



# Our Lady of the Annunciation



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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

**13th October Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (page 143 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR B**

## POPE BENEDICT ON FAITH AND RELATIVISM

The "measure of the fullness of Christ" is what we are called to attain if we are to be true adults in the faith. And what does it mean to be children in faith? St Paul answers: it means being "tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Eph 4: 14). This description is very timely!

How many winds of doctrine have we known in recent decades, how many ideological currents, how many ways of thinking. The small boat of the thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves - flung from one extreme to another: from Marxism to liberalism, even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism and so forth.

Every day new sects spring up, and what St Paul says about human deception and the trickery that strives to entice people into error (cf. Eph 4: 14) comes true. Today, having a clear faith based on the Creed of the Church is often labeled as fundamentalism. Whereas relativism, that is, letting oneself be "tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine", seems the only attitude that can cope with modern times.

We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognise anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires. We, however, have a different goal: the Son of God, the true man. He is the measure of true humanism.

An "adult" faith is not a faith that follows the trends of fashion and the latest novelty; a mature adult faith is deeply rooted in friendship with Christ. It is this friendship that opens us up to all that is good and gives us a criterion by which to distinguish the true from the false, and deceit from truth. We must develop this adult faith; we must guide the flock of Christ to this faith.

And it is this faith - only faith - that creates unity and is fulfilled in love.

*fr Tomasz*

## Mass Intentions This Week

- 12 October: Saturday**  
 10:00 Dec. Members of the Lavin Family RIP  
 18:00 All Parishioners
- 13 October: TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY**  
 08:30 Dec. Mems of the D'Souza Family RIP \*  
 10:00 Dom Hegarty RIP \*  
 11:30 Birthday Wishes for  
 Gustave Bambi Mavungu
- 14 October: Monday**  
 10:00 Wellbeing of Charlotte O'Neill
- 15 October: Tuesday**  
**SAINT TERESA OF JESUS OF AVILA**  
 10:00 Helene Bambi RIP
- 16 October: Wednesday**  
 10:00 Brian Simpson RIP
- 17 October: Thursday**  
**SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH**  
 10:00 Claudette Seeboruth RIP  
 19:30 Siobhan Carter RIP
- 18 October: Friday FUNERAL MASS**  
**SAINT LUKE**  
 10:00 Brian Kearney RIP
- 19 October: Saturday**  
 10:00 Thanksgiving & Good Health  
 for Mariam Joseph  
 18:00 Win & Ern Foster & Emilio Cicco RIP ~
- 20 October: TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY**  
 08:30 Ronald Rakusen RIP ~  
 10:00 Sheila Braim RIP Anniversary ~  
 11:30 John Walsh RIP 2nd Anniversary ~

\* With Children's Liturgy  
 ~ With Foodbank Sunday

## MEETINGS

- Padre Pio Prayer Group:** Tuesday 15th at 10.45am (Small Hall)  
**SVP:** Tuesday 15th at 8pm (PRC)  
**RCIA:** Wednesday 16th at 8pm (PRC) *Sacrament of the Eucharist*  
**Young Adults' Fellowship:** Friday 18th at 7pm (PRC)



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm**  
 In The Sacred Heart Chapel

## LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 492.60
Loose cash	£ 989.40
S/Os (Approx)	£ 1340.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2822.00</b>

## \*\*\* 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

Last week's collection for **CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** amounted to £753.00. Many thanks. Next week there will be a Diocesan collection for **World Mission Sunday** - 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 & all others

**We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week:** Alice Louise Piney, Bridget Bates, Ilana Imregi, Margaret Cameron, Raymond Chow, Elaine Brooker, Elsie Dadswell, Daniel W. White, Alan Motts, Syd Wyatt, Lily Margaret Harley, Duncan Pears, Jerry Orpwood, Mary Griffiths, Rudolph ("Rudi") Agacy, Phyllis Chopin, Maurice Baxter, Maria Carrasco-Borrero, Mary Morrissey, Mary Connolly, Laila Tambini, Mary Feeney, Laurence Ellis, Nellie King, Bernadette Petts, John Daly, Bianca Buchhaus, Margaret Linnane, Sheila Braim, John Walsh

### SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

*A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club*

**Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm**

13th October: Glen Flynn

20th October: The Duets

27th October: Theresa Rodgers

3rd November: Frank Nelson

10th November: Ally Harron & Marian Curry

17th November: Cross Keys

24th November: Shane & Mervyn Owens

1st December: Theresa Rodgers

- **Ceili Night** will take place in the Church Hall on Friday, 18th October commencing at 7:30pm. The **Parish Ceili Band** will provide the Entertainment. To reserve tickets, call **Della Reilly on 07403 227935**.

