



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 NOVEMBER 2023

THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 4th	St Charles Borromeo, Bishop, Memorial
6.30pm	Vincenzo Straccialano & Patrick Pascale RIP
Sunday 5th	31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am	Wellbeing of Margaret Murphy
10.30am	Yolanda Wilson Birthday Intentions
6.30pm	John & Rose Pereira RIP
Monday 6th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Denise Boyle
Tuesday 7th	The Dedication of the Cathedral of St George, Feast
9.30am	Raymond William McColgan RIP
Wednesday 8th	
9.30am	Intentions of Antony Nighil
Thursday 9th	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast
9.30am	John Mack Birthday Intentions
Friday 10th	St Leo the Great, Pope, Memorial
9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 11th	St Martin of Tours, Bishop, Memorial
9.30am	Margaret Quigley & Family 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: 29/10/2023

Collection Gift Aid £156.37 Loose £404.89

TOTAL £561.26

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish. This Sunday we have a collection of the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP). Next weekend we will have a retiring collection for the Archbishops Appeal.

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 'Give A Little' web donation page.



**MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL APPEAL
SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2023**

This weekend we will have a Mission appeal for the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP) at all Masses. Your prayers, material and financial support are most needed for:



- The training of 120 MSP seminarians studying to become priests, it takes an average of £1,100.00 to support each student in the seminary for one year and this is becoming an increasingly difficult task for the society.
 - To help sustain some challenging missions like Malawi, Chad, South Sudan and agriculture and water projects. MSP priests serve in more than 20 countries; Fr. Francis and Fr. Peter are among the MSPs currently serving in the UK. The Missionaries of St Paul are committed to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and the wonderful works of the Father in the Holy Spirit, but they cannot do this alone, they need your help.
- We will have a collection; envelopes are available in the church porch, which can also be used to Gift Aid your donation.

For further information about the Missionary Society of St Paul, please visit: www.mspfathers.co.uk

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF ALL SOULS

In the month of November, we remember all our loved ones whom God has called from this life and pray for them at our daily Masses. Envelopes are available at back of church for you to put in the list of all loved ones in your family and friends whom have died. You can place a donation inside the envelope. Please hand it to Father or place it in the basket at the altar throughout the month of November. +++*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.* +++

ANNUAL BLESSING OF GRAVES

The annual blessing of graves takes place this Sunday, 5th November 2023. There will be a short service in the chapel at Surbiton cemetery at 2.00pm, followed by blessing of graves. Also, a short service in the chapel at Kingston cemetery at 3.00pm followed by blessing of graves. (Please assemble at the cemetery chapels.)

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL – 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

Next Sunday we will have a retiring collection for The Archbishop's Appeal. The Archbishop's Appeal seeks to invest faith, hope, love, and charity into three key areas of mission and ministry in the Archdiocese of Southwark: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action, and Clergy Care and Formation. Gift aid envelopes are available in the church porch, please return them next week.



THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A
Sunday, November 5, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 131:1-3
We find peace in the Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus warns against following the example of the scribes and the Pharisees and teaches that those who would be great must be servants.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous reading of Matthew. In between last week's reading from Matthew and this week's, we find Jesus' question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being "David's son." Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew.

This part of Matthew's Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew's Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honoured and exalted. Hence, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church.

Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses. Phylacteries are small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. Tassels refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person's garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments.

The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honour in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants of all.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Thirty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, November 5, 2023

RESPONSE: MAY YOUR NAME BE HELD HOLY

FAMILY REFLECTION

"Do as I say, not as I do." How many of us have been tempted to say this to our children? In today's Gospel we hear a resounding reply from Jesus, "Practice what you preach." Those who know us best, our family and especially our children, can identify the inconsistencies between what we want to teach and the example that we give. The challenge for all of us, especially for those of us who are parents, is to model with consistency the faith and the Christian way of life we wish to teach our children.

As you gather as a family, talk about what it means to practice what you preach. Identify some examples of people you know who practice what they preach. What do you observe about these people? What do you admire about them?

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus talk about the importance of acting in ways that are consistent with our faith. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 23:1-12. Talk together about ways in which your family might better practice the faith that you profess. Choose one action to take that will show your faith in action. Pray together that your family's faith will be shown consistently in your actions. Pray the Prayer for Vocations.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

ANNUAL MASS FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH
TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2023

Mass To Remember: on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7pm we will have a mass remember those in parish who have died since 1st November 2022. The names of those in our register, will be read out during the Mass. please join us to remember.

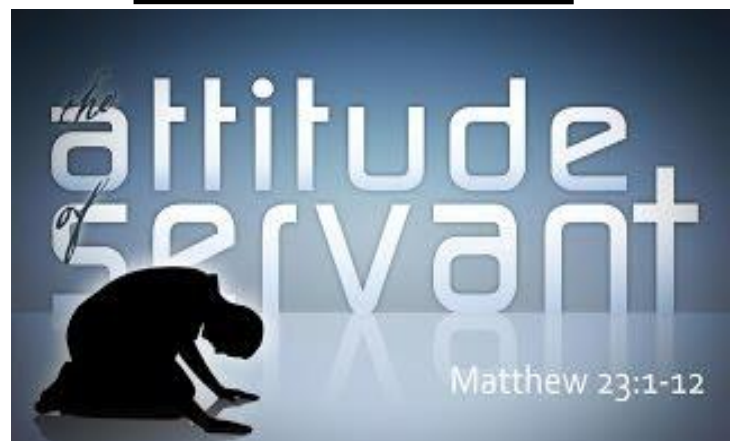
ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

All Altar Servers are asked to come along to a brief training session on Saturday 11th November 2023 at 5pm. The session will last approximately an hour and parents of under 18s are asked to please remain in the church during the training.

