



Our Lady of the Annunciation

Parish Priest: Fr. Joe O'Connor
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Diocesan website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm
Deanery website: www.croydoncatholics.org.uk

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Every Saturday 9.30am and 5.00pm.

23 February 2014 (see page 139 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR A

Choosing to love our enemies

When Nelson Mandela was released, having spent 27 years in South African prisons, he had every reason to feel bitter, and to get revenge on those who unjustly deprived him of his freedom. Instead, he came out smiling, and seeking reconciliation with the leaders of the regime that had put him in prison.

Loving people within one's group is a natural human trait, and does not distinguish the Christian from the non-Christian. What makes the disciples of Christ different from other people is their ability to love even their enemies.

When Jesus talks about 'the enemy' he is not necessarily referring to an enemy in war. He is talking about someone who is close to us, who is making life difficult for us, and he commands us to love our enemy! It can be hard enough to love our friends sometimes but to love those whom we positively dislike! Returning love for hate is one of the most difficult things in the world, but it makes sense.

We must try to imitate the generosity of God, who shows equal love towards good and bad, because he loves without limit. We are not expected to feel love for our enemy. Love is not a feeling - it is a decision to love someone even though we do not have feelings of love for that person.

St. Paul gives us the most profound reason of all why we should respect one another - the Holy spirit lives in us. To love an enemy goes clean contrary to human nature. We need God to help us to love in the way that Jesus asks us to love.

Fr. Joe

Mass Intentions This Week

Saturday: 22 February

10:00 Martha San Vu RIP

18:00 Frank & Elizabeth Dermody RIP

23 February: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

08:30 All Parishioners

10:00 Michael Semeta RIP

12:00 John Wren RIP +

Monday 24 February

10:00 Eucharistic Service

Tuesday: 25 February

10:00 Nora Beck RIP

Wednesday: 26 February

10:00 Intentions of Dick & Mary Walsh

Thursday: 27 February

10:00 Funeral: Tony Borfiga

Friday: 28 February

10:00 Vincent McPartland RIP

Eucharistic Adoration for vocations

10.30am - 8pm in Sacred Heart chapel

Saturday 1 March

10:00 Intentions of Kay Cunningham

18:00 Intentions of Victor Lisenburgh

2 March: EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

08:30 All Parishioners

10:00 UCM: Alison Bond RIP

12:00 Ryan Family

+ With Baptism

WEEKLY DRAW

£5 – Carole Ryan

New Members required to join.

Contact Monica Grant 8656 2602.

Forms on the table at the back of church

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Loose cash	£662.91
Gift Aid Envelopes	£551.09
Average Weekly S/O's	£880.00
Total	£2094.00

CHURCH CLEANING

Team C: Mrs Jones

RETIRING COLLECTION

Last weeks' collection for **Catholic Education Fund** amounted to £640.00. Many thanks. This week 23rd February there will be a collection for the monthly **ACA** with all proceeds going to help Sr Rosarii with the children in Kenya.

We pray for the sick in our Parish: *Geoffrey Bird, John Boswood, Patricia Lyon, William Callow, Audrey Moynihan, Baby Amelia Pond, Emmanuel Antonyraja.*

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: *Michael White, Tony Durkan, Jessie Mills, Marshall Henry Weetman, Gerard Chandler, Irene Rodrigues, Rose Childs, Mary Mann, Peter O'Flynn, Elizabeth Comber, Sian O'Hara, Kevin Sweeney, Brian Linnane, Kathleen Milmoie, Hanora Daly, Immacolata Di Meo, Vincent McLaughlin, Rose Barker, James Reid, Richard Molyneux, Marshall Weetman, Patrick O'Hare, Doris Wilson, Mary Hoey, Daniel Chambers, Sarah Burnett, May Pick, Thomas Byrne, James Dalrymple-Alford, Philomena Clark, John Izzie.*

MEETINGS

1st Communion Prep: Monday 24th (Large Hall) & Tuesday 25th at 6.15pm (Large Hall)

1st Communion Parent's Mtg: Tuesday 25th (Large Hall) at 8pm

Ascent Group: Tuesday 25th (Large Hall) at 10.30am

SVP: Tuesday 25th at 8.30pm (PRC)

RCIA: Wednesday 26th (PRC) at 8pm

JPEG: Wednesday 26th (Committee Room) 8pm

Parish Council: Thursday 27th (Committee room) at 8pm

SOCIAL CLUB

Sunday, 23rd February: **Sadie Howe**

Sunday, 3rd March: **Tom Healy**

Tickets for the Brendan Shine Evening on Friday, 14th March are now available at £10.00 each. During the interval there will be a Raffle/ Auction with all proceeds being presented to the Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton. To reserve tickets, please call into the Social Club or call 07734 250375.

