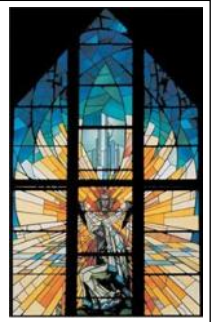




Our Lady of the Annunciation



Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Tomasz Margol
 147 Bingham Road, Addiscombe, Croydon CR0 7EN. Phone 020-8654 1709
 email: addiscombe@rcaos.org.uk website: www.addiscombecatholicchurch.com
 Diocesan website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 3pm Wednesday: Closed
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
 Monday - Saturday: Before or After 10am Mass or By Appointment

11th May Fourth Sunday of Easter (page 262 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR C

The shepherd is quite a significant figure in the Hebrew Bible. Shepherding was a principal occupation of many of the early patriarchs, like Abraham, Moses, and especially Jacob. Beyond the actual occupation, the shepherd is a very potent symbol. In fact, the Hebrew Bible makes an explicit parallel between the shepherd and political leadership. Numerous places in the Hebrew Bible, it is kings and other leaders who are the ones who are supposed to care for the people, leading them as a shepherd leads a flock. You might remember that King David began as a humble shepherd boy, and he is known in the Psalms and elsewhere as God's shepherd. In chapter 44 of Isaiah, the prophet even refers to a foreign ruler, the Persian emperor Cyrus, as the shepherd of the Lord. This is because of Cyrus' role in conquering the Babylonians and allowing the Hebrew exiles in Babylon to return to Judah and Jerusalem.

Perhaps one passage that Jesus meant particularly to bring to mind when he was speaking to the Pharisees was Ezekiel 34. In that passage, Ezekiel speaks the word of the Lord concerning the shepherds of Israel, again meaning the kings. He indicts them for feeding themselves when they should have been feeding the sheep. These exploitative rulers are to be cast down, and replaced with a true shepherd. Rather than another earthly ruler, it is to be the Lord alone, the true shepherd:

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

In Ezekiel's words we can hear so much of the mission of Jesus as he has been living it out: seeking the lost, binding up the injured, strengthening the weak, inviting all to feed on justice at the Lord's table. Thus, Jesus does not only *speak* of the true shepherd, he *lives out* what it means; in his ministry, he has been showing the people who the true shepherd is. And, he says, he has been showing the Pharisees, but they do not believe. To them, Jesus' claiming the shepherd role for himself is blasphemy, or even madness.

By Brian Young

*Fr. Keith and Fr. Tomasz are God's men, sent to serve.
 They are never too busy to see you.*

Mass Intentions This Week

10 May: Saturday

10:00 Christy Jordan RIP 8th Anniversary
 18:00 Andrew Starnes RIP Anniversary

11 May: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

08:30 Owen & Mary McNally RIP
 10:00 Owen & Sarah O'Hara RIP
 11:30 Christo Ghawi RIP 50th Anniversary

12 May: Monday

10:00 Margot Evans RIP (Birthday)

13 May: Tuesday

10:00 Fr Francis Donovan RIP

14 May: Wednesday SAINT MATTHIAS

10:00 Peadar & May Nolan RIP

FUNERAL MASS

13:00 Irena Pawelczyk RIP

15 May: Thursday SAINT JOHN STONE

10:00 Zena Marshall RIP
 19:30 Anna Maria Caruana RIP (Birthday)
 - Followed by the Rosary -

16 May: Friday SAINT SIMON STOCK

10:00 Peggy Reidy RIP

17 May: Saturday

10:00 Miranda & Quinto Franzon RIP
 18:00 Joan McHugh RIP ~

18 May: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

08:30 All Parishioners ~
 10:00 Edward Hogan RIP ~
 11:30 John Boswood & David Warner RIP ~ *

** With 1st Holy Communion **
Please attend an alternative Mass if you are not part of this celebration, to avoid overcrowding.

