

CLERGY

Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest
Fr. Pius Duke, MSP — Assistant Priest
Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2019 – TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY (C)

Saturday 7th

9.30am Arend Dieperink RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish

Sunday 8th

**Twenty-Third Sunday
Education Sunday**

9.00am Arthur & Robin O'Connor RIP
10.30am Frederico Dos Remedios RIP
6.30pm Britz Family

Monday 9th

9.30am Bernard Fenton RIP

Tuesday 10th

9.30am NO MASS
12pm Requiem Mass for Fr. Gerry O'Brien

Wednesday 11th

9.30am Wellbeing of Keith Fraser

Thursday 12th

9.30am Seamus Dooley RIP

Friday 13th St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Memorial

9.30am Varvara Shpynder RIP

Saturday 14th The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast

9.30am Edith Knight RIP
6.30pm Rev. Fr. Gerry O'Brien RIP

Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.

Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.

Confessions: Saturday 10.00-10.30am, 18.00-18.15pm & at call.

Baptisms: By previous arrangement on Sundays at 12.30pm.

Marriages: Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.

ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (7th September) WE WILL HAVE ONE HOUR OF EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. BETWEEN 10AM AND 11AM.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Pat Appleby, John Sewter, Christina Ward, Bill Kerrigan, Tess Bird, Clare Horgan, Keith Fraser, Trish Taylor and Ryan Morrison. *Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either you or your relatives and friends want to be mentioned in our sick list.*

ANNIVERSARIES

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, Maureen Geary, Lionel Osborne, Elizabeth Pettyfer, Nancy Casey, Herminea Lintern, Roseanna Stimson, Henry Stimson, Anne Collopy, Roy Browne, Oswald Garrow-Fisher, William Parker, Edward Heaton Harris, Kathleen Edwards. +++ **May they rest in Peace** +++

LET US REMEMBER ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Let us remember those who have died and their families with love and affection during this time of grief.

OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid	£559.91	Loose	£535.20
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£14.15	Loose	£73.92
TOTAL		£1183.08		



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Father Gerard (Gerry) O'Brien

who died Thursday 22nd August 2019

+++ May he rest in peace +++

Funeral arrangements at St Agatha's Church:

Reception of the Body

Monday 9th September 2019

6pm

Vigil Mass

Monday 9th September 2019

7pm

Funeral Mass

Tuesday 10th September 2019

12pm

Burial in Ireland:

Reposing at Griffin's Funeral Home, John's Gate on Thursday 12th September 2019, from 5pm. Removal at 6.30pm to St. John's Cathedral. Funeral Mass on Friday 13th September 2019 at 11am. Burial at Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery.

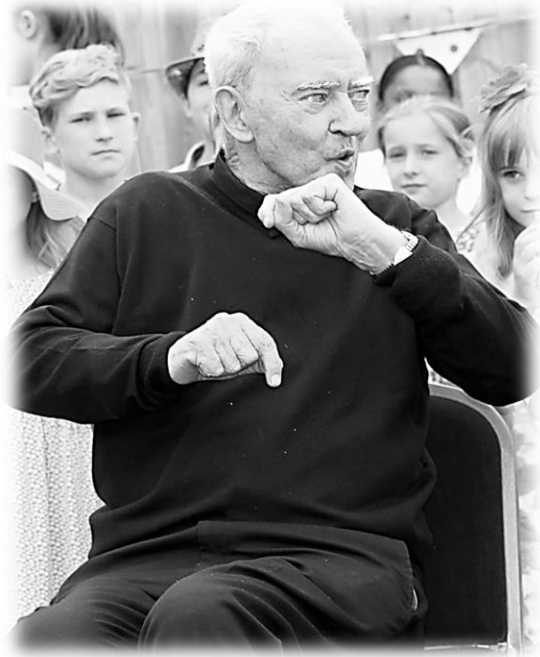
HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

OBITUARY FOR FATHER GERARD 'Gerry' O'BRIEN

Born: 16 May 1937 (Limerick, Ireland)

Died: 22 August 2019 (Coloma Court Care Home, Kent)



Father Gerard O'Brien, was born in Limerick, Ireland, on the 16 May 1937. He was educated by the Christian Brothers. His call to the Priesthood led him to Carlow Seminary, Ireland, and he was ordained in Carlow on the 6th June 1964, after which he came to the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Fr. Gerry's first appointment in the Archdiocese was in 1964 as an Assistant Priest at St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, where he served for eleven years before being appointed to the Parish of Beckenham. After this, he was appointed as Parish Priest of Peckham Rye in 1981. He served twice as Dean of Camberwell, 1987 to 1991 after which he moved to a new appointment in Kingston as Parish Priest of St Agatha's Church. This was Fr. Gerry's last Parish, where he served for twenty-five years until his retirement in 2017 at the age of 80. He then moved to Coloma Court Care Home.

