

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
 1 Wyndham Road
 Kingston upon Thames
 Surrey, KT2 5JR
 Tel: 020 8546 4633
www.stagathaschurch.org.uk
kingston@rcaos.org.uk

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 5TH MAY 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Saturday 4th	The English Martyrs, Feast
6.30pm	Wellbeing of Stefan Pepola
Sunday 5th	6th Sunday of Easter
9am	Intentions of Joseph Sembatya & Family
10.30am	People of the Parish
6.30pm	Alice Coll
Monday 6th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Mr Bahirathan
Tuesday 7th	
9.30am	Queensley Ochada 40 th Birthday
Wednesday 8th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Clare Saraf
Thursday 9th	Ascension of the Lord, Solemnity
	Whole School Mass
9.30am	Birthday intentions for Paul Davidson
7pm	Private Intentions
Friday 10th	
9.30am	Jasmin Gnanapragasam
Saturday 11th	
9.30am	Mary Murphy 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 order

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD:
Thursday 9th May 2024**

There will be two Masses on Thursday:
9.30am and 7pm.

**We will be joined by all children from
St Agatha's School for the 9.30am Mass.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
2024 CONFIRMATION CONFIRMANDS!**

We offer our congratulations to our 29 young adults who were confirmed here at St Agatha's on Sunday 28th April 2024 by Bishop Philip Moger.

Our parish is very proud of all our young adults and it was an honour to celebrate this important sacrament together.

We look forward to continuing the journey with these young people as they grow in their faith and their relationship with God! We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and inspire them as they make their way through life as active members of the Church.

We would like to thank their parents, sponsors and especially our Confirmation Catechists for all their support and guidance to help prepare the candidates for this special occasion.



CONFIRMATION: FAITH IN ACTION



As part of their journey, the Confirmation group held a 'Faith in Action' day and made a substantial donation of baby supplies towards the Dons Local Action Group.

We thank them all for their kind-hearted contribution; we are sure the Dons will be very, very grateful for the provisions.

PARISH OFFERINGS

SUNDAY COLLECTION: 28/04/2024

1 st Gift Aid	£3.00	1 st Loose	£57.02	Total	£658.76
2 nd Gift Aid	£129.49	2 nd Loose	£469.25		

The collection last Sunday was for the maintenance of St Georges Cathedral.
 Next Sunday there is a collection for World Communications Sunday
 Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.



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

VIA OUR QR CODE:

The QR code above will take you to our parish's 'Give A Little' web donation page.



SAVE THE DATE!!
ST AGATHA'S INTERNATIONAL DAY – SATURDAY 6TH JULY 2024
MANY NATIONS, ONE FAMILY

Everyone is invited to join us for our new **International Day** with lunch from many nations! The day will provide you with the fun and flavours of over a dozen countries without needing to step outside KT2. Kingston might just be a small suburb of Greater London, but we have at least 20 different countries represented in our congregation each week! Save the date: Saturday 6th July 2024, further details will follow soon.....



**HOST OUR LADY OF LOURDES STATUE
IN YOUR HOME FOR MAY DEVOTIONS**

A few dates are still available in May but are going quickly!

Our Lady's Statue is currently visiting for May devotions.

If you would like to receive the Pilgrim Virgin Statue in your home during May, June or July, please fill out the form available in the church porch and return it to the Parish Office.

Please note, this is only a request which will be confirmed via a phone call to you. A date cannot be guaranteed and is subject to demand.



**SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT
SEMINARS 2024 - IN PERSON AND ONLINE**

Join at St George's Cathedral, at a "hub" venue in the Diocese or on Zoom to explore how to live more fully in the power of the Spirit.

The Archdiocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis and the Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal team are again organising Life in the Spirit Seminars for the Archdiocese during Eastertide. The Seminars will run on Tuesday evenings at St George's Cathedral and at local hubs across the Archdiocese as well as on Zoom, with a Pentecost Saturday retreat day for all participants at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 18th May. Everyone would be most welcome. Inspiring talks and music, small group sharing and daily reflections

Local Hub: NEW MALDEN St Joseph's Catholic Church, Montem Road, New Malden KT3 3QW.

