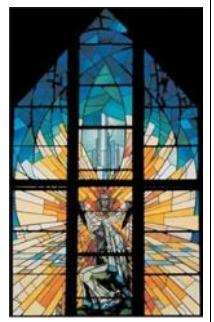




Our Lady of the Annunciation



Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Jackson Sebastian
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 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

12th December 2021 Third Sunday of Advent YEAR C

"Gaudete"

The central theme of today's readings is the command "Rejoice!" We are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, our renewal of life, and by doing God's will. Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior. We rejoice because a) we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, b) we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and c) we wait for Christ's return in glory.

In today's first reading, the prophet Zephaniah encourages Jerusalem and Israel to shout out for the joy of their expected deliverance by the Lord. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Is 12:6), the prophet Isaiah gives the same instruction, "*Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*" St. Paul echoes this message of joy in the second reading, a letter written from imprisonment: "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice...*" In the Gospel today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God's Way by the doing of His will. John challenges people to generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice. According to John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with others in need. John's call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. *Repentance* means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives, and it is to be reflected in our living in the ways John suggests.

*** PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE ***

Please note that the parish office will be closed over Christmas and New Year from **Wednesday 22nd December**, re-opening on **Thursday 6th January 2022**. Therefore there will NOT be a newsletter published on 2nd January 2022.

MEETINGS

SVP: Tuesday 14th at 8.30pm (PRC)
PPC: Thursday 16th at 7.45pm (PRC)



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

CHURCH CLEANING
 16th DECEMBER - TEAM B

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 399.76
Loose cash	£ 311.14
S/Os (Approx)	£ 1055.00
Total	£ 1765.90

Mass Intentions This Week

11 December: Saturday
 10:00 Birthday Wishes for Osita Anthony Okeke
 18:00 Martin McCorry RIP

12 December: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 08:30 All Parishioners
 10:00 Joan McHugh RIP
 11:30 Arthur Fairservice RIP

13 December: Monday SAINT LUCY
 10:00 Elizabeth Muir RIP

14 December: Tuesday FUNERAL MASS SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS
 10:00 Maureen Walsh RIP

15 December: Wednesday
 10:00 Wellbeing of Christine Brooks

16 December: Thursday
 10:00 Tony Finnegan RIP
 19:30 Michael O'Brien RIP

17 December: Friday FUNERAL MASS
 10:00 Anne Sequeira RIP
Followed by Devotion

18 December: Saturday
 10:00 Mary Fernandes RIP
 18:00 Andy & Nuala Fox RIP *

19 December: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 08:30 All Parishioners *
 10:00 Josephine Seemampillai RIP *
 11:30 George Hennessy RIP *

* *With Foodbank Sunday*

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays 10.30am - 3pm
In The Sacred Heart Chapel

**** DON'T FORGET - Next weekend is Foodbank Sunday! Please leave donations in the porch. Thank you. ****

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Geoffrey Bird, Phyllis Donnelly, Elizabeth Casey, Ethan Patel, Fr Alan Sharpe, Karen Pearson, Jonathan Leiper, Brian Kearney, John Devereux, Jean Carpenter

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Monica O'Donnell, Kazimierz (Charlie) Martynski, Adam Coleman, Baby Lilly Beaven, Irene D'Rosario, Kathleen Evans, Maureen Hayes, Freda Santry, Eugene Baptiste, Martin McCorry, Gerry Finigan, Massimina Oriani, Joseph Cruz, Victor Michael, Louise Carter, Elsie Carpenter, Sr. Elizabeth Craig, Ellen Curry, John Knight, Baby James Naylor, Mary Lane, Edith Smith, Norah Everest, Dennis Godfree, George Fowler, Paddy O'Connor, Rosaleen Jamieson, Mary White, Isabella Rees, May Lally, George Hennessy

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club

Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm

12th December: Mustang Showband

19th December: Kieran White

26th December: **Christmas Celebration** - Finbar & Paul

2nd January: **New Year Party** - Ally Harron & Marian Curry

- Thank you for your wonderful support of our **Christmas Raffle**; to date, we have raised £3,400.00. Our target is to reach £4,000.00 to support three local charities; **The Alzheimer's Society, The Woodside Bereavement Service & Young Minds**. There will be three cash prizes of £500.00, £300.00 and £100.00 plus seven additional prizes. The Draw will take place on Sunday, 19th December.

You will have the opportunity to purchase tickets after all Masses this weekend.

Further information on the Raffle is available on the Parish website - [Addiscombe Catholic Church](#).

- The winners of the **200 Club Across Draw** for November 2021 are:

£100: Gary Lally

£50: Elizabeth Borfiga

£50: Lee Murphy

All winners will receive their cheques over the next few days. If you would like to join the 200 Club, please go to the website (www.anerleyacross.org.uk) and download an application form.