In his pastoral work Fr. Gerry devoted himself to his parishioners, particularly in visiting the sick and responding to those with practical needs. His gentle and caring manner was appreciated by those he met throughout his long journey of priestly ministry. He was a prayerful, good and caring man and priest and he will be greatly missed by all those who had the joy of knowing him and whose lives he touched with his deep, living faith.

Fr. Gerry died aged 82 on the 22nd August 2019 in the 55th year of his priesthood.

+++May he rest in peace+++

We have provided a book of condolence in the church porch for you to leave your short messages and memories.

We welcome back those who have returned from their holidays; we hope you had fun, were able to catch up with friends and relatives, and that you have had a good rest. We hope that you feel able to add a spark to the life of this Parish and will get involved. Please pop into the Cloister after the 9am and 10.30am Sunday Masses, to say hello, have a cup of tea or coffee, meet with parishioners and find out more about what is going on in the parish. We ultimately look forward to meeting with you all.

Catholic Education Service

This Sunday is Education Sunday and our retiring collection will be for the Catholic Education Service (CES). CES acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh Governments', sharing the aims of high academic standards for all and increased parental choice. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools. There are over 2000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England educating over 800,000 pupils. The Catholic Church and the Church of England together provide one-third of all of the schools in the country. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

Home Mission Sunday

Next Sunday our retiring collection will be for Home Mission Sunday. This collection provides the Bishops of England and Wales with resources to support 'Home Mission', the spread of the Gospel in our own country. The money collected enables a breadth of work to be done in support of parish evangelisation.

Missionary Society of St Paul, MSP, Appeal

During the summer we welcomed Fr. Franklin Achionye, MSP, who did a Mission appeal for the MSP; we thank you for your continued support, a total of £907.11 was raised.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday 4th October 2019.

A note for your diary - CAFOD Fast Day: Friday 4th October 2019. Once again CAFOD are asking for our support, CAFOD helps some of the poorest people throughout the world. Without our support, CAFOD and her sister agencies within CARITAS, cannot reach those communities in need. This Harvest get involved with Family Fast Day with your family, friends and parish. CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

Important Upcoming Dates:

Monday 9 th Sept	Reception and Vigil Mass Fr. Gerry O'Brien
Tuesday 10 th Sept	Funeral Mass Fr. Gerry O'Brien
Wednesday 11 th Sept	Parish Men's Group
Saturday 14 th Sept	Monk Memorial Mass
Sunday 22 nd Sept	Baptism Preparation Class
Friday 27 th Sept	Secondary School Application Signing

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Sunday 8th September 2019

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus teaches about the demands of discipleship.

Reflection

In chapter 14 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus is speaking to people gathered at the table about the difficulties of following him. This group of people is suspicious about Jesus, looking to catch him doing something wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables, emphasizing that although there is a right way to be a disciple and enter into the kingdom of his Father, it is a difficult path to follow. Many, even some of the guests at the table, reject the invitation. So, Jesus turns to the crowds and speaks to them of discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing can get in the way. When Jesus describes "hating" one's father and mother, he is not talking about feelings. Rather, he is emphasizing very strongly that choosing to be a disciple means that everything else—family, money, your own life—must come second. In Matthew's version of this story (Matthew 10:37), Jesus refers not to "hating" father or mother, but to loving them more than Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that being a disciple is not easy. It means to bear one's own cross. These difficult sayings of Jesus are followed by two brief parables (a person constructing a tower and a king marching into battle) that make an obvious point—don't start what you cannot finish. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else.

Family Reflection

Provide your children with a list of things that they are responsible for interspersed with things that they like to do—for example, make their beds, take out the garbage, go to the park, do homework, watch television, have a snack, feed the cat. The list should reflect their responsibilities and favourite recreations. Tell them to pretend that company is coming and ask which of the things listed should be done first. Explain that this is called setting priorities.

Paraphrase the Gospel story for the children. Ask them what Jesus says is the most important thing for them to do. Jesus tells us that the number-one priority is to follow him. But just as it is not always easy to do the things we are supposed to do before doing the fun things, it is not always easy to be a follower of Jesus. Yet when we put Jesus first, we will be truly happy.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Commissioning Day for Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The next Commissioning Day for Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be in at the Metropolitan Cathedral Church of St George on **Saturday 12th October 2019 at 10am concluding with Mass at 2.30pm. Please contact the parish office for further details.**

Annual day of recollection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers

The annual day of recollection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers for South West Area will take place at St. Boniface, Tooting SW17 9PG, on **Saturday 26th October 2019**. As we are preparing to keep "Year of the Word" from 1st December, the reflections of the day

will be based on the Gospel of Matthew and the day itself will be given by Fr. Adrian Graffy.



Please collect an invitation and programme form from the back of the church; please return the reply slip to the parish office by 30th September 2019. All the ministers of word and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are requested to attend the day. Thank you.

