

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
 1 Wyndham Road
 Kingston upon Thames
 Surrey, KT2 5JR
 Tel: 020 8546 4633
www.stagathaschurch.org.uk
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 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 2ND APRIL 2023
PALM SUNDAY (A)

Saturday 1st	
6.30pm	John Redwood RIP
Sunday 2nd Palm Sunday	
9am	Mrs Pat Zagas RIP
10.30am	Tom French RIP
6.30pm	John Allen RIP
Monday 3rd Monday of Holy Week	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 4th Tuesday of Holy Week	
9.30am	Mr Adelfo Zagas Senior RIP
Wednesday 5th Wednesday of Holy Week	
9am	<i>No Morning Adoration – Mass at 9am</i> Armando Di Bernardini RIP
Thursday 6th Maundy Thursday	
	<i>No Morning Mass</i>
7.30pm	<i>Mass of the Lord's Supper</i> Rev Fr Casper Lutz RIP
Friday 7th Good Friday	
	<i>No Morning Mass</i>
3pm	<i>Solemn Liturgy</i> John De Quidt Senior RIP
Saturday 8th Holy Saturday	
	<i>No Morning Mass</i>
8pm	<i>Easter Vigil</i> Catechumen & Candidate of the Parish
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



HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Holy Week	3rd, 4th, 5th April
Monday 3 rd	9.30am
Tuesday 4 th	9.30am
Stations of the Cross	7pm
Wednesday 5 th	
St Agatha's (No Morning Adoration)	9am
St George's Cathedral	Chrism Mass 11.30am
Maundy Thursday	6th April
Children's celebration – Last Supper	12pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.30pm
Good Friday	7th April
Day of Fasting and Abstinence	
Children's celebration — Stations of the cross	12pm
Solemn Liturgy	3pm
Holy Saturday	8th April
	No Morning Mass
Easter Vigil	8pm
Easter Sunday	9th April
	9am
	10.30am
	6.30pm
Easter Monday	10th April
	12pm

Copies of our Holy Week Programme are available in the church porch. It is also available on the Parish website at: www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

EASTER OFFERINGS

Easter offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to use them for an Easter Offering for our Clergy. If you normally Gift Aid your weekly offerings, would you please print your name/number clearly on the Easter Offering Envelope. Please leave the envelopes in the box in the porch. Thank you.

PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave for Easter Week and will return on Tuesday 18th April 2023, therefore the parish office will close on Thursday 6th April and reopen on Tuesday 18th April 2023. Please ensure all Mass Requests for this period, Baptism Applications and any other enquiries are submitted before Thursday 6th April 2023 otherwise they will not be attended to until the office reopens. Please only call the presbytery in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry during this time. For all non-urgent enquiries, please email kingston@rcaos.org.uk and Karin will respond upon her return. **Thank you.**



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Cycle A
Sunday, April 2, 2023

Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:14–27:66 Jesus is crucified, and his body is placed in the tomb. (shorter form: Matthew 27:11-54)

Gospel Reflection

Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy.

In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus' prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father's will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Another theme of Matthew's Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfilment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: "... for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:28)

While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas's death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate's wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' death. Finally, Matthew's Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus' death.

Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus' death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus' death. Throughout Matthew's Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today.

There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven.

The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

Family Reflection

Palm, or Passion, Sunday begins the most sacred week of the Church year—Holy Week. During these days, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' Passion and death. You might display a crucifix in a prominent place this week, as reminder of the salvation Christ won for us. The crucifix can also be the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the Passion narrative, young children have difficulty remaining attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can choose to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as the focal point. The Passion as found in Matthew's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:

- Sunday: [Matthew 21:1-11](#)
(Gospel at the Procession with Palms)
- Monday: [Matthew 26:14-25](#)
- Tuesday: [Matthew 26:26-35](#)
- Wednesday: [Matthew 26:36-56](#)
- Thursday: [Matthew 26:57–27:14](#)
- Friday: [Matthew 27:15-54](#)

After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer and/or singing an appropriate hymn, such as "Jesus, Jesus," "Were You There?" or "What Wondrous Love Is This."

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

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

Caroline Hopkins, William Philip Murphy, Alice Delaney, Ellen Desmond, Eugene Doyle, Bernadette Harris, Evelyn Fiaschi, Clare Chambers, George Higginson, Bridget Doyle, Michael McDonnell, Margaret Hardless, Mary O'Connell, Martin O'Brien, George Deeb, Alfred Paish, Charles Philpot, Walter Hewitt, Mercie Young, John Malone, Michael Lynn, Ottie Hewitt, Richard Lumey, Nellie O'Brien, Mary Hobbs, Harriet Roberts.

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

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

The next session is after the Easter break on Sunday 23rd April 2023.

CONFIRMATION 2023

Session 5 is after the Easter break on Monday 24th April 2023.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday, 30th April 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.

Our subsequent class will be held in September 2023.

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

MARRIAGES IN 2023 and 2024

2023 or 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 preparation for our parishioners must take place here at St. Agatha's. Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

EASTER READING – 'MY DAY BY DAY'

There are copies of the Easter edition of 'My Day by Day', for adults and juniors, available at the back of the Church – they cost £1.00 each. Please put money in the box marked 'My Day by Day'. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for Easter.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S CELEBRATIONS

All children are welcome to join us at 12pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we observe both days with child-friendly services.

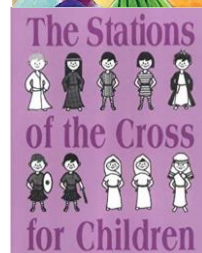
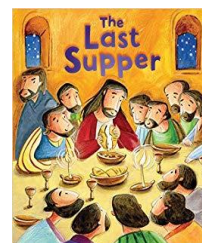
During these hands-on services, children of all ages will walk together through the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross, learning as they go.

