



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

CLERGY

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

St. Agatha's Catholic Church
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kingston@rcaos.org.uk

The parish office should be your first port of call for all 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 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 1ST OCTOBER 2023

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 30th	St Jerome, Priest, Memorial
6.30pm	Mrs Phyllis Fernandez RIP
Sunday 1st	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am	Mary O'Connor RIP
10.30am	Patsy Byrne RIP
6.30pm	Wellbeing of Mike Mead
Monday 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels, Memorial
9.30am	Archbishop Peter Amigo RIP
Tuesday 3rd	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Collette Patten
Wednesday 4th	St Francis of Assisi, Memorial
9.30am	John Pereira RIP
Thursday 5th	
9.30am	Intentions for the Reiz-Bennet Family
Friday 6th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 7th	Our Lady of the Rosary, Memorial
9.30am	Christopher Byrne RIP
Exposition:	Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 9am. Monday to Friday: 09:30
Mass Times:	Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30
Confessions:	Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.
Baptisms:	Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.
Marriages:	Six months' notice required, Diocesan rule

PARISH OFFERINGS

SUNDAY COLLECTION: 24/09/2023

Collection Gift Aid £118.00 Loose £453.79

TOTAL £571.79

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish. Next weekend we will have a retiring collection for CAFOD.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DONATE TO YOUR PARISH

MAKE A DONATION ONLINE:

Donate to St Agatha's Church online via Bank Transfer using the following details: **Account Name: RCAS Kingston**
Account number: 10317821 Sort code: 60-60-02 (NB. The details may come up as RCAOS or Southwark – these are also correct)

VIA OUR QR CODE:

The QR code will take you to our parish 'Give A Little' web donation page.



SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FORMS – SIGNING ARRANGEMENTS

The time of year has come when many parents are thinking about places in a Catholic Secondary School. Please remember that regular Mass attendance is a requirement for a reference to be completed. If you have recently moved to the area, you should seek a priest reference from your previous parish which they will then countersign.

Fathers will be available to sign school application forms on:
Thursday 5th October 2023: from 2.30 to 3.30pm
and
Monday 9th October 2023: from 2.30 to 3.30pm
No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery.

Please ensure that you complete as much of the forms as possible and please bring all relating documents with you at this time, especially Baptism Certificates (if your child was not baptised here at St Agatha's). Applications will not be signed without proof of Baptism.

Please note that Fathers will not be available to sign forms during the half term week.

The deadline for applications for admission in September 2024 is 31st October 2023.

Application requirements can be found on the Secondary School's websites or further details are available from:

<https://www.kingston.gov.uk/schools-education/apply-secondary-school-place-september-intake/1>

HOST OUR LADY OF LOURDES STATUE IN YOUR HOME FOR OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

A few dates are still available in November but are going quickly!

Our Lady's Statue will now begin her visitations for October devotions.

If you would like to receive the Pilgrim Virgin Statue in your home during October or November, please fill out the form available in the church porch and return it to the Parish Office.

Please note, this is only a request which will be confirmed via a phone call to you. A date cannot be guaranteed and is subject to demand.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or wanting to explore your Catholic faith further?

Our Evangelium course will start in October/November 2023. The programme will consist of weekly sessions running until Easter, including vital dates during Lent.

If you would like to join this year's RCIA programme, Please pick up an 'INITIAL ENQUIRY FORM' from the church porch and return to the Parish Secretary in the Parish Office as soon as possible.



Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, October 1, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25:4-9

A prayer to God for mercy.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus poses a question to the chief priests and elders on the meaning of obedience.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will.

Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.



FAMILY REFLECTION

The example Jesus poses in today's Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus' story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God.

As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of heart. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist's message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for this change of heart is conversion. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be transformed by his word.

Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words. Pray together today's second reading, Philippians 2:1-5.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



**HARVEST 2023: FAMILY FAST DAY
FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2023**

Again, we are invited by CAFOD to live simply on this day, and dedicate any monies saved to help those in need. The retiring collection across all masses of Sunday 8th October will be for CAFOD. Donation envelopes are available. You can also donate on the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope, available in the church porch. Please visit the CAFOD website for further information: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>
You can help families fleeing conflict, parents fighting climate change and communities overcoming poverty together. Your donation will get to work quickly, around the world, wherever the need is greatest. Whichever way you support our work, you are saving lives and helping to ensure that no one is beyond reach of the love and care they need. Thank you for your continued support.



SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Just a quick reminder about our donations box in support of Dons Local Action Group; A huge thank you to those that have already donated items, these have again successfully been delivered to the DLAG hub this week. Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life. Thanking you in anticipation of your continuing support.

The Dons now have a programmed delivery of a monthly box of the above essentials the first full week of every month. We will try and support this initiative by delivering our contributions toward the end of each month. Obviously, this will only happen with your continued support. Thank you for your on-going generosity.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle.

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 or the Parish Secretary.

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 Christ grant eternal rest to all who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES

William Francis Cahill, Josephine Tompsett, Isabel Rodrigues, Gelardo Rossi, Mildred Bull, Dennis Short, Nellie Cannon, Right Rev. Peter Emmanuel Amigo, Michael Cleary, Eileen Sotiriades, Shirley Priest, Patrick Gallagher, Kathleen McCabe, Ethel Skinner, Simon Morrow, Norah Halloran, Timothy Hales, Catherine McCall, Jim McKay, James Coughlan, Pierre Detrulle, George Prosser, Luise Segat, Michael Murphy, Harry Williams, Frank Keefe, Sister Mary Francis Pentony, Samuel Medhurst, Walter Thomas Gifford, Elizabeth Noble, Ann Holmes, John Healey, Margaret Dalton, William Duckett, Santina Peluso, Teresa McKeown, Evelyn Drake, Patsy Byrne. **+++May They Rest In Peace+++**

NEW TO THE PARISH?

