



# 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

## 21st April Fourth Sunday of Easter (page 261 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR B

Today is Vocations Sunday. The church in the west is facing a real crisis with the number of men responding to a call to the sacred priesthood at an all time low.

Pray for more vocations to the priesthood. GOD IS CALLING..  
 We need to encourage those being called to make this leap of faith, and one way we might do this is to pray for those who already serve. So I offer you these words written by Karl Rahner:

*My dear friends, accept us as we are: the priest is not an angel sent from heaven.  
 He is a man, chosen from among men, a member of the church, a Christian.  
 Remaining man and Christian, he begins to speak to you the Word of God.  
 This Word is not his own;  
 he speaks it because God has told him to proclaim His Word.  
 Perhaps he has not entirely understood it himself,  
 perhaps he adulterates it, but he believes, and despite his fears,  
 he knows that he must communicate God's Word to you.  
 For must not some one of us say something about God, about eternal life,  
 about the majesty of grace in our sanctified being;  
 must not someone of us speak of sin and the judgment and mercy of God?  
 So my dear friends, pray for us, carry us,  
 so that we might be able to sustain others by bringing them  
 the mystery of God's love revealed in Christ Jesus Our Lord.*

(Karl Rahner)

God bless.

*fr Keill.*



## Mass Intentions This Week

- 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 \*
- 22 April: Monday**  
 10:00 Stanley Alby RIP
- 23 April: Tuesday SAINT GEORGE**  
 10:00 Harold, Michael & Harry Sweeney RIP
- 24 April: Wednesday**  
 10:00 Bill Yates RIP  
 16:00 Reception of the Body of  
 Thomas (Tom) Corduff RIP
- 25 April: Thursday SAINT MARK FUNERAL MASS**  
 10:00 Thomas (Tom) Corduff RIP  
 19:30 Patrick Larkin (Jnr) RIP
- 26 April: Friday**  
 10:00 James Brady RIP 4th Anniversary
- 27 April: Saturday**  
 10:00 Gloria Hunneybun RIP (Birthday)  
 (followed by Adoration)  
 18:00 Adrienne & Lance Baptiste RIP
- 28 April: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
 08:30 All Parishioners  
 10:00 Peter Enahoro RIP 1st Anniversary #  
 11:30 Bernie & Tony Potter RIP #

- \* With Foodbank Sunday
- ~ With Uniformed Groups
- # With Children's Liturgy

### \*\*\* DEFIBRILLATOR \*\*\*

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

## MEETINGS

- Ascent Group:** Tuesday 23rd at 10.45am (Small Hall)  
**SVP:** Tuesday 23rd at 8pm (PRC)  
**Adult Catechesis:** Wed 24th at 11.15am (Large Hall) & 7.45pm (Small Hall)  
**PPC:** Thursday 25th at 8pm (PRC)  
**Young Adults' Fellowship:** Friday 26th at 7pm (PRC)



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

## LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 448.88
Loose cash	£ 895.92
S/Os (Approx)	£ 1290.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2634.80</b>

## COLLECTIONS

This week there will be a Diocesan collection for **Priests' Training Fund**.  
 Next week there will be a Diocesan collection for **The Maintenance of St George's Cathedral**. See notice overleaf.

**We pray for the sick in our Parish:** Geoffrey Bird, Dominic Audibert-Moloney, Fr Alan Sharpe, Jean Carpenter, Mary Ariaratnam, Christina Cahill, Michael Hewish, Ann Page, Arthur Hughes, Peggy Wall & all others

**We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week:** Mary Anderson, Harold Sweeney, Patrick Walsh, Joseph Brady, Maria Robinson, Peter Philipsz, Aidan Holder, William Doherty, John Flanagan, Patrick Irvine, Noel O'Dwyer, Bernard Kingman, Mary (Bernie) Nolan, Phyllis Mobsby, Lorelai Fisher, Daniel Harris, Denis Wells, Patrick Moorehead, Eve Emmanuel, Doris Pinto, Peter Enahoro, Ellen Conroy, Rita Fido, Joe Garry, Norma Waddell, Cal McCarthy, Tom Thornton, Denzil Peters, Eva Molony, Margaret Brown, Edward Whelton

### SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

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

**Sunday evening entertainment commencing at 8.00pm**

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

9th June: TR Dallas

- 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

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

I would like to thank all those who came to the safeguarding session on Saturday, and all those who have completed training online. I hope to have reached out to all volunteers by now either via email or through the group coordinators. If you have not heard from me regarding guidelines from the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) please email me on:

**Addiscombedbs@rcaos.org.uk** or contact me through the parish office.

**rcsouthwark.co.uk** has a very informative section on safeguarding as discussed at the training. Please also find below Mary- Jane's ( the head of our safeguarding) email and office phone number, who can answer any further questions after the weekend's training. Thank you for your support in this important part of our parish life. *Joanna*

**Maryjanecrowley@rcaos.org.uk**  
**020 7261 1606**

**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"

### 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 Homosexuality

### THE CHURCH'S TEACHING ON EUTHANASIA

Please see pages 4 - 6 of our newsletter online, for excerpts of documents on the church's teaching on Euthanasia, as spoken about by Fr Tomasz in his Wednesday catechesis.

