



**CLERGY**  
Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest  
Fr. Pius Duke, MSP — Assistant Priest  
Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

St. Agatha's Catholic Church  
1 Wyndham Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey, KT2 5JR  
Tel: 020 8546 4633  
[www.stagathaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)  
[kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)

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 9.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday. Could you please limit telephone calls outside these hours to emergencies only

### FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

**SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)**

<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Andrew, Apostle, Feast</b>
9.30am	Wellbeing of David Rattray
6.30pm	Michelo & Gisselfina Americo Straccialano RIP
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>
9.00am	Lugrece & Jean Ciantar RIP
10.30am	Martina Sahri RIP
6.30pm	Anna Serm RIP
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	
9.30am	Clara Parker RIP
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>St Francis Xavier, Priest, Memorial</b>
9.30am	Miecyslaw Wielgus RIP
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Angelo Piccirillo RIP
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Juan Antonio Zapata RIP
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Ambrose, Bishop, Memorial</b>
9.30am	John & Rose Pereira RIP
6.30pm	Intentions of Mrs. Anne Davis

Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.  
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.  
Confessions: Saturday 10-10.30am, 6-6.15pm & at call.  
Baptisms: By previous arrangement – Sunday at 12.30pm.  
Marriages: Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.

**ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (7<sup>th</sup> December) WE WILL HAVE ONE HOUR OF EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. BETWEEN 10AM AND 11AM.**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Pat Appleby, John Sewter, Christina Ward, Tess Bird, Clare Horgan, Keith Fraser, Trish Taylor and Ryan Morrison. *Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either you or your relatives and friends want to be mentioned in our sick list.*

### ANNIVERSARIES

Sister Ambrosine, Honora Browne, Robert Dean, Margaret Prosser, Alice Bays, John Curtin, Baby Felix James Olney, Vincent Thomas McCall, Daniel Liddy, Annie Conway, Elizabeth Dorsett, Francis Mahony, Mary Anne Hubble, Frances Farr, Edna Johnson, James Jones, Anne Teresa Carbury, Ernestine Hannah Emerson, Vanda Cocco, Charles Selwood, Nellie Scaplehorn, General Jaeme Arrospide, John Fabriek, Philippa Armstrong, John Whelan, Isabel White, George Terence Dove, Mary Vivian, Lenord McIlbalton, Hugh McFaul, Joseph O'Connell, Barbara Croucher, Thomas Conway, Elizabeth Watson, Lugrece Chianta, Dino Rega, Michael Little, Margaret Patrick, Olive Burrett, Paddy Coughlin, Elizabeth Ann Moon, Mary Cockerell, Frederick Seymour, Hermine Gollob.

**++ May they rest in Peace ++**

### LET US REMEMBER ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Let us remember those who have died and their families with love and affection during this time of grief.

## Christ the King 1st Sunday of Advent Cycle A

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 24:37-44 – Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.*

### Reflection

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centred on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

**HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



### Gospel Reading

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### Family Reflection

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.

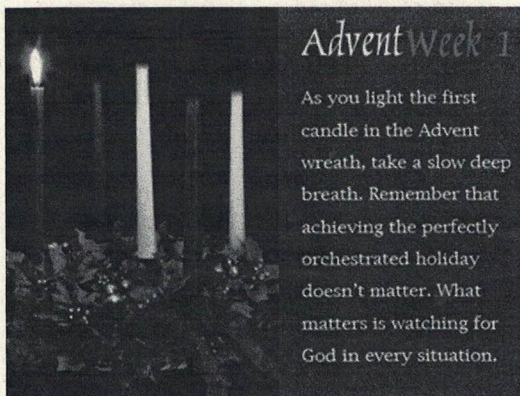
Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

### Advent Reading

This is the 1st Sunday of advent; copies of 'Walk with Me' are available at the back of the Church, a donation of £1.00 is encouraged, please put money in the box marked Papers. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during advent and is an excellent way to prepare for Christmas.

Also available is a brand-new magazine **Celebrate:Advent** for children, its full of activities and quizzes, it will encourage them to think about and grow in their faith while they have fun! 22 pages jam-packed with puzzles and facts. Celebrate:Advent comes with an Advent calendar and activity sheet for even more things to do. This year there's an easy way to refocus on the real meaning of Christmas as we Celebrate:Advent. Please pick up a copy from the back of the church, the cost of these is **£1 each**, please pop your money into the small box provided.



### Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

#### Bronze Volunteering opportunities.

For our young parishioners undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, we have a volunteering opportunity for 2 students doing their DofE to assist our First Holy Communion team with sessions in 2020. You will need to be available on selected Sunday afternoons 3.30pm-5.30pm from January to May (term-time only). Please email the Parish Secretary at: [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) with your details including name, address, age, school or place you are completing DofE and we will put you in touch with the FHC team.

### Church Banners

A longstanding parishioner of St Agatha's has kindly sponsored the purchase of the new Advent Banners in the church; our thanks to him, we truly appreciate the donation. If anyone would be interested in sponsoring the purchase of further banners for instance for Christmas, Lent or Seasonal Banners, please contact the Parish Office to discuss further.

### Christmas Raffle and Christmas Cards

Raffle tickets for the Christmas hampers, will be on sale after all Masses in the Cloister, alternatively, please call in to the parish office, between 10am-2pm Mon-Fri. Christmas Cards will also be available to purchase.

### Advent Study and Reflection

During Advent we shall study and reflect upon the four beautiful passages from the Prophet Isaiah that form the first reading at our Advent Sunday masses. The passages are:

- Isaiah 11: 1-10 – Peace and Repentance
- Isaiah 40: 1-11 – Good News
- Isaiah 35: 1-10 – Joyful Hope
- Isaiah 9: 2-7 – Saviour



The group will meet at the church on **Thursday** evenings at **8pm on 5th, 12th and 19th December**. Reading the passages before the meetings would also be a good idea

### CAFOD World Gifts

As we progress toward the season of Advent, CAFOD direct us to what they term "The true spirit of Christmas giving". Their World Gifts Catalogue is full of 'goodies' designed to help those in need. So how does it work: These are 'virtual gifts' that will hopefully delight the people you give them to, yet help transform the lives of those families in need in developing countries. For these and many other potentially life changing options, please pick up a catalogue from the back of the church for more information. Order early to avoid disappointment. CAFOD thank you for your continued support.



**CHAPTER TWO  
GOD COMES TO MEET MAN**

By natural reason man can know God with certainty, on the basis of his works. But there is another order of knowledge, which man cannot possibly arrive at by his own powers: the order of divine Revelation.<sup>1</sup> Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed himself and given himself to man. This he does by revealing the mystery, his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all men. God has fully revealed this plan by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**Part 1 – THE REVELATION OF GOD**

**I. God Reveals His "Plan of Loving Goodness"**

"It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature."

God, who "dwells in unapproachable light", wants to communicate his own divine life to the men he freely created, in order to adopt them as his sons in his only-begotten Son. By revealing himself God wishes to make them capable of responding to him, and of knowing him and of loving him far beyond their own natural capacity.

The divine plan of Revelation is realized simultaneously "by deeds and words which are intrinsically bound up with each other" and shed light on each another. It involves a specific divine pedagogy: God communicates himself to man gradually. He prepares him to welcome by stages the supernatural Revelation that is to culminate in the person and mission of the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.

St. Irenaeus of Lyons repeatedly speaks of this divine pedagogy using the image of God and man becoming accustomed to one another: The Word of God dwelt in man and became the Son of man in order to accustom man to perceive God and to accustom God to dwell in man, according to the Father's pleasure.

Libreria Editrice Vaticana

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Baptism Preparation Class
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Advent Study and Reflection Group
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	St Agatha's Church Youth Group
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Monthly Adoration
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Closing date for CCF Competition
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	St Agatha's Sch Junior Carol Service
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	St Agatha's Church Youth Group

**Offerings**

<b>First collection</b>	Gift Aid	£457.50	Loose	£514.56
<b>Retiring Collection</b>	Gift Aid	£10.00	Loose	£463.76

**TOTAL £1445.82**

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

The retiring collection this weekend is for Catholic Youth Services to support Youth Work in the Diocese and beyond, especially the Southwark Catholic Youth Service (SCYS).

**The Spiritan's Mission Appeal**

Last weekend we were joined by Fr. Patrice Anyanwu, who did a mission appeal for the Spiritan's at all masses; A total of £533.76 was raised, thank you for supporting them.

**Primary School 2020 Application Forms**

A priest will be available to sign Primary school application forms from **4-6pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery. 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 we will then countersign. Please ensure that you complete as much of the forms as possible and if you have any reference letters, please also bring these along with you. Please bring all relating documents with you at this time, **especially Baptism Certificates**. The closing date for the application is 15th January 2020.

