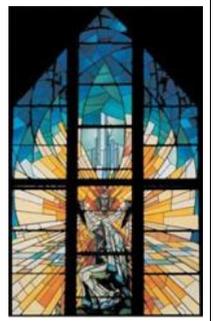




Our Lady of the Annunciation



Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Jackson Sebastian
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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

28th June 2021 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time YEAR B

Death is not acceptable in so much of modern culture. Yet death comes in so many ways to all of us. The only death to fear is the death of the soul. God created us to live but death has come into the world. Physical death. Everyone seems to want to fight against physical death. For us who follow the Lord Jesus, physical death is the gateway to eternal life, to living with the Lord Jesus forever.

The first reading today is from the Book of Wisdom. Even in this book from the Old Testament we hear: "God formed man to be imperishable." God wants us to live! Yet death came into our world, a consequence of sin. The Old Testament writers know already that death is not the final destination of our human existence.

Saint Paul is encouraging the Corinthians to share what money they have with those who have less. This is another form of dying to oneself: recognizing that we can share what we have, even if we don't have much. In much of modern culture today, the emphasis is on getting as much for oneself as is possible. This is another expression of the fear of death. We have a fear of not having all that we want. It is important to recognize that very often what we want and what we need are very different. We have to learn to die to ourselves in order to recognize this difference.

We are not invited to look at how others live, but at how we ourselves live. We are invited to see what we have that we could give away to help others who have less. Saint Augustine said already in early centuries of Christianity that we should strive to have less so that others can have more.

The Gospel from Saint Mark today returns us to the theme of physical death, but in two forms. The woman with the haemorrhages would have been cut out of normal society for all of the 12 years that she had suffered from the haemorrhages. Yet she felt somehow that if only she could touch the Lord Jesus, she could be healed and returned to life.

The daughter of the synagogue official really dies and those around her send a message to her father: don't bother Jesus! Instead, Jesus goes to the home and brings the young girl back to life.

The challenge today is to ask questions of yourself: Am I alive in Christ? Am I willing to share what I have with those who have less? Can I really believe that only Jesus brings life?



We have reduced the distance between some of the seating in church to accommodate greater numbers at one or two of our Masses. We are still maintaining over a meter's distance, (and in some areas two) and we are still asked to wear masks and to maintain social distancing when moving around the building and the grounds. THANK YOU.

Fr. Keill.

Mass Intentions This Week

26 June: Saturday

10:00 Alice Marion Wolfe RIP
 17:30 Dr L J D'Costa RIP
 18:30 Baby Harvey Jones RIP 18th Ann.

27 June: THIRTEENTH SUNDAY

09:00 Donncha O'Donovan RIP
 10:00 Thanksgiving for Fr Sean Davidson
 11:00 Bina Bowen RIP
 12:00 All Parishioners

28 June: Monday SAINT IRENAEUS

10:00 Sean Quinn RIP

29 June: Tuesday SAINTS PETER & PAUL

10:00 Joanna Byrne & Thomas Murphy RIP

30 June: Wednesday

10:00 Mary Rayner RIP

1 July: Thursday

10:00 John Walsh RIP
 19:30 Private Intention

2 July: Friday

10:00 Pat Harley RIP

3 July: Saturday SAINT THOMAS

10:00 Anthony McCloskey RIP
 17:30 All Parishioners
 18:30 Mary Rayner RIP

4 July: FOURTEENTH SUNDAY

09:00 Thanksgiving for Lauren DaSilva
 10:00 UCM: All Children Making Their First Holy Communion
 11:00 Basilio Magno Pereira RIP
 12:00 Jackie Farrell RIP



Our 10am Mass each Sunday is LIVE STREAMED through our Facebook page.

**CHURCH CLEANING - 1st JULY
 TEAM B**

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY

Will be published in next week's newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: We now have a QR CODE for the church, which is displayed at all entrances and exits, for use by those who have the NHS COVID19 App. The church mobile number (07548 868418) for Track and Trace is still in use if you do not have the App.

We pray for the sick in our Parish: Geoffrey Bird, Phyllis Donnelly, Elizabeth Casey, Florence Okugbe, Ethan Patel, Fr Alan Sharpe, Eileen McMurray, Karen Pearson, Jonathan Leiper, Brian Kearney

We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week: Maurice Bird, Marjorie O'Sullivan, Cecilia Ann Fennell, Michael Conroy, Bridget Teresa Rowland, Elisabetta Velitani, Munther Sheeka, Charles Kevin O'Sullivan, Dr. Edmund Dias, Stan Emmanuel, Eric Jones, Baby Donncha O'Donovan, Phyllis Steele, Bill Crinnegan, Eric O'Connell, Christopher Benham, Mark Blake, Olive Hoyle, Patricia Harley, Margaret McGovern, Wilfred Lodge, Frank Cowley, Patrick (Peter) Clancy, John Creamer

*** POLITE REMINDER ***

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILST IN CHURCH. OUR SEATING IS CLEARLY MARKED TO INDICATE WHERE IT IS SAFE TO SIT. **DO NOT SIT WHERE THERE IS RED TAPE ON A PEW UNLESS YOU ARE IN YOUR FAMILY BUBBLE.** THANK YOU.

