



ST ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Revd Dr Ian Patrick McDole

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A Warm Welcome To All Our Parishioners and Visitors

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 30th November 2025



Dear Parishioners,

The Collect, first reading, and Responsorial Psalm today urge us to go meet the Lord: we are called to run forth, go up the Lord's mountain, and enter into the house of God.

Advent and Christmas celebrate the coming of Emmanuel (God-with-us), and the fact that God comes down to earth to be near to His people. However, the Liturgy today reminds us that this is not a one way relationship. We too have to make the efforts and put in the work to meet God.

We should try to make our Advent more like Lent. The Scriptures and liturgy remind us that we can do something to prepare for God's coming to us, and our preparations will enhance our experience of His coming. Fasting, prayer, and acts of charity and service are ways not just to prepare for Christ's Resurrection, but also for His birth.

As we are drawn into the secular notions of Christmas, which seem to come earlier each year, we tend to forget that we are still preparing for Christ's birth. But our early celebrations can still be seen as a way to joyfully prepare for Christmas. Try to make Advent a time of preparation this year, and to take up some spiritual practices in earnest. Doing so will leave us better prepared, and in turn make us more worthy to say that we are Christians.

With many prayers for this Advent season,

Fr Ian

NOVEMBER HOLY SOULS LIST

Please take a brown envelope from the Church Porch with the heading: MONTH OF HOLY SOULS Place in the envelope the names of your deceased loved ones and friends, all those you wish to pray for. Holy Mass will be offered for them during the month of November. Return to the Parish office as soon as possible. **Please place your offering in the same envelope. Envelopes available in the porch.**

THE CHOSEN SEASON 5

Season 5 Screenings will be shown in the Hall Annexe, on Fridays, starting at approximately 10.45am, following tea and coffee **All are welcome.**



Operation Elf...



PACT, the Prison Advice and Care Trust, is a national Catholic charity helping prisoners and their families. At Christmas, through Operation Elf, Pact provides small gifts for parents in prison to give to their children at special Family Days, helping them stay connected and share in the joy of giving.

This year, St Ann's is again collecting gifts for the children of women in HMP Downview (around 60 children aged 2–18, mostly 5–13). Any extra gifts will go to children of fathers in HMP High Down. Please donate an unwrapped gift (around £10–£15). Suggested items include unisex gifts such as board games, craft kits, books, or gift cards for older children. Wrapping paper donations are also welcome. **No electronic or battery toys, toy weapons, magnets, sand, play dough, plasticine, wax crayons, edible items, or liquids (e.g., perfume, glue).** A box will be in the church porch from 15th–30th November.

ENCOUNTER ST JOHN'S BOOK OF REVELATION WITH US THIS ADVENT

As we watch and discuss CaFE's 'The Joy of Hope' Come and join us for tea and cake as we watch and discuss 4 instalments of this stunning series.

Time: 7.45pm **Venue:** St Joseph's Church Hall, Epsom, KT18 7JQ. On the following Mondays: 1st, 8th and 15th December. If you would like to book your place please email: mary@marygortondesign.co.uk
Leaflets available in the Church Porch.

ADORATION OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Our last day of Adoration will be Thursday 11th December. We will resume Adoration on Wednesday 14th January 2026.

POPE LEO XIV AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "RAISING HOPE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE"

Come and join us to watch the film on **Saturday 29th November at 10 am** in the hall annexe. Hear the testimony of the former Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger. Listen to Pope Leo XIV - It's time to move from talking to acting, from indifference to care, from resignation to courage.

BANSTEAD 5 EVENTS

ADVENT SERVICE AT ST PAUL'S CHURCH & CAROLS AROUND THE BONFIRE

On 4th December at 7.30pm, St Paul's Warren Road, SM7 1LG. Refreshments will be served after the service.

All Saints Church Banstead is hosting Carols around the Bonfire on Saturday 6 December 2025 from 12 noon. The event will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

2000 CLUB IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Following this most recent draw, we want to inform all members that, due to new charges being introduced by the banks, we will be **pausing the 2000 Club** for the time being. We are considering a relaunch next year. **Please cancel any standing orders you currently have in place.**

APPEAL FOR SOUTH SUDAN

The St Vincent de Paul Infant Centre provide meals to 700 young children every week.

