

Our Lady of the Annunciation



Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia

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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

18th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (page 125 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR A

'Unity is a divine mandate at the core of our Christian identity. It represents the essence of the Church's calling – a call to reflect the harmonious oneness of our life in Christ amidst our diversity. This divine unity is central to our mission and is sustained by the profound love of Jesus Christ, who has set before us a unified purpose.'

Throughout the Holy Scriptures, God's call to unity resonates from the earliest times. Starting with the Old Testament, Abram's plea to Lot highlights the divine desire for peace and harmony among the faithful: 'Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herders and my herders; for we are kindred'.

The Psalms celebrate the beauty of unity among God's people, declaring, 'How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!'

In the New Testament, Jesus' prayer in John calls for believers to be one, as He and the Father are one, demonstrating that our unity is grounded in our relationship with Christ and our collective mission of sharing the good news. The foundational command of Jesus to love one another as He has loved us reinforces that this love is the essence of our unity. Paul's epistles stress the importance of unity within the Church, urging us to live lives worthy of our calling with humility, gentleness, patience and love. Ephesians 4:4 summarises the teachings of Paul about unity, emphasising here, too, that the followers of Christ represent 'one body and one Spirit', united in a single hope. This metaphor signifies the Church as a unified entity transcending barriers of geography, nationality, ethnicity and tradition. Paul uses the metaphor of the Church being the Body of Christ to describe its unity within the diversity of its members. This shared spiritual bond is a basis for reconciliation, guiding believers globally and equipping them for effective witness and ministry.'

(Abridged CTBI Website)

Mass Intentions This Week

17 January: Saturday SAINT ANTHONY

10:00 Boase Family RIP

18:00 Alan Walsh RIP ~

18 January: SECOND SUNDAY

08:30 All Parishioners ~

10:00 Thecla, Ian & Kim Sulzendorf RIP ~

11:30 Neville Cornabe RIP ~

19 January: Monday

10:00 Marie McAuley

20 January: Tuesday

10:00 Thomas Connelly RIP

21 January: Wednesday SAINT AGNES

10:00 Patrick & Lena Dowd RIP

22 January: Thursday

10:00 Thanksgiving Mass for the Nelson Fam.

19:30 Birthday Wishes for Francis Bunch

23 January: Friday

10:00 Harry, Michael & Harold Sweeney RIP

24 January: Saturday

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

10:00 Ashley Jacob RIP

18:00 Thanksgiving for Answered Prayers

25 January: THIRD SUNDAY

08:30 All Parishioners

10:00 Thecla, Ian & Kim Sulzendorf RIP

11:30 Neville Cornabe RIP

~ *With Foodbank Sunday*

MEETINGS

SVP: Tuesday 20th at 8pm (PRC)

RCIA: Wednesday 21st at 8pm (PRC) *Vocations & Ministry*



EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays: 10.30am - 12pm

In The Sacred Heart Chapel

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 571.50
Loose cash	£ 675.76
S/Os (Approx)	£ 1340.00
Total	£ 2587.26

*** 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 ACC collection for *SPUC - White flower Appeal* amounted to £540.03. Many thanks. This week there will be an ACC collection for *Pax Christi*. Envelopes are available in the porch. Next week there will be a Diocesan collection for *The Maintenance of St George's Cathedral*.

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Lauren Horwood, Mary Ariaratnam, Christina Cahill, Ann Page, Peggy Wall, Canon Peter Stodart, Joseph Anand, Pat Joyce, Paddy Ryan, Dave Freegard, Lorraine Quinlivan, Westley Adaken, Mervat Nasri & all others

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Mary Finigan, Kathleen O'Brien, Lena Crinnegan, Juliet Dias, Celino Rodrigues, Rosalie Hughes, Vera O'Neill, Sr. Mary Leontine, Ian Sulzendorf, William McHale, Ted Hanlon, James Concannon, Mary O'Sullivan, Elsie Ryan, George Paice, Eithne Stolls, Joseph Mizzi, Harry Linton, Joan Molyneaux, Antonia Drabik, William Toole, Terence Flanagan, Mary Ellen Gillman, John Walsh, Mary Joyce, Maureen Morrissey, Jean Cruickshank, Kathleen Farren, James Shaw, Cedric Chopin, Grace Jennings, Edward Kingman, Phyllis Dovidonis, Diana Jeffries, Eileen Hudson, Carole Simpson, Elisabeth Piney, Eva Mahoney, Daniel Gorman, Ted Murphy, Marilyn Novell, Sylvester Seaton

