

Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands
ST. ANDREW PARISH CHURCH

Patron Saint Andrew The Apostle

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Chapel of Ease:

St. Thomas Mission - Majesty Gardens and St. Clement's Mission - Kencot



**INTENTION FOR THE YEAR:
A Call to Intentional Discipleship,
Sustained by the Holy Spirit**

CLERGY

Rector Revd. Canon Siranno Kitson, D. Min.

Assistant Curate

Church Army

Revd. Orlando Gayle

Sister Andrea Taylor-Smith

Wardens

Rector's Warden

Mrs. Ruby Anderson

Email (rubyelaineanderson@gmail.com)

People's Warden

Dr. Nigel Elliott

Email (nelliottdvm@hotmail.com)

Treasurer - Valda Ormsby

Administration

Office Administrator/ Ops. Officer

Mrs. Merle Thomas

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Hortense James

Receptionist -

Verger - Mr. Vernon Miranda

Asst. Verger - Miss Ann Morrison

The Rector is out of office on Mondays.

This season of Christmas has been described as “the most wonderful time of the year,” and acknowledged as a time to be charitable, courteous and neighborly. As Jamaicans, we have been the beneficiaries of many weeks of rainfall which has facilitated the growth of sorrel and gungo peas a staple for our diet at Christmas. Although there are some of us who viewed the rains as an inconvenience the situation could have been worse if we had been hit by a hurricane. There is a lot to give God thanks for, despite the level of crime and violence, and the carnage on our roads, due to speeding, disregard for the road code and driver's carelessness while using the cell phone. Our financial issues continue to be challenging as the revaluation of the Jamaican currency has not affected the price of gasoline at the pumps. Whatever may be the challenges that beset us, Christmas remains, “the most wonderful time of the year.”

During this Yuletide season, we celebrate the Nativity of the Christ Child, who is cradled in a Manger, the place of animals not a Royal Palace, which indicates His humble status. Also this points to the incisive and tangible presence of God who has taken our human nature of vulnerability and weakness and absorb it into the divine substance to rescue us from the futility of sin and death, “... the Word became Flesh and lived among us.” Consequently, we are able to receive His grace and mercy which have become instantly available to penitent and contrite hearts. “From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.” (John 1:16) A relationship that was impaired, is now restored to full communion and fellowship; “God and sinners reconciled” according to the Christmas carol, Hark! The herald -angels sing.

It is “the most wonderful time of the year,” which celebrates the Incarnation of the “Prince of Peace,” who has come to initiate and sustain, a peace that passes all human comprehension. This understanding of peace, demands that we know and willingly pursue the things that make for peace. If we fail to implement the things that make for peace to build up our corporate lives, there will be “a society of hostility, aggression, greed, conflict, and violence.” (Names for The Messiah by Walter Bruggemann,) As disciples of the Prince of Peace, we and our Jamaican people are to be attentive to the vulnerable, the unproductive and the unemployable in the society, as we exercise self-denial for the sake of our neighbour. It is God's peaceable kingdom that we proclaim at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

We extend a warm welcome to all those visiting with us today.

Sirrano +

Long time ago in Bethlehem

1. Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible say
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas Day.

Refrain

*Hark now hear the angels sing
A king was born today
And man will live for evermore
Because of Christmas Day.*

2. While shepherds watched their flock by night,
They saw a bright new shining star
they hear a choir of angels sing
The music seemed to come from afar. **R**

What child is this, who, laid to rest

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
(Refrain)

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant king to own Him,
The King of kings, salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
(Refrain)

3. Now Joseph and his wife, Mary,
Came to Bethlehem that night,
They found no place to bear her child,
Not a single room was in sight.

4. By and by they find a little nook
In a stable all forlorn,
And in a manger cold and dark,
Mary's little boy was born.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

President: We pray for Christ Catholic Church and for the Mission and Ministry of St. Andrew Parish Church.

Leader: .In joy and humility let us pray to the Creator of the universe, saying.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the mystery of the Word made flesh, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and Magi, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: We pray for peace among nations and within our communities and for goodwill throughout the world, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: We remember families, relatives and friends and also who would be alone this Christmas time, King of Glory, come to earth.

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: At this time of joy and rejoicing, we pray for all who are sad, all whose lives are full of sorrow, fear or anxiety . We

remember those in need of care and love ones who are ill.
King of Glory, come to earth

Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the incarnation of the Son of God, grant us true
repentance. Hear us O, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

ALL: We confess our transgressions, for grace to be cleansed of
our sins, to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,
Hear us, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy

Celebrant: The Absolution: Almighty God..
Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our
Lord and Saviour Jesus Chris; hear us, O Lord.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ you said to your ... (B.C.P page 122)

THE GREETING OF PEACE (*All stand*)

Celebrant: "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

People: and peace to all persons who enjoy God's favour."

