

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

There are no feasts this week.

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 5.45pm: Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group

OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid £559.51	Loose £411.45
Retiring collection (CAFOD)	Gift Aid £24.90	Loose £104.91

This weekend's retiring collection is for CAFOD.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Grace Gibbs, Simon Leo, Paul & June McMahon, Michael Boyle, Maureen Allen, Eileen Hurley, Elizabeth O'Daley, Ellen Basci, Joan Gallagher, Kay Kennedy, Stephane Patten, John Sewter, Ryan Morison, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Marie Elsey, Christopher Browne, Mary Wallace, Rosa Vitolo & Colette Patten.

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 +++

Reflection – Our burdens lead to life

Cardinal Basil Hume

Each of us has a burden to carry; that is the way of life. There is no human life that does not have its burdens. Much of our lives is indeed the way of the cross, or at least it is so at times.

That burden may be a sorrow, or an anxiety; a broken heart; a secret fear; a chronic pain; a disappointment; a frustration; a wound from the past. Burdens take different shapes and are of varying weights but they have this in common: they press hard on us causing us sometimes to falter and stumble. They make our journey through life more difficult and perhaps at times seemingly impossible and lead us to wonder about the meaning and purpose of it all.

That is, until we remember that the burdens we carry always lead to life, life hidden with Christ in God.

The sharing of his Passion is the most certain way of growing close to him and a sure way too of discovering the meaning of the resurrection, the knowledge that whatever befalls us, we can never be separated from love of him.



St. Agatha's Catholic Church

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www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

Please visit our website regularly to keep abreast of important current issues.

Resident Priest:

Rev. Gregory Ackron

Deacon: Robert Beresford

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 2nd April 2017 Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Richard Cantar Traudi RIP
Sunday	9.00am	Richard & Mary Carmody's Intentions
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Caroline Hopkins RIP
Monday	9.30am	Patricia White's Intention
	11.00am	Requiem Enio di Vito
Tuesday	9.30am	Millicent Mary Laing RIP
Wednesday	9.30am	- None notified
	11.00am	Requiem Elsie Malone
Thursday	9.30am	Caroline Louisa & Bertram Woodhouse Currie RIP
Friday	9.30am	Gerry Quigley RIP
Saturday	9.30am	Flora & Ted Smith RIP
	6.30pm	John Davis RIP
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months' notice required - Diocesan rule	

Farewell to Fr Gregory Ackron

Fr Gregory, who has been helping out in the parish during the past few weeks, will be leaving us on **Thursday 6th April** after the 9.30am morning mass. He will be taking up his new post as parish priest of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Hayes, Kent. We thank him for his ministry to us and wish him well in Hayes.

PARISH NOTICES

Fr Gerry's Retirement

With the news that Fr Gerry has decided to retire as our Parish Priest, the Parish Finance Committee agreed, during a recent meeting that it would be both appropriate and good for the Parish to be able to mark Father's retirement and his forthcoming 80th birthday by holding a parish celebration. At the same time, it will give us as a parish community the opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to Father for his pastoral and spiritual care over the past 25 years.

To mark these two milestones in Father's life, the Parish Finance Committee proposes therefore to hold a parish Hog Roast and Barbecue on **Sunday 9th July** after the 10.30am mass, which hopefully Father will agree to celebrate for us. The Hog Roast and Barbecue will begin at approximately 12.00pm and end at 4.00pm, giving everyone the opportunity to socialise with Father and his family who will hopefully be there as well.

To facilitate this event, the Committee feels that it would be appropriate to arrange a second collection at all Masses shortly after Easter to cover the expected costs. Please keep your eye on the newsletter for more information as it becomes available. Finally, if you know of any former members of the Parish who would like to be present and involved, please let them know of the date and proposed arrangements.

Stations of the Cross

This devotion provide an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord. **They will take place every Sunday during Lent at 5.45pm.**

St Agatha's Church Easter Spring clean

We call on kind Parish volunteers to help prepare our beautiful church inside and outside for Easter Holy Week. If you can spare a couple of hours after the morning mass on **Saturday 8th April** to help polish brass/iron altar cloths, etc..please add your name to the notice board list by the front door. Teens are especially welcome (those aged 11 - 13 accompanied by an adult please - no smaller children). Volunteers who would like to help Natasha spruce up the garden - please bring gardening tools with you. Many thanks.

Parish Prayer Group

The Parish Prayer Group meets every **Tuesday at 8.00pm** in the church. During Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross followed by the Rosary. Please come along and join us during this Holy Season. Please enter by the main door of the Church.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

St Agatha's School is once again collecting the Active Kids vouchers. Please drop off your vouchers at the school or in the box at the back of the church.

The Passion of Jesus

On **Good Friday 14th April** 20,000 people will gather to watch the Easter story in central London. Supported by the Mayor of London, one hundred Wintershall players bring their electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus to this iconic location in the capital. The 90-minute production is completely **free of charge** - a gift to Londoners and visitors. No tickets are required. There is a performance at 12 noon and 3:15 pm. The production is open air with visibility maximised using large screens. For further details see the church notice board.

Seven Last Words of Christ

Haydn's Seven Last Words of Christ will be performed on **Wednesday 12th April at 7.00pm** at St Joseph's Catholic Church, New Malden. This hauntingly beautiful piece adapted by Haydn for string quartet has seven movements, evoking the seven last words of Christ on the cross, framed by an introduction and a final "earthquake" movement.. This concert will provide a perfect opportunity for a Holy Week meditation. Tickets cost £10, (£5 for under 18s).

Celebrate - Twickenham

This Catholic Charismatic Family Weekend Conference will be held on **17th - 18th June** at St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill. The programme includes 4 main talks, praise and worship, seminars and workshops, theatre, adoration, prayer ministry and time for chatting over a cup of tea. So that parents with children can really benefit from the weekend, there is a full programme for all young people from the age of 4 upwards plus a warm, welcoming crèche. For further information and a booking form, please see the poster on the notice board or pick up a flyer at the back of the church. Or speak to John de Quidt (020 8549 4175).

A Day with Mary

There will be a Day with Mary on **Saturday 29th April** at Westminster Cathedral from **9.45am to 5.30pm**. The day will include the Angelus, sung liturgy, mass in honour of Our Lady, rosary and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. For more details see the poster on the notice board.

The Good Counsel Network

The Network is a pro-life group that offers a free pregnancy test, free advice, medical information, practical help and moral support to women seeking abortion. It reaches out to women who have not been presented with realistic alternatives to abortion. We are invited to celebrate the Network's 20th Anniversary for mass at **2.00pm on Saturday 29th April** at St James' Church, 22 George Street, London W1U 3QY. More details are on the church notice board.