- The **ABBA Tribute Evening** featuring all of their hits over the last 40+ years takes place on Friday, 15th November commencing at 7:30pm. All proceeds from this event will be given to the **Anerley ACROSS**: A Charity which takes place a party of disabled people to Lourdes on an annual pilgrimage.

Tickets at £15.00 each can be reserved by calling **Ben Cahill on 07958 903410**.

### OUR LADY'S CENTENARY CALENDARS

Calendars will be on sale after all Masses from next weekend (19/20th October). Priced at £10 each, *cash only please*.

If you'd like to reserve any copies, please contact **Marie Tross** on **07774 643159** or email [tross.marie@gmail.com](mailto:tross.marie@gmail.com). Alternatively you can contact or visit the parish office.

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT:** The funeral of **Brian Kearney** (18th October at 10am) will be live streamed on the Youtube link <https://www.youtube.com/live/svZWJR5d614>

Or as a backup <https://meetupvideo.com/funeral-live-stream/>

The family hope that those attending will join us at Shirley Park Golf Club for refreshments after Mass.

### FOODBANK SUNDAY: ITEMS SPECIALLY REQUESTED

*Baked beans / Fruit juice / Drinking chocolate  
Pasta / Sugar / Washing up liquid*

### NEXT SUNDAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio, his charity for world Mission, through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving, unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world.

To donate, use the **Missio envelopes**, call **020 7821 9755** (office hours) or visit [mission.org.uk](http://mission.org.uk) to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit, and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

### ASSISTED DYING BILL: PLEASE ACT NOW

The first reading of a bill on assisted dying (when a sick person is given access to lethal drugs which they administer themselves) will take place in parliament this week, on Wednesday 16th October, with a vote expected in December. This attempt to legalise state-sponsored killing comes just weeks after the Health Secretary described the NHS as "in crisis". Sick and elderly people, already struggling to access the care and support they need, are in great danger of being encouraged to see themselves as 'burdens' rather than the unique and precious children of God they really are.

To defeat this bill, we need a huge effort to lobby MPs. Our MP, Natasha Irons, is new to Parliament so has not voted on this issue before. She will be getting a barrage of messages – we must make sure our voice is heard. **Email [natasha.ironsm@parliament.uk](mailto:natasha.ironsm@parliament.uk)**

**For more information, please see page 3 of the newsletter online**

**ADVENT:** Please see page 3 of this newsletter online where there is a note about establishing house groups for Advent, where we will follow a professionally-prepared course of bible study.

**For Collection:** *A Barcellos*

**Rotas:** *Eucharistic Ministers (Oct) Readers (September/October)*

### ADDISCOMBE RESETTLEMENT COMMUNITY

It has been just over two years now since our refugee family from Afghanistan arrived in Croydon. While our group will continue to support the family with their integration into life in the UK, our financial support for the family has now come to an end.

We, along with the family, would like to thank all the members of the parish who have offered their support so generously during that period with gifts of money, time, and their prayers. Anyone who has a standing order to donate to the group and wishes to cancel this should do so through contacting their bank or building society.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024/2025

If your child is in a **Catholic School** and was 7 years old on 31st August 2024 and you wish him/her to be prepared for Reconciliation and First Communion please download an application from the parish website.

Return forms to the Parish office no later than **Sunday 27th October**. The first parents' meeting will be on Tuesday 19th November. **Incomplete/late applications will not be accepted.**

### BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS WITH FR TOMASZ

Starting on Wednesday 23rd October, we will have Bible Study sessions after coffee morning in the large hall. We will start with the topic: **'Letter to Philemon - new reality of Christian faith'**.

