

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

The parish office should be your first port of call for any 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 5TH MARCH 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Saturday 4th

6.30pm Reginald, Marie & Michael Boxall RIP

Sunday 5th 2nd Sunday of Lent

9am Zoran Popovic RIP

10.30am Wellbeing of Keir Cranton

6.30pm *Confirmation Inscription Mass*
 Rev Fr Gerry O'Brien RIP

Monday 6th

9.30am Ann Cronin – Birthday

Tuesday 7th Ss Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs, Memorial

9.30am David Pearl & Satish Pearl

Wednesday 8th

9.30am Mr Alain Makala RIP

Thursday 9th

9.30am *Year 3 School Mass*
 Zoran Popovic RIP

Friday 10th

9.30am Ann Gibbons RIP

Saturday 11th

9.30am Intentions of Simon Corcoran

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 AM

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

LENT AND HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Our Lent and Holy Week Programme is available in the church porch. It is also available on the Parish website: www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND COLLECTION

Sunday 26th February 2023

Last Sunday was the annual collection for the Clergy Support Fund. A total of £364.68 was raised. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.



CAFOD LENTEN COLLECTION

This weekend's retiring collection will be for CAFOD.

This Lent your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

Give today using the CAFOD envelope or on the CAFOD website <https://cafod.org.uk/Give> and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world. Please use the envelopes available in the church porch or pop your donations in the red bucket. The special envelopes for this collection enable tax payers to also gift-aid their donations.

Thank you for your continued support to CAFOD

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CAFOD SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/turkey-syria-earthquake-how-your-support-is-helping>

PLEASE HELP, MORE CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED!

How does the church stay looking clean and tidy? There are a number of teams, on a rota, who keep the church looking good. Cleaning takes place every two weeks and only requires a commitment of four times a year. More volunteers are needed for this necessary work to keep our church sanctuary looking clean and welcoming. If you would like to become a "heavenly duster" or an "altar angel", please contact the Parish Secretary on 020 8546 4633 or email kingston@rcaos.org.uk

LIFTS TO MASS

If you could occasionally offer someone a lift to any of the Masses, that you normally attend, please could you kindly contact Karin in the Parish office to discuss further. We have a couple of parishioners who are unable to get to Mass due to mobility issues but live just a few roads away and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to come to Mass even just occasionally. *Thank you!*



Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle A
Sunday, March 5, 2023

Gospel Reading
Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

Gospel Reflection

For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

Family Reflection

As a family, talk about some of your times of highs and lows. How have you been able to use the good times and experiences to sustain you in the difficult ones? Jesus' Transfiguration may have been an event from which Peter, James, and John drew courage when they faced the difficult events of Jesus' Passion. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the good times and experiences that your family has had together. Pray that your family will use these experiences to sustain you during times of difficulty. Close by praying today's psalm, Psalm 33.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

+++ LATELY DEAD+++

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Colette Hickey, who died on 14th February 2023 aged 86. Her requiem will take place on here on Monday 27th March 2023 at 12pm

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

+++ 'Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.' +++

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle and Marie Chlebeckova. *Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.*

**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.

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 Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth Agnes Wall, Doradea Marie Grassi, William Joseph McKenzie, Sarah Lewis, James Keeble, Tom Naughton, James Baker, John Christopher Letchworth, Margaret Laverty, George Davis, Kathleen Needham, Sarah Fox, John Fox, Martin Moone, Zoran Popovic, Father Casper Lutz, Cynthia Cantoni, James Crowley, Phyllis Glenn, Louisa Margareta Marks, Patrick Bowen, Margaret Quaid, Daisy Cook, Christina Ross, John Dorsett, Dorothy Searle, Alice Leslie, Robert Thomas Kotei, Josie Alexander, Eileen Lumley, Margaret O'Sullivan, Mary Garrow-Fisher, Thomas Gerard Leslie Luson, John Conway, Cecil Cox, Christine Andrews, Elizabeth Clarke, J. P. McGowan, Renee Fox, Mr. H. Cockerhill, Mabel Rooke-Ley, Marie Monaghan, Arthur Tunesi, John Dignum, Helen Halden, Edna Morgan. +++May They Rest In Peace +++



Lent & Holy Week 2023

St Agatha's Church
Kingston upon Thames

LENT READING - 'MY DAY BY DAY'

Copies of the Lent edition of 'My Day by Day', for adults and juniors, are available at the back of the Church - they cost £1.00 each. Please put money in the box marked 'My Day by Day'. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Throughout Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held on Tuesdays at 7pm and Friday mornings after the Morning Mass. This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord. Everyone is welcome.

EXPOSITION AND ADORATION DURING LENT AND LENTEN RECONCILIATION

The church will be open on Wednesday evenings during Lent from 7pm - 8pm for Exposition and Adoration. (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March).

This is a beautiful opportunity for quiet prayer and adoration. Please come for as long you can, be it 5 or 10 minutes or the whole hour, everyone is welcome. Reconciliation will also be available on these dates during this time.

EASTER SPRING CLEAN



This year our dedicated Easter Spring Cleaning morning will be on Saturday 25th March 2023, from 10am. 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 email the parish office. (Even if you can only spare an hour or two, Fathers would really appreciate!) refreshments and all cleaning products will be provided. Everyone is welcome, teens especially, those aged 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult please.