On Maundy Thursday we have a re-enactment of the last supper in the Cloister with readings, acting and singing, and lunch to share afterwards.

On Good Friday we have the Stations of the Cross read and acted by our young people.

Please sign up at the back of the church, or email: kingston@kingston.org.uk, if you are able to attend and your child(ren) would like to take part. Year 6 and above to read on Good Friday, but all children will be able to take part in both services as we need actors for a variety of roles.

No rehearsals but on Good Friday, please come to the church at 11.15 to collect readings and have a quick practice.



EASTER, CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS

A small selection of Easter, Confirmation and First holy Communion cards are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively contact the parish office during opening hours. Cards are just £1 each! Please leave money in box available. Thank you.



Keeping our community fed, connected & supported.

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 everyone that has already donated items.

We are hoping to have adequate items to be able to provide them another delivery in time for Easter.

Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, such as pasta, rice, cereals, tea and coffee UHT milk, tins of vegetable, fruit, soup and also pet food and toiletry items such as toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant. Please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, eggs or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, your new packet of envelopes, which start on 9th April, are ready for collection from the church porch. If you are unable to come by and pick them up, please email the Parish Office.

If you are not part of the Parish Gift Aid scheme and would like to join, please contact the Parish Office for further information.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.



**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 16th APRIL 2023
NINE DAY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA**

On the 1st Sunday after Easter the entire Church is called to gather throughout the world to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. From St Maria Faustina’s Diary it is clear that this Octave Day on Easter is the day chosen by Christ as a day of extraordinary graces – a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith.

How to observe the Feast of Mercy

1. Go to confession, preferably before that Sunday
2. Place your complete trust in Jesus
3. Celebrate the Feast
4. Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast
5. Venerate the Image of Divine Mercy
6. Be merciful to others, through your actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

In the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, Jesus asked that the **Feast of Divine Mercy**, known today as **Divine Mercy Sunday**, be preceded by a **Novena to The Divine Mercy**. A Novena is nine days of prayer in preparation for a feast. To properly celebrate this great day, we need to prepare well. As a Parish we are encouraging everyone to make a Novena to The Divine Mercy and pray the Chaplet.

‘Jesus instructed St Faustina to write down and make (the Novena & Chaplet) before the Feast of Mercy. It begins on Good Friday’ (Diary 1209 – 1229).

Divine Mercy pamphlets are available in the church porch. (Cost 50p each). Monies should be put in the wall box marked “papers”.



**SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COURSE 2023 -
IN PERSON AND ONLINE**

Join at St George’s Cathedral, at a “hub” venue in the diocese or on Zoom to explore how to live more fully in the power of the Spirit.

The Archdiocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis and the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal team are again organising Life in the Spirit Seminars for the Archdiocese during Eastertide.

The Seminars will run on five Tuesday evenings (2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th May and 6th June) at St George’s Cathedral and at local hubs across the Archdiocese as well as on Zoom, with a Pentecost Saturday retreat day for all participants at St George’s Cathedral on Saturday 27th May. Everyone would be most welcome. Inspiring talks and music, small group sharing and daily reflections (with food provided for those attending Tuesday evening sessions at the Cathedral).

Local Hub: NEW MALDEN St Joseph’s Catholic Church, Montem Road, New Malden KT3 3QW.

For further details, see the leaflets in the church porch or visit:

www.bit.ly/SOUTHWARK2023 or email kristinabcooper@gmail.com.

TEACHING AND LEADING IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Are you a Catholic and a teacher, middle or senior leader in a community school or academy and interested in taking up a role in Catholic education? If so, the Archdiocese of Southwark Education Commission would like to invite you to a twilight session: Teaching and Leading in Catholic Schools.



The session will include opportunities to meet current leaders and the education team, find out about Catholic schools and tips in relation to the application process. This event will be held on Thursday 27th April 2023 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road SE1 6HR.

If you are interested in attending, please register here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/teaching-in-and-leading-catholic-schools/> or if you have any queries please contact Sharon Docherty, RE Team Leader and Professional Learning Manager sharondocherty@rcaos.org.uk

HEAD TEACHER VACANCY

ST MARY MAGDALEN’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Governing Body of St Mary Magdalen’s Catholic Primary School, Mortlake wish to appoint an inspirational individual to the post of Head Teacher from September 2023.



Further information and an application pack is available on Eteach: <https://www.eteach.com> or on the school website: <https://www.st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk>
Closing date: Wednesday 26th April at Midday.

MARYMOUNT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LONDON

Marymount International School London, a leading International Baccalaureate school for girls aged 11 - 18, is hosting an Open Day on Saturday 22nd April 2023. To register, please visit: www.marymountlondon.com



“SUNDAY 16TH APRIL – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY”

Afternoon devotions at St. Raphael’s Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston, KT1 2NA. 3pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Prayers. Followed by Confessions & Rosary, Concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3.45pm,

**SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES
18TH-25TH AUGUST 2023**

Message from Bishop Paul: ‘After the restrictions of the past few years, I’m delighted that we are now once more able to include support for pilgrims who need assistance for medical or mobility reasons. In Lourdes, those who are often marginalised are placed at the centre, and we who travel with them are blessed by their presence. I warmly invite you to join us.’ For details, please see <https://www.tangneytours.com/pilgrimages/>

“During this Season of Lent, it’s good not to turn off the light in our rooms without placing ourselves before God’s light. Let’s give the Lord the chance to reawaken our hearts by opening the Gospel and letting ourselves be amazed by the word of God that illuminates our steps.”

~ Pope Francis – Lent 2023