

**CLERGY**

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain  
 Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain  
 Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

The parish office should be your first port of call for any enquiries, including appointments, and arrangements for all sacraments (e.g. baptisms, weddings, funerals). Please email Karin Rattray, the Parish Secretary, at [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) or call on 020 8546 4633. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (closed Wednesdays). Could you please limit telephone calls outside these hours to emergencies only. Thank You.

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES**

**SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>**

9.30am Teresa Fitzmaurice RIP

6.30pm Salwa Matti RIP

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

9am Wassim Tappuni RIP

10.30am Wellbeing of Maura Hickey

6.30pm John Allen RIP

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Memorial**

9.30am Hannah Mennis RIP

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9.30am Intentions for Birthday of Clare Davidson

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese, Memorial**

9.30am Intentions for Birthday of Noel Roycroft

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Barbara Mack Birthday

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity**

**Whole School Mass**

9.30am Thanksgiving Intentions for the Davidson Family

7.30pm Special Intentions of Barbara Mack

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Wellbeing of Christine Lysaght

6.30pm Wellbeing of Catherine Bennett

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES**

**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Baptism of the Lord**

9am Alfred Knight RIP

10.30am Keith Fraser RIP

6.30pm Patrick Sheehy RIP

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Rosetta Vitolo RIP

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Antonio Francisco RIP

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Private Intentions

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Private Intentions

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am The Murphy Family (Barry, Audrey & Family)

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Holy Souls

6.30pm Thanksgiving Intentions – Alice Esteban

**Exposition:** Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.

**Morning Prayer:** Monday to Saturday 9am.

**Confessions:** Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.

**Morning Prayer:** Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM

**Mass Times:** Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30

**Baptisms:** Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.

**Marriages:** Six months' notice required, Diocesan rule

**PARISH OFFICE**

Karin, our Parish Secretary, is on annual leave until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023, therefore the parish office is closed. Please only call the Presbytery in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry during this time.

For non-urgent enquiries please email: [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) and Karin will respond upon her return. Thank you.



**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS**

**POPE FRANCIS**

FOR THE

**56th WORLD DAY OF PEACE**

1 JANUARY 2023

[Click Here](#)

Copies are also available in the church porch.



**WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050





## ST AGATHA'S FEAST DAY & PARISH NOVENA Starts Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023

In recognition of our Parish's Feast Day of Saint Agatha on 5<sup>th</sup> February, we will observe a nine-day Novena before the Feast Day itself. The Novena will commence on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 continuing daily through to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023, concluding with a Parish Thanksgiving on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023. We are hoping that this Patronal Feast and the nine days of reflection and prayer proceeding it will be a wonderful celebration and give us all an opportunity to come together to share and celebrate our faith and the great Catholic heritage of our Parish and also offer a chance to reconnect with your faith in a sacred space. The programme will include guest speakers and workshops to help enrich and enliven your faith. We invite everyone to participate in this spiritual devotion programme; please enter into the occasion as fully as possible.

**More details will be announced soon as arrangements are developed....**

### What is a Novena?

In the study of Acts 1:14, we observe the apostles praying in a manner that has been called the first Catholic novena. The word "novena" comes from the Latin "novem," which means nine. Thus, novenas always include nine of something: months, weeks, days, hours or even the same prayer repeated nine times.

Novenas are an ancient tradition that goes back to the days of the Apostles. Jesus told His disciples to pray together after His ascension into heaven, so the apostles along with Mother Mary and other followers of Jesus gathered to pray in the Upper Room during the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost. (Thus, the recognition as the "first novena."). In the early Middle Ages, novenas were prayed in preparation for major liturgical events such as Christmas and Pentecost and later used as acts of reparation. When we pray a novena, we focus our attention intently on a special intention in order to receive special graces and either the answer to our prayer or discernment on what we need to do.

Having the "right attitude" is key to the use of novenas. When we pray a novena, we must take on Jesus' attitude in Gethsemane the night before He died. "Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me; still, **not My will but Yours be done**" (Lk 22:42).

Novenas help us to open ourselves to God in order to increase our faith and grow in the love of God and neighbour. They aid in inner healing, obtaining special graces, being transformed, and growing in virtue and holiness. They bring us peace and joy, regardless of the answer we've received to our petition.

**"She teaches by her example, to hasten to the true Good - God alone."** ~ St Methodius of Sicily (c 788-c 847) from a homily on St Agatha.



