



# Our Lady of the Annunciation

Parish Priest: Fr. Keith Sylvia

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 Diocesan website: [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk) Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:  
 Weekdays after 10am Mass Every Saturday at 5pm Or by appointment

**3rd December 2017 First Sunday Of Advent (page 82 of Parish Mass Book) YEAR B**

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars think that Mark's Gospel was written just before, or maybe even during the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, by the Romans, in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas, and also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

**\*\*\* ADVANCE NOTICE \*\*\***

As you will know, Advent 4 falls on Christmas Eve this year, resulting in ten Masses being celebrated at Our Lady's in 40 hours, and just a few hours to decorate the church in moving from Advent into Christmas, before the 6pm Vigil Mass. To ease this situation just a little, there will be

**No 12pm Mass on the 24th December**

And would those coming to the 10am on that day consider staying for a short while to help decorate the church? It should be fun!

## Mass Intentions This Week

**2 December: Saturday**

11:00 CONFIRMATION MASS  
 Robert Arbuckle RIP  
 18:00 All Parishioners +

**3 December:**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
 08:30 Michael Croghan RIP  
 10:00 UCM: All Confirmation Candidates  
 12:00 Enoch Mawanda RIP

**4 December: Monday**

10:00 Zachary Lohan RIP

**5 December: Tuesday**

10:00 Pat Dowd RIP

**6 December: Wednesday**

10:00 Wellbeing of Susan O'Neill

**7 December: Thursday**

10:00 Thanksgiving for Soumahoro Family

**8 December: Friday**

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
 10:00 Michael & Harold Sweeney RIP

**9 December: Saturday**

10:00 Eucharistic Service  
 18:00 Thanksgiving for Nwosu-Damian Family

**10 December:**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
 08:30 All Parishioners  
 10:00 Ines, Gerald & Godwin Zampa RIP  
 12:00 Mary Comyns RIP

+ *With Baptism*

**WEEKLY DRAW**

£5 - Terry Braim

\* NEW MEMBERS NOW NEEDED \*  
 \* ONLY £12 A YEAR \*  
 Contact Monica Grant on 8656 2602

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY**

Loose cash	£ 561.00
Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 604.56
S/Os	£ 975.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2140.56</b>

**CHURCH CLEANING  
 TEAM D - Mrs Aitchison**

**COLLECTIONS**

Last week's collection for *Catholic Youth Work* amounted to £588.10. Many thanks. This week we have our annual *Toy Collection*. Next week, will be December's ACA collection with proceeds going to *The Friends of the Holy Land*, for children in Bethlehem.

**We pray for the sick in our Parish:** Elizabeth Damsel, Fr David Peck, Sheila Minus, Lauren Horwood, Sharon Gillett, D Nott, Steve Richer, José Fernandez

**We pray for parishioners whose anniversaries occur this Week:** William Conroy, Tom Clarke, Terri (Annie) Knight, Wladyslaw (John) Langowski, Patrick Casey, Margaret Lord, Teresa Cleary, Joseph Morais, Mary Patterson, Joseph Leaman, Ernest La Rue, George Horsley, Maria Tagliarini, David Mahoney, Candida "Peggy" Corner, Baby Martin Moss, Salvatore Parise, Bridget Coughlan, Rodney Burleigh, Ralph Rayner, Mary Sims

### SOCIAL CLUB

Sunday Evening Entertainment

Sunday, 3rd December: Kevin Keys  
Sunday, 10th December: Tom Healy  
Sunday, 17th December: Finbar & Bernie  
Sunday, 31st December: *New Year's Eve Party*  
Sunday, 7th January: Eugene Doonan

On Sunday evening, all proceeds from the Raffle will be given to the *St Mildred's Drop In Centre* to cover the costs of the meal for the homeless guests on Christmas Day. We are also collecting items of clothing for the homeless; we particularly need jumpers, jackets, trousers and coats.

The key events for the Christmas & New Year programme are:

- Friday, 22nd December: *Members' Party*
- Wednesday, 27th December: *Tea Dance* with Kevin Keys from 3.00pm. This event is open to all members of our Parish Community.
- Sunday, 31st December: *New Year's Eve Party* - all guests are requested to bring a plate of light refreshments, sausage rolls, mince pies etc. Tickets at £5.00 each are available from the Church Hall or our coordinator Danny O'Donovan.

*Coming soon* .....

- *Take That & Robbie Williams Tribute Night* on Friday, 26th January

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** We are sad to announce the recent death of Mary Fernandez. Details of her funeral will follow shortly. Our sympathy goes to her family and friends at this very sad time.

### REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR Do something different this Advent

Every day in Advent, as you open a door in your Advent Calendar, put one item into a box or bag, the contents of which will be donated to a food bank after Christmas.

The usual items of tinned goods are perfect but also toiletries, ladies sanitary products, nappies (size 4,5 & 6) are items greatly needed. Bring the filled box to the Church after Christmas. The boxes will be collected by **1pm on Saturday 30th December** and delivered to the Croydon Food Bank.

Remember this is NOT a Christmas box but a way of thinking about others during Advent and seeing that the food banks are well stocked for the coming year. January can be a long and desperate month.

For more information or for a more detailed list of suggested items please contact **Ivonne** on **07906558676**

**THE JUBILATE CHOIR:** Is celebrating its 40th year and has commissioned a new piece of music by Paul Carr (Ubi Caritas), which will be sung at its concert on **9th December at 7.30pm** at **St Matthew's Church, Chichester Road**. Do come and support us!  
See poster on the music notice board or ring **Angela** on **8654 3041**

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SHIRLEY Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm

Please join us for half-an-hour in the **small hall** for unity prayers with our friends from the other churches in Shirley.

### THE CARROLL SINGERS - A CHRISTMAS CONCERT Wednesday 13th December 8pm St Mary's, Help of Christians, Coulsdon Rd

Come and enjoy an evening of seasonal music to enhance your Christmas preparations, sung by this local choir of ex Coloma pupils, and directed by Norma Carroll.

**ENTRANCE IS FREE!**

Retiring collection for the St Mary's 'New Window Fund'

**Items for collection:** *A Callow, T Braim, Mary Walsh, Lyn Cully*

**Bapt Certs:** *Forte, Tusiime Kabalega, Loubao, Ssebanakitta*

**Rotas:** *Repository (December/January), Altar Servers (December), Eucharistic Ministers (December and Christmas)*

### MEETINGS

**SVP:** Tuesday 5th at 8pm (PRC)

**WOODSIDE BEREAVEMENT SERVICE:** Would like to **THANK YOU** hugely for your response to their recent appeal. Your generosity, both in donations and offers of help, was heart-warming and will be put to good use in supporting our clients as they face their loss. For those who offered practical help, we will be contacting you shortly to see how we can best work together.

### CHAPERONE REQUIRED

A young disabled season ticket holder of Crystal Palace FC needs a chaperone to take him to home fixtures for the remainder of the season. The Chaperone will meet the young person at Selhurst Park on match days and a ticket will be available for all games. If you could assist in any way, please call **07734 250375**.

### CULTURAL DIVERSITY SUPPORT GROUP

Friends our meeting will take place on **Sunday 10th December at 1pm** (directly after 12 o'clock Mass) in the **PRC** room between the large hall and the Parish Office.

Agenda items for the meeting include; the purpose of the group / relationship within the Parish / possible social events / planning of celebratory Masses, and much more.

All interested parishioners are cordially invited.

Contact **Sylvia** for further information

on **07870 508790** or **sylvia3k@gmail.com**. Thank you.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be an "Everyone's Nativity" held on **Sunday 17th December at 3pm** here at **Our Lady's**, followed by refreshments in the large hall. If any child OR adult would like to take part please come to the church on the day dressed as a character from the Nativity. It doesn't matter how many Mary's, Joseph's, Donkeys, Innkeepers, Stars, Shepherds, Wise Men, Angels and King Herod's we have, everyone will be included!

We look forward to seeing you there!

### THE DAVID LEAN CINEMA, CROYDON

**CLOCKTOWER:** Is presenting a rare screening of **OPEN BETHLEHEM (PG)** on **Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm**. Featuring seven momentous years in the life of a city of astonishing beauty and political strife, it charts the creation of a campaign to bring peace to the Middle East. Followed by a Q&A with Sara Apps, The Open Bethlehem Campaign's Executive Director.

Information and online booking: [www.davidleancinema.org.uk/](http://www.davidleancinema.org.uk/)

### THE CEDARS SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE Tuesday 5th December 7.30pm at Our Lady's

The Cedars School is holding its Advent service of Lessons and Carols with Benediction at Our Lady's this year. The school extends a warm invitation to all parishioners to join them in their preparations for Christmas.

### ADVENT EVENTS

#### CEDARS SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE

Tuesday 5th at 7.30pm in the Church. All are welcome.

#### ST THOMAS BECKET CAROL SERVICE:

Thursday 14th at 2pm in the Church. All are welcome.

**EVERYONE'S NATIVITY:** Sunday 17th at 3pm - see notice

#### ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

Wednesday 20th December at 7.30pm with visiting priests