RECENT DEATH AND FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS: We are sorry to announce the unexpected death of Christopher Pearce. We offer our prayers and sympathy to his mother Louise and sister Angel (Dalmally Road) at this time. The Funeral of Tony Borfiga will be held here at Our Lady's on Thursday 27th February at 10am. We also offer our sympathy and prayers to his wife Betty and the Family.

THE ANERLEY ACROSS CHARITY: Would like to thank Fr Joe, the Catechists and Confirmation Students for their very generous donation of £1672.70 towards our next trip to Lourdes in June. For more information please look at our website - www.anerleyacross.org.uk

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND CAMPAIGN: We are very encouraged to have received so many positive responses to our Campaign Reception invitations. There are still a few spaces left for presentations at Our Lady of the Annunciation on 14th, 23rd and 30th March. If you haven't yet sent in your Invitation Reply Card and wish to attend, please do so as soon as possible and we will endeavour to allocate you and your guests a place on your preferred date. Alternatively please telephone the Campaign Office on 020 8686 4914 to be added to the guest list. Thank you.

UCM: Meeting on Wednesday 5th March - 8.15 pm in the Small Hall will be First Aid Training. For those who attended the session 18 months ago this will be a useful update. For those who have never been to a UCM meeting before, please come along and find out more about this group who meet on the 1st Wed of each month. Our membership is a complete mix of ages and we try to organise interesting talks/presentations with a chance to catch up over a coffee/tea afterwards. Look forward to seeing many members and non-members at our March meeting!

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: On Friday 7 March Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated around the world. A wave of prayer that starts as the sun rises in the first country it awakes to the last one before it sets at the end of the day. This year the prayers have been prepared by the women in Egypt and the theme is 'Streams in the Desert'. If you would be willing to help at our short, informal prayer service please let me know. There are lots of short prayers to read so it would be lovely to have some new voices join our service. All are welcome to join us. Sarah Turner 02086545086

WEEKLY DRAW: Why not join our weekly draw, you could win £50. There are forms on the table at the back of the Church and it only costs £12 per year. For further information please contact Monica Grant on 020 8656 2602.

GOLDEN COMMUNITY JINGLE JARS REMINDER: Thanks to everyone who has collected and returned their jars. This initiative started last April and has raised £185 to date. I would like to encourage everyone to pick up a jar and make it jingle with coins. Jars are available in the porch. Can I remind everyone who has a jar to please bring it in, any one can take part and every penny is most appreciated

GOLDEN COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIVE CALENDER: I would like to ask everyone who took photographs for the calendar to please email them to me at nike.arobs@gmail.com. The pictures should be saved as jpegs please. We are in the process of compiling a commemorative calendar that we hope will reflect and celebrate our community and the breadth of gifts we share. If you have any ideas for the calendar please let us know and if you have any community pictures please send them in - thank you, Nike.

YOUTH LENT GROUP: 16-30? Come along to meet new people, talk about our faith and eat food.
First meeting Friday 7th March 7.30pm in the PRC room. Contact Clare 02084065377