For further details, see the leaflets in the church porch.

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.

**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 us 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 or the Parish Secretary.

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

Denis McCartie, Isabel Sherlock, Charles Leite, Roland Tierney, Mary Bowen, Jeremiah Murphy, Nora Thorpe, Capt. Eugene William De'Kerckhove, Patrick McNally, Patricia Fenton, Marie Rogers, Ivy Walsh, James Young, Geoffrey Allen, Mary Finley, Mary Postins, Oscar George Friend, Mary Jordan, John O'Leary, Emily Jones, Margaret Little, Brian McCarthy, Mrs. Mcquillan, Mary Sinteff, Mary Smith.

+++May They Rest In Peace +++

"During this month of May, may we entrust to the Blessed Virgin Mary our personal and family matters, as well as the suffering of those who fall victim to war. Let us Pray Together for the Church, all nations, and for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East." ~ Pope Francis

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B
Sunday, May 5, 2024

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98:1,2-3,3-4
A song of praise for God's salvation

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17
Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is agape. The second is philia. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, philia. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the

disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

FAMILY REFLECTION

In family life, we have many opportunities to show love in action. Each time we postpone a task to tend to the needs of another, we show ourselves to be on the path to following the example of love shown to us by Jesus. Sometimes the sacrifices we are called upon to make for others are small. But these small choices to love and to serve others prepare us for the larger choices and sacrifices that we may be called upon to make. If we are people who have practiced showing our love for others with generosity, we will also be people who are willing to lay down our lives for those we love.

As you gather as a family, talk about the meaning of the word generosity. Ask each family member to describe an action that shows generosity. To be generous is to give freely to others without counting the cost. Recall that generosity is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Introduce today's Gospel reading by saying that Jesus taught us to be generous in showing our love for one another. Read together today's Gospel, John 15:9-17. What examples did Jesus give to us that show this kind of love? (washing his disciples' feet; accepting death on the cross) Jesus helps us to show this kind of love to others. In today's Gospel, Jesus promised that God will give us whatever we ask for. One of the things we can ask for from God is a generous spirit so that we can love others as Jesus did. Conclude in prayer together by praying Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2024

RESPONSE: MAY WE LOVE YOU IN RETURN



NEW TO THE PARISH?

A very warm welcome to our Parish; we hope that you are settling down in your new home and will soon feel part of our community. If you are new to the parish, please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy, and please complete a family registration form which can be found in the church porch and is also on the parish website. If you have any questions or enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.



MASS INTENTIONS

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.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

Please note the following remaining and important dates for the FHC Programme. Please remember that there are two groups this year completing their FHC, so please make sure you take note of the relevant dates for your child's group.

- Saturday 11th May: Reconciliation for Children & Parents 11am
- Sunday 12th May: Session 7 (11.45-1pm)
- Thursday 16th May: Final Preparation & Rehearsal 4pm – Group 1
- Friday 17th May: FHC Parents Church Decorating 10.30am
- Friday 17th May: Final Preparation & Rehearsal 4pm – Group 2
- Saturday 18th May: FHC Mass 12pm – Group 1
- Sunday 19th May: FHC Mass 12pm – Group 2



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS

A selection of First Holy Communion cards are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses. Cards are just £1 each! Please leave money in box available. Thank you.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, our next Baptism Preparation class will be held in June 2024 (Date yet to be confirmed).

In the meantime, please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.

Parents must attend a Baptism preparation class before a child's baptism, and it is recommended that Godparents also attend.



MARRIAGES IN 2024/25

2024 or 2025 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.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or wanting to explore your Catholic faith further? Our Evangelium course starts in October. The programme consists of weekly sessions running until Easter, including vital dates during Lent.

Evangelium is for adults who have not been Baptised (or have not received Confirmation or Holy Communion) and for Christians of other denominations who want to be Received into the Catholic Church.

Please email the Parish Office for more details and to register for our next programme:

kingston@rcaos.org.uk

