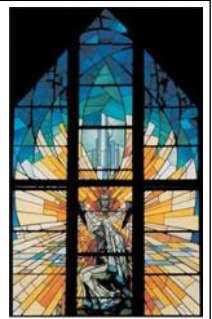




Our Lady of the Annunciation



Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Tomasz Margol
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: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 3pm Wednesday: Closed
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Monday - Saturday: Before or After 10am Mass or By Appointment

17th December 2023 Third Sunday of Advent (page 87 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR B

In today's Gospel passage, John is discussing with a group of Pharisees and assures them he is not the Messiah, the Christ. Nonetheless, John was baptizing people in the Jordan River. This is part of the process of preparing for the One already in their midst, Jesus, who would be baptizing in the Holy Spirit, but not yet recognized by the Pharisees and others.

The portrait of John the Baptist in the Gospels is of a prophet completely conscious of the true nature of his vocation, as a forerunner, one who goes ahead, sent to prepare the way, but as a servant, not as the master. John sees himself as ready and willing for the lowest menial service. "I am not worthy to unfasten the sandal of the Master," he says. The one desire of the Baptist was to prepare hearts for the coming of the Messiah, principally by their fasting and repentance. John points all those who hear him to follow the One Leader, Jesus, not John.

As we reach the mid point of the Advent Season we pray that we may become completely conscious of our vocation to follow, be disciples of Him to whom John gives witness, Jesus, our Saviour, Lord and King. Without him, like John the Baptist we must consider ourselves unworthy. With him we are made worthy, becoming with Christ co-heirs of the Kingdom of God.



MEETINGS

Ascent Group: Tuesday 19th at 10.30am (SMALL Hall)
SVP: Tuesday 19th at 8pm (PRC)
Adult Catechesis: Wed 20th at 11.15am (Large Hall) & 7.45pm (Small Hall)
Young Catholic Adults Meeting: Friday 22nd at 8pm (PRC)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 484.24
Loose cash	£ 742.76
S/Os (Approx)	£ 1290.00
Total	£ 2517.00

Mass Intentions This Week

16 December: Saturday

10:00 Michael O'Brien RIP
18:00 Andy & Nuala Fox RIP *

17 December: 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08:30 All Parishioners *
10:00 Birthday Wishes for Eugenia Fernandes*
11:30 George Hennessy RIP *

18 December: Monday

10:00 Bridgie Deane RIP

19 December: Tuesday FUNERAL MASS

10:00 Leon Titus RIP
19:30 *Advent Reconciliation Service*

20 December: Wednesday

10:00 Intentions of Elizabeth McHugh

21 December: Thursday

10:00 Patricia Harley RIP
19:30 Prince & Chief
Mrs Adeyera Adeyemo RIP

22 December: Friday

10:00 Martin Fernandez RIP

23 December: Saturday

10:00 Harry, Michael & Harold Sweeney RIP
18:00 Dec. Mems. of the Carey Family & Maureen Walsh RIP

24 December: 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08:30 Margot Evans RIP
10:00 Ints of the Turner & Stonebridge Fams
11:30 Maria Morris RIP & Malec Family Ints
*** *Christmas Day Vigil Masses* ***

18:00 All Parishioners
23:30 21st Birthday Wishes for Alvin Jude Vethanayagam

* *With Foodbank Sunday*

*** DEFIBRILLATOR ***

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

COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection for **Barnabas Aid** amounted to £580.00. Many thanks. Special envelopes are now available in the porch for the **Christmas Day** collection, which is your personal offering to Fr Keith and Fr Tomasz **and is separate to your usual Sunday offering**. Those on the Gift Aid scheme should use their designated envelope for Christmas Day please. Next week's **CRIB OFFERINGS** will be given to The Friends of the Holy Land & The Catholic Children's Society Southwark Crisis Fund.

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Elizabeth Damsel, Lauren Horwood, Elizabeth Casey, Brian Kearney, Jose Fernandez, Mary Ariaratnam, Christina Cahill, Marie Griffin, Ernie & Mary, Anna Maria Caruana

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Norah Everest, Dennis Godfree, George Fowler, Paddy O'Connor, Rosaleen Jamieson, Mary White, Isabella Rees, May Lally, George Hennessy, Andrew Fox, Helen Smyth, Marie Louise Powell, Tony Nasri, Elizabeth Jerome, Hietty Palmer, Patrick Conway, Patrick Maher, Alfred Henry Daubney, Marie McCann, Richard Avery, Patricia Whiffin, Percy Fowler, Anita Parker, Ashley Jacob, Arthur Gateley, Jacqueline Phillips, Kathleen McCarthy

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club

Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm

10th December: Glen Flynn

17th December: Frank Nelson

31st December: **New Year's Eve Party** - Ally Harron/Marian Curry

7th January: Kieran White

14th January: Theresa Rodgers

21st January: Shane & Mervyn Owens

28th January: Cross Keys

4th February: Finbar & Paul

11th February: Shane & Mervyn Owens

- The **Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner** takes place this weekend.