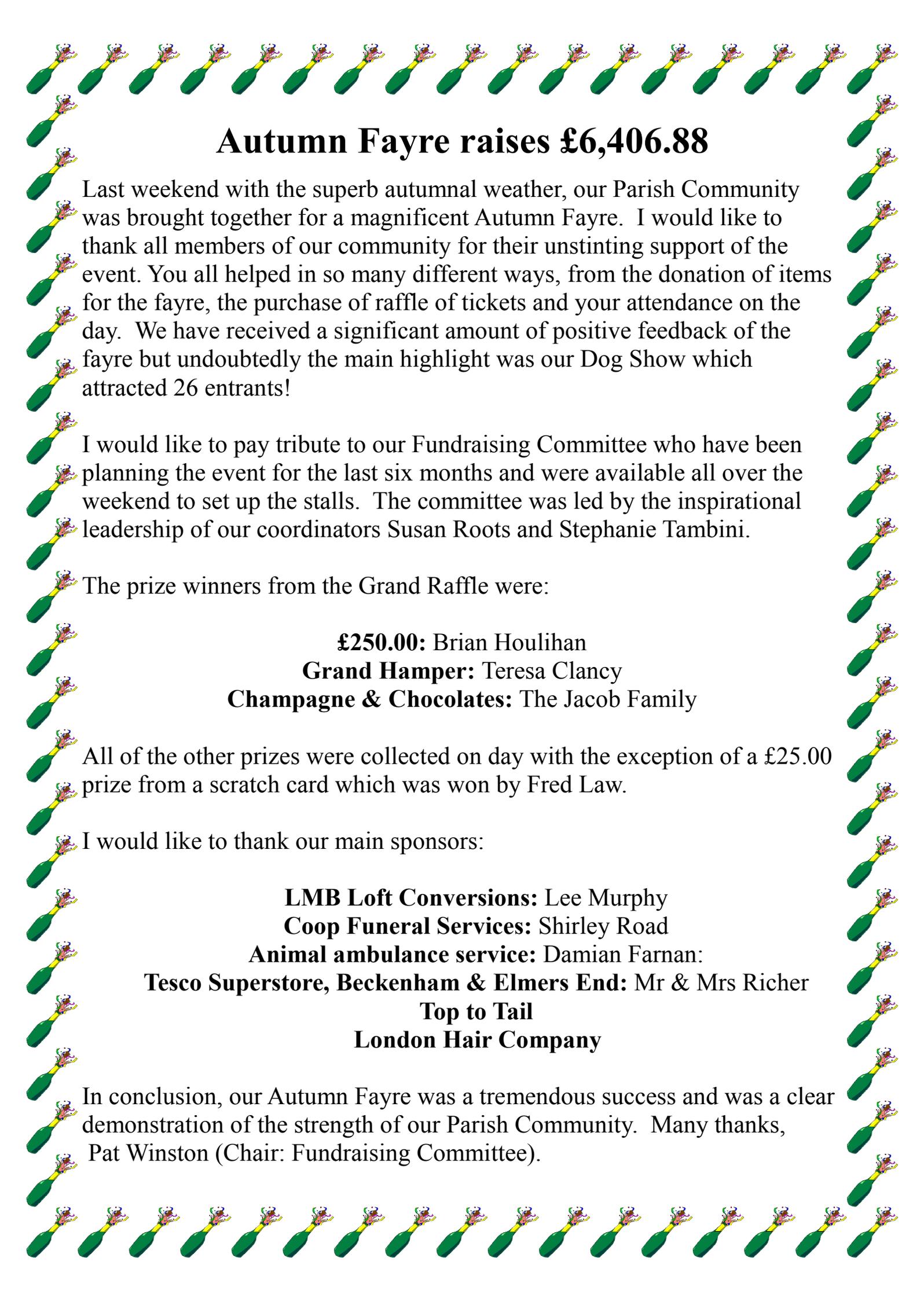
MASS AT CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL: Ash Wednesday and the Mondays of Lent at 12 noon.

WALK OF WITNESS AND RE-ENACTMENT OF THE CRUCIFIXION: This year we are looking for actors who need to be committed to rehearsal and participate with serious intention. Please contact Toni Suffolk the producer email: toni.suffolk@btinternet.com or call on 07786935554 for further information. We are also looking for stewards and any donations would be gratefully received as the cost of the event is approximately £1250, please contact Mother Pat email: patricia.vowles@yahoo.com or phone 020 8688 7006. You may also like to read the poster in the porch for further information.

Items for collection: Sr Celia., Carol Hines

Baptism certificates: M Bellamy, C Statford, G Leshi, S Finnegan, J Dawson, T Escrader, J Wright

Rotas for March: Eucharistic Ministers, Readers (March and Easter), Altar Servers



Autumn Fayre raises £6,406.88

Last weekend with the superb autumnal weather, our Parish Community was brought together for a magnificent Autumn Fayre. I would like to thank all members of our community for their unstinting support of the event. You all helped in so many different ways, from the donation of items for the fayre, the purchase of raffle tickets and your attendance on the day. We have received a significant amount of positive feedback of the fayre but undoubtedly the main highlight was our Dog Show which attracted 26 entrants!

I would like to pay tribute to our Fundraising Committee who have been planning the event for the last six months and were available all over the weekend to set up the stalls. The committee was led by the inspirational leadership of our coordinators Susan Roots and Stephanie Tambini.

The prize winners from the Grand Raffle were:

£250.00: Brian Houlihan

Grand Hamper: Teresa Clancy

Champagne & Chocolates: The Jacob Family

All of the other prizes were collected on day with the exception of a £25.00 prize from a scratch card which was won by Fred Law.

I would like to thank our main sponsors:

LMB Loft Conversions: Lee Murphy

Coop Funeral Services: Shirley Road

Animal ambulance service: Damian Farnan:

Tesco Superstore, Beckenham & Elmers End: Mr & Mrs Richer

Top to Tail

London Hair Company

In conclusion, our Autumn Fayre was a tremendous success and was a clear demonstration of the strength of our Parish Community. Many thanks,
Pat Winston (Chair: Fundraising Committee).