- The **Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch** will take place on Sunday, 19th December commencing at 12.30pm. Admission will be by Ticket Only. To reserve a place at the event, please call or send a Text to Pat Winston on 07734 250375 before Monday, 13th December.

ADDISCOMBE WELCOMES REFUGEES NEWS!

The parish community sponsorship group Addiscombe Welcomes Refugees is making excellent progress by securing a property and hope to welcome a family in the new year. Thankyou all for all your support with the cake and coffee morning after the 10am mass on Sunday 14th November - we managed to raise some much needed funds thanks to your generosity.

VOLUNTEER WITH US! We are looking for two new vital members to join our friendly steering group to attend regular meetings and organise support for the refugee family for the following:-

Volunteer Role - ESOL Lead (English for Speakers of Other Languages.) To help liaise with adult learning providers and assist the resettled adults with attendance to English speaking classes.

Volunteer Role - Education Lead. To assist with the application process for local schools and liaise with the school once the family arrives.

If you are interested in joining our steering group in either of these roles at this crucial and exciting time please do ring/text **Laura** on **07811 351122** or email lkimurtagh@gmail.com

THE SALVATION ARMY FOOD BANK: The Vine, thanks the parishioners of Our Lady's for their very generous offerings. The next food bank collection is on 18/19 December.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL: Have Nursery (part-time and full time) places available for entry September 2022.

Please apply by downloading the form via the website <https://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk/> or call in at the school office. The closing date for this 15th January 2022.

CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES 2021

Confirmation certificates for 2021 can now be collected from the Parish Office. **Many thanks.**

Items for collection: *Francisco Serradilla-Mazuelos*

Baptism certificates: PLEASE COLLECT YOUR BAPTISM CERTIFICATES FROM THE PARISH OFFICE. THANK YOU.

Rotas: *Readers (Christmas) Eucharistic Ministers (Dec)*

*** REPOSITORY SHOP ***

The Repository shop now has a wonderful range of Christmas cards and gifts at great prices! They are happy to accept all **CASH and CHEQUE payments**. Don't forget to pay them a visit after Mass!

REFUGEE COLLECTION OF COATS (NOT TOYS) - 15th/16th JAN 2022

Due to Covid, the Croydon Refugee Day Centre are unable to hold their Children's Christmas Party this year or distribute toys to refugee children. **They are, however, in need of warm winter clothing!**

We will not therefore be holding our usual Advent Toy Collection but will instead be collecting WARM coats (and jumpers) for adults and children (not babies) in the New Year - 15th/16th January 2022.

PAX CHRISTI TALK

The Justice and Peace group invites all parishioners to come to a talk on the work of Pax Christi, the Catholic peace organisation. The talk will be on **Zoom on Tuesday 25th January at 8pm.**

Please contact Chris Sciberras if you are interested in attending. You will be sent a Zoom link before the talk.

PILL BLISTER PACKS

As the company which recycles blister packs has been overwhelmed by the response, we are unable to collect these for the time being. Please do not leave any more in the church porch until we can let you know that we can handle them for you. Sorry! Many thanks.

Andy Bebington, Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Group

PILGRIMAGE, 'IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST.PAUL'

Holy Family parish, in Sanderstead are organising a pilgrimage to Greece, following the missionary journeys of St.Paul. Some of the places to be visited will be Thessalonica, Philippi, Corinth and Athens, as well as Kavala where St Paul first set foot in Europe, Agora where he was on trial by Gallio and the ancient port of Kechries where he departed for Ephesus. The pilgrimage also includes visiting the holiest place in modern Greece Mount Athos, a cruise on the Aegean Sea, Meteora which is the home of Eastern Orthodox monasteries where monks still dwell in caves, the Acropolis, Parthenon and the Areopagus where St. Paul spoke to the Athenians and much more.

Flights there and back are from Gatwick.

Dates: Monday 25th April - Monday 2nd May

If pilgrimage were to be cancelled, all costs would be returned.

For more details, please contact Fr Malachy:

malachykeegan@rcaos.org.uk or **020 8657 1728**

HELPING CATHOLICS TO RETURN

Do you know a friend or relative who has been away from the church and would like support or encouragement to return? We invite them to contact a team that offers a **non-judgemental forum** to help them reconnect with their Catholic faith at:

landingsbeckenham@gmail.com

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE

Here is a gift for husbands and wives, an opportunity to spend a morning online exploring and improving your relationship. It's for couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to make them a bit better. There is no group sharing. **Saturday 8th January, 9am-1pm.** Booking is essential: phone **07983 524727** or email **mflkent@rcaos.org.uk** There is a nominal charge of £10 per couple.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

The next second collection will be in January 2022.