



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 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 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 2nd	
6.30pm	Stephen Leech RIP
Sunday 3rd 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	
9am	Gavin Mullen RIP
10.30am	Hannah Ruth Mennis RIP
6.30pm	Bernard Fenton RIP
Monday 4th	
9.30am	Baby Christopher Bennett RIP
Tuesday 5th	
9.30am	Luz Gade Homa RIP
Wednesday 6th	
9.30am	Special Intentions from The Triune God
Thursday 7th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Jim Daly
Friday 8th The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Feast Whole School Mass	
9.30am	Jing & Alice Esteban Wedding Anniversary

Saturday 9th	
9.30am	Private Intentions

SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 9th	
6.30pm	Leonard Saasita Kapongo RIP
Sunday 10th 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Catholic Education Sunday	
9am	Holy Souls
10.30am	Seamus Dooley RIP
6.30pm	Intentions of Joseph Fembatya
Monday 11th	
9.30am	Millicent Mary Laing RIP
Tuesday 12th	
9.30am	Intentions of Joseph Fembatya
Wednesday 13th St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Memorial	
9.30am	Elpidina Francisco RIP
Thursday 14th The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast	
9.30am	Edith Knight RIP
Friday 15th Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial	
9.30am	Mervyn Webster RIP
Saturday 16th Ss Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Memorial	
9.30am	Holy Souls

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
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 OFFERINGS

Sunday Collection 27/08/2023

Collection	Gift Aid	£191.51	Loose	£420.76
TOTAL		£612.27		

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.

Upcoming Annual Diocesan Collections:

Catholic Educations Service – Sunday 10th September 2023.
Evangelii Gaudium Sunday – Sunday 17th September 2023.

PARISH OFFICE

Please remember that Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from Monday 4th until Friday 8th September 2023, therefore the parish office will be closed. Fr Peter will be available in case of an emergency or urgent matters only. For non-urgent enquiries please email kingston@rcaos.org.uk. For any other matters please wait until the parish office re-opens. The Parish Office will fully reopen and return to normal operating hours on Monday 11th September 2023.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE - EDUCATION SUNDAY

Education Sunday is marked this year on 10th September - just after the new academic year starts. The theme for 2023 is "Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them." Taken from Matthew 18:20. It is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 175 years ago in 1848.



It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead. CES acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh Governments', sharing the aims of high academic standards for all and increased parental choice. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools. There are over 2000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England educating over 800,000 pupils. The Catholic Church and the Church of England together provide one-third of all of the schools in the country. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

We will have a retiring collection for the Catholic Education Service (CES). Please also use the red bucket in the church porch or you gift aid envelopes.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DONATE TO YOUR PARISH

MAKE A DONATION ONLINE:

Another way to donate to St Agatha's Church is online by 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 – this is also correct)

VIA OUR QR CODE:

A new online donation system has been set up so that parishioners and visitors are now able to donate directly to the Parish by scanning a QR code; donations can be made either with or without Gift Aid, just follow the instructions on the screen. You will be able to make a one-off donation or even set up a monthly donation. Use your smart phone camera to scan the QR code and you will be taken to our parish 'Give A Little' web donation page.



The QR code will appear in the weekly newsletter.



Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, September 3, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 63:2-6,8-9
Our souls yearn for God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-27
Jesus speaks of his Passion and rebukes Peter for his objection.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel continues the story that began in last week's Gospel. Simon Peter was called the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus' identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him "Satan." In opposing this aspect of Jesus' mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ's disciple is to follow in his way of the cross.

Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way.

Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus' prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called "rock" would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.

FAMILY REFLECTION

Peter was expecting a Messiah that would carry out a different plan than the one Jesus had explained. Jesus was indeed the Messiah, but his life and death would show a different understanding of what it means to be the Messiah. We too have expectations of God and our own ideas about what we think God ought to be doing in our world. Like Peter we may risk limiting our image of God by thinking only in human ways. God's plan is always more than we can ever imagine.

