



ST ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Revd Dr Ian Patrick McDole

4 Brighton Road, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 1BS

Telephone: 01737 353724

Email: banstead@abdiocese.org.uk

A Warm Welcome To All Our Parishioners and Visitors

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 21st December 2025



Dear Parishioners,

Today's first reading sees the wicked king, Ahaz, refusing to tempt the Lord. He had sacrificed his own son to the gods of other nations and built temples for these gods. He went to war to collect wealth and glory, but often neglected his own people. The Lord God was not happy with Ahaz, and the Prophet Isaiah comes to tell Ahaz that he must forsake these false gods and come back to the Lord. When Ahaz refuses to ask for a sign, he is really refusing to listen to the Lord and engage with what the Lord God is asking of him.

Ahaz knows that he is avoiding God, and that he is trying to run away from the fact that he is being asked to change his life around and act in a different way: he is being asked to fear God, worship Him alone, and look after his people more than himself.

We often try to run away God, and avoid the changes that need to happen for us to be better. We don't want to make the efforts and do the work that is required of us to grow closer to Christ and His Church. But just as Ahaz received a sign without asking for one, we also receive signs of God's powerful love.

The sign of the Virgin giving birth to a child is one of the most powerful signs we have received. The Virgin Mary's child is truly Emmanuel, God-with-us. The idea of God wanting to become a human being does not make sense until we understand that God's love for us could not keep Him far from us forever.

As we spend these last days preparing for Christmas, we are called to look out for all the ways that God shows us that He is near to us today. And unlike Ahaz, we must accept the signs and respond to them by willingly making the changes that will help us follow Christ a little more closely.

With many prayers,

Fr Ian

RECENTLY DECEASED



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Mascarenhas the mother of Laurence Mascarenhas who died recently.

ST ANN'S CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

5pm Vigil Mass

8.30pm Carols and Readings leading into
9.00pm Solemn Night Mass

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

8.30am Mass

10.00am Mass

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.**

ST ANN'S CHOIR, MALE & FEMALE SINGERS NEEDED

Ever wanted a good reason to join our choir, not only is it great to be part of a friendly group, but there are also health benefits to singing, please read below to find out more!

Health Benefits of Singing

Studies show that singing boosts levels of secretory immunoglobulin A (SIgA), a key immune antibody that protects the airways and digestive tract. Singing strengthens immune response more than listening to music or resting because it combines emotional expression, controlled breathing, and physical engagement.

Singing reduces stress by lowering cortisol, which allows immune function to improve. It also stimulates the vagus nerve, helping regulate the nervous system and support overall health. Research suggests group singing may enhance these benefits further through shared breathing and emotional connection, improving both mood and immune resilience.

If you would like to find out more please speak to Flick Saunders our Musical Director or contact the parish office: banstead@abdiocese.org.uk

PARISH CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

On Monday 22nd December at 7.00pm in **St John's Church, Tadworth** followed by mulled wine & mince pies in the hall.

Always a wonderful occasion with Christmas readings, beautiful choir music, visiting singers & well-known carols. There will be a collection to support work of Caritas International. Please spread the word, invite family & friends and make this special evening the start of a Happy & Holy Christmas!

PETER PAN PANTOMIME



It's Pantomime time again The B5's Pilgrim Pantomime Company are presenting 'Peter Pan' at The Institute, High Street, Banstead from Wed 28th to Sat 31st January 2026. Tickets available at the same price as last year via the Company's website www.pilgrim pantomime.com direct from Ticketsource or by phone on 0333 666 3366. Fly away with Peter Pan on a magical adventure, cheer the heroes and boo the dastardly Captain Hook.

ST JOSEPH'S EPSOM CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 21 December at 3.00pm

Please join us for our Parish Christmas Carol Service in the Church on Sunday 21 December, commencing at 3.00pm and afterwards in the Hall for tea, coffee, wine and mince pies! We look forward to seeing you there.

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

**St Ann's, the meeting will be on
Sunday 1st February 2026 after the 10.00am Mass
Please save the date!**

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.

The deadline for us to receive your postcards has ended, but you can still reply online until the end of December 2025 at:

<https://www.epsomdeanery.com/haveyoursay>
or by directly emailing epsomdeanerynewsletter@gmail.com

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.

NEW WEBSITE PAGE

EPSOM DEANERY ACTIVITIES

A new page has been added to our website www.stannsbanstead.com titled "**Epsom Deanery Activities.**" The aim of this page is to share events taking place across the other eight parishes in our deanery, from social gatherings and community events to joint prayer groups, Lent and Advent courses, and more.

DAY OF REFLECTION FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD

SATURDAY 24 JANUARY 2026, 11AM-4PM

St Michael's Church, High Salvington, Worthing
BN13 3AL **Cost: £40**

Led by **Bishop Richard** and **Catherine Christmas**, Liturgy & Music Adviser. Held on the weekend of the *Sunday of the Word of God*, the day includes input on Scripture, the Lectionary, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will also be **Lectio Divina** and Mass.

Booking: Visit the Diocesan Events page or use the **Enquiries:** catherine.christmas@abdiocese.org.uk

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The offertory is counted every other week, so these figures will appear in the newsletter fortnightly
Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

Collections: Weekending 29/30 Nov & 6/7 Dec

Offertory Collection: £994.69

2nd Collection: Church Flowers £704.62

Please note: These amounts do not include regular standing orders or card payment machine payments.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Sunday 21st December – None

Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th December -

Parish Priest Christmas Offering

Christmas Offering for Fr Ian

The Christmas (and Easter) collections are given directly to the parish priest.

Catholic priests do not receive a regular salary.

Instead, they are provided with a modest living allowance by the diocese or parish. Much of their personal income depends on the generosity of parishioners through special collections, Mass offerings, and personal donations.

The Christmas Offering is a way for parishioners to say thank you, for the priest's ministry,

You can give by

1. Bank Transfer with the reference
'Christmas Offering'

2. Gift Aid envelope if you are a Gift Aider.

3. Using our Sum-up machines at the back of the Church. All 24th & 25th December Masses will be programmed for this collection.

4. Placing your offering in the collection basket at the Masses on 24th & 25th December

Christmas Season - Crib Collection
Catholic Children's Society

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 20th December – ‘O Clavis David’

6.00pm (Vigil) – Diana Young RIP

Sunday 21st December – *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8.30am – Pro populo

10.00am – Mick Molloy RIP

Monday 22nd December – ‘O Rex Gentium’

No Mass

Tuesday 23rd December – ‘O Emmanuel’

12.00pm – Edward Walsh Intention

Wednesday 24th December – *Christmas Eve*

5.00pm – Kathleen Crowley RIP

8.30pm – Carols and Readings leading into

9.00pm – Solemn Night Mass – Pro populo

Thursday 25th December – *The Nativity of the Lord*

8.30am – Hanora O’Shea RIP

10.00am – Pat Mitchell RIP

Friday 26th December – *St Stephen*

12.00 Noon – Peter Louis La Croix RIP

Saturday 27th December – *St John*

6.00pm (Vigil) – David Graces Wellbeing

Sunday 28th December – *The Holy Family*

8.30am – Pro populo

10.00am – Kristyna Walczyk RIP

Adoration will resume on Wednesday 14th January 2026.

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 Dunckley

Office Hours: Monday 9am - 3pm

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer keeps the Parish up to date on all safeguarding practices and legislation for children and vulnerable adults. For any questions or concerns, 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.

ST TERESA’S KNITTING CLUB

Meet every 1st Wednesday of the month, 2pm to 4pm in the hall annexe. All Welcome.

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.