### CRIB OFFERINGS

At the request of Archbishop John Wilson, this year's Crib Offerings will go to The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL). The Friends of the Holy Land have been giving hope and providing practical help to the most vulnerable Christians in and around Bethlehem since 2009. For further details please visit: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

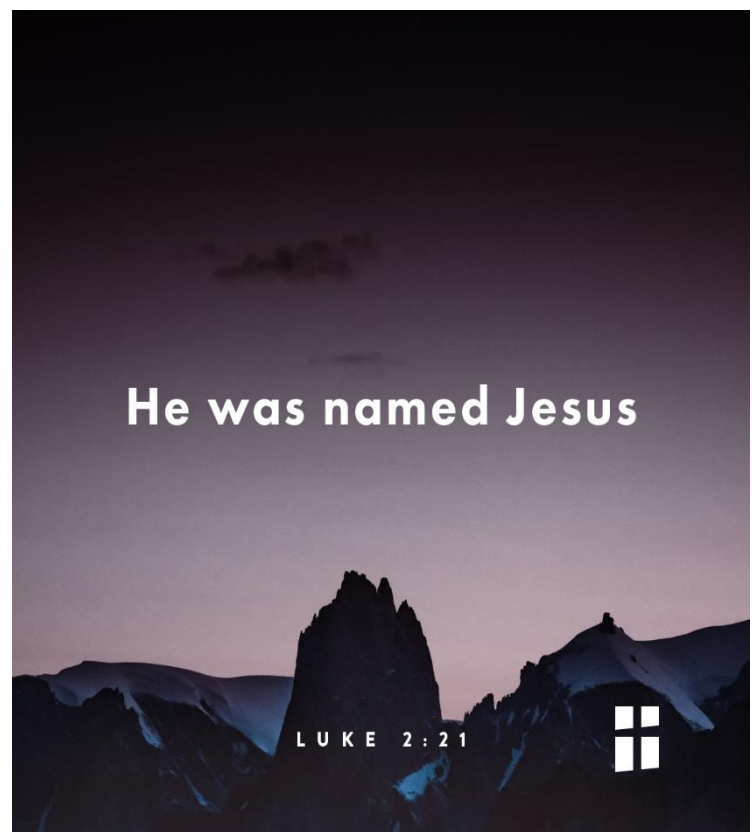
### CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to make a Christmas Offering to our Clergy at this special time of the year. please leave the envelopes in the box in the porch. Thank you.



### MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL CELEBRATION DAY Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

St Paul's Day Celebration: The Missionaries of St Paul (MSP) invite all parishioners to the Annual St Paul's Day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at St George's Cathedral SE1 7HY. Mass begins at 6:30pm, followed by reception in the Parish Hall. Invitation cards at the back of the Church please pick some and share with family and friends.



Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
Sunday, January 1, 2023

**Gospel Reading**

*Luke 2:16-21 The shepherds find Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.*

**Gospel Reflection**

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfilment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby Jesus as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.

**Family Reflection**

In today's Gospel, we learn that Mary honoured her commitment to God by naming her child Jesus, the name given to him by the angel Gabriel. In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is told to name the child Jesus because he will save the people. The name Jesus means "God saves." Even in his name, Jesus announces the mission he came to accomplish.

Your family might use today's feast as an opportunity to talk about names. Reflect together on the name of each member of the family. What does each name mean? Why was each person so named?

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:16-21. Recall that the name Jesus means "God saves." Think about how Jesus fulfilled the mission that his name suggests. Pray as a family that each family member will fulfil their mission to be faithful followers of Jesus, in whom we find our salvation. Pray for Mary's help by praying together the Hail Mary or singing together, "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly."

The Baptism Of The Lord  
Sunday, January 8, 2023

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 3:13-17 The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus as he is baptized by John.*

**Gospel Reflection**

The baptism of Jesus is attested to in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The account that appears in Matthew is the only one to include the dialogue between Jesus and John, however. Another difference in Matthew's presentation of this event is the announcement made by the voice from heaven, which says, "This is my beloved son . . ." In Mark and Luke, this voice addresses itself to Jesus: "You are my beloved son . . ."

The baptisms that John performs prefigure Christian Baptism. John baptizes for repentance from sin. In accepting this baptism, Jesus unites himself with all sinners even though he is sinless. In Matthew's Gospel, John the Baptist distinguishes his practice of baptism from the Baptism that the Messiah brings: "I am baptizing you with water . . . He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

The baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of Christ, another epiphany. Christ's baptism inaugurates his mission. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. In a way, today's feast is the high point of the Christmas season. Before Jesus' birth, angels announced to Mary and to Joseph who Jesus would be. At his birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the Messiah. At his baptism, Jesus accepts that he is God's son and inaugurates that mission.

