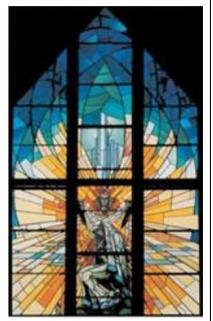




Our Lady of the Annunciation



Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Jackson Sebastian
 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: The office is currently closed

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
 By appointment only

13th December 2020 Third Sunday of Advent YEAR B

“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS.”

The third Sunday of Advent is called “*Gaudete Sunday*” because the Mass for today (in its original Latin text), begins with the opening antiphon: “*Gaudete in Domino semper*” – “*Rejoice in the Lord always.*” To remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The common theme of the day’s Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present, and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

Scripture lessons: The Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God, Yahweh, is their strong Guide, Provider and Protector. In today’s Responsorial Psalm (Luke 1:46 ff.) Mary rejoices in the great blessing given to her, exclaiming: “*My soul glorifies the Lord; my spirit finds joy in God my Saviour.*” St. Paul, in the second reading, advises the Thessalonian Christians to “*rejoice always*” by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ’s second coming is near, and he is faithful in his promise to reward them.

Today’s Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. The Baptizer wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. We need to bear witness to Christ the Light. Our mission, as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of his Church, is to reflect Christ’s Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ’s sharing love and his unconditional forgiveness through our lives.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS TO YOUR PRIESTS

As with everything else in 2020, your Christmas offerings to Fr Keith and Fr Jackson will be slightly different this year! The Diocese have recognised that parishioners may not be able to attend Mass in their usual way over the Christmas period, but may still want to give something to their priest in the traditional way.

Therefore, all of the collections (including electronic and standing order) which are received on each of the days within the ‘Octave of the Nativity of the Lord’ and up to and including 6th January 2021, will constitute your personal Christmas offering.

*However, there are still special envelopes available near the exit in the porch if you wish to use them. Those on the Gift Aid scheme should use their designated envelope for Christmas Day if possible. **Many thanks.***

Mass Intentions This Week

12 December: Saturday

10:00 Peter You Than Lim RIP
 17:30 Thanksgiving for the birth of ‘Grandson Jennings’
 18:30 Arthur Fairservice RIP

13 December:

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

09:00 Intentions of the McHugh Family
 10:00 Ines, Gerald & Godwin Zampa RIP
 11:00 All Parishioners
 12:00 Intentions of the Daly Family

14 December: Monday

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS

10:00 May & Jack Ward RIP

15 December: Tuesday

10:00 Thanksgiving & Wellbeing of Lordes Joseph

16 December: Wednesday

10:00 Tony Finnegan RIP

17 December: Thursday

10:00 Michael O’Brien RIP
 19:30 Thomas Hart RIP

18 December: Friday

10:00 Dennis & Josie Healy RIP

19 December: Saturday

10:00 Josephine Seemampillai RIP
 17:30 Joan McHugh RIP
 18:30 Andy & Nuala Fox RIP

20 December:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

09:00 Pat Harley RIP
 10:00 Desire Toure RIP
 11:00 Margot Evans RIP
 12:00 All Parishioners



IMPORTANT REMINDER

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

LAST WEEK’S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 1332.15
Loose cash	£ 643.85
S/Os	£ 975.00
Total	£ 2921.00

CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES 2020

Confirmation certificates for 2020 can now be collected from the Parish Office. Please ring to let us know when you will collect. **Many thanks.**

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, Mary Rayner, Maureen Kearney, Teresa Savitri

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Kazimierz (Charlie) Martynski, 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, Norah Everest, Dennis Godfree, George Fowler, Paddy O’Connor, Rosaleen Jamieson, Mary White, Isabella Rees, May Lally, Andrew Fox, Helen Smyth

***** IMPORTANT TRACK & TRACE INFORMATION *****
Please text your name to - [07548 868418](tel:07548868418). Many thanks for your cooperation.

***** 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

On behalf of the Social Club, I hope that you are all safe and well!

Christmas Raffle 2020 raised the magnificent sum of £6,350.00

Our three nominated Charities, *the Lily Pad Appeal*, *St Mildred's Church* and *the Woodside Bereavement Service* will each receive a cheque to the value of £2,200.00.

Thank you to: Our Sponsors, Friends for purchasing tickets, Ticket sellers, Friends who donated items for the Hampers and the Addiscombe Youth Club.