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A message from Ben Cahill - Chair of the Social Club

On behalf of the Social Club, I hope that you are all safe and well!

Joseph Flynn has recently completed the *200 club Across Draw* for June 2021; the winners are:

- No. 6: Michael McHugh £100.00
- No.122: Alana & Aine Connor £50.00 (Grandchildren of Emer & Dave Cruikshank)
- No. 50: Frances & Sean Loughney) £50.00

All winners will receive their cheques over the next few days. If you would like to join the *200 Club*, please go to the website (www.anerleyacross.org.uk) and download an application form.

RECENT DEATH

We are sad to announce the sudden death of *John Walsh* aged 56 (brother to Ann, Eileen and Mary). Details of his funeral will follow. Our deepest sympathies go to John's family at this sad time and we ask that you remember him in your prayers. *Rest In Peace.*

CONFIRMATION 2021

If you are currently in Year 8 (moving into Year 9 in September) or above, you are eligible to join this year's cohort for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The documents you need are posted on the web site, and you have about a month to fill them in and deliver them to Fr. Keith or Fr. Jackson *by hand* as stated in the handbook. We look forward to meeting you all.

**ST THOMAS BECKET SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
SUMMER RAINBOW RAFFLE**

The St Thomas Becket School Association are hosting a Summer Rainbow Raffle. 10% of proceeds will be donated to the NHS. Star prizes include rainbow hampers. *Draw date 17th July.*

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://raffall.com/242260/enter-raffle-to-win-the-stbsa-rainbow-raffle-2021-hosted-by-stbsa>

Everyone is welcome to enter. Thank you for your support!

**REMINDER - PARISH MEETING ON 21st JULY
8pm in the LARGE HALL**

To discuss the restoration of a Parish Pastoral Council

We would like to invite ALL the bodies associated with the parish to give a very brief verbal account (2 mins) of how they have fared through the pandemic, their plans for start-up as restrictions ease and their aspirations and concerns for the future. We will be contacting the leaders directly with an invitation to take part. We hope as many people as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to engage once again with the local church, and it's witness through the satellite activities of our parish, as well as being prepared to commit to new initiatives to insure we continue to function as a dynamic and vibrant community who know they are loved and guided by God.

GRIEF AND LOSS: HOPE IN CHRIST

Have you been bereaved? This weekend being held at *Aylesford Priory* is for you, or for anyone who has lost a loved one through death; an opportunity to mourn but also to share with and be supported by others. The date: **8 - 10th October**. For more info phone **01622 717272** or email enquiry@thefriars.org.uk

1st HOLY COMMUNION GIFTS & CARDS

We have a wonderful selection in our Repository shop at great prices, so please pay us visit **BEFORE OR AFTER** Mass at the weekend!

MASS TIMES FROM AUGUST 2021

As mentioned previously, the number of Masses offered will return to normal for the beginning of the holiday season in August, though with one slight alteration. From...

- Saturday 31st July: Mass 6pm
- Sunday 1st August: Mass 8.30am, 10am, **11.30am**

In moving the last Mass of the day forward the gap between Masses is unified and it allows us to continue to offer Baptism outside the Mass at 4pm on Saturday and 1pm on Sunday, though from August we expect Baptism to be celebrated within the Mass once again.

Many thanks, Fr Keith

GIFT AID NEW YEAR!

THE NEW SETS OF ENVELOPES ARE NOW IN USE!

If you have not yet collected your new box, (or small set for the Standing Order donors) they are available from the table in the porch.

Please recycle the old yellow envelopes now. Many scheme numbers have changed including all between 220 and 260. Many thanks.

ST THOMAS BECKET CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Open Morning Visits for Admission to Reception in 2022

We will be holding three open mornings for you to visit and have a tour of the school on **Thursday 30th September, Wednesday 13th October and Thursday 21st October** starting at **9.30am**.

If you would like to book onto one of these tours please email:

admin@thomasbecket.croydon.sch.uk

Alternatively, you can ring the office on **020 8654 3006**

We will be holding a prospective Reception parents information open evening, at the school, on **Thursday 4 November 2021**

SUMMERTIME 2021

Tuesday 3rd – Friday 6th August

Following last year's cancellation, we are pleased to announce that this annual activity is back, and commend it to boy and girl altar servers aged 10 - 15 years within Southwark Diocese.

Summertime 2021 will take place at the Oratory School in Reading and will open with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson.

