

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

The Holy Family

Sunday 28th December 2025



Dear Parishioners,

A very happy & blessed Christmas!

And thank you so much for all of your kindness, support, and generosity over the past few weeks.

As we continue to celebrate the Birth of Our Lord, the Gospel reminds us of the reality that life is not easy. After receiving the Wise Men with their precious gifts, St Joseph is warned that Herod wants to put the Christ Child to death. After the trouble of traveling from Nazareth, after trying to find a place to stay in Bethlehem, after fulfilling the responsibilities of caring for a newborn child, St Joseph and Our Lady are now forced to be exiles in Egypt - the land where once their ancestors were slaves.

The entire time the Holy Family endures these difficulties, we see that God is with them, both spiritually and physically in the person of Jesus Christ. Being a Christian is not a way to avoid the suffering of this world, but rather a way to help us remember that God is there to help us and support us. He allows us to be tested and tried so that we can again and again turn to Him in our weakness. He shows us what our strengths are and what parts of our lives still need to be improved. In all of this though, he is close to us. And we, like St Joseph, have to make every effort to protect and preserve the life of Christ (small as it might be or seem) that lives in each of our hearts, so that His grace can grow and develop in each of us.

A very Happy & Blessed Christmas! And a Blessed New Year!

Fr Ian

WELCOME TO FR MAX

We warmly welcome Fr Max, who will be celebrating Mass with us while Fr Ian is away for his Christmas break.

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

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.

PARISH OFFICE - CHRISTMAS BREAK



Please note that the Parish Office will be closed until Wednesday, 31st December 2025.

Thank you all for your help and support throughout the year
Wishing you and your families a Happy and Holy Christmas.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 5

The final two screenings of The Chosen, Season 5, will take place in the Hall Annexe on Friday 2nd and Friday 9th January, starting at approximately 10.45am. All are welcome.

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**

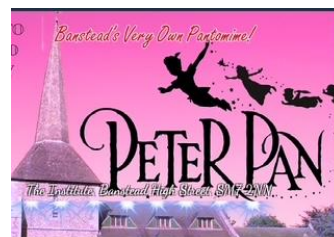
Please save the date!

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

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.

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

EXPLORING THE VOCATION TO TEACHING IN
OUR DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

Online event -Tuesday 13 January – 5.30pm to 6.30pm. If you are interested in hearing more about the vocation to teaching and what teaching in a Catholic school involves, Dave Legrand, Diocesan Secondary RE Advisor, will be running this online information event. This event would be suitable for anyone considering a career change or simply interested in finding out more about the role of teachers in our Catholic schools for any age group or for any subject specialism. To book a place, please use the link:

abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/vqrcnwzi

MARY'S MEALS IS LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS



Could you spare a few hours during the year to help? We are looking for parish reps, volunteer speakers (training and support provided!) and volunteers who can help at events. We are very much a volunteer-led movement, so any little you can offer will make a huge difference to the children we serve in some of the world's poorest communities. Please contact Roy Peachey (roy.peachey@marysmeals.org or 07593 447297) if you can help. To find out more about Mary's Meals, please visit marysmeals.org.uk. Thank you for your support!

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Sunday 28th December – None
Sunday 4th January – None
Sunday 11th January – None
Sunday 18th January – Pax Christi – Peace Sunday

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th December

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 27th December

6.00pm (Vigil) – David Graces Wellbeing

Sunday 28th December – *The Holy Family*

8.30am – Pro populo

10.00am – Kristyna Walczyk RIP

Monday 29th December – *St Thomas Becket*

No Mass

Tuesday 30th December – *Sixth Day of Christmas*

6.00pm – Holy Souls

Wednesday 31st December – *Seventh Day of Christmas*

12.00pm – Margaret & Rene Wong Intentions

Thursday 1st January 2026 – *Mary, Mother of God*

9.30am – Holy Souls

Friday 2nd January – *Ss Basil and Gergory Nazianzen*

9.30am – Holy Souls

Saturday 3rd January – *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

6.00pm (Vigil) – Deceased Members of the Oldroyd Family

Sunday 4th January – *Second Sunday of Christmas*

8.30am – Pro populo

10.00am – Ann Vos Mahon RIP

Adoration will resume on Wednesday 14th January 2026.

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday & 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