- The **New Year's Eve Party** will take place on Sunday, 31st December from 7.30pm. Guests will be invited to bring Party Food to the event & Entertainment will be provided by **Ally Harron & Marian Curry**. Admission will be by Ticket: Members - £5.00 & Guests £6.00. **To reserve Tickets call Ben Cahill on 07958 903410.**

RECENT DEATH

We are sad to announce the recent death of **Maria Hernandez**. Her funeral will take place here at Our Lady's on **Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 10am**.

Please pray for Maria and her family at this very sad time. May she **Rest In Peace**.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm - with visiting priests.

ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL

From 9.30am every Monday - Saturday

WILL YOU BE HOME ALONE ON CHRISTMAS DAY?

St Mildred's Church would like to invite you to the Community Lunch on Christmas Day. To reserve a place, please call their Parish Office on **0208 655 1434**.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS

Please note that the parish office will be closed from **Friday 22nd December** until **Wednesday 3rd January** (inclusive) for the Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you again when we reopen on Thursday 4th January 2024.

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: The Marian Dogmas

STEPHANIE GOUGOUE: Please contact Stephanie in the Parish Office as a matter of urgency about a Mass Intention. Many thanks.

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR BAPTISM CERTIFICATES!

We have Baptism certificates dating back pre pandemic that are yet to be collected! Please contact the parish office to pick up this important document as soon as possible! Many thanks.

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE WITH MATHS? We can help!

We will be offering Maths tuition for **years 1 to 'A' level**
On Sundays in Our Lady's small hall between 1 - 7pm.

To register your interest please contact:

Joseph 07714 203973 or Grace 07516 396009

** PAY WHAT YOU CAN CAFE **

Eat, drink, chill and pay what you can afford! Every Tuesday - Friday 10am to 5pm at Socco Cheta Café, 44B Portland Road.

For Collection: J Murphy, D O'Donovan, UCM

Baptism certificates: COLLECT FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Rotas: Eucharistic Ministers (Dec/Christmas) Readers (Nov/Dec)

ADVENT 4 & CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sat 23rd Mass 6.00pm Advent 4

Sun 24th Mass 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am Advent 4
(All Masses Said)

Sun 24th 6.00pm Vigil of Christmas Day
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Sun 25th 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am. Mass of Christmas Day.

Advent 4 and Christmas day are two distinct Holy Days of Obligation. The Diocese has encouraged us to offer said Masses for Advent 4 that it might make it easier for families to remain faithful to their obligations.

God bless.

Fr Keith & Fr Tomasz

CAROL SINGING AT MIDNIGHT MASS

If you wish to join the singers at Midnight Mass this Christmas, please email the parish office and we will advise you of rehearsal dates and times.

ST THOMAS BECKET PRIMARY SCHOOL

Applications for Reception Class 2024

A reminder that the closing date for all applications for Reception 2024 class is **15th January 2024**. This is the deadline for both SIF (supplementary information forms) and the online 'e-admissions form'. To ensure your application is ranked as high as possible, SIF forms should be accompanied by the original baptism cert (child & 1 parent, birth cert, proof of address x 2, and a priest's reference. **If you have any questions about the application process please contact the school office.**

Diarmuid Skehan (Headteacher)

St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School
Birchanger Rd, London, SE25 5BN
020 8654 3006

OUR LADY'S ASCENT GROUP

(Members of Life Ascending)

Is meeting every second Tuesday in the SMALL Hall after 10am Mass. Life Ascending is a Catholic Organisation for people in middle and later life. It celebrates our faith and the sharing of common experiences of life. It encourages friendship between retired people, stimulates thoughts and discussion. It helps us to reflect on the purpose of our own lives as we grow older. Please do join us.

19th December: Social with shared refreshments and discussion on Life Ascending matters

9th Jan: CaFE Video on Reflections on the Creed - Why we believe.

CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS

As people will be receiving Christmas cards from overseas, we appeal for the stamps from the envelopes. These add significantly to the value of stamps passed to charities for sale. Please bring them to church for passing on. *Many thanks.*

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?

Welcome! Please introduce yourselves to one of our Priests. There are registration forms in the porch on the table and on the shelf besides the water font with gift aid forms. Our website - **Addiscombe Catholic Church** - has information about groups, activities, current and past newsletters that may be useful to you, or you can call or visit our secretaries, Rachel and Stephanie, in the parish office during opening times (shown overleaf).