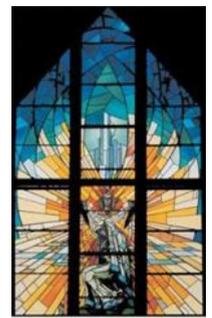


Our Lady of the Annunciation



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

13th June 2021 Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time YEAR B

Today's readings focus our attention on the birth and growth of the reign or rule of God (Kingdom of God), in our human lives and on the gigantic growth of the Church from very humble beginnings. Both growths are slow and mysterious, guided by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The first reading, taken from Ez 17:22-24, is a Messianic prophecy. Ezekiel tells us how the Lord God of Israel will allow a descendant of King David to become the Messiah and Savior of the world. In contrast with the parable of the tiny mustard seed in today's Gospel, Ezekiel sees the Messiah originating in a royal family (lofty Cedar, David). In the second reading, St. Paul teaches the Corinthian Christians that they are to advance the growth of God's Kingdom and His rule in their lives by doing His will so that they may be amply rewarded in the final judgment. In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the growth of the Kingdom of God to the germination of a wheat seed and that of a tiny mustard seed. Both have exceedingly small beginnings. The wheat seeds, by gradual but steady growth, help the farmer to get a bumper crop. In the same way, the life principle in a tiny mustard seed enables it to grow into a large bush. The reign of God in human hearts and the growth of the Church in the world also have small beginnings. But the Source of all life, God the Holy Spirit, gives to both a steady, persistent, and gigantic growth, provided we, the members of the Church, cooperate with God's grace.

We need to cooperate in the growth of God's Kingdom: The Kingdom of God is the growth of God's rule in human hearts that occurs when man does the will of God and surrenders his life to God. The seed of Faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit the Holy Spirit to nurture it with TLC (tender loving care), it grows miraculously to gigantic proportions. The growth is slow and microscopic in the beginning. But the seed grows by using the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the Word of God, the Mass, the Sacraments and prayer.

REMINDER - PARISH MEETING ON JULY 21st To discuss the restoration of a Parish Pastoral Council

We would like to invite **ALL** the bodies associated with the parish to give a very brief verbal account (2 mins) of how they have fared through the pandemic, their plans for start-up as restrictions ease and their aspirations and concerns for the future. We will be contacting the leaders directly with an invitation to take part. We hope as many people as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to engage once again with the local church, and it's witness through the satellite activities of our parish, as well as being prepared to commit to new initiatives to insure we continue to function as a dynamic and vibrant community who know they are loved and guided by God.

Fr Keith would like to thank you all for your generous prayers, best wishes, cards and gifts as he celebrated his birthday.

God bless you.

Mass Intentions This Week

12 June: Saturday IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10:00 June Cully RIP

17:30 Ints. of Mr & Mrs T Corduff & Family

18:30 Deceased Members of the Sweeney & Heskin Families RIP

13 June: ELEVENTH SUNDAY

09:00 Tony Borfiga RIP

10:00 Lucas, Ubaldina & Sylvia DeSouza RIP

11:00 Jackie Iles RIP

12:00 All Parishioners

14 June: Monday

10:00 Johnson Pereira RIP

15 June: Tuesday

10:00 Intentions of Lucy Toure

16 June: Wednesday

10:00 Wellbeing of Michael O'Connor

17 June: Thursday

10:00 Betty McHugh RIP

19:30 N Gnomes RIP

18 June: Friday

10:00 Wellbeing of Adelio Crovato

19 June: Saturday

10:00 Patrick Larkin Senior RIP

17:30 Joan McHugh RIP

18:30 Kathleen & Jack Winston RIP

20 June: TWELFTH SUNDAY

09:00 Intentions of Bridie Fowley

10:00 Harry Sweeney RIP

11:00 All Parishioners

12:00 Mary Rayner RIP



*Our 10am Mass each Sunday is
 LIVE STREAMED
 through our Facebook page.*

**CHURCH CLEANING - 17th JUNE
 TEAM D**

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 470.15
Loose cash	£ 347.85
S/Os (Approx)	£ 975.00
Total	£ 1793.00

PLEASE NOTE: We now have a QR CODE for the church, which is displayed at all entrances and exits, for use by those who have the NHS COVID19 App. The church mobile number (07548 868418) for Track and Trace is still in use if you do not have the App.

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

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Jim Duffin, Annette Haines, Jean Waldron, Bernard Peter Smith, Arthur Fairservice, Michael Sweeney, Basil Earl, Baby Kelly Connery, Catherine Purcell, Margaret Griffin, Thomas McDonald, Wladyslaw Nawrocki, Ermina Claudius, Mary McQueen, Peter Carlisle, Jack Winston, Irene Kendall, Teresa Flanagan, Anelta Joseph, John Murray, David Martin, Edward Casey, Edna Cooper, Veronica Fisher, Johanna O'Dwyer, Frances Conroy, Cecil "Andy" Anderson

*** POLITE REMINDER ***

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILST IN CHURCH. OUR SEATING IS CLEARLY MARKED TO INDICATE WHERE IT IS SAFE TO SIT. **DO NOT SIT WHERE THERE IS RED TAPE ON A PEW UNLESS YOU ARE IN YOUR FAMILY BUBBLE.** THANK YOU.