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm

18th January: Finbar & Paul
25th January: Cross Keys
1st February: Martin Ruddy
8th February: Kieran White
15th February: Theresa Rodgers
22nd February: Kevin Kearney
1st March: Shane & Mervyn Owens
8th March: Pat Jordan

- **Jiving sessions are returning:** J & M will be facilitating Jiving Sessions in the Hall on Sundays, 18th January, 15th & 22nd February and 1st & 8th March commencing at 5:00pm. For more information, call **Della Reilly on 07403 227935.**

- A **Quiz Night will take place on** Friday, 30th January commencing at 7:30pm. All proceeds from this event will be given to the Critical Care Centre at King's College Hospital to provide funding for Music Therapy for Patients recovering from serious head & brain injuries. **Please bring your own Nibbles et al - No Nuts!! To reserve tickets at £10.00, please call Sheila Jordan on 07921 235141.**

- **The Motown Tribute Evening** takes place on Friday, 6th February from 7:00pm. All proceeds from this event will be used to support the development of **Youth Football at Round Towers GFC**. You can also support this event by donating an item for the Raffle/ Auction. Tickets at £20.00 each can be reserved by calling **Ben Cahill on 07958 903410.**

RECENT DEATH & FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT

We are sad to announce the recent death of **Rebecca Kurz**. **Rebecca's funeral will take place here at Our Lady's on Wednesday 4th February at 10am.** Please keep Rebecca and her family in your prayers at this very sad time.

DIVERSITY SUPPORT GROUP

Sending warm New Year wishes to all our parishioners and pray 2026 brings meaningful wins in all our endeavours.

On Sunday 8th March we turn 10 years so save the date!

Meanwhile, you are all invited to join us on **Sunday 1st February at 12.30pm** (directly after the 11.30am Mass) **in the large hall** to plan the birthday party so save that date as well!

Many thanks and blessings Sylvia - 07870508790

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass for Racial Justice Sunday at St George's Cathedral on **Sunday 1st February at 10am**.

Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism, while celebrating the diversity of our Archdiocese. Everyone is invited to take part, and those who wish may wear national or cultural dress as a sign of unity and pride.

If you would like, please gather outside the cathedral at 9.45am to join the procession of national flags.

After Mass, all are welcome to gather in Amigo Hall for refreshments — a chance to meet one another, share experiences and continue the conversation about faith and inclusion.

You are warmly encouraged to attend in person, but if you cannot make it you can watch the livestream through the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/fdmGwmESSgI>

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS & MUSICIANS: Please see the 3rd page of this newsletter, accessible online via the website.

PARISH ASCENT GROUP

Are you an Adult Catholic, perhaps already retired, and interested in some up-to-date on-going Faith Formation? Would you like to strengthen your personal relationship with Jesus Christ? *Could you be free to join us in the Small Hall, on the second and fourth Tuesdays at about 10.45 after 10.00am Mass?*

Everyone is welcome!

Diocesan Safeguarding Office: safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk

COLOMA LOURDES PILGRIMAGE FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING & CAKE SALE

Sunday 25th January in the large hall

A group of Coloma 6th form students will be holding another coffee morning/cake sale on **Sunday 25th January after the 10am Mass**.

They are volunteering a week of their 2026 Easter break supporting the HCPT Lourdes pilgrimage and have to raise significant funds.

Please come along and support the girls' fundraising event!