Full details of our Sponsors & the Winners are available on the Parish website:

<http://www.addiscombecatholicchurch.com/>

There will be a **Bonus Draw** for all ticket holders on **Sunday, 27th December** following the 10.00am Mass. The Prizes will be **three Hampers** and **two Free Entries for Win a Home in London.** (www.winahomeinlondon.com)

The **Across Charity**, which takes disabled children to Lourdes, is hosting a virtual Mass on a regular basis. As we continue our preparations for Christmas, Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, 17th December at 5.00pm. If you would like to join the Mass, please send an email to **Christina Cahill** (christinacahill@ntlworld.com); she will then reply to you by forwarding a Link, a Meeting ID and a Password.

Jacqueline Sylvia has recently completed the **Christmas 200 Club Across draw**. The winners are:

No. 95: Josie O'Malley £200.00

No. 100: Noel McCorry £100.00

No. 18: Connor Kennison £100.00

All winners will receive their cheques over the next few days. Thank you to Members who have renewed their membership of the 200 Club and to those who have recently joined the Club. If you would like to join the 200 Club, please go to the website (www.anerleyacross.org.uk) and download an application form.

More News from **the Social Club** is available on the Facebook site.

If the Social Club Committee can help you in anyway, please make contact with the Parish Office. You may need assistance with shopping, collection of medication, transport to a hospital appointment et al. **No task is too small - please make contact.**

RECENT DEATHS: We are sad to announce the recent deaths of **Epiphany Fernandes** (known as Effie) and **Iris Philomena D'Rose** (known as Phylis). Please remember Effie and Phylis in your prayers and our sympathies go to both families at this difficult time

TOY SUNDAY - THIS WEEKEND 12th / 13th DECEMBER

Our annual Toy Collection takes place this weekend (12th/13th December). **Please place your gift in the appropriate age & gender sacks, which will be located at the back of the church. Many thanks for your continued support.**

SO, WE GO BACK TO 'COVID NORMAL'!

That is to say, Mass is open to the public and the Covid timetable is restored for Sundays. Mass will be celebrated with restrictions and Communion distributed as the faithful leave the building. The cleaning regime between Masses will be as rigorous as before, masks must be worn, one way system and social distancing guidelines must be observed at all times.

What to do about Christmas? It is a difficult one to call, as under normal circumstances, we might have 16-18 hundred people through the building with family guests and 'once a year' worshipers etc. To accommodate such numbers we would need something like 13 Masses with the church at full capacity and that is not practical. At the same time numbers returning to Mass after the first lockdown are just over a third of our normal attendance.

The Bishop has issued some guidelines on the subject. He asks us to remember that we celebrate the **Octave** of Christmas. To attend any time during the octave would fulfil one's obligation. He then asks us to remember that the obligation remains **rescinded** at this time and will not be restored before the festival or indeed until the pandemic is over and it is safe to do so. Remember also that there continues to be a ban on congregational singing, so the Masses will not be the celebrations we have come to love and cherish as part of our Christmas routines.

However, as Baldrick might say, "I have a cunning plan". The **6pm Mass on Christmas eve**, which is by far the most populated Mass of the festival will be a **'SING-A-LONG' from home celebration**. Mass will be private in church but **live streamed** with all the Carols and music we will not have the opportunity to sing in church over the feast. So you can 'let rip' in your lounges with as many family and friends as you are legally allowed to gather, and as loud as you can get away with before the neighbours start knocking on the wall. In this way I hope we will be able to control the numbers of people who might be attending Mid-night Mass and the 9am, 10am, 11am and 12pm on Christmas morning. The last thing we want is to be turning people away. **The Mid-night and 10am Christmas morning Masses will also be live streamed.** Fr Jackson and I look forward to celebrating Advent and Christmas with you, and thank you for your patient understanding as we continue to consider how to do so under these challenging circumstances. **God bless. Fr Keith.**

*** THE REPOSITORY SHOP AT CHRISTMAS ***

There's a great selection of Christmas cards, diaries, calendars, candles, some lovely cribs, and other Christmassy bits available now! The shop will be open before and after each of the weekend Masses.

Early shoppers will have the best selection, so get in quick!!

GIFT AID: With Christmas in mind, there are still 70+ sets of Gift Aid envelopes uncollected in the parish office. If you would like yours, please ring the office giving your **FULL NAME** and your box will be left on the table in the church entrance for collection.