We will then work through the Old Testament Books focusing on the theme of the 'Faithful love of God'. **All are welcome!**

**Please bring your Bible;** the best translation would be the **Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition.**

### EXCITING FIREWORKS DISPLAY

**Friday 25th October at 6pm at St Thomas Becket School**

Enjoy a stunning show by Frontier Fireworks, renowned for their impressive displays at Beckenham Palace. The event also features a bar, BBQ, DJ, & snacks! It's set to be a night of fun and community spirit! Don't miss out - secure your tickets now to ensure you don't miss this remarkable event. To purchase tickets go to:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stbsa>

### YOUNG ADULTS' FELLOWSHIP

This group for ages 23 - 35, meets **fortnightly** on a **Friday evening in the PRC at 7pm**. Take a look at the posters in the porch for a better idea of what the group is about.

Our next meeting is on **18th October**. Please join us!

### DAY FOR READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Around the new translation of the Lectionary, soon to be brought into use. **Sat 19th October, 11am – 4pm Sacred Heart Parish Wimbledon**. Their parish Mass is a 10am for those who want it. Please bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee provided.

Register directly via [wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk)

**THE PARISH ASCENT GROUP:** Is for all parishioners, especially those of a certain age with life experience.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 22nd October, in the Small Hall, following 10am Mass**. This will be a very special occasion. Members of Southwark Life Ascending will be joining us, when we look forward to welcoming again Sister Sheila Barrett DMJ. Sr. Sheila will lead us on the subject of "Prayer"; morning and afternoon.

### MAJOR MARRIAGE PROBLEMS?

Do you feel alone? Are you constantly frustrated or angry with your spouse? Have you stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille may be for you. Its programme has helped hundreds of couples through difficult times in their marriages. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the next programme starting with a residential weekend from 8th - 10th November, call **07887 296983** or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com)

## ASSISTED DYING BILL: PLEASE ACT NOW

This booklet is very helpful (and inspiring) [Stories of ordinary people opposed to assisted suicide](#)

This webpage is useful <https://www.spuc.org.uk/livesworthliving>

However, if you are too busy to read up on the matter, just write a brief email to Natasha Irons in your own words, mentioning your own concerns about assisted suicide. Do you have a disability that will make you vulnerable? Or have family members you'd be worried about? Natasha is a Labour MP – you could remind her of her party's commitment to the poor and vulnerable. *Many thanks!*

## HOUSE GROUPS FOR ADVENT

*“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belong to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work”*  
(2 Timothy, 3:16,17)

From Psalm 119 ... *“O teach me true understanding and knowledge”* (v. 66); *“Give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments”* (v. 73).

Sermons are good – they can be very good – but are they enough?

Did our understanding of our faith come to a halt after Confirmation? If “Yes!!”, does this bother you? Would you welcome a convivial way of deepening and broadening your knowledge and understanding of what it means to be a Christian today?

In times past locally, there have been house groups and Bible study groups (generally of between 6 and 10 members), aimed at enabling us all to learn more, in a guided way, perhaps focused on a short season such as Advent or Lent. Following a short booklet covering (say) four weeks of Advent, groups examine and discuss what relevance to today there might be in (say) the Parable of the Prodigal Son, or The Council of Trent, or the various stories of deaths in the Bible (Goliath, Lazarus, Judas Iscariot and of course Jesus himself), or why and how the Old Testament is a formative element in the Christian faith.

Yes, it may sound daunting – but it isn't. For each week, the booklet might have a suggested Bible reading, a few paragraphs of commentary and several questions. It is these questions which the group leader would focus on with the members, drawing out insights and experiences which help others to see more clearly the important issues of the day in the light of their (we hope now expanded) Christian faith. To have groups at all, we clearly need hosts who can seat up to ten people more or less comfortably, and leaders who are prepared to ensure that a balanced conversation is held, with the discussion including everyone and not dominated by one or two people.

If you believe you could do either (or both) of these, please let Andy Bebington know via **020 8777 4849** or, preferably, **[andy.bebington@gmail.com](mailto:andy.bebington@gmail.com)**, giving your name and contact details and an indication of which afternoons or evenings you'd generally expect to be available.

If you think you might like to join a group just as a member, (subject to date, and time of day), please also let him know your “availability” so that the numbers of groups can be arranged.