The Healthcare Centre offers up to 120 essential primary care health appointments free every day. The situation is even worse now with the war.

The St Vincent de Paul Society at St Ann's will hold a sale of children's books, bicycles, rockers, and toys on **Saturday 6th December after the 6pm Mass and after all Masses on Sunday 7th December.** Cakes will also be on sale. The proceeds will support South Sudan.

ST ANN'S CAROL SERVICE



Join us on **Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm** for St Ann's Carol Service. A celebration with carols and readings. After the service, everyone is warmly invited to the Church hall for mulled wine and mince pies.

THE WORD WHO IS LIFE – THE CALL TO MISSION
NEW YEAR PARISH MEETINGS ACROSS THE
DEANERY

For St Ann's, the meeting will be on
Sunday 18th January 2026 after the 10.00am Mass
please save the date!

Moving Forward — Together

As part of Bishop Richard's The Word Who Is Life Pastoral Plan, the nine parishes of Epsom Deanery will become one parish in 2026. The Plan invites us all to share in the mission of building a vibrant, welcoming, faith-filled communities.

What's Happening Now

Clergy and parishioners from every parish are already meeting to ask: How do we involve everyone?

New Year parish meetings across the Deanery will:

- Explain the Pastoral Plan
- Show how decisions will be made
- Invite every community to help shape the future

How You Can Help

This transformation needs everyone's gifts and ideas. As you leave today, please take a "You're Invited!" postcard and Parish Plan flyer. Alternatively you can share your thoughts by directly emailing epsomdeanerynewsletter@gmail.com These outline what's changing, how we'll work more closely across parishes and schools. Both include a QR code/website for more information—and ways you can contribute right now.

DEADLINE FOR RECEPTION APPLICATIONS
SEPTEMBER 2026

For parents who have children who are due to start in Reception next September 2026, the closing date to make an application is the 15th January is for both the supplementary information form (SIF), which should be returned to the school office and also for the online application made to Surrey County Council.

HELPING THE HOMELESS 2026

St Ann's SVP group will again support the Merton Night Shelter project, running from January 19th for 8 weeks. For twelve years, the shelter has provided hot meals and safe accommodation for rough sleepers in Merton during the coldest months. This year, it will be hosted by the Raynes Park Salvation Army, Salvation Army Church, 109 Kingston Road, SW19 1LT (next to Wimbledon Fire Station).

Volunteers needed:

Each Monday, dinner is required for up to 18 guests:

- Main course ● vegetarian option
- Side vegetables and potatoes ● Dessert

Costs covered by SVP.

If you can help as a cook or would like more information, please contact: ann.corrigan@lienard.co.uk or the Parish Office with your details.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY



The children's liturgy catechist would like to encourage parents, carers, or grandparents to bring their younger children to the 10am Mass to perform in a short Nativity on **Sunday 14th December at the end of the 10am Mass.**

This has always been a lovely way for the children to start off the Christmas week and a tradition that has been going on for many years here at St Ann's. The rehearsal will be at the Children's liturgy on Sunday **7th December** at the 10am Mass.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Sunday 30th November - None
Sunday 7th December – Christmas Flowers

ANNIVERSARIES

Josie Monaco RIP & Laura Carter RIP

CHANGE TO PARISH OFFICE HOURS NEXT
WEEK ONLY

Monday 9am to 3pm, **Tuesday 9am to 4.30pm** &
Wednesday 10am to 3pm.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026

Diocesan Directory 2026 now available to purchase for **£7.50** from the Church Porch. Please put your money in the newspaper slot.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR
PARISH WHO ARE SICK