If you would like to join our brilliant team of Altar Servers at St Agatha's, please do come along and join them; we especially welcome those who earlier this year completed their First Holy Communion.

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS FOR
THE DECEASED CLERGY OF KINGSTON DEANERY

A Requiem Mass for the deceased clergy of Kingston Deanery will be held at St. Ann's on Friday 17th November 2023, 12pm. Everyone is welcome. Please note that the 85 bus stop is very near St Anne's, also there is a large car park available.



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 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 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

Frederic Coundley, Thomas Bush, Patrick Sheehy, Jimmy Gerrity, Jose Serna, Peter Marron, Peter Hardy, George Killingbeck, Lina De Kerckhove, Cyril Thompson, Monique Nguyen, Sameer Polus, Harriet Alexander, Sydney Rhodes, Enid Waller, Frederick Hubble, Frank McCantie, Frederick Miller, Ivy Wilson, Julia Mary Twomey, Isabella Newton, Patricia Corcoran, James, Corcoran, John Saxby, Bridget Goldsmith, John Forde, Leo Duckett, Fr. Hugh Glen, Lilian Taylor, Patrick Francis Crowley, Gerald Stewart, John Finn, George Caine. **+++May They Rest In Peace+++**

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 Secretary.



'Tears do not last forever. with the Lord they come to an end. As scripture prophesies, He is the God who will "eliminate death" and "dry the tears from all faces" (Is 25:8). He has made our tears his own to take them away.'

~ Pope Francis

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

There will be a parent meeting this Thursday, 9th November 2023, at 7.30pm, please sign in via the church hall.

The Inscription Mass is next Sunday, 12th November 2023, at the 10.30am Mass. All children **MUST** attend the Mass. Session 1 for Children AND Parents will be immediately after Mass.



CONFIRMATION 2023/34

Registration for our next Confirmation programme is now closed. The Catechists have now finalised the schedule and this will be sent in and email update very shortly.



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, please register for our next class on Sunday 26th November 2023.

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 take place here at St. Agatha's. Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

The RCIA course begins on Wednesday 8th November 2023, please contact the Parish Office to sign up to the programme.

R.C.I.A (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a set of rites, or ceremonies, designed to introduce and prepare non baptised adults into becoming full members of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation, namely, Baptism, (or Reception if already Baptised), Confirmation and Holy Eucharist (The Body and Blood of Christ). It is also for baptised Christians of other churches who take a similar, but unique path through the rites where they will be Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church.



Baptised Adult Catholics seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation, and possibly the Holy Eucharist if not already received, can also join this programme. It can also be a good experience for full members of the Catholic Church who may not have practised their faith for a number of years, or for those who wish to more fully understand and deepen their faith.

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.



“MY PLACES”



AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY BOB MEECHAM

“My Places” an exhibition of paintings by our very own resident artist Bob Meecham is to be held in the Church Cloister from 14th November – 4th December 2023.

You are invited to the private view of “My Places” on Tuesday 14th November 2023 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

The exhibition will be open Thursday – Saturday from 2–4pm. Other times available by appointment.

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

Any one available to help with stewarding at the exhibition please contact Bob or Maggie in person, or phone 07804498983 or email bbsm@blueyonder.co.uk



St Agatha's Canasta Card Club

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.

It is a lovely social time for parishioners to get together, meet new people and enjoy some fun time together and build community.

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.

Are you interested in playing chess or scrabble perhaps? These games are also available and you would be very welcome to come along and share the space, warmth and to also have a chat and a coffee.



WRAP UP LONDON

7th -27th November 2023

Nearest coat drop off point:

**Surbiton Fire Station, 31/33 Ewell Rd, Surbiton. KT6 6AF
(Open 24 hrs)**

Now in its 13th year, Wrap Up London will be collecting pre loved warm winter coats to be shared with frontline charities supporting people through the hardest of cold conditions this winter.

197,245 coats have been distributed since 2011 so please search in your cupboards and drawers, ask friends and donate to Wrap Up London.

Donating a coat also works as a gateway for an individual to gain access to other services and support given by the charity's partners. Coats are need for men, women, children and babies and they even accept dog coats!

More information can be found at:

www.handsonlondon.org.uk/wrap-uplondon



Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

CAFOD - ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS

We have all been shocked and saddened by the images and stories in the media from Israel and Gaza and CAFOD ask us to join Pope Francis' urgent call for peace and an end to the violence.

CAFOD have set up an Israeli-Palestinian Crisis appeal so that they can provide urgent, practical help to the families who need it, as soon as it's safe to do so.

Further details about this and CAFOD efforts are available in the church porch or please visit:

<https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help>



SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Another very good response delivered to the Dons on Wednesday (All Saints Day) last week, so well done and thank you again!

Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life. Thanking you in anticipation of your continuing support.

Thank you for your on-going generosity to the Dons Local Action Group.