



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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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 DECEMBER 2023
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Saturday 2nd	
6.30pm	Mervyn & Sheila Webster
Sunday 3rd 1st Sunday of Advent	
9am	Felicity Phelps RIP
10.30am	Keith & Alan Fraser RIP
6.30pm	Thanksgiving Intentions
Monday 4th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 5th	
9.30am	Private Intentions
Wednesday 6th	
9.30am	Intentions of Antony Nighil
Thursday 7th St Ambrose, Bishop, Memorial	
9.30am	Birthday Thanksgiving – Roy Forbes
Friday 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity	
9.30am	James & Elizabeth O'Keefe RIP
Saturday 9th	
9.30am	Kenneth Beeby RIP

Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.
Mass Times: Monday to Friday: 09:30
 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: 26/11/2023

Collection	Gift Aid	£161.77	Loose	£383.36
2 nd Collection	Gift Aid	£16.00	Loose	£139.43
TOTAL		£700.56		

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish. Last Sunday we had a collection for the Catholic Youth Services, our parish raised a total of £155.43. Thank you.

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's 'Give A Little' web donation page.



ADVENT READING - 'MY DAY BY DAY'

Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent and copies of the Advent edition of 'My Day by Day' are available at the back of the Church, they cost £1 each (Please put money in the small donations box available.) This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during advent and is an excellent way to prepare for Christmas. A junior version is also available.

PRE-CHRISTMAS 'SPRUCE UP'

This year our dedicated Pre-Christmas 'Spruce Up' morning will be on **Saturday 9th December**, after morning Mass. There are a variety of 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 is available in the church porch for volunteers to sign up or please call or email the parish office. (Even if you can only spare an hour or two, Fathers would really appreciate!) Tea, coffee and soup and all the cleaning products will be provided.

ADORATION & RECONCILIATION DURING ADVENT

On Wednesday Evenings during Advent the church will be open from 7 – 8pm for Adoration and Reconciliation. A full Penitential Service will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. Reconciliation is also available after every Mass during the Advent period.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Our Advent and Christmas programme is available in the church porch and online at: www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CARDS, GIFTS AND CALENDARS

A selection of Christmas Cards and Gifts are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively contact the parish office during opening hours. More cards, gifts and 2024 calendars will be delivered next week!

CHRISTINGLE 2023!!

We are very pleased that this year we will be returning to our full Advent and Christmas schedule, including our amazing Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. Christingle sign is now available!! Please sign up by Sunday 10th December 2023. Further details for the Christingle service are available on the newsletter insert.



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM DEACON BOB BERESFORD

Bob Beresford, our Deacon, who with his wife Jane came to St Agatha's in 2003, will be leaving Kingston and writes as follows:

I am very grateful to the priests and parishioners for their warm goodwill and friendship from the moment my wife Jane and I arrived. I have been very happy here, and throughout these years have been glad to assist at the daily Masses and at weekends, and at other services. I am very grateful to all who helped and supported me through the pandemic and subsequently in being able to attend services. It was also wonderful to celebrate with so many my recent ninetieth birthday. I am still able to look after myself, but moving into a more suitable flat will now be helpful. So, I am planning, with the approval of the Archbishop, to move to a flat in Woolton, Liverpool, close to my son. He and the other children gratefully appreciate the friendship and support their Mother and I have received at St Agatha's. I intend to keep up my contact with the Parish as much as possible, and shall continue to remember the Parish and friends here.

May God continue to bless us.
RSB 20231110



Supporting Dons Local Action Group this Christmas.

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, these have successfully been delivered to the DLAG hub this week.

We are now looking ahead to Christmas and how we can support those in need during what can be a very difficult period for many, especially during these trying times. We are hopeful to have adequate items to be able to provide the Dons with another important delivery in plenty of time for Christmas!** Thus, giving the Dons Team time to allocate the donated items to their intended recipients. So, please be as generous as you can these next couple of weeks. Thank you.

****Our planned collection/delivery date is Tuesday 19th December, so please leave any donations with us by then to ensure a Christmas delivery. They are requesting the normal tinned products but UHT milk always appreciated and biscuits were also mentioned!**

"MY PLACES"



"LAST CHANCE"
Last chances to view
after Saturday Evening
Mass and Sunday after
10.30am Mass!

AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY BOB MEECHAM

"My Places" an exhibition of paintings by our very own resident artist Bob Meecham continues in the Church Cloister. The exhibition will be open on Saturday from 2 – 5pm. Last chances to view after Saturday Evening Mass and Sunday after 10.30am Mass!

Please come along and visit. All are welcome!

A proportion of any sales of work will be donated to the church fund and to the RNLI

MASS INTENTIONS

It is again a very busy time for Mass requests, so, if you have a particular date or time on which you want a Mass said during Advent or Christmas Time, it is very important that you let the parish office know as soon as possible.

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.

First Sunday of Advent, Cycle B
Sunday, December 3, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
A prayer for the Lord's protection

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:33-37

*Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful
so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1st Sunday of Advent, Cycle A
Sunday, 3 December 2023

RESPONSE: WE ARE THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS

FAMILY REFLECTION

In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children's education, our retirement. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man so that it will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters.

As you gather as a family, talk about a time when you received surprise visitors at your house, perhaps a neighbour who stopped by or a relative who arrived unannounced. Was your household prepared to receive this unannounced guest? What might your family have done differently if you knew ahead of time that this visitor was going to arrive? Jesus told his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, except the Father. Read with your family what Jesus told his disciples in today's Gospel, Mark 13:33-37.

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also check to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk about how your family can recommit to daily prayer, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again. Read as a concluding prayer Paul's word to the Corinthians found in today's second reading, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, or pray the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



"During Advent we do not just live in anticipation of Christmas; we are also called to rekindle the anticipation of the glorious return of Christ, when he will return at the end of time, preparing ourselves, with consistent and courageous choices, for the final encounter with him.

We remember Christmas, we await the glorious return of Christ, and also our personal encounter: the day in which the Lord will call." ~ Pope Francis

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

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, Lugece Chianta, Dino Rega, Michael Little, Margaret Patrick, Olive Burrett, Paddy Coughlin, Elizabeth Ann Moon, Mary Cockerell, Frederick Seymour, Hermine Gollob, Michael Murphy, Pauline Dubri, Darren Hickey, Ernest Joseph Mead, Frank Sewell-Knight, Nora Duffield, Hilda Duckett, John Smith, Vivien Braby. +++*May They Rest In Peace* +++

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023/24

The next session is being held on: Sunday 14th January 2024. 11.45am-1pm (Session 2)



CONFIRMATION 2023/24

An email update and the schedule has been sent to candidates and parents – if you have not received this, please contact the Parish Office ASAP.



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the New Year, please sign up for our class that will be held in January 2024 (Date to be Confirmed).



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 Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

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.



CAFOD World Gifts - Ethical Charity Gifts

Christmas is fast approaching, and CAFOD have just the best unusual presents for your friends and family that can make a real difference to people living in poverty!



World Gifts are CAFOD's range of virtual gifts that make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. For each gift you buy this Christmas, you'll receive a beautiful gift card to pass on to your loved one.

Check out their full range here:

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

or pick up catalogue in the church porch

Make sure to order by 14th December for a free delivery before Christmas or 19th December 12 noon and choose Express delivery to ensure your loved ones can enjoy their gifts at Christmas! **CAFOD a thank you for your continued support.**




The St Agatha's Canasta Card Club meets each Monday in the Church Cloister between 1pm to 4pm to play Canasta, have a coffee/tea and a chat.


NEW!! Scrabble Club

The Scrabble Club plan to meet on Thursdays at 2.30pm, anyone who is interested in playing scrabble, please come along. Everyone is welcome.

These are lovely opportunities for social time and for parishioners to get together, meet new people and enjoy some fun time together.

You don't have to sign up, you don't have to know how to play. Just come along and you will learn as you play. Everyone is welcome, men, women, and young adults. Just come along and join as often or as little as you would like. We look forward to welcoming you.

Everyone is welcome to come along and share the space, warmth, and have a chat and a cuppa.



PSALM 79:4

GOD OF HOSTS BRING US BACK LET YOUR FACE SHINE ON US AND WE SHALL BE SAVED

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B