



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

14th April Third Sunday of Easter (page 258 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR B

Pope Francis presents the Rosary to us as a powerful prayer.

First, he said that the Rosary is a “compendium of the entire history of our salvation.”

For many centuries the Christian faith was spread to many parts of the world through the Rosary, a completely biblical prayer.

Without access to the printing press or readily available Bibles, the Rosary became the primary means of communicating the essence of Christianity. It was a method of evangelisation for many missionaries.

Then, the Pope noted, that the “Holy Rosary is a powerful weapon against evil.” The Rosary’s power against Satan is something that many saints have noted, including Padre Pio and St. John Bosco.

Finally, the Pope said, it is “an effective means of obtaining true peace in our hearts.”

The Rosary is one example of prayer that successfully incorporates both body and soul, involving many of the senses.

We would like to embrace the Rosary as our parish prayer, which will unite all of us in the Heart of Mary.

We would like to invite 5 parishioners from each Mass: 6pm, 8.30am, 10am and 11.30am. That will give us 20 people praying 1 decade of rosary each day. In this way we will have a whole rosary offered daily for our parish.

We suggest the following intentions of the rosary:

- 1 Sanctification of the parish area and all living in its boundaries.
- 2 Sanctification of the parishioners and their families.
- 3 Sanctification of the priests of the parish.

Those who will agree to pray, will offer one decade of the rosary a day with a short reflection (1 Our Father, 10 Hail Mary and 1 Glory be..). This would change each 1st Sunday of the month.

There will be a sign up list in the porch. Please do join generously to our parish prayer!

fr Tamasz

Mass Intentions This Week

13 April: Saturday

10:00 Mervyn Lissenburg & His Brother, James RIP

18:00 Mr & Mrs Joseph Rasanayagam RIP

14 April: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

08:30 Della Barcellos & Michael Semeta RIP

10:00 All Parishioners

11:30 Packie Duignan RIP

15 April: Monday

10:00 Ints of Michael McHugh & Family

16 April: Tuesday

10:00 Jerome Simons RIP

17 April: Wednesday FUNERAL MASS

10:00 Helené Bambi RIP

18 April: Thursday

10:00 Milton Chatelier RIP

19:30 Kathy Attwater RIP

19 April: Friday

10:00 Martina Oseni RIP

20 April: Saturday

10:00 Harold, Michael & Harry Sweeney RIP

18:00 Aiden Holder RIP 3rd Anniversary *

21 April: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

08:30 All Parishioners *

10:00 Hellen Kassianou RIP ~ *

11:30 Mr Benjamin Joseph Okeke RIP
20th Anniversary *

* With Foodbank Sunday

~ With Uniformed Groups

MEETINGS

Finance Committee: Monday 15th at 8pm (PRC)

Padre Pio Group: Tuesday 16th at 10.45am (Small Hall)

SVP: Tuesday 16th at 8pm (PRC)

Adult Catechesis: Wed 17th at 11.15am (Large Hall) & 7.45pm (Small Hall)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm

In The Sacred Heart Chapel

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes £ 405.34

Loose cash £ 562.66

S/Os (Approx) £ 1290.00

Total £ 2258.00

*** DEFIBRILLATOR ***

A defibrillator is located on the right hand side of the porch as you enter the church.

COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection for *Little Sisters of the Poor* amounted to £732.50. Many thanks.

Next week there will be a Diocesan collection for *Priests' Training Fund*. See notice 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: Phyllis Donnelly, Fr David Peck, Ethan Patel, Jonathan Leiper, Mary Ariaratnam, Christina Cahill, Marie Griffen, Ursula & Anthony Kennedy, Arthur Hughes & all others

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Catherine A. Charles, Sr Bernadette, Milton Chatelier, John Humphries, Eric Turtle, Chris Hatton, James Brady, Delmira Barcellos, Sheila Minus, Maria Walicka, Julia Hinchcliffe, Paul Geddes, Olivia Green, Amalorpava Rasanayagam, Kate Gladden, Henryka Starkowski, Mary Anderson, Harold Sweeney, Patrick Walsh, Joseph Brady, Maria Robinson, Peter Philipsz, Aidan Holder, William Doherty, John Flanagan, Patrick Irvine

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club

Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm

14th April: Ally Harron & Marian Curry

21st April: TR Dallas

28th April: Cross Keys

5th May: **Bank Holiday Special** - Kenny Paul

12th May: The Duets

26th May: Frank Nelson

2nd June: Theresa Rodgers

- The **Bacon & Cabbage Dinner and Dance** on Friday, 26th April is a **complete Sell Out**. No tickets will be available on the door.