**Family Reflection**

At Jesus' baptism, God affirms his Son's mission for salvation. God announces his pleasure with Jesus and, in Matthew's Gospel, announces to all that, "This is my beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17). With this affirmation, Jesus is able to resist the temptations described next in Matthew's Gospel and to begin his public ministry. As family members, we can support one another in our Christian living by affirming the importance of each person in our eyes and in God's. Confident that through our Baptism we too were made children of God, we can resist temptation and share in Christ's mission.

Gather as a family to read today's Gospel, Matthew 3:13-17. Recall that God's message about Jesus was meant for us, "This is my beloved Son." It was also an affirmation for Jesus about his role in God's plan.

Place each family member's name on a slip of paper and put the names in a bowl. Invite each person in the family to choose another family member's name and to prepare a message for that person, affirming their importance in God's eyes and in your family life. Pray together that your family will continue to support one another in your baptismal promises to be disciples of Jesus and then invite each person to read aloud the message they prepared. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

The next session is being held on: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023. 11.45am-1pm (Session 2).



## BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023. The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm.

Please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.

Parents must attend a Baptism preparation class before a child's baptism, and it is recommended that Godparents also attend.

## MARRIAGES IN 2023

2023 may be the year that you plan to get married; many *Congratulations* if that is so.

***Please remember that there is a lot of preparation that needs to take place and you are required to inform the church at least six months before.***



If you plan to celebrate your wedding at another church all preparation for our parishioners must take place here at St. Agatha's. Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

AND BEHOLD, A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAID,  
"THIS IS MY BELOVED SON,  
WITH WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED."

MATTHEW 3:17



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle, Melba De Silva and Marie Chlebeckova.

*Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.*

## HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are sick and/or housebound, our Priests would be happy to visit you, to pray with you, and to bring you Holy Communion in your home, please do let the Parish Office know; home visits are by request. If you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass but who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Priests.

## LET US REMEMBER

Let us remember those who have died recently or those whose anniversaries occur at this time, and all their families, with love and affection during this time of grief. May the Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Lilian Teresa Cullen, Violet Palmer, Francis Cardinal Bourne, Michael Cooney, Mary Angela Gilbert, John Williamson, Patricia Crump, John Pereira, Olga Paine, Peter Kelly, Jeremiah O'Dowd, Rose Wilson, Mary Westhead, Anna Hanson, John Stevenson, Stanley Bays, Jack Allen, Hannah Mennis, Edgar Duckett, Fredrick Thomas, Dorothy Eley, Vincent Raymond, Olive Bryden, Tony Green, Mary Josephine Edwards, Sarah Kelly, Helena Collins, Michael Frain, Ellen Merritt, Patrick Connolly, John Crehan, Michael Jordan, Teresa Buller, Clara Cunningham, Joan Culme, Daniel Quaid, Maurice Woolger, Azzopardi Twins, Joseph Kiernan, Mary Johnston, Sr. Lucy Proctor, William Finn, Nicholas Power, Constance Neve, Joan Marie Jackson, Keith Alexander Fraser, Colin Patrick McCarthy, Mary Ann Jelley, Walter Padberg, Rosa Vitolo, Jerzy Henryk Kopicki, Douglas Carter, Teresa Scott, Annie Burton, Mary Dobson, Frederick Fear, Bridget Cumiskey, Alfred Mulcahy, Joseph Rice, Eileen Wharton, George Winnen, Charles Woogar, Alexander Paterson, Balbina Saiz Agudin, Kathleen McEnery, Mary Blythe, Ellen Crowley, Bridget Dodd, Sandra Ruff.

**+++May They Rest In Peace +++**

## MASS INTENTIONS

***If you have a particular date or time which you want a Mass said, it is vital that you let the parish office know ahead of time and as soon as possible. For Anniversary Masses, with a particular date, please try to give at least four weeks' notice to avoid disappointment.***

You are very welcome to book any Mass intentions in advance. We cannot guarantee a requested date when submitting last-minute Mass Intentions; if no date is specified or a date requested is not available, the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open date.

Mass intentions envelopes are available at the back of the church. When requesting a Mass, please clearly indicate the intention and whether the Mass is for the deceased, the sick or for another intention. If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details. Please complete a Mass offering envelope in the church porch and either drop it in the intentions box, also located in the church porch, hand it to a parish priest or post through the presbytery letterbox.