Helen Guinness	Freda Griffiths
Karen Murray	Maureen Reilly
Indira Louis	Ashlee Rodgers
Christian Requena	Gillian Doherty
Joshua Anderson	Denise Rush
Damian Poole	Guilherme Guedes
Allan Norman	James Joseph
Michael Monaco	Edmund Louis
Arthur Harding	Jake Brauer
Helen Kershaw	Christine Hearne
Jane Scargill	Susan Smith
Jonathan Lewis	Spencer Thorpe
Cyrus Pascoe	Marie-Anne Murphy
Patrick Gilligan	Sean Gilligan
Maria Degenis	Paul Worsfold
Dave Hudson	Brian Glossop
Zeke Peyton	Domenico Fasino
Maurice Dingley	Martin Mohan

St Ann's Parish Weekly Schedule & Information

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Saturday 29th November

6.00pm (Vigil) – Mary Smith Intention

Sunday 30th November – First Sunday of Advent

8.30am – Pro populo

10.00am – Josie Monaco RIP

Monday 1st December – Advent Weekday

No Mass

Tuesday 2nd December – Advent Weekday

No Mass

Wednesday 3rd December – St Francis Xavier

No Mass

Thursday 4th December – St John Damascene

9.30am – Sharon & Daniel Brogan Intentions

Friday 5th December – Advent Weekday

9.30am – Victor Tompkins RIP

Saturday 6th December – St Nicholas of Myra

6.00pm (Vigil) – Kevin Gilbert RIP

Sunday 7th December – Second Sunday of Advent

8.30am – Olga Thompson RIP

10.00am – Pro populo

Thursday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

10am to 12pm

Fridays

The Rosary will be recited prior to Mass at 9.00 am every Friday.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday at 5.15pm or on request.

(Please check our website or the Church door for last-minute alterations to Confession times)

PARISHIONERS IN HOSPITAL

Please contact the parish office if you or a parishioner are in or going to be in hospital.

THINKING ABOUT GETTING MARRIED

If you are considering marriage, contact Fr Ian or the Parish Office. Please be aware that the Bishop requires a minimum of one year's notice prior to the wedding. A meeting will be scheduled with Fr Ian to begin the necessary paperwork and to arrange for you both to attend a marriage preparation course.

ST ANN'S CONFERENCE OF THE SVP

St Ann's St Vincent de Paul Group meet every 2nd Tuesday of the Month in St Ann's room at 7.00pm.

SVP FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE LOCAL EPSOM & EWELL FOOD BANK

For the full list of food items go to:

visit <https://epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> Please place in the box provided in the Church porch. Many thanks

CONTACT DETAILS

St Ann's Website: www.stannsbanstead.com

Hall Hire: stannshallmanager@gmail.com

Bereavement Supporters: Joanna Stewart & Cathy Laffer. Contact: 01737 353724

Parish Coordinator: Katrina Duncckley

Office Hours: Monday 9am - 3pm

Wednesday 10am - 2pm - Thursday 9am - 5pm

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer ensures that the Parish is updated with any and all new developments concerning practices and legislation to protect children & vulnerable adults. In the event that anyone has any questions or concerns on this issue, please contact: Geraldine McWilliams

Email: sg1.banstead@abdiocese.org.uk

INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

If you're an adult considering baptism into the Catholic faith? Contact the parish office for more information.

BAPTISM

New and expectant parents are invited to contact the parish office to begin baptism preparation. Regular Sunday Mass attendance and a one-hour class are required before scheduling. The class can be taken before your child is born. **Baptisms take place after the 10.00am Sunday Mass.**

Children aged 7 and up will need age-appropriate Catholic instruction before baptism. Please introduce yourself to Fr Ian after Mass for more details.

THE SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION

To register your child for our First Holy Communion preparation classes, the following requirements must be met: ●The child must have already been baptised in the Catholic faith. ●We will accept children of parents who are registered with and are practicing members of St Ann's Parish.

SERVERS NEEDED

All members of the parish (especially our teenagers) who have made their First Holy Communion are invited to help serve at Sunday and Weekday Masses.

GIFT AID

Make your weekly donation go further! Sign-up to our parish Gift Aid at no extra cost to you! For more information contact the parish office.