- The **Strictly Come Dancing Evening** takes place on Friday, 17th May. Entertainment will be Kieran White. This will be a **Fun Evening & entries will be taken on the Night**. To reserve tickets - Members: £5.00 & Guests: £6.00, please call Pat Winston on 07734 250375

FUNERAL ARRANGMENTS

The funeral of **Sybil Whitworth** will take place here at **Our Lady's** on **Tuesday 30th April at 10am**.

The funeral of **Fr David Standley** will be on **Thursday 25th April at 10am** at **St George's Cathedral**.

May they both Rest In Peace.

OUR PARISH ASCENT GROUP: Is part of Life Ascending International in England, which is designed to meet the needs of Catholics, especially older members of the Church.

We have been meeting in our Parish, every second Tuesday, after morning Mass, for 21 years. After tea/coffee, between 10 and 20 of our members attend.

We produce a programme for each meeting and pray to our Heavenly Father for an increase in Faith Hope and Charity. Our programme usually includes prayer to the Holy Spirit, prayers of intercession and ends with a hymn appropriate to the focus of our meeting.

We invite a variety of speakers each year, including the Sisters of Mary and Joseph, who all teach and encourage us in an adult understanding of our faith, and in our personal prayer life.

All are welcome 10.45am in the Small Hall.

23rd April: Sr. Annette Lawrence, DMJ - "Earthen Vessels"

7th May: Sr. Sheila Barrett, DMJ

21st May: Sr. Sheila Moloney - "An Hour With Our Blessed Lady"

B SYLVIA FITNESS

Big news alert! B Sylvia Fitness is officially on social media!

Dive into the action on Facebook: B Sylvia Fitness
Get ready to double-tap on Instagram: @bsylviafitness

Unlock your warrior potential - Book CombatX classes now at www.bsylviafitness.com

Stay tuned for class updates, exclusive content and all the motivation you need to crush your goals!

Don't miss out - Join the #bsylviafitness community today!

HOUSEBOUND & WANTING COMMUNION?

Do you know of any parishioners who are housebound and unable to come to Mass? Would they like to receive Communion at home? If so, please contact the parish office with their details, and home visits can be arranged for those in need.

CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS

Fr Tomasz delivers catechesis for adults **every Wednesday from 11.15am (during coffee morning) in the large hall, and at 7.45pm in the small hall.**

Topic for this week: Church's Teaching on Euthanasia

THE CHURCH'S TEACHING ON IVF

Please see pages 3 - 5 of our newsletter online, for excerpts of documents on the church's teaching on IVF, as spoken about by Fr Tomasz in his Wednesday catechesis.

FOODBANK ITEMS NEEDED....

For the next food bank Sunday the following items are most needed:

<i>Cereals</i>	<i>biscuits</i>	<i>fish paste</i>	<i>jam</i>
<i>Honey</i>	<i>peanut butter</i>	<i>pasta</i>	<i>pasta sauces</i>
<i>rice</i>	<i>tinned tomatoes</i>	<i>vegetables</i>	

Please ensure all items are in date. Many thanks!

DIVERSITY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING TODAY

Dear Parishioners, you are invited to our meeting **TODAY, Sunday 14th April at 12.30pm**, (straight after the 11.30am Mass) in the **large hall**. We will review actions from our last meeting, finalise our guiding document, discuss our Big Lunch on 2nd June plus other plans for the year. Thanks, peace and friendship, *Sylvia*.

PARISH FILM SHOW

This year's show will take place at **7.30pm** on **Saturday 20th April** in the **Small Hall**. An entertaining selection of short films will be shown using Super 8 and 16mm projectors (not digital).

Proceeds will support The Brain Tumour Charity

Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend, or you can book by emailing adrianw_8-16@tiscali.co.uk or calling **020 8656 0168**.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND SECOND COLLECTION

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 5 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

COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIR 2025 CALENDAR

Stage Two

Stage one is now complete! We have been overwhelmed with the response to pledges for deceased loved ones. Many current and past parishioners who still have links with the Parish are very enthusiastic about the project and have participated. Thank you very much!

Stage two is now in progress! We are requesting memories and photos for the calendar. If you have any photographs representing any events, the buildings, Sacramental, groups activities from the past to the current year, we would love to see them and consider them for the calendar. If they are not included, we are hoping to put on a display of all photos received next year.