We would also like to ensure the church grounds are looking their best too and we would welcome anyone who can bring a few spring plants or flowers along for the front gardens and help to plant them. Again, please get in touch with the Parish Secretary if you would like to help out. Please bring your favourite garden tools and gardening gloves!

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

CONFIRMATION 2023

The Confirmation Inscription Mass is this **Sunday, 5th March at 6.30pm**: Candidates **MUST** arrive by 6pm
Session 3 is being held on Monday 13th March 2023 . 7.15-8.30pm. Session 4 is on Monday 27th March 2023.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23



The next session is this Sunday, 5th March 2023. 11.45am to 1pm (Session 5).

Please note there will NOT be a Parents session held as previously scheduled.

Session 6 will be held on Sunday 26th March 2023.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday, 26th March 2023.

The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm. Please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.



Our subsequent classes will be held Sunday 30th April 2023. Parents must attend a Baptism preparation class before a child's baptism, and it is recommended that Godparents also attend.

MARRIAGES IN 2023 and 2024



2023 or 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 preparation for our parishioners must take place here at St. Agatha's.

Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

MASS INTENTIONS

It is, again, a very busy time for Mass requests and Masses are being booked several weeks in advance. Therefore, 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.

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. Thank you.

**RENEWED IN HOPE
DIOCESAN ONLINE RETREAT**

A retreat for Lent 2023, introduced by Archbishop John Wilson, led by members of the Spirituality Commission.

The Archdiocese of Southwark is offering a retreat experience for individuals and parishes during Lent 2023. Drawing on the Mass readings for the Sundays of Lent, Renewed in Hope will help us find fresh ways of living and working in hope, in the company of Jesus. We live in a divided world, where many are struggling to survive. Through his life, death and resurrection, the suffering and risen Christ continues to make all things new.

The retreat is designed for individuals and is based on a weekly video accompanied by suggested exercises for prayer and reflection. These resources will be available in advance so that the videos can be viewed at any convenient time.

Individuals can join one of the online groups that will be offered on different days of the week and at different times of the day.

For more details and to register follow this link:

<https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/renewedbyhope>

GODCALLS: ADVENTURE

GodCalls Adventure from the National Office for Vocation, is a free, 40-day self-guided course which aims to help you grow in holiness, and root each day in prayer.

The downloadable resources focus on cultivating different virtues, ranging from meekness to purity, gratitude to courage.

There is also guidance on using the Bible, how to pray and reflect with the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross.

Further details at: www.godcalls.co.uk/godcalls-adventure

**GodCalls Adventure is not just for Lent,
try the 40 days at any point of the year**



**A SPECIAL PRAYER INITIATIVE FOR THE
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' PONTIFICATE**

In a month's time, on 13th March, Pope Francis will be celebrating ten years of his pontificate.

To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "viral" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a [special online map](#) featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him.

Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Marys. "In the end we will send the Holy Father the map with the 'little candles' which represent the Hail Marys that are prayed for him, thanking God for His Mercy, "

No other phrase has been repeated by Pope Francis more than the seven words he utters at the end of almost every speech he has delivered since his election as pontiff in March 2013 – "Do not forget to pray for me!" Now — on the eve of the 10-year anniversary of his election as pontiff — this new initiative is underway asking Catholics around the world to commit to doing just that and making good on the pope's request.

<https://www.decimus-annus.org/it>



**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 16th APRIL 2023
NINE DAY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA**

On the 1st Sunday after Easter the entire Church is called to gather throughout the world to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. From St Maria Faustina's Diary it is clear that this Octave Day on Easter is the day chosen by Christ as a day of extraordinary graces – a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith.

How to observe the Feast of Mercy

1. Go to confession, preferably before that Sunday
2. Place your complete trust in Jesus
3. Celebrate the Feast
4. Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast
5. Venerate the Image of Divine Mercy
6. Be merciful to others, through your actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

In the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, Jesus asked that the **Feast of Divine Mercy**, known today as **Divine Mercy Sunday**, be preceded by a **Novena to The Divine Mercy**. A Novena is nine days of prayer in preparation for a feast. To properly celebrate this great day, we need to prepare well. As a Parish we are encouraging everyone to make a Novena to The Divine Mercy and pray the Chaplet.

'Jesus instructed St Faustina to write down and make (the Novena & Chaplet) before the Feast of Mercy. It begins on Good Friday' (Diary 1209 – 1229). Divine Mercy pamphlets will be available next week. (Cost 50p each).



SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

A fourth delivery of donations has successfully been delivered to the Dons; again, they were very grateful for your continued generosity! Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, such as pasta, rice, cereals, tea and coffee UHT milk, tins of vegetable, fruit, soup and also pet food and toiletry items such as toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant. Please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, eggs or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life. The donations box will be left in the church porch and as donations accumulate, they will then be delivered.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

"During Lent we are called to respond to God's gift by accepting his word, which is "living and active" (Heb 4:12). Regular listening to the word of God makes us open and docile to his working and bears fruit in our lives." ~ Pope Francis