

St. Agatha's Catholic Church

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St. Agatha's
PARISH

Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 3rd January 2016

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Rosa Vitolo
Sunday	9.00am	Arthur & Robin O'Connor
	10.30am	Hannah Mennis
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am	Lily Bradshaw
Tuesday	9.30am	Karrie Schultz
Wednesday	9.30am	Joan Kelly
Thursday	9.30am	Special Intention
Friday	9.30am	Noel Roycroft
Saturday	9.30am	May McCambridge
	6.30pm	John Davis
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months notice required - Diocesan rule	

The Epiphany is a beautiful feast because it brings everybody together. 'All now share the same inheritance, they are part of the same body.' But that doesn't mean these barriers have magically disappeared. Wherever we go today we see divisions among people, in families, communities, cities, countries. Today's barriers are racial, ethnic, social, and religious ones. All these divisions are reflections of our separation from God.

PARISH NOTICES

Pre-baptism meeting

There will be a pre-baptism meeting for parents preparing children for baptism on **Monday 11th January at 7.30pm** in the Presbytery. Only one parent need attend. Please do not bring children.

First Holy Communion 2016

First Holy Communion classes will resume on **Monday 11th January at 3.30pm** in the church children in St Agatha's School; on **Saturday 16th January at 10.00am** for the small group of children mostly at other schools.

Confirmation 2016

Dates for **Confirmation** are as follows:

Friday 8th January at 7.00pm–7.30pm: Parents and Candidates

Monday 11th January: First Session 7.15–8.30pm

Sunday 17th January: Inscriptio Mass (6.30pm) with the Bishop

Saturday 30th January: Retreat (10am–4.00pm)

Saturday 5th March at 12 noon: Faith in Action

Sunday 13th March at 12 noon: Confirmation Mass with the Bishop

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord (cf. 1 Peter 2:9) is the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18–25). Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21).

The Week of Prayer in our area will begin with a service of prayer and praise on **Monday 18th January** at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Montem Road, New Malden at **8.00pm**. All Christians in the borough are warmly invited to attend. More details will be provided as soon as possible.

Parish Prayer Group

The **Parish Prayer Group** meets every **Tuesday** at **8.00pm** in the church for rosary, prayer and intercession. All parishioners are most welcome to join us. Please enter via the Presbytery.

Parish Men's Group

The **Parish Men's Group** will meet on **Wednesday 20th January** from **8.00pm** at the Wych Elm for a friendly and relaxed evening lubricated by a pint or two.

REFLECTION

The light of Christ

Christ's light was not lit once in Bethlehem and then extinguished.

For two thousand years his light has shone upon the world.

And it will continue to shine on all who believe in him and follow him.

The light of Christ is a persistent light,

and has the power to draw people to its shining.

It shines in the midst of disasters and upheavals.

It is a defiant light, which no darkness can overpower.

Its purpose is not to judge us,

but to show us the way to the Father's kingdom.

God has called us out of darkness into the wonderful light of his Son.

We must live as children of the light.

So, let us imitate the Magi, and walk in the light of the Lord.

Rev F McCarthy S.D.B.

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

'It's always darkest before the dawn'. At the time of Isaiah's prophesy, the birth of Christ was several hundred years away. This is a prophesy of hope, a hope that must have seemed frail and insubstantial at the time, that God would honour his promise and bring unity among people. Yet this deep faith that the light would come sustained the Jewish people. This same faith sustains us today.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

Though Jesus was a Jew, his message was not reserved for the Jewish people. He also called pagans and Gentiles by name, inviting them into his company, sharing his words and work with them, issuing the promise of eternal life to all. God's love had never been as clear as in the life of Jesus. His plan for the unity of all humanity, his children, was made manifest.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

The success of the Roman Empire depended on the division of its subjects; Jews and Gentiles, Judeans and Samaritans, Pharisees and Zealots. Only when all these factions were at odds with one another could Rome effectively occupy and rule Palestine. So when wise men, probably Gentiles, came from the East to worship a Jewish king, so overwhelmed by the signs of this special child, Herod became panicked. The unity of people is always a threat to those who wish to exert power and control over others for their own ends. From the earliest days following his birth, it was clear that Jesus would challenge the human perception of 'otherness' in his mission to draw the children of God into one.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 7.30pm: Pre-baptism meeting
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Friday 7.00pm: Confirmation Parents and Candidates

FEASTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

There are no feasts this week.

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, Kay Williams, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Marie Elsey, Christopher Browne & Mary Wallace.

ANNIVERSARIES

Jeremiah O'Dowd, Rose Wilson, Mary Westhead, Anna Hanson, John Stevenson, Stanley Bays, Jack Allen, Hannah Mennis, Edgar Duckett, Fredrick Thomas, Dorothy Eley, Vincent Raymond, Olive Bryden, Tony Green, Mary Josephine Edwards, Sarah Kelly, Helena Collins, Michael Frain, Ellen Merritt, Patrick Connolly, John Crehan, Michael Jordan, Teresa Buller, Clara Cunningham, Joan Culme, Daniel Quaid, Maurice Woolger, Azzopardi Twins, Joseph Kiernan, Mary Johnston, Sr. Lucy Proctor, William Finn, Nicholas Power, Constance Neve, Joan Marie Jackson, Mary Ann Jelley, Walter Padberg.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

Christingle—Thank you

A huge thank you to all those children, parents, musicians and helpers who helped make our Christingle service so meaningful and enjoyable. Thank you also to the many parishioners who contribute so much to the various services over the Christmas period. The parish was truly blessed.

The Mustard Seed

The next evening of renewal where we are given the opportunity to grow in faith in the power of the Holy Spirit will be on **Saturday 23rd January** at St Margaret's Catholic Church, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL, about one hundred yards from St Margarets rail station, at 7.45 pm for 8.00pm. Many people from Kingston attend this monthly event. All are welcome.