HM Government

**WASH
HANDS**

**COVER
FACE**

**MAKE
SPACE**

NHS



OUR LADY'S SAFEGUARDING OFFICER - Ann Marie Christian. Contact email - addiscombesg1@safeguardraos.org.uk

OFFERING A MASS INTENTION: If you wish to offer a Mass intention at this time, please either use an 'Intentions' envelope located in a tray by the church exit, or complete the form on our website under the **COVID 19** tab. You can print this off and return it via the parish office letterbox with stipend enclosed, or email it to us directly at addiscombe@rcaos.org.uk. If you choose to email the form we will then contact you once lockdown is lifted regarding the stipend.

PURCHASING MASS CARDS: The parish office remains closed to the public. If you wish to purchase a Mass card, *please visit the Repository shop at the weekend, or see Fr Keith or Fr Jackson who can assist you with this.* Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

COLLECTIONS FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

As the nights draw in and temperatures plummet, we will be collecting items to help support homeless people in our community, supporting two Croydon-based charities.

NIGHTWATCH

Nightwatch volunteers are out every night in the centre of Croydon, giving food and other help. Later this month they will distribute more than 100 Christmas presents. Additional contributions would be very welcome.

Their greatest need is for:

- Sleeping Bags
- Hand Sanitiser
- Face Masks
- Warm hats, gloves and scarfs

STREETLINK

StreetLink exists to end rough sleeping by enabling members of the public to connect people sleeping rough with the local services that can support them.

They are in need of:

- Men's underwear
- Jogging bottoms (for men and women)

We will be collecting donations in a clearly marked box, at the back of the church, until Sunday 20 December.

These collections are being coordinated by members of the Addiscombe Welcomes Refugees group
addiscombewelcomesrefugees@gmail.com

AYC UPDATE: As we did not get many members for the 'Year 7 Christmas Introduction Quiz', we will plan a meet up for Year 7 in the new year and are very keen to get this organised.

Christmas Wishes from the AYC

WOODSIDE BEREAVEMENT SERVICE

"LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS"

We would like to invite you to our special event on **Thursday 17th December** at our Waterside Centre to provide you the opportunity to reflect on your loss and to approach the future with hope.

We are holding three sessions at **11am, 12.30pm and 2pm.**

Please let us know what time you would like to come along as spaces may be limited. If you would like to bring a family member or friend, within your bubble, please let us know when booking your place. We hope to see you there.

Woodside Bereavement Service Waterside Centre,
26 Avenue Road, London SE25 4DX

Tel: **020 3256 2009** Email: wbs@thelisteningear.org.uk

FRATELLI TUTTI: The new encyclical of Pope Francis, is a message for everyone, not just Catholics or people of other faiths. The Holy Father argues that at a time of pandemic we cannot just return to politics as normal, but need to show fraternity and social friendship to build a better, more just and peaceful world. To find out more about Fratelli Tutti, please follow the links on the parish website.

How can you show fraternity and social friendship in our Parish?

Please contact one of the following groups in our Parish: the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), who visit and befriend parishioners; the Refugee Support group, who are preparing to bring a vulnerable family for resettlement in the UK, and the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group, who campaign on social issues in line with Catholic social teaching. Details of how to contact these groups can be found on the website or you can contact the parish office.

GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION TO THE HOMELESS

Sadly, due to restrictions imposed on our older members by the COVID pandemic and lack of further volunteers, the Good Shepherd Mission To the Homeless (GSMH) are no longer able to continue our work in distributing food, clothing and toiletries to homeless people in Lincoln's Inn and Waterloo. *Now seems to be a natural ending to nearly forty years of GSMH ministry inspired by Sr. Joan, DMJ, for which we are truly grateful.*

Our remaining funds and assets will be shared amongst other charities that support people who are homeless.

On behalf of GSMH. I would like to thank you for your generous support over the years. Without your contributions, the work could not have continued. *Sr. Sheila Barrett for GSMH*

CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH CAFOD

After a year of uncertainty, we all need the hope, peace and true comfort and joy that the Advent season can offer. *CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. We even have a virtual Advent Calendar.* Visit cafod.org.uk/parishes to learn more. We can also stretch out our hands to people living in poverty and refugees by donating to CAFOD's Advent Appeal at cafod.org.uk/advent.