Given the large target, Coloma are also looking for sponsorship and partnerships with companies. If you are able to assist in anyway or have connections, please email group703@hcpt.org.uk

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON REFUGEE/RESETTLEMENT GROUP

Please note; the bank account connected to the refugee/resettlement group will shortly be closed. **All Standing Orders or Direct Debits to this account should be cancelled as soon as possible.** Thanks.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - SOUTHWARK DIOCESE

Join our pilgrimage to Lourdes travelling overnight by luxury coach from 9 - 14 February. It is always a beautiful and deeply spiritual experience soaking in the Spirit of Jesus as we travel to honour Our Blessed Mother.

Leaving Slough and Ealing Broadway on 9th Feb and departing Lourdes on 13th February for a visit to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Rue de Bac, Paris on 14th February morning and arriving in London in the day.

Full board, exciting festival devotional program, experience the Blessed Sacrament Procession of the Sick, the Candlelight Marian Rosary Procession and the International Mass on the Feast Day followed by Stations, Confessions and Adoration with Hour of Mercy. Travel, full board and program cost £590. Call Millie on 07957 594646 for more info.

NEW BEAVER COLONY LAUNCHES AT 28TH CROYDON SCOUTS

We are delighted to share the good news that 28th Croydon Scouts, proudly sponsored by Our Lady of the Annunciation, is launching a new Beaver Scout Colony.

Beavers is for children aged 6-8 and offers a safe, welcoming environment where young people can grow in confidence, friendship and service to others through fun activities, teamwork and outdoor adventure.

If your child may be interested, or if you feel called to support this work as a volunteer, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

For more information, please visit
www.28thcroydon.scoutsonline.co.uk

CALLING ALL PARISH CHOIRS: Our choirs are thrilled to be hosting an all-day workshop with the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir on **Saturday 31st January** at **St Andrew's Church, Thornton Heath**. This unique event is designed to re-energise our choirs with fresh material and new arrangements and will culminate with a special 6pm Mass showcasing what we've learned and featuring singers from the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir. This free event is open to everyone from other local parishes – the more the better as all are welcome!

Registering for the workshop is easy. Just scan the QR code on the poster in the porch, or go to: [Singingworkshop.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.singingsworkshop.eventbrite.co.uk)

AYC: Is delighted to offer a **FREE PARENT & CHILD DRUGS WORK SHOP** to be held on the **24th January 2026 4-5pm in the large hall**. The first half will consist of an interactive presentation with videos, then we have **drunk and drug goggles**, and the second half is trying to complete simple tasks to see how this can impact whilst under the influence. It is also a good opportunity for any questions. There will also be leaflets to take away. *This is for school years 7 & above.* Please email aycyouthclub11@gmail.com to express your interest so we can get an idea of numbers.

Rotas: Eucharistic Ministers (January)

Readers (January/February)

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS & MUSICIANS

All choirs and music units in the church are always ready to welcome new members. This "appeal" is aimed, to a degree, at those who have started a new instrument at school last September and are now feeling "at home" with it. Playing in church is a way of rehearsing without the pressure of either a forthcoming exam or of a teacher ticking you off for a duff note. We have always had the approach that, if you're not comfortable playing in (say) Ab or F#, don't! Perhaps play what you can and stop when you can't - or simply sing instead. This way you can play your instrument without pressure.

"Aiming" at young people just starting on an instrument doesn't mean that we won't welcome people who are, or who were, comfortable playing an instrument. Whether you currently play, or would like to resume playing after a gap, do come along and help us to help the congregation's worship.

This "appeal" is also aimed at people who enjoy singing and would like to sing *with others* and not "just" as a member of the congregation. All are welcome with (as always) a special welcome to boys and men and ladies who can sing the alto line. Pianists are always welcome, as this is the one instrument (beside the organ) which can best give a clear "lead". It's also a very, very long time since we had any brass instruments with us (not that these are suited to all hymns and Mass settings - but, then, neither are harps, tambourines or sopraninos; each has its place and each is welcome).

Music is offered at all Saturday evening and Sunday Masses, with the organ leading the congregation at 8.30 (with no choir) and with music of various types at other Masses. Please see details of who to contact for these Masses, on the parish website under "Music at Mass". Go on - make yourself (and your family & friends??) proud ...