~ With Foodbank Sunday

MEETINGS

Ascent Group: Tuesday 13th at 10.45am (Small Hall)
Book Club with Fr Tomasz: Tuesday 13th at 4pm (Small Hall) *A Case for Christ*
SVP: Tuesday 13th at 8pm (PRC)
Bible Study with Fr Tomasz: Wednesday 14th at 11.30am (Large Hall)
RCIA: Wednesday 14th at 8pm (PRC) *Welcome Meeting for 2025/26 Group*



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm

In The Sacred Heart Chapel

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£	360.70
Loose cash	£	709.30
S/Os (Approx)	£	1340.00
Total	£	2410.00

*** 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 week there will be a Diocesan collection for the **Priests' Training 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: Elizabeth Damsel, Lauren Horwood, Elizabeth Casey, Mary Ariaratnam, Christina Cahill, Marie Griffin, Ernie & Mary, Arthur Hughes, Peggy Wall, Canon Peter Stodart, Joseph Anand, Pat Joyce, Darren Ngasseu & all others
We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Beatrix Ann Martin, Christy Jordan, Mary Rayner, Godelieve Padbury, Tom Moody, Gertrude Smith, Frankie Finigan, Andrew Starnes, Elizabeth McCarthy, Robert McCann, Bernard Ray, Edward Lee, Edith Crowhurst, Anne Fowler, Ida Monteiro, Owen O'Hara, Catherine Keating, Sheila Quieros, Fay Earl, Kit Bradley, John Daly, Jerzy Klos, Carmel Denny, Marie Savy, Ruth Peazold, Kathleen McNaghten, Dominic Rowe, Gerald Maguire, Gail Conn, John Foley, Josephine Sweeney, Kathleen Hennessy, John Flanagan, Anna Tsakalis, Jim Orbell, Eunice Bambery, Nilda Acosta

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm

11th May: Theresa Rodgers

18th May: Ally Harron & Marian Curry

25th May: **Bank Holiday Special** - Kieran White

1st June: Cross Keys

8th June: TR Dallas

15th June: Shane & Mervyn Owens

22nd June: Finbar & Paul

29th June: Pat Jordan

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

£100: Angela O'Connor

£50: Charlie Brogan

£50: Bridget Harvey

- On Sunday, 11th May there will be a **Dancing Class** including **Jiving, Line Dancing & Waltzes** in the Hall from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

The **Bacon & Cabbage Dinner & Dance** will take place on Friday, 16th May. Dinner will be served at 7:00pm and **Dancing to The Duets** will commence at 8:00pm. All proceeds from this event will be given to the **Anerley ACROSS, a charity which will be taking a party of disable people to Lourdes in June.**

To reserve tickets for the above events, please call **Ben Cahill on 07958 903410.**

RECENT DEATH & FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

We are sad to announce the recent death of **Karen Walsh** (mother of Michelle). Her funeral will take place here at **Our Lady's on Friday 6th June at 10am.** Our sympathies go to all the family at this time.

NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES: Will be distributed after all Masses **THIS WEEKEND!** Please remember to collect your boxes!

PRIEST TRAINING FUND 2nd COLLECTION 11th MAY

The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese. After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 9 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thank you!

- Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504
- Cash / Cheque – please use the Priest Training Fund envelopes at the back of church.

PARISH ASCENT GROUP

Our Parish Ascent Group is part of "Life Ascending International". It is a Catholic movement for men and women who have reached a certain age in life. The three aims are first, developing Friendship, then growing in Spirituality and finally supporting the Church's Mission both at home and abroad.

All parishioners are very welcome to join us. We meet over tea and coffee to share in many different ways our understanding and experience of our Catholic faith, in the *Small Hall after 10am Mass on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.*

Next Meeting: **Tuesday 13th May** we look forward to welcoming back Sr Sheila Maloney, to talk to us and encourage us in our faith.

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 information can be found on the Diocesan website:
safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk

DAVE & EMER: Are very grateful for all the support they have received at their Wednesday Coffee mornings over the years, and over the last few weeks alone, you have raised over £300 for the St Mildred's Homeless project. They are now ready to pass the baton onto someone else to continue the work! Many thanks & God Bless!

THE FILM SHOW TEAM: Would like to thank all who supported the show on 26 April. £205 was raised for the charity Life.

DIVERSITY SUPPORT GROUP

Parishioners, our **Collaborative Big Lunch** is just 4 weeks away on **Sunday 1st June** in the large hall from 1-4pm. Tell us what you can do on sheets provided at the back of the church. Look out for the flyer, take a photo of it and share.

Let's celebrate our vibrant community spirit!