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club

The Golf Day followed by a Gala Dinner & Dance, with all proceeds going to the Brain Tumour Charity, is now a complete Sell Out. Thank you for your magnificent support!!

You can still support the event by *Donating an Item for the Auction or Raffle.* If you can assist in any way, please contact Sheila on:

07921 235141 or email: sheilajordan1@icloud.com

Thank you for your support of the *Irish Shop* during the recent Bank Holiday weekend; which raised £150.00 for the *Brain Tumour Charity*. Congratulations to Luke McNicholas & his team for their continued efforts to support charitable causes.

1st HOLY COMMUNION GIFTS & CARDS: We have a wonderful selection in our Repository shop at great prices, so please pay us visit **BEFORE OR AFTER** Mass at the weekend!

CONFIRMATION 2021: Bishop Paul has agreed to come and celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for us on **Sunday 7th November, at 12pm.** Those who are in their Confirmation year (**currently in school year 8 or above**) need to watch the newsletter carefully for details of how to sign up for this year's course. Details to follow in the next couple of weeks.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER NEEDED FOR OUR LADY'S
Ann Marie Christian has stepped down as our lead safeguarding officer. **If you are experienced in this field** and think you would like to take up the role, please speak to Fr Keith. *Many thanks.*

SOME DEFINITE SERVICE: MISSIONARY NETWORK

The Church is made up of people and so is *Some Definite Service* - Catechists, Formators, Evangelisers, Deanery Mentors, Parish Leads. It is the goal and intention of the Agency and the archdiocese to invest time and energy in all involved in *Some Definite Service*, to ensure that those working in ministry are supported and do not feel isolated. Are you being called to be part of this network in a particular way?

For more information, please visit: aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds

AYC FOOTBALL & PIZZA NIGHT

AYC are delighted to announce England v Scotland live on big screen. **7.30 - 10pm** on the **18th June.** Entry **£5** which includes pizza and a drink. Craft activity available.

To secure a space please email Addiscombeyouthclub@gmail.com

LATEST NEWS - ADDISCOMBE WELCOMES REFUGEES

We are pleased to share positive news that, earlier this month, the Home Office confirmed they are happy to continue to approve our application in principle. This means that we can confidently proceed to find a home for a refugee family, who we hope will move into the local area very soon. Members of our group are now actively hunting the rental market and viewing houses, with a view to signing a tenancy agreement imminently.

If you know of a property that might be suitable, or a landlord that would be supportive of this cause, we'd love to hear from you! The benefits are guaranteed rental income for two years, whilst at the same time helping a family in need. Anyone interested may also find this video useful to watch: "Do you have a property you could rent to refugees? Find out why this could be the best decision ever:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DznmKmpLSsY>

For more information please contact us at:
addiscombe.welcomes.refugees@gmail.com

MASS TIMES FROM AUGUST 2021

As mentioned previously, the number of Masses offered will return to normal for the beginning of the holiday season in August, though with one slight alteration. From...

Saturday 31st July: Mass 6pm

Sunday 1st August: Mass 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am

In moving the last Mass of the day forward the gap between Masses is unified and it allows us to continue to offer Baptism outside the Mass at 4pm on Saturday and 1pm on Sunday, though from August we expect Baptism to be celebrated within the Mass once again.

Many thanks, Fr Keith

GIFT AID NEW YEAR!

THE NEW SETS OF ENVELOPES COME INTO USE THIS WEEKEND!

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.

ST THOMAS BECKET CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL Open Morning Visits for Admission to Reception in 2022

We will be holding three open mornings for you to visit and have a tour of the school on **Thursday 30th September, Wednesday 13th October and Thursday 21st October** starting at **9.30am.**

If you would like to book onto one of these tours please email:

admin@thomasbecket.croydon.sch.uk

Alternatively, you can ring the office on **020 8654 3006**

We will be holding a prospective Reception parents information open evening, at the school, on **Thursday 4 November 2021**

ANNUAL CATHEDRAL MARRIAGE MASS

Are you celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or any later wedding anniversary this year? Or did you last year? If so, Archbishop John invites you to join him in celebrating a Mass for married couples at **3pm** on **Saturday 9th October** at **St George's Cathedral.** You need to book in advance and by doing so you will then receive a personal written invitation from Archbishop John. To book or for more details email mflsw@rcaos.org.uk

PLEASE MEET YOUR MP TO LOBBY AGAINST DIY ABORTION AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

SPUC is holding a **Mass lobby of MPs on Friday 16 July or Saturday 17 July 2021.** We are asking pro-life supporters up and down the country to organise a meeting with their MP, at the MP's constituency office, on one of these dates. The DIY abortion policy is still in place, and there is a renewed threat of assisted suicide being legalised.