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

OFFERING OF THE EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE BCP pg 126

SICK AND SHUT - IN

Thomas Barrett

Heron Wright

Linnett Allen

Desmond Keith Dickson

Ivy Walters

Muriel Amiel

Ivy Ellis

Eulalee Vernon

Leonard and

Stephanie Green

William Reeson

Gwen Donaldson

***Kindly inform the Church Office when you become aware of members who
are ill at home, in hospital, or absent from Church for a while.***

Faith Formation and Christian Education

Did you know?

There is no evidence for the observance of Christmas Day on December 25 before 300 AD. In fact, the earliest record of December 25 as a church festival is in the Philocolean Calendar (which was copied in 354 AD, but represents the practice of the Church of Rome in 336 AD). One reason given for this day being chosen is that heathens would have their festival of the sun on December 25, and so in an effort to contradict this festival, Christians decide that they would gather on this day to celebrate the birth of the Son of Righteousness. (C.F. Pfeiffer, H.F. Vos, & J. Rea, *Whycliffe Bible Dictionary*, 2008).

Quote for Reflection

It's funny how we 'do' Christmas. Christmas is not something that we do, it is something that was done. It celebrates the long awaited arrival of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. We had nothing to do with it, but what we can do is praise God for the coming of the Lord, who washed away the sins of the world by dying on the cross. (Monica Johnson, n.d.)

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK (Dec. 31 - Jan. 6)

The Church is open **Monday to Friday**
between **9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for prayer**

Monday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - The Holy Name of Jesus Christ
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	6:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	9:30 a.m.	Holy Communion to sick and shut-in. (Clergy)
Thursday	5:30 p.m.	SAPC Choir Rehearsal
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Little Brothers
	2:00 p.m.	Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship

Baptism, Wedding and Funeral by appointment with the Rector.

IMPORTANT DATES 2018

Marian Service
Deanery Day

Wednesday January 24, 2018
Sunday February 11, 2018

PARISH NEWS

Birthdays for this week: Dana Harris and Beverly Robinson-Muir 31/12, Rochecha Blake and Pauline Christie 01/01, Marlene Campbell and David Francis 02/01, Christene Johnson-Kelly and Khristian McKenzie-Marley 03/01, Beverley Evans, Polmae Thompson, Brandon Henry and Christine McDonald 05/01 and Paulette Thompson 06/01.

Congratulations to Robert and Sheila Martin who will be celebrating 41 yrs. of marriage on January 2.

Condolence is extended to Christine McDonald and family on the passing of her mother, Lena McDonald. Her funeral service will be held on January 3, at 12 noon. To the family of Olga Grace Geoghagen. To Mildred and Winston Johnson on the passing of a daughter and sister, Dalton Lindo in Miami.

We express our gratitude to all our members and friends of St. Andrew Parish Church, for their sacrificial giving especially for gift day, which is just about \$3M to-date. It is through your contribution, prayers and the energy of the Holy Spirit, that we continue to build the Kingdom of God and advance the Lord's ministry among His people, through His church.

The Church's Annual Congregational meeting will be held on January 28, 2018, after the 8:00 a.m. service.

Freewill envelopes for 2018 are ready, please collect yours at the office.

A General Meeting of the Friends of the STAPC Sunday Schools will be held on Sunday January 14, 2018, immediately following the 8:00 am Service, in the Old Courthouse. Parents of Sunday School students are welcome to join us. The meeting will be brief and refreshments will be served."

There will be NO 10:30 a.m. SERVICE TODAY

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2017 - Year B

6:30 a.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Old Testament	Isaiah 61: 10 - 62:3 Milton Samuda
Psalms 147: 13 - 21, (BCP page 662)	Refrain: (All sit) <i>“Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia”</i>
Epistle	Galatians 3: 23 - 25; 4:4 - 7 June Rose
Gospel	John 1: 1 - 18,
Prayer of Intercession	page 4

8:00 a.m.

SOLEMN EUCHARIST AND SERMON

(Corporate for the Women’s Auxiliary)

Processional	77
Introit	91
Old Testament	Isaiah 61: 10 - 62:3 Kirby Clarke
Psalms 147: 13 - 21, (BCP page 662)	Refrain: (All sit) <i>“Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia”</i>
Epistle	Galatians 3: 23 - 25; 4:4 - 7 Ruby Anderson
Gradual (Sequence)	Long Time Ago in Bethlehem
Gospel	John 1: 1 - 18,
Sermon	Canon Sirrano Kitson
Creed	561
Prayer of Intercession	Page 4
Offertory Hymn	88
Prayer of Intercession	page 120
During Communion	642, 665, What Child is this
Recessional	73

10:30 a.m.

NO SERVICE

6:00 p.m.

NO EVENING SERVICE

11:00 p.m.

Watch Night Service