An Introduction to Liturgy

The Centre for Catholic Formation (CCF) will host their annual introductory course to Liturgy and Worship which is held each autumn over two Saturdays at CCF, 21 Tooting Bec Road, SW17 8BS. **Saturdays 9th November and 23rd November 2019**, 10.30am – 4pm. £25 per person. If you want to find out more or wish to register for the course please contact ccrs@ccftootingbec.org.uk or call 020 8672 7684

St Agatha's Church Youth Club

St Agatha's Church Youth Club resumes on Friday 13th September at 6pm. We would also like

to thank the parishioners who have already come forward to help, however, **we urgently need more volunteers**, of all ages, to help behind the scenes with the various tasks involved with running the club, such as setting up and clearing away equipment, to ensure the club can continue. No experience of youth work is necessary. Could you spare just a few hours a month? Please sign up in the church porch or speak with Frs. Anthony or Pius or contact the parish office for further details.



COST AND VALUE

A REFLECTION OF PSALM 89:3-6, 12-14, 17

Wisdom is the theme linking the first reading, psalm and gospel today. In the words of the first reading, wisdom enables the mind to know the intentions of God and to divine the will of the Lord. Wisdom lifts one up to see things in God's vast timespan.

*To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.*

How is wisdom connected with today's gospel? Great crowds accompanied Jesus, but he challenged them on the depth and sincerity of their following. He presented two parables on the cost of true discipleship. A pessimist is inhibited by the cost, but the optimist is liberated by the value. Jesus valued the grace of discipleship as even greater than the precious ties of family love. Following him on the way to the cross would be costly to self-centred pursuits: but wisdom would discern the value.

*Make us know the shortness of your life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.*

Wisdom can evaluate matters in the long-term view but it also discerns the presence of God in each day. After reflecting on the thousand-year timespan, the psalmist prays that the little twenty-four hours of time which is today would be blessed with God's love, joy and favour.

*In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days,
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.*

Wisdom is the crowning virtue among the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Responsorial Psalms of Sunday – Silvester O'Flynn, The Columba Press



Baptism

Congratulations to Joshua who was Baptised here at St. Agatha's in August. May God continue the good work he has started.



Students from Holy Cross School hosted a bake sale here on Sunday 7th July, to support those at the Father Ray Foundation, an orphanage in Pattaya, Thailand.

The Holy Cross School has a strong relationship with the Father Ray Foundation and sends a group of students each year to offer their help to those in the orphanage. Those in the orphanage treasure the support that The Holy Cross School offers every year.

The students have provided some photos of their time at the orphanage (please see noticeboard) and they would once again like to thank everyone who donated as the funds had a real impact on the Father Ray Foundation. The money raised will be used by the Children's centre, as this centre does not receive any government funding, and will be used to buy necessities for the children, such as school uniforms.

Michael Monk RIP

All are warmly invited to a Mass for the Monk Family's intentions on **Saturday 14th September at 11am**. This will be followed by light refreshments in the cloister and church grounds. This Mass replaces the "Team Monk" tea party which was to be held in the grounds of the school on the same day and Mr Monk is planning to join us. For further information please contact Josie Bate: goldenjosie@googlemail.com

Baptism Preparation Class

Our next baptism preparation class will be held on **Sunday 22nd September 2019**. If you are considering your child's baptism, please complete an application form, available from the back of the church and return to the Parish Office and register for this class

Secondary School 2019 Application Forms

The time of year has come when many parents are thinking about places in a Catholic School. Regular Mass attendance is a requirement for a reference to be completed. If you have recently moved to the area you should seek a priest reference from your previous parish which we will then countersign.

A priest will be available to sign secondary school application forms on **Friday 27th September between 2pm and 4pm**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery. Please ensure that you complete as much of the forms as possible and if you have any reference letters, please also bring these along with you. Please bring all relating documents with you at this time, especially Baptism Certificates.

Please see the Parish noticeboard for more details of the following:

- The Mustard Seed
- St John's Seminary Chapel Appeal
- Conquest Art Group at St Pius
- London SW Catholic Social Group
- Job Vacancy at Holy Cross Prep
- Parishioner/Teacher seeking Accommodation
- A Day with Mary



MONTHLY TALKS AT ST. RAPHAEL'S ON TOPICS RELATED TO OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

St Raphael's Church in Kingston/Surbiton holds a monthly event: "Theology on Tap". Talks on topics related to the Catholic faith will be delivered by a range of speakers from within and outside the Parish. Quench your spiritual thirst with friends in the church hall (Alexander House) over a glass of wine or other refreshment.

Sunday 29th September – The next series of talks begins with Fr. Michael Lovell who will speak on the subject of "Pope Benedict's 'Verbum Domini' in the light of The Year of the Word". In the Diocese, from October, there will be a special focus on Scripture and its place in our prayers and in our lives. All are welcome to the talk, beginning from **6.30 pm. and ending before 8 pm**. Donations will be invited each month to cover costs.

We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace. ~ Pope Francis