**For Collection:** *K Duignan*

**Baptism certificates:** COLLECT FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

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

### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Is the name which has been given to the journey taken by people who seek to enter into full communion in the Roman Catholic Church. Essentially this allows adults to get to know our church teaching and practice in a friendly, informal group setting and culminating, if they so wish, in the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist next Easter.

Parishioners are asked to encourage friends and relatives to consider joining RCIA this year. The final meeting of our 2023-24 group, William, Leena, Remi-Lou, Richard, Ryan and catechists will be on **Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm.**

Anyone considering embarking on a new stage of their own journey in faith is invited to share in the celebration that evening and to learn how the RCIA group work together and share our faith.

"Come and See"

More details are available on page 3 of the online newsletter.

### ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Second Collection 28th April

For over half a century, St George's Cathedral has been the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark, home to 175 parishes and over 50,000 Roman Catholics. For many Catholics living and working across London and the South East of England, St George's has been a beacon of light.

Today, St George's Cathedral continues to attract thousands of worshippers and visitors each year, as well as serving a lively local parish community which proudly reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of South London. The Cathedral frequently hosts important Diocesan and national celebrations, as well as concerts and events for various Catholic charities. There is a rich musical tradition, maintaining a choir of boys and men, as well as a girls' choir, both of which sing at Sunday Masses and on major feasts. In many respects, St George's Cathedral serves as a spiritual home and 'beehive' for Catholic evangelisation and mission across the Archdiocese of Southwark.

St George's Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship. Thank you!

- Donate Online: [www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral)
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: **020 7960 2504**
- Cash / Cheque – please use the St George's Cathedral envelopes at the back of church

### COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIR 2025 CALENDAR

**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.

*If you were part of the old youth club, are past and current members of the SVP, the Cana group, the Young Wives, The Unity Club, The Seniors' Christmas Lunch organisers, Uniformed Groups and any groups we have not mentioned or know about, then we would love to hear from you as well as current groups.*

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](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> April**. All are most welcome.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

For those who attended the Easter vigil, or one of the Sunday Masses in Lent when five of the 2023/24 RCIA group were formally introduced to the Parish, you will have been part of their initiation into the Catholic Church.

Soon **RCIA** in our Parish will start again for another year. Those involved in helping with the programme always find it to be an inspiring and rewarding experience.

What is the **RCIA**, and could you play a part or benefit from joining the process?

The Southwark Diocese website explains what is involved very well...

**[www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/faith/becoming-a-catholic](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/faith/becoming-a-catholic)**

*“Becoming Catholic is an amazing, life-changing journey. Much more than a series of educational classes, it moves through a process of deep reflection, discernment and formation.*

*God offers each of us the grace of desiring and seeking love, truth and meaning. He is the initiator and giver of all faith, who inspires and guides us on our journey. Throughout the process of initiation into the Catholic Church, the people of God accompany those seeking full initiation step-by-step, to support, guide, and help them hear God’s call in their life.”*

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** is the name which has been given to the journey taken by people who seek to become Christians and be confirmed participants in our Catholic Church. Essentially this process allows adults and older young people to enquire, and if they wish, to be prepared for three sacraments, Baptism, Confirmation and The Eucharist.

In our parish it normally takes about 10 months and culminates in personal decisions being made in the new year, a formal welcome by the Archbishop at Southwark Cathedral in Lent and in celebration of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. The group meets every two weeks (excluding school holidays), starting Wednesday 8th May at 8pm.

Parishioners are asked to encourage friends and relatives to consider joining RCIA this year and indeed anyone wishing to follow the process can be a great help in the Journey to Faith. You will be very welcome to join and accompany this year’s candidates. You do not need any particular skills or training. If you might be interested, or would like more information or perhaps have been through the process in the past, please contact one of the priests after Mass on Sundays.

# Catholic Church teaching on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

## **CDF, Declaration on Euthanasia, 1980**

Intentionally causing one's own death, or suicide, is therefore equally as wrong as murder; such an action on the part of a person is to be considered as a rejection of God's sovereignty and loving plan. Furthermore, suicide is also often a refusal of love for self, the denial of a natural instinct to live, a flight from the duties of justice and charity owed to one's neighbour, to various communities or to the whole of society – although, as is generally recognised, at times there are psychological factors present that can diminish responsibility or even completely remove it. However, one must clearly distinguish suicide from that sacrifice of one's life whereby for a higher cause, such as God's glory, the salvation of souls or the service of one's brethren, a person offers his or her own life or puts it in danger (cf. Jn. 15:14).

## **CDF *Donum Vitae*, 1987**

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.

## **CCC 2277**

Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable.

Thus an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator. The error of judgment into which one can fall in good faith does not change the nature of this murderous act, which must always be forbidden and excluded.