As you gather as a family, talk about what we expect God to be doing in our world and in our family life. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 16:21-27. Why do you think Peter was so upset by what Jesus was saying? Notice how Jesus reprimands Peter. Do we sometimes forget to let God be God for us? That is, do we sometimes get discouraged because God doesn't act in our world in the ways that we expect? Pray together that your family will remember that God is always working for the world's salvation in ways that are beyond our human imaginings. Conclude by praying together today's Psalm, Psalm 63.

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.

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

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

Rachel Liddy, Antonio Amor, Cesare Orindi, Bernard Fenton, Ellen Mary Cook, Patrick Francis Sheehy, Antoinette Osborne, Maureen Garrow-Fisher, Walter Williams, Jane Thompson, William Dracas, John Patrick Hanrahan, James Ryan, Robert Strong, Francis Rorke, Joseph Connolly, Bill Carr, Charles Forey, Bernardo Martini, Thomas Kearns, Anne Doherty, Monica Lamb, Mabel Dickinson, Anna McDonagh, Vincent McNulty, Beatrice Barker, Andrew Marshall, Guilhermina Fernandes, Tullie Di Vito, Bridget Breen, Emily Ellen Geal, Dorothy Whelan, Ellen Gadd, Frank Andrews, Constance O'Neill, Ken Woolger, Nellie Flynn, Maureen Geary, Lionel Osborne, Elizabeth Pettyfer, Nancy Casey, Herminea Lintern, Roseanna Stimson, Henry Stimson, Anne Collopy, Roy Browne, Oswald Garrow-Fisher, William Parker, Edward Heaton Harris, Kathleen Edwards, Ellie Mary Cahill, Michael Henry, Marie Dolan, Thomas Murray, Carlo Fiorellino, Kate Glasbey, Percival Rowland McCormack, Francis Steward, Norma Verhoven.

+++May They Rest In Peace +++

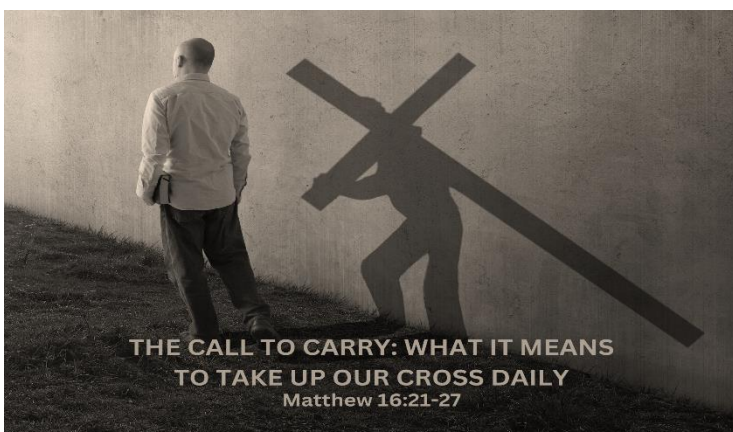
**HOUSEKEEPER/CLEANER
ST AGATHA'S PARISH**

Applications are invited for the post of Housekeeper/Cleaner. Would you like to join the parish team as our Housekeeper? If so, please apply!

The post holder will be required to provide confidential and efficient housekeeping and cleaning duties to a high standard, to the Parish Priests, whilst ensuring a pleasant, safe, welcoming and clean Presbytery is provided to other presbytery workers and visitors. The position requires 8-10 hours each week - work pattern to be agreed with the successful applicant. Previous experience of housekeeping and cleaning are essential, references will be required.

Essential Skills Required: Knowledge of safe working practices; Confidentiality in all matters; Good organisational ability and attention to detail; Self-motivated; solution focussed and reliable; Courteous and polite manner; good communication skills and good time management, Flexible, adaptable and able to respond to changes in routine.

If you would like to know more about this position, please contact Karin, the Parish Secretary, on 020 8546 4633 during parish office hours or email kingston@rcaos.org.uk.



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, September 10, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95:1-2,6-9

Song of praise to God, our salvation.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus teaches his disciples how to settle disputes in the Church.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word church in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.



FAMILY REFLECTION

Conflict and disagreements are a natural part of family life. Yet, within our family, we have an important opportunity to learn how to resolve disagreements fairly by treating people with love and respect.