Please put any hard copies in an envelope with details of the event, the date and contact details so they can be returned to you after the celebrations.

If you can, we would like to receive as many as possible digitally. The email is addiscomberchurch@gmail.com
Please note this is NOT the office email, Rachel & Stephanie have been so supportive and helpful but we do not want to give them any extra work if it can be avoided.

Thank you! The Calendar Girls

WEEKLY MASS - CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

There will be a Mass every **WEDNESDAY at 12 noon** in the Chapel at Croydon University Hospital, starting on **Wednesday 10th April**. All are most welcome.

For Collection: *K Duignan*

Baptism certificates: COLLECT FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Rotas: *Eucharistic Ministers (April) Readers (Mar/April)*

Church's teaching on IVF

Donum Vitae - CDF 1987

God, who is love and life, has inscribed on man and woman the call to a special participation in his mystery of personal communion and in his work as Creator and Father. For this reason, marriage possesses specific goods and values of union and procreation, incomparably superior to those of the lower forms of life. These values and meanings of a personal order determine, on the moral level, the meaning and limits of artificial interventions on procreation and the origin of human life. Such procedures are not to be rejected on the grounds that they are artificial; as such they bear witness to the possibilities of medicine, but they must be morally valued because of their relationship to the dignity of the human person, called to correspond to the divine vocation to the gift of love and the gift of life.

Any intervention on the human body does not only affect the tissues, organs and functions; it also affects, at various levels, the person himself; it therefore carries a moral meaning and responsibility, perhaps implicitly, but in a real way.

The Church has great compassion for those who suffer from infertility. Out of love for all human life and respect for the integrity of marital relations, however, the Church teaches that some means of trying to achieve pregnancy are not licit. Some of these means actually involve the taking of innocent human life, or treating human life as a means toward an end or a "manufactured product." They do violence to the dignity of the human person.

Artificial procreation" or "artificial insemination" is understood here to mean the various technical procedures aimed at achieving the conception of a human being by a means other than the sexual union of a man and a woman. This instruction deals with the fertilisation of the ovum in a test tube (in vitro fertilisation) and artificial insemination by transferring the collected sperm into the genital tract of the woman.

The life of every human being must be respected absolutely from the very moment of conception, because man is the only creature on earth that God has "willed for himself", and the spiritual soul of every human being is "immediately created" by God; his whole being bears the image of the Creator. Human life is sacred because from its very beginning it involves "the creative action of God" and remains always in a special relationship with the Creator, its only end. God alone is Lord of life from its beginning to its end: no one, under any circumstances, can claim the right to directly kill an innocent human being.

The human being must be respected - as a person - from the very first moment of his or her existence. Declaration on procured abortion (CDF - 1974): From the moment the ovum is fertilised, a new life is inaugurated which is neither that of the father nor that of the mother, but that of a new human being who develops by himself. It will never become human if it has not been human since then.

The human being must be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception and, therefore, from that very moment, the rights of the person must be recognised, principally the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life.

In the common practice of in vitro fertilisation, not all embryos are transferred into the woman's body; some are destroyed. The Church, in the same way that she condemns induced abortion, also forbids the violation of the life of these human beings. It is necessary to denounce the particular gravity of the deliberate destruction of human embryos obtained "in vitro" for the sole purpose of research, whether they are obtained by artificial fertilisation or by "twin fission". By behaving in this way, researcher usurps the place of God and, even if he is not aware of it, makes himself master of the destiny of others, since he arbitrarily determines who he will allow to live and who he will send to death, eliminating defenceless human beings.

The very freezing of embryos, even if carried out to keep the embryo alive - cryopreservation - is an offence to the respect due to human beings, in that it exposes them to serious risks of death or damage to their physical integrity, deprives them at least temporarily of maternal care and gestation, and places them in a situation susceptible to further injury and manipulation.

The procreation of a new person, in which man and woman collaborate in the power of the Creator, must be the fruit and the sign of the mutual self-giving of the spouses, of their love and their fidelity.³⁴ The fidelity of the spouses, in the unity of marriage, entails mutual respect for their right to become father and mother exclusively through each other. The fidelity of the spouses, in the unity of marriage, entails mutual respect for their right to become father and mother exclusively through each other.

Through IVFET and heterologous artificial insemination, human conception is obtained through the union of gametes from at least one donor other than the spouses who are united in marriage. Heterologous artificial insemination is contrary to the unity of marriage, to the dignity of the spouses, to the proper vocation of parents and to the right of children to be conceived and brought into the world in marriage and by marriage.