## **John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, 1995**

36. Although man instinctively loves life because it is a good, this love will find further inspiration and strength, and new breadth and depth, in the divine dimensions of this good. Similarly, the love which every human being has for life cannot be reduced simply to a desire to have sufficient space for self-expression and for entering into relationships with others; rather, it develops in a joyous awareness that life can become the "place" where God manifests himself, where we meet him and enter into communion with him. The life which Jesus gives in no way lessens the value of our existence in time; it takes it and directs it to its final destiny: "I am the resurrection and the life ... whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (Jn 11:25-26).

46. In old age, how should one face the inevitable decline of life? How should one act in the face of death? The believer knows that his life is in the hands of God: "You, O Lord, hold my lot" (cf. Ps 16:5), and he accepts from God the need to die: "This is the decree from the Lord for all flesh, and how can you reject the good pleasure of the Most High?" (Sir 41:3-4). Man is not the master of life, nor is he the master of death. In life and in death, he has to entrust himself completely to the "good pleasure of the Most High", to his loving plan. In moments of

sickness too, man is called to have the same trust in the Lord and to renew his fundamental faith in the One who "heals all your diseases" (cf. Ps 103:3). When every hope of good health seems to fade before a person's eyes-so as to make him cry out: "My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass" (Ps 102:11)- even then the believer is sustained by an unshakable faith in God's life-giving power. Illness does not drive such a person to despair and to seek death, but makes him cry out in hope: "I kept my faith, even when I said, 'I am greatly afflicted'" (Ps 116:10); "O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the pit" (Ps 30:2-3).

64. The temptation grows to have recourse to euthanasia, that is, to take control of death and bring it about before its time, "gently" ending one's own life or the life of others. In reality, what might seem logical and humane, when looked at more closely is seen to be senseless and inhumane. Here we are faced with one of the more alarming symptoms of the "culture of death", which is advancing above all in prosperous societies, marked by an attitude of excessive preoccupation with efficiency and which sees the growing number of elderly and disabled people as intolerable and too burdensome. These people are very often isolated by their families and by society, which are organised almost exclusively on the basis of criteria of productive efficiency, according to which a hopelessly impaired life no longer has any value.

65. Euthanasia in the strict sense is understood to be an action or omission which of itself and by intention causes death, with the purpose of eliminating all suffering. "Euthanasia's terms of reference, therefore, are to be found in the intention of the will and in the methods used".

66. To concur with the intention of another person to commit suicide and to help in carrying it out through so-called "assisted suicide" means to cooperate in, and at times to be the actual perpetrator of, an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested. In a remarkably relevant passage Saint Augustine writes that "it is never licit to kill another: even if he should wish it, indeed if he request it because, hanging between life and death, he begs for help in freeing the soul struggling against the bonds of the body and longing to be released; nor is it licit even when a sick person is no longer able to live". Even when not motivated by a selfish refusal to be burdened with the life of someone who is suffering, euthanasia must be called a false mercy, and indeed a disturbing "perversion" of mercy. True "compassion" leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear. Moreover, the act of euthanasia appears all the more perverse if it is carried out by those, like relatives, who are supposed to treat a family member with patience and love, or by those, such as doctors, who by virtue of their specific profession are supposed to care for the sick person even in the most painful terminal stages.

67. Man rebels against death because he bears in himself an eternal seed which cannot be reduced to mere matter".

This natural aversion to death and this incipient hope of immortality are illumined and brought to fulfilment by Christian faith, which both promises and offers a share in the victory of the Risen Christ: it is the victory of the One who, by his redemptive death, has set man free from death, "the wages of sin" (Rom 6:23), and has given him the Spirit, the pledge of resurrection and of life (cf. Rom 8:11). The certainty of future immortality and hope in the promised resurrection cast new light on the mystery of suffering and death, and fill the believer with an extraordinary capacity to trust fully in the plan of God.

## **Bp John' Sherrington, Bishop's Open Letter on Assisted Dying Bill, 2021**

The term 'Assisted Dying' is euphemistic, the truth is that this bill seeks to introduce Assisted Suicide. If legalised, this Bill would allow a terminally ill adult with less than 6 months to live to be assisted in committing suicide. Catholic teaching opposes assisting suicide, since life is a gift to be cared for and preserved until its natural death. The Church is clear that we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. The solidarity of praying and caring for the most vulnerable at this fragile time of their lives is a profoundly Christian act which imitates Our Lady's prayer at the cross and Christ's service to the weakest.

Those in favour of the bill are making good use of language to confuse the issue and call it a compassionate and caring approach to redefine the question and obscure the actual reality and consequences of such legislation.

As Pope Francis has said, "Physician-assisted suicide is part of a 'throwaway culture' that offers a 'false compassion' and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalise anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude – much less considers the disappearance of a person as a good thing." He criticised "those who hide behind an alleged compassion to justify and approve the death of a patient."

Importantly, at this stage we need to argue the dangers of the introduction of Assisted Suicide, which include the safety of people who are vulnerable due to external pressures, and the later liberalisation of the law which is evidenced by other countries which have introduced Assisted Suicide. Many voices from the world of disability-rights and other allies are also very fearful and fighting this bill. Whilst there are clear arguments to support Catholic teachings, it is important to remember that this position is not only a matter of faith but also human reason.