Activities will include talks, discussions, prayer, daily Mass, as well as sport, a trip to Thorpe Park and swimming.

A coach is being provided from St. Anselm's, Dartford, and the cost of £165 covers all board and lodging, Thorpe Park and swimming.

For more details please contact Fr Stephen Boyle, Chaplain to the Guild of St. Stephen.

Tel: **01322 220075** Email: dartford@rcaos.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER NEEDED FOR OUR LADY'S

Ann Marie Christian has stepped down as our lead safeguarding officer. **If you are experienced in this field** and think you would like to take up the role, please speak to Fr Keith. *Many thanks.*



THE NEW NORMAL - WHAT DO WE WANT AS A PARISH?

Much has been said about "the new normal" when the pandemic allows things to settle down. The sort of comments heard have been:

- what did we *used* to do, that (for a year) we haven't and that we miss? How soon can we re-start?
- what did we *used* to do, that (for a year) we haven't and we *don't* miss? Do we *have* to pick them up again?
- what have we done in lockdown that we didn't do before but we want to keep doing?
- what have we done in lockdown that we didn't do before and will happily drop again?

An example of these might be "doing jigsaws was lovely, but after a year it's time to stop", or "having my shopping delivered was lovely but I do miss visiting the high street", or "I really missed hugging the family".

Those are all at a personal level - but what about at a parish level? We haven't had the Mass attendances of yesteryear - do those who've stayed away want to come back? I know that I do ... and the Obligation will be reintroduced at some point. Do we want to have social events again (probably "yes")? What have we missed that we can still do without? What have we done differently that we'd rather do the "old" way (like attending Mass without a mask, or receiving Holy Communion at the "usual" point of the service)?

The time has come, or is soon to arrive, when we will need to address these thoughts both as individuals and as a parish - as Fr Keith has said, it is our parish and we have a responsibility to run things while the Priests undertake their sacramental and pastoral roles. How can we do that? Do we need committees or working groups to coordinate (for example) the summer fair, the worship, the buildings and grounds, outreach and mission, so forth?

If so, who would serve on those groups? A comment has been made that some such groups are seen as parallel to the wider community's view of the Church of England - most of them don't go or get involved *but they feel comfortable knowing that it's there*. If someone in the parish feels that there should be (for example) a worship committee to assist the Priests with preparations for Easter or Christmas, what would they say if no-one stepped forward to serve on that committee?

Putting it bluntly, what only happens now because one or other of the Priests does it? And how would you feel if they stopped doing it (as being outside their sacramental and pastoral role) and it didn't happen? Would you be ready to step forward and say "I valued that; I want to ensure it continues; how can I help?" ... or would you let it die?

It's time to think ...
Andy Bebington

OFFERING A MASS INTENTION

If you wish to offer a Mass intention at this time, please either visit the parish office, use an 'Intentions' form & envelope located in a tray by the church exit, or download it from our website under the **COVID 19** tab. Please complete the form and return it via the parish office letterbox with stipend enclosed. Many thanks.

Our Repository shop has an excellent selection of Mass cards.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

In case anybody is interested, **Saint Mary Magdalene Church in Canning Road** is now open for food bank donations. Food is collected by the Salvation Army and Croydon Voluntary Association weekly to go into food parcels for the community.

The church is open from **10am to 2pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays**. All dried and tinned food is welcomed.

CAFOD: THANK YOU! Thanks to your support, CAFOD has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic. Just in Zambia, in the past year, our reports show we've been able to reach 1,234,200 people with messages on COVID-19, provide 13,312 people with access to safe water, train 392 frontline health workers from Zambia's 11 dioceses on how to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in their local communities and donate over 1000 handwashing hygiene stations in communities to support handwashing measures. Thank you for standing alongside people in Zambia and for supporting people in more than 30 other countries worldwide.

DEAR HUSBAND & WIFE... You are invited to give each other a gift by spending **July 10th** online between **9am and 1pm** exploring and improving your relationship. The event, entitled '**Building A Better Marriage**', will provide you with valuable insights into your communication skills and the call of the Church to the married. There is no group sharing. This is not marriage counselling but a chance to make average-to-good marriages a bit better – whether you married five years ago or 50! Booking is essential.

Telephone **07983 524727** or Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES 2020

Confirmation certificates for 2020 can now be collected from the Parish Office. Please ring before collecting. *Many thanks.*

Lord Jesus,

*When you walked with us on earth
you spread your healing power.*

*We place in your loving care all
who are affected by Coronavirus.*

Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.

*Bring relief to our sick, console our bereaved,
protect those who care for us.*

*We lift our prayer to you Lord,
and trust in your infinite mercy,
as we wait for the daybreak.*

Amen.

HM Government

**WASH
HANDS**



**COVER
FACE**



**MAKE
SPACE**



NHS