

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday is also a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £531.50 Loose £347.58

Retiring collection (CAFOD) Gift Aid £7.00 Loose £58.46

The retiring collection next weekend is for the Catholic Education Service.

PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group

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, Elsie Malone & Colette Patten.

ANNIVERSARIES

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.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

Education Commission – Archdiocese of Southwark

The Education Commission is currently recruiting for a Buildings Officer to work alongside its existing Principle Buildings officer from January 2017. The successful applicant will:

- Be responsible for school buildings at 173 schools across the Archdiocese;
- Have a full and varied workload consisting of place planning, new builds and supervision of maintenance work, including some major developments.

The salary is between £28,000 and £35,000 depending on experience.

The closing date for applications is **12th September**. Interviews will take place on **22nd & 23rd September**. For further details or an application form please contact donna.gray@educationcommission.org.uk, tel 01689 883341.



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

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.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 4th September 2016

23rd Sunday of the Year (C)

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Patrick Sheehy
Sunday	9.00am	Peace in our World
	10.30am	Tom Turnbull
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am	Ethel Thorne
Tuesday	9.30am	Gerry White
Wednesday	9.30am	Special Intention
Thursday	9.30am	Fr Albert Jenner
Friday	9.30am	Private Intention
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Special Intention
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months notice required – Diocesan rule	

Calling all musicians

There will be a meeting for musicians after the **10.30am** mass on **Sunday 11th September** in the old sacristy. This applies to all those who sing at either the 10.30am or 6.30pm masses on Sundays. If you would like to help out but cannot attend, please give your details to Fr Gerry.

Bible Alive

The September edition of Bible Alive is now on sale in the porch. It contains some stimulating articles plus a daily reflection and prayer and is well worth reading.

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Prayer Group

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

Sri Lankan dinner

There will be a sumptuous Sri Lankan dinner and dessert at St Thomas Aquinas church hall, Ham , TW10 7HT, on **Saturday 17th of September** at **7.00pm**. The dinner will include a glass of wine, live entertainment and a raffle. Tickets cost £20.00 per head. The proceeds of the event will go towards helping vulnerable children, the elderly and the sick in Sri Lanka. For tickets and donations of prizes for the raffle ; contact Delrine Perera (0208 974 5761)

Annual Southwark Day of Renewal

This will take place on **Saturday 8th October** at St George's Cathedral from 9.45am to 4.45pm on the theme of Charismatic Renewal and the Father's Mercy. The day will include a keynote presentation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a gentle Eucharistic Healing Service, and concelebrated Mass. Previous days have attracted large numbers of people from across the diocese who have been uplifted by a great atmosphere of prayer as well as being challenged and encouraged by the keynote speakers. The day is highly recommended. All are most welcome.

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

This nationally accredited certificate provides an introduction to Catholic theology for teachers, catechists, chaplains and school governors. To find out more, come to the introductory evening on **Thursday 15th September** at the Centre for Catholic Formation, 21 Tooting Bec Road, London SW17 8BS from **7.30pm—8.30pm**. For enquiries ring 020 8672 7684 9 or go to www.ccftootingbec.org.uk. Further information may be found on the notice board and at the back of the church.

Joel Community Trust – Kingston Night Shelter

The Joel Community Trust is looking for additional volunteers for the evening and overnight shifts. St Agatha's has been providing a team on the first Tuesday each month and occasionally on other days; our contribution is greatly appreciated. All guests are carefully vetted before being admitted to the shelter. They very much look after themselves so the task is not demanding. The work is not onerous and nobody will be expected to volunteer more than once a month; indeed in many cases the demand is less. There will be a training day on **Saturday 17th September** for anyone who has not yet done it or who would like to refresh their knowledge. Anyone who is interested in finding out more is encouraged to come along; this does not commit you to volunteering. Please contact John de Quidt on 8549 4175 or johndequidt@hotmail.com for more information or to sign up.

REFLECTIONS

We measure people's commitment to a cause by the sacrifices they are prepared to make for it. We cannot hope to be genuine followers of Christ without making sacrifices. What does it mean for me to be a Christian? How does it affect my life? What does it cost me? Let us ask the Lord's forgiveness for the way we allow fear and selfishness to weaken our commitment to him.

Beatitudes

Blessed are those who realise that they cannot live on bread alone but need the word of God too: they will be fully nourished.

Blessed are those who, when they have sinned, follow the example of the prodigal son, and come back home to seek reconciliation: they will cause heaven to ring with joy.

Blessed are those who stop to attend to a wounded neighbour, pouring in the oil of compassion and the wine of hope: they are the Good Samaritans of today.

Blessed are those who remove the plank from their own eyes before telling their brother to remove the splinter from his: their efforts at reforming others will bear fruit.

And blessed are those who, having put their hand to the plough, refuse to look back: they will be found worthy of the Kingdom.

Rev F McCarthy S.D.B.

First Reading: Wisdom 9: 13–18

We are gently reminded in this reading that God gives us all the knowledge we need in life, even in its uncertainties, if we are open and humble enough to receive it. Nothing is impossible if we possess the gift of wisdom which is God's gift to all who seek it.

Second Reading: Philemon 9–10, 12–17

This second reading is the only extract from St Paul's letter to Philemon read during the Sundays of the Church's year. It is a warm and gentle letter concerning Onesimus, a former slave. Paul appeals to Philemon to willingly and enthusiastically accept the former slave as an equal, as a brother on the basis of love and emotion – a challenge which is often presented to each of us in our daily living.

Gospel Reading: Luke 14: 25–33

There are hard teachings for us in the two short parables contained in our Gospel today. We are certainly given much food for thought. The cost of discipleship is very high especially if we give all we have to it. We are challenged to consider carefully what the cost involved in following Jesus is for each of us.