Please ask your MP to lobby the Health Secretary to **end DIY abortion.** Please ask your MP to **vote against assisted suicide.**

SPUC has produced dedicated briefings to help you lobby your MP. Please go to www.spuc.org.uk/MassLobby2021



THE NEW NORMAL - WHAT DO WE WANT AS A PARISH?

Much has been said about "the new normal" when the pandemic allows things to settle down. The sort of comments heard have been:

- what did we *used* to do, that (for a year) we haven't and that we miss? How soon can we re-start?
- what did we *used* to do, that (for a year) we haven't and we *don't* miss? Do we *have* to pick them up again?
- what have we done in lockdown that we didn't do before but we want to keep doing?
- what have we done in lockdown that we didn't do before and will happily drop again?

An example of these might be "doing jigsaws was lovely, but after a year it's time to stop", or "having my shopping delivered was lovely but I do miss visiting the high street", or "I really missed hugging the family".

Those are all at a personal level - but what about at a parish level? We haven't had the Mass attendances of yesteryear - do those who've stayed away want to come back? I know that I do ... and the Obligation will be reintroduced at some point. Do we want to have social events again (probably "yes")? What have we missed that we can still do without? What have we done differently that we'd rather do the "old" way (like attending Mass without a mask, or receiving Holy Communion at the "usual" point of the service)?

The time has come, or is soon to arrive, when we will need to address these thoughts both as individuals and as a parish - as Fr Keith has said, it is our parish and we have a responsibility to run things while the Priests undertake their sacramental and pastoral roles. How can we do that? Do we need committees or working groups to coordinate (for example) the summer fair, the worship, the buildings and grounds, outreach and mission, so forth?

If so, who would serve on those groups? A comment has been made that some such groups are seen as parallel to the wider community's view of the Church of England - most of them don't go or get involved *but they feel comfortable knowing that it's there*. If someone in the parish feels that there should be (for example) a worship committee to assist the Priests with preparations for Easter or Christmas, what would they say if no-one stepped forward to serve on that committee?

Putting it bluntly, what only happens now because one or other of the Priests does it? And how would you feel if they stopped doing it (as being outside their sacramental and pastoral role) and it didn't happen? Would you be ready to step forward and say "I valued that; I want to ensure it continues; how can I help?" ... or would you let it die?

It's time to think ...

Andy Bebington

OFFERING A MASS INTENTION

If you wish to offer a Mass intention at this time, please either visit the parish office, use an 'Intentions' form & envelope located in a tray by the church exit, or download it from our website under the **COVID 19** tab. Please complete the form and return it via the parish office letterbox with stipend enclosed. Many thanks.

Our Repository shop has an excellent selection of Mass cards.



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.

CAFOD: THANK YOU! Thanks to your support, CAFOD has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic. Just in Zambia, in the past year, our reports show we've been able to reach 1,234,200 people with messages on COVID-19, provide 13,312 people with access to safe water, train 392 frontline health workers from Zambia's 11 dioceses on how to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in their local communities and donate over 1000 handwashing hygiene stations in communities to support handwashing measures. Thank you for standing alongside people in Zambia and for supporting people in more than 30 other countries worldwide.

DEAR HUSBAND & WIFE... You are invited to give each other a gift by spending **July 10th** online between **9am and 1pm** exploring and improving your relationship. The event, entitled '**Building A Better Marriage**', will provide you with valuable insights into your communication skills and the call of the Church to the married. There is no group sharing. This is not marriage counselling but a chance to make average-to-good marriages a bit better – whether you married five years ago or 50! Booking is essential.

Telephone **07983 524727** or Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

THE PRISON ADVICE AND CARE TRUST (PACT): Are currently seeking a Volunteering Manager. Through the new Faith in Action programme 'Just People', they are seeking to provide opportunities for Catholics, Christians and whole parish communities to explore and deepen their faith and sense of lived discipleship by connecting people with opportunities to serve as volunteers. Their aim is to provide practical support and accompaniment for people who are often marginalised and excluded.

The charity are seeking a person of faith who has an understanding of the Church alongside a strong commitment to Catholic Social Teaching. They should also be a good communicator with project planning and implementation experience. Working across a number of dioceses, the successful candidate will liaise closely with volunteering and management colleagues across the London and South East region, specifically in the dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Arundel and Brighton.

Hours: 37.5 hours per week, Monday to Friday (weekend and evening work may be required occasionally) Salary: **£28,000 p/a**

Closing date: 17th June Interview date: 29th June 2021

Further information:

<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/current-vacancies>

IN THEIR PASTORAL LETTER: The Bishops ask, "Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?" This is basically the question we have been considering in our local Laudato Si' Circle at recent Zoom meetings. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 18th June at 6pm**, when we shall be asking ourselves, in line with the Pastoral Letter, in what ways we have "ignored the systematic exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources" and how best we can "each reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation".

The meeting is open to all, and the Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806484816?pwd=NUZkQ2VHazlUL2pteFISZW94b2lqdz09>

Meeting ID: 858 0648 4816 Passcode: 476913