As you gather as a family this week, discuss the procedures for resolving disputes in your family. What kinds of things produce disagreements in your family? Do children frequently request the assistance of the adults when a disagreement arises? How do the adults respond? In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples the way in which they are to handle conflict within the Christian community of the Church. Read together this Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20. Invite family members to summarize the steps that Jesus proposes for resolving conflict. How might today's Gospel inform your family's handling of disagreements? If you have time, your family might choose to role play how Jesus' teaching about conflict resolution might be applied to a disagreement that sometimes occurs in your household.

In today's Gospel, Jesus also promises that he will help those who pray to him with their needs. Pray together that each member of your family will learn to handle conflict in a Christian manner. Pray together the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

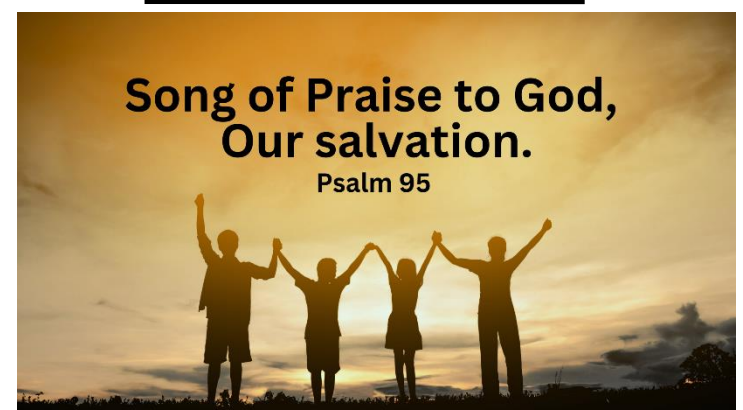
MASS INTENTIONS

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.



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/24

FHC application forms are now available from the church porch or the Parish Office. Children must be in Year Four or above in September 2023.

Application forms must be completed and returned in person only at one of the following sessions:

- Friday 29th September 2023
between 2pm and 5pm, at the Presbytery.
- Saturday 30th September 2023
between 5.45pm and 6.15pm, in the Cloister.
- Sunday 1st October 2023
after the 10.30am Mass, in the Cloister.



You must attach a PHOTOCOPY of your child's baptism certificate; we cannot accept any application forms without the certificate. If your child has not yet been baptised, please contact the Parish Office to discuss the procedure for enrolling on this programme.

Late applications will not be accepted; Reminders will be posted in the newsletter nearer the time.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023/24

Confirmation application forms are now available from the church porch or the Parish Office. Candidates must be in Year Nine or above in September 2023.

Application forms must be returned to the parish office no later than Friday 29th September 2023, so that we can identify how many candidates will be enrolling.

Late applications will not be accepted; Reminders will be posted in the newsletter nearer the time.



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, our next class is being held on Sunday 17th September 2023. The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm. 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

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.

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

Please email the Parish Office with your details (name, contact details and current denomination or religion) to register for this next programme: kingston@rcaos.org.uk and we will email you back.

It can also be a good experience for full members of the Catholic Church who may not have practised their faith for a number of years, or for those who wish to more fully understand and deepen their faith. Everyone is welcome along!



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.



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.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE - UPCOMING EVENTS GRIEF IN LOSS, HOPE IN CHRIST

If you are mourning the death of a loved one, this weekend may be for you. The weekend takes place away from the pressures of day-to-day life and can help one begin to come to terms with bereavement. It is a time for quiet, prayer, talking and acceptance. It is held at Aylesford Priory from October 6-8; cost £230 single, £210 shared. For more details phone 01622 717272 or email or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

POPE'S SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: 'FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON THE MARGINS'

Pope Francis has released his prayer intention for the month of September, and invites everyone to pray and assist people who live on the margins of society.

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/popes-september-prayer-intention-for-people-living-on-the-margins/>

When we encounter difficulties in living and proclaiming the Gospel, we may be tempted to grow discouraged. But Jesus grants us the grace we need to continue on the path of Christian life with faithfulness and perseverance.' ~ Pope Francis