A very warm welcome to our Parish; we hope that you are settling down in your new home and will soon feel part of our community. If you are new to the parish, please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy, and please complete a family registration form which can be found in the church porch and is also on the parish website. If you have any questions or enquiries, please contact the Parish Secretary.



OCTOBER DEVOTION: THE HOLY ROSARY

Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. Pope Leo XIII personally started the practice of devoting October to the Rosary devotion. In a letter of September 1, 1883, mindful of the Rosary's power to strengthen faith and foster a life of virtue, he outlined the triumphs of the Rosary in past times and admonished the faithful to dedicate the month of October to the Blessed Virgin through the daily recitation of the Rosary, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, in order to obtain through her intercession, the grace that God would console and defend His Church in her sufferings. During October, we invite everyone to pray your rosary. We especially encourage families to pray the rosary together. We are all encouraged to make this a date with Mary.

THE ROSARY

We pray the Rosary in the church every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning after Mass. Everyone is welcome to join in.



PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week at 10 am after Mass. Please stay after Mass for 10/15 mins to pray with fellow parishioners.



MASS INTENTIONS

Would you like a Mass offered at St Agatha for a particular intention? Perhaps you would like a deceased friend or relative remembered at the altar, or you would like a Mass said for yourself.

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. If you have a particular date or time on which you want a Mass said, **it is very important that you let the parish office know ahead of time and as soon as possible.** You are very welcome to book your Mass intentions in advance. We are sorry but we cannot guarantee a requested date when submitting late Mass Intentions; if no date is specified or a date requested is not available, the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open Mass. Many people would like for their intention on a Sunday. We will try our very best to facilitate this, but these are the most sought-after slots.

The usual offering per Mass is a minimum of £10, this amount is pre-set by Southwark Diocese for all parishes within her jurisdiction, but you can give more. This 'stipend' goes to the priest offering the Mass, not the parish. Stipends are given to priests as they do not receive a salary, and sometimes they are their only source of income.

Please note that the Mass diary is pre-arranged for the week ahead and the intentions can be viewed on the front of the Parish Newsletter, in the church porch or on the Parish website.

'The work of God always passes through fraternity, through the eyes, the hands, the feet, the hearts of men and women who, in their respective roles of ecclesial or civil responsibility, try to build fraternal relationships and social friendship.' ~ Pope Francis

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

Applications for this year's First Holy Communion Programme are now closed.

There will be a parent meeting on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7.30pm.

The Inscription Mass is on Sunday 12th November 2023 at the 10.30am Mass. All children **MUST** attend the Mass. Session 1 for Children AND Parents will be immediately after Mass.



CONFIRMATION 2022/23

Registration for our next Confirmation programme is now closed. An email update will be sent out next week.



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, please register for our next class on Sunday 26th November 2023.

Please ensure you complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office before you attend a class.



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

MARRIAGES IN 2024

2024 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 the intended date.**



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

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

Please see the front page of the newsletter for an update.

Our Evangelium programme is for adults who have not been Baptised and for Christians of other denominations who want to be Received into the Catholic Church.

DIOCESAN INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION: ST JOHN'S SEMINARY – WONERSH

As you are aware, after 130 years of forming men for the priesthood, St John's Seminary, known to so many, closed in July 2021. Some two years later, a book has been launched entitled: *These Walls Have Spoken: in Celebration of St John's Seminary – Wonersh*.

Showcasing over 300 pages of elegant photography and text, the book records what made Wonersh unique. In words and images, it tells the story of the Seminary and keeps its memory alive. The book lists the Seminary's treasures, and chronicles the final commemorative liturgies and celebrations – showing how Wonersh lives on in the sacred objects, furnishings and books that have gone on to enrich many other Catholic churches and institutions. The book is available for purchase at a cost of £25 plus P&P at:

www.wonersh.shop

CATHOLIC WOMEN PRAYING TOGETHER

The annual Mass organised by Catholic Women Praying Together will be held this year on Wednesday 15th November at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. For background info: CWPT is the successor group formed from the Catholic Women of the Year Luncheon (which finished with its Golden Jubilee in 2018), and brings together representatives of the main Catholic women's organisations in the UK.

<https://www.catholicwomenprayingtogether.com/>

JOB OPPORTUNITY

GENERAL MANAGER – CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE & BASILICA OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM

An opportunity to support the new Rector to develop the mission of the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham. This is a key management role which will require the highest level of people management skills and sound governance abilities developed further in a relevant environment. Salary: £60,000 Closing date for applications: 20th October 2023. Further information at:

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/2023/09/29/new-job-opportunity-at-the-shrine-general-manager/>



There will be a Seminar entitled **“Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion in Our Parishes, Schools and Communities”**. This seminar will take place at the **Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Southwark, from 9.30am to 4.00pm on Saturday 28 October 2023**.

You are all welcomed to this archdiocesan initiative by the *Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion chaired by Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the Southeast*. On that day there will be contributions from a range of speakers, including the Most Reverend John Wilson, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark. For more information and registration, please use this link or scan the QR Code above;

<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/commission-for-promoting-racial-and-cultural-inclusion/what-we-do/>. Or write us: racialjusticecommission@rcaos.org.uk.

Please join us for a stimulating and hope-filled day of discussion. **Registration is FREE.**