COFFEE MORNING TODAY – Sunday 11th May for CROYDON REFUGEE DAY CENTRE

Please join us in the large hall after the 10 & 11.30am Masses in conjunction with the Second Sunday Coffee Morning team. **Tea, coffee & cakes available.** All moneys raised will go to support *Croydon Refugee Day Centre.* They accept donations of clothes, school uniform and other items. They also welcome volunteers. More info at www.croydonrefugeedaycentre.co.uk

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR 28TH CROYDON SCOUTS

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help lead and inspire our 6 to 8 year old Beaver Scouts. No prior experience is necessary.

Be part of something amazing. gsl@28thcroydon.org.uk

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Is the name which has been given to the journey taken by people who seek to enter into full communion in the Roman Catholic Church. Essentially this allows adults to get to know our church teaching and practice in a friendly, informal group setting and culminating, if they so wish, in the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist next Easter.

Parishioners are asked to encourage friends and relatives to consider joining RCIA this year. **The welcome meeting for our 2025-26 group, will be on Wednesday May 14th at 8.00pm.**

Anyone considering embarking on a new stage of their own journey in faith is invited along on that evening to learn how the RCIA group work together and share our faith. "Come and See"

More details are available on page 3 of the online newsletter.

CATHEDRAL MASS CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th or any later wedding anniversary this year, you are invited to renew your marriage vows at a Mass to be celebrated at **St George's Cathedral, Southwark, at 3pm on July 12th.**

Close family members can attend with you. In order to receive a personal invitation from Archbishop John, *email to mflsw@rcaos.org.uk the following details: your full names, address, phone number, anniversary being celebrated and parish.*

The deadline for applying is the middle of May.

ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE CELEBRATION DAY AT THE FRIARS, AYLESFORD - 7 JUNE 2025

Led by Archbishop John Wilson, we will gather as an Archdiocese at The Friars, Aylesford for a day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun. There will be lots of activities, for children as well as for adults.

This will be the centre-piece event of the 2025 Jubilee in the Archdiocese of Southwark. There will also be a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral in Southwark to The Friars (2-6 June 2025). **The event itself is free.**

If there is enough interest, our parish will look at putting on a minibus/coach for the day itself (cost to be advised), so to express your interest, please speak to Fr Keith.

You can find out more about the event, including how to join the walking pilgrimage, and the wider Jubilee Year plans in the Archdiocese at rcaos.org.uk/jubilee2025.

For Collection: *SVP*

Baptism Certs: *From the parish office*

Rotas: *Eucharistic Ministers (May) Readers (May/June)*

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

For those who attended the Easter vigil, or one of the Sunday Masses in Lent, you will have been part of our RCIA candidate's initiation into the Catholic Church.

Soon **RCIA** in our Parish will start again for another year. Those involved in helping with the programme always find it to be an inspiring and rewarding experience.

What is the **RCIA**, and could you play a part or benefit from joining the process?

The Southwark Diocese website explains what is involved very well...

www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/faith/becoming-a-catholic

“Becoming Catholic is an amazing, life-changing journey. Much more than a series of educational classes, it moves through a process of deep reflection, discernment and formation.

God offers each of us the grace of desiring and seeking love, truth and meaning. He is the initiator and giver of all faith, who inspires and guides us on our journey. Throughout the process of initiation into the Catholic Church, the people of God accompany those seeking full initiation step-by-step, to support, guide, and help them hear God's call in their life.”

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the name which has been given to the journey taken by people who seek to become Christians and be confirmed participants in our Catholic Church. Essentially this process allows adults and older young people to enquire, and if they wish, to be prepared for three sacraments, Baptism, Confirmation and The Eucharist.

In our parish it normally takes about 10 months and culminates in personal decisions being made in the new year, a formal welcome by the Archbishop at Southwark Cathedral in Lent and in celebration of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. The group meets every two weeks (excluding school holidays), starting **Wednesday 14th May at 8pm.**

Parishioners are asked to encourage friends and relatives to consider joining RCIA this year and indeed anyone wishing to follow the process can be a great help in the Journey to Faith. You will be very welcome to join and accompany this year's candidates. You do not need any particular skills or training. If you might be interested, or would like more information or perhaps have been through the process in the past, please contact one of the priests after Mass on Sundays.