

*St. Agatha's Catholic Church*

1 Wyndham Road

Kingston Upon Thames

Surrey KT2 5JR

Tel: 020-8546 4633

[www.stagathaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)



**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 7th February 2016**

**Fifth Sunday of the Year (C) – Day for the Unemployed**

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Anne-Marie Cunningham
Sunday	9.00am	Arthur & Robin O'Connor
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Margaret Uchendu
Monday	9.30am	Fr Stan Melody
Tuesday	9.30am	Ted Smith
Wednesday	7.30am	Billy Daly
	9.30am	People of the Parish
	7.30pm	Fr Allan Collins
Thursday	9.30am	Alfred Knight
Friday	9.30am	Arthur O'Connor
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Kevin Maher
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 miraculous catch of fish convinces Peter of the holiness of Jesus. This evokes in him a sense of their own sinfulness and unworthiness, so much so that he asks Jesus to depart from him. Peter has not yet grasped the fact that it was to call sinners that Jesus came, to call them away from sin to a new way of life. Nevertheless, at the word of Jesus, Peter and his companions leave everything and follow him. The phrase 'they left everything' shows the importance for Luke of detachment from possessions.

## PARISH NOTICES

### CAFOD Lent Fast Day

This year, CAFOD's Lent Fast Day once again reminds us of the need for potable water throughout the world. We all hopefully appreciate the immediate benefits of a readily accessible source of drinking water. But for some, the presence of such water in their community has a hidden impact, in that women and children are released from the daily chore of fetching water in. So women and children, especially young girls, are free to pursue more fulfilling activities. A recent press release from the charity Why Water suggests that in Africa alone Women spent 40 billion hours a year walking for water. The figure may not be CAFOD's but the message is the same. Clean water improves lives: reduces disease: allows children to have a childhood and survive that childhood and have an education: allows women a more rewarding time with their family, and yes set up that market garden – not for them the delights of day-time TV. "Treat the earth well. It is not inherited from your parents, it is borrowed from your children."

### First Holy Communion 2016

The children attending St Agatha's School will come to the church for their next class at **3.30pm** on **Monday 8th February**; children mostly at other schools will come on **Saturday 13th February** at **10.00am**.

### Confirmation dates 2016

Monday 8th February: Session Five (7.15–8.30pm)

Saturday 5th March: Faith in Action (12 noon – 4.00pm)

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

### 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.

### Parish Men's Group

The Group will next on **Wednesday 17th February** from 8.00pm at the Wych Elm.

### A Day with Mary

This will take place on **Saturday 20th February** at St Joseph's Church, New Malden from 9.30am to 5.00pm. This will be a day of instruction, devotion and intercession based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. For further information see the notices at the back of the church.

### Jubilee Year of Mercy – Open 24 hours

On **4th – 5th March** there will be a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Mercy at St George's, the cathedral of our diocese. Mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm. At 7.30pm there will be evening prayer will be followed by a night of music, art, film, prayer and reflection. For further details see the poster at the back of the church.

## REFLECTION

Jesus is preaching at Lake Gennesaret (the Sea of Galilee) in today's Gospel. This is Luke's account of the calling of the First Disciples which takes place in the context of a miraculous catch of fish. Jesus is using Simon's boat as a sort of platform from which to address the crowds who had gathered around him.

Already Jesus is gaining popularity and the crowds are 'pressing' near to him. Clearly they see something in Jesus that is attractive and fulfilling.

Simon is probably being polite when he agrees to try again for a catch, possibly thinking that Jesus should leave the fishing to the professionals. Simon obeys, takes the risk, lets go of his pride, and the result is an overwhelming catch of fish. It can be hard to trust others at times; it can be difficult to let go of what is familiar to us. We are constantly being challenged to do this. The big challenge is to trust that God knows what God is doing and is constantly urging us to pull away from the shore.

*'A boat is safe in the harbour, but this is not the purpose of a boat'. Paulo Coelho*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-8**

Today we see into the call of the First Isaiah. We notice Isaiah has a dramatic vision of God in the Temple. He recognises both this special moment 'my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' and yet feels unworthy of the experience acknowledging his 'unclean lips'. God responds to reassure Isaiah, through the Seraph, purifying Isaiah with fire and words of forgiveness, Hearing the call 'Whom shall I send...?' Isaiah is able to respond to the call.

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**

St Paul shares with us what many scholars believe to be an extremely early creed of the Christian faith; expressing fundamental aspects of our faith and what we believe in. Namely that 'Christ died for our sins', 'Christ was buried' and 'was raised to life on the third day'. Listening, believing and following this message gifts us with salvation. Paul acknowledges that it is only through God's grace that he has been able to share this Good News.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11**

In the Gospel today we learn of the call of the first disciples. We notice the attractiveness of Jesus; crowds of people are pressing in on him to listen to the Word of God. To our surprise, Jesus invites an uninvolved observer, Simon, who is cleaning his nets 'to put out a little from the shore'. After a while, Jesus further asks him to put out into deep water for a catch. This is a challenge as Simon's experience as a fisherman leaves him sceptical; it's a challenge to trust. Simon responds out of respect for Jesus. To his amazement there is a wondrous catch, this feeling moves to fright, conscious of his weakness in the presence of divine power. Jesus reassures him and the fishermen follow him.

### PARISH DIARY

Monday 3.30pm: First Holy Communion Children – Monday Group  
Monday 7.15pm: Confirmation Session Five  
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group  
Saturday 10.00am: First Holy Communion Children – Saturday Group

### FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and a day of fasting and abstinence. There will be three masses at 7.30am, 9.30am and 7.30pm.

### OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid	£593.32	Loose	£450.24
Retiring collection (CAFOD)	Gift Aid	£10.50	Loose	£82.13

The retiring collection this weekend is for the poor parishes of the diocese.

### 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

Karmimurz Skicki, Noreen Halloran, Mary Joyce, Salvatore Grassi, Alice Bennett, Father Albert H. Jenner, Kathleen Lombard, Amadeis Mouta, Noreen Mullane, Frances Marie, Edith Campbell, William Hardy, Cornelius O'Reilly, Ethel Maud Ward, Lucinda Potesta, Joseph McGuckin, Louise Maud Dawson, Antonio Ferritto, Bronislaw Jaroszynski, Mary Ellen Miles, Julia Woodhams, William Lovely, Margaret North, Elsie Brady, Harold Ladlier, Harold Mays, Bridget Woolgar, Florence Brockwell, Ellen McKay, Magdlen Saxby, Alice Burgess, Kevin Flynn, Ryan Wrathall, John Wall, Alfred Robert Frederick Brockwell, Michael Higgins, Patrick Howard.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

### **Job Offer – Kingston Street Pastor Co-ordinator**

The Oxygen Trust is looking to recruit a Kingston Street Pastor Co-ordinator. The role is to represent Kingston Street Pastors and to take significant responsibility for the promotion, management and co-ordination of the Street Pastors' initiatives in Kingston. This includes organising weekly teams for patrols and supporting volunteer team members in their work to help, listen to and care for the people of Kingston upon Thames. The salary is up to £15,600 for a 20 hour week and includes a 5% pension. Closing date for applications is **7th March 2016**. For further information email [john.trend@oxygen-online.org](mailto:john.trend@oxygen-online.org).