**Please see the Parish noticeboard for more details of the following:**

- **URGENT Volunteering appeal for KCAH**
- **Conquest Art Group at St Pius**
- **London SW Catholic Social Group**
- **A Day with Mary**

**St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer**

The St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer is a staple tradition of the Advent season. In hopes of obtaining what you ask for, the prayer is recited 15 times a day from the feast of St. Andrew until Christmas Day. Keep the St. Andrew Novena prayer close as you pray during the Christmas season.

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.*



### Christmas Raffle

Each year, a small but dedicated team of volunteers run the senior's lunch, and a raffle which plays a big part in helping raise funds. This year we would like to expand the raffle and therefore any donations, big or small, would be very much appreciated and will help make a big difference to the funds raised. Thank you to those who have already given, please do keep the donations coming! Suggestions include: Bottles of wine/spirits, chocolates, biscuits, vouchers, toys/children's gifts. A basket is available in the church porch for your donations, alternatively please contact the Parish Office to discuss further.

### Seniors Christmas Lunch

Our Seniors Christmas lunch will be held on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm** in the Cloister. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the list in the church porch.

### Christmas Eve Christingle Service

Christmas is coming.... which means that we are getting closer to our Christingle Service. This is a very special way of celebrating the real meaning of Christmas with all our friends, family and the whole St Agatha's community.

EVERYONE is welcome! CHRISTMAS EVE in the Church at 4 p.m. Actors – Years 3-6 only Readers – Year 6 and secondary school children. All the younger children are invited to dress up as a shepherd, king, angel, donkey etc..

IF YOUR CHILD WANTS TO TAKE PART AND ACT, OR DO A READING PLEASE SIGN THE POSTER AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH from Sunday 24th November. The deadline is Sunday 8th December, so please sign up asap. (NB Please leave a mobile number and email address and we will notify you of your child's part the following week). Please make sure you are available on the rehearsal dates below before you sign up. **Parent volunteers** - If there are any parents who would like to help with dressing the children, make-up, lighting or rehearsing with the actors or readers we are very keen to hear from you too. Please sign up at the church or email Helen Mennis [helenmennis@gmail.com](mailto:helenmennis@gmail.com) or Louisa Collyer-Hamlin [louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk)

### Rehearsal dates and Christingle making

*Sunday 15th December* Costume fitting and giving out readings - 11.30 – 12.30pm (after 10.30 mass)

*Monday 23rd December* Practice in church 10am – 12.30pm Full dress rehearsal and Christingle making in the Cloisters.

*Tuesday 24 December* Christingle Service 4pm (costumes & make-up from 3pm)

### CHRISTINGLE MAKING: Monday 23rd December

All ages are welcome to join us in the Cloisters to make our 250 Christingles and have a drink and biscuit (Mums and Dads especially welcome! We'll even give you a cuppa!). This is a tradition that the whole parish gets involved in and the more the merrier.

*Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!*

### Pre-Christmas Spruce Up

We have a tremendous team of helpers in this church who work very hard to keep our Church and Grounds beautiful all year round for which we are very blessed and grateful!! Can we please ask for 'EXTRAS' (volunteers to come and help with our twice yearly spruce up both inside and outside, within the church grounds, to boost the efforts of our regular team by tackling jobs like brass cleaning and ironing of altar cloths etc... in time for our special Christmas celebrations!..) This year our dedicated morning will be on **Saturday 14th December**. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to give up a few hours of their time to help us. A sign-up sheet will be in the church porch for volunteers to sign up please. (Even if you can only spare an hour or two, Frs. Anthony and Pius will be delighted!) All teenagers will be made especially welcome, together with those aged 11 – 13 (accompanied by an adult please) but for safety purposes, sadly, no smaller children.



### Christmas Decorations

We would like to ask if anyone has any spare Red, Gold or silver Christmas decorations or indoor/outdoor lights that they could donate? Or that when you go shopping you buy an extra decoration. No matter how big or small the decoration we would love the donations. If you do find that you have any additional festive trimmings that are no longer required then please pop into the parish office. If you can donate just one Christmas decoration this year you can help make our church more beautiful for this joyous time of year.

Also, this year we are inviting the children to bring in a homemade decoration to add to our Christmas Trees. There are no rules to what it must look like, only that it must be homemade! We would ask that you bring these in by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December as we will be decorating the trees that weekend. We are looking forward to seeing what you all create!



### Centre for Catholic Formation

### Christmas Card Competition 2019

Children aged between 6 and 11 years old are invited to take part in the CCF competition to design a Nativity themed Christmas card based on one of the Gospel accounts for example; The Angel Gabriel announcing the Good News to Mary; The Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the Visit of the Shepherds or Wise Men. For more details please see the Parish noticeboard. All entries directly to the CCF by Monday 9th December.