



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 8TH OCTOBER 2023

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 7th	Our Lady of the Rosary, Memorial
6.30pm	Edward & Marie Anne Xiberras RIP
Sunday 8th	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am	Anne Quinn RIP
10.30am	Alina Ksiazek RIP
6.30pm	Intentions to the Holy Spirit for the Outcome of the Synod
Monday 9th	St John Henry Newman, Priest, Feast
9.30am	Rose Pereira RIP
Tuesday 10th	
9.30am	Rev Fr Gerry O'Brien RIP
Wednesday 11th	
9.30am	Rosa Vitolo RIP
Thursday 12th	
9.30am	CHURCH CLOSED – NO MASS
Friday 13th	St Edward the Confessor, King, Feast
9.30am	Christopher Byrne RIP
Saturday 14th	
9.30am	Private Intentions
Exposition:	Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 9am. Monday to Friday: 09:30
Mass Times:	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

CHANGE TO MASS SCHEDULE - PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2023. THEREFORE, THERE WILL BE NO MORNING PRAYER OR MASS. APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

PARISH OFFERINGS

SUNDAY COLLECTION: 01/10/2023

Collection	Gift Aid	£143.00	Loose	£517.19
TOTAL		£660.19		

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.
 This weekend we have a retiring collection for CAFOD.

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.



**HARVEST 2023: FAMILY FAST DAY
 FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2023**

On Friday we were invited by CAFOD to live simply for the day, and dedicate any monies saved to help those in need. The retiring collection across all masses this weekend will be for CAFOD. Donation envelopes are available or please use the red bucket in the church porch. You can also donate on the CAFOD website. Please visit the CAFOD website for further information:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

You can help families fleeing conflict, parents fighting climate change and communities overcoming poverty together. Your donation will get to work quickly, around the world, wherever the need is greatest. Whichever way you support our work, you are saving lives and helping to ensure that no one is beyond reach of the love and care they need. Thank you for your continued support.

**SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FORMS -
 SIGNING ARRANGEMENTS**

Father will be available
 to sign school application forms on:

Monday 9th October 2023: from 2.30 to 3.30pm

No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery.

Please ensure that you complete as much of the forms as possible and please bring all relating documents with you at this time, especially Baptism Certificates (if your child was not baptised here at St Agatha's). Applications will not be signed without proof of Baptism.

Please note that Fathers will not be available to sign forms during the half term week.

The deadline for applications for admission in September 2024 is 31st October 2023.

Application requirements can be found on the Secondary School's websites or further details are available from:

<https://www.kingston.gov.uk/schools-education/apply-secondary-school-place-september-intake/1>

**EVENING OF PRAYER FOR MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST,
 READERS, MUSICIANS & CATECHISTS OF THE PARISH**

Tuesday 31st October 2023

There will be an evening of prayer for Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers, Musicians and Catechists on Tuesday 31st October between 7pm and 8pm in the church to which everyone is invited. Tea, coffee and wine will be served in the Cloister afterwards.

OCTOBER DEVOTION: THE HOLY ROSARY

Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. Pope Leo XIII personally started the practice of devoting October to the Rosary devotion. In a letter of September 1, 1883, mindful of the Rosary's power to strengthen faith and foster a life of virtue, he outlined the triumphs of the Rosary in past times and admonished the faithful to dedicate the month of October to the Blessed Virgin through the daily recitation of the Rosary, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