Homologous artificial insemination within marriage is not admissible, except in cases where the technical means does not replace the conjugal act, but is a facilitation and financial aid for the latter to achieve its natural purpose.

Surrogacy is not permissible for the same reasons that lead to the rejection of heterologous artificial fertilisation: it is in fact contrary to the unity of marriage and to the dignity of the procreation of the human person.

Surrogate motherhood represents an objective offence against the obligations of maternal love, conjugal fidelity and responsible motherhood; it offends the dignity and the right of the child to be conceived, gestated, brought into the world and educated by the parents themselves; it establishes, to the detriment of the family, a division between the physical, psychological and moral elements that constitute it.

From USCCB website

In vitro fertilisation brings about new life in a petri dish. Children engendered through IVF are sometimes known as "test tube babies." Several eggs are aspirated from the woman's ovary after she has taken a fertility drug which causes a number of eggs to mature at the same time. Semen is collected from the man, usually through masturbation. The egg and sperm are ultimately joined in a glass dish, where conception takes place and the new life is allowed to develop for several days. In the simplest case, embryos are then transferred to the mother's womb in the hope that one will survive to term.

To avoid the problems of carrying and rearing "too many" babies after several have been implanted, doctors sometimes engage in something euphemistically called "fetal reduction" or "selective reduction." Here they monitor the babies in utero to see if any have defects or are judged to be not as healthy as the others. Then they eliminate those "less desirable" babies by filling a syringe with potassium chloride, manoeuvring the needle toward the "selected" baby in the womb with the aid of ultrasound, and then thrusting the needle into the baby's heart. The potassium chloride kills the baby within minutes, and he or she is expelled as a "miscarriage." If it cannot be determined that one baby is less healthy than the others, some doctors simply eliminate the baby or babies who are easiest to reach. Again we see the unspeakable diminishing of the value of human life which can arise from this procedure.

CCC (2377, 2399) - 1991

Techniques involving only the married couple (homologous artificial insemination and fertilisation) are perhaps less reprehensible, yet remain morally unacceptable. They dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act. The act which brings the child into existence is no longer an act by which two persons give themselves to one another, but one that "entrusts the life and identity of the embryo into the power of doctors and biologists and establishes the domination of technology over the origin and destiny of the human person. Such a relationship of domination is in itself contrary to the dignity and equality that must be common to parents and children." "Under the moral aspect procreation is deprived of its proper perfection when it is not willed as the fruit of the conjugal act, that is to say, of the specific act of the spouses' union Only respect for the link between the meanings of the conjugal act and respect for the unity of the human being make possible procreation in conformity with the dignity of the person."

Legitimate intentions on the part of the spouses do not justify recourse to morally unacceptable means.

Dignitas Infinita - DDF 2024

Surrogacy

48. The Church also takes a stand against the practice of surrogacy, through which the immensely worthy child becomes a mere object. On this point, Pope Francis's words have a singular clarity: "The path to peace calls for respect for life, for every human life, starting with the life of the unborn child in the mother's womb, which cannot be suppressed or turned into an object of trafficking. In this regard, I deem deplorable the practice of so-called surrogate motherhood, which represents a grave violation of the dignity of the woman and the child, based on the exploitation of situations of the mother's material needs. A child is always a gift and never the basis of a commercial contract. Consequently, I express my hope for an effort by the international community to prohibit this practice universally."

49. First and foremost, the practice of surrogacy violates the dignity of the child. Indeed, every child possesses an intangible dignity that is clearly expressed—albeit in a unique and differentiated way—at every stage of his or her life: from the moment of conception, at birth, growing up as a boy or girl, and becoming an adult. Because of this unalienable dignity, the child has the right to have a fully human (and not artificially induced) origin and to receive the gift of a life that manifests both the dignity of the giver and that of the receiver. Moreover, acknowledging the dignity of the human person also entails recognising every dimension of the dignity of the conjugal union and of human procreation. Considering this, the legitimate desire to have a child cannot be transformed into a "right to a child" that fails to respect the dignity of that child as the recipient of the gift of life.

50. Surrogacy also violates the dignity of the woman, whether she is coerced into it or chooses to subject herself to it freely. For, in this practice, the woman is detached from the child growing in her and becomes a mere means subservient to the arbitrary gain or desire of others. This contrasts in every way with the fundamental dignity of every human being and with each person's right to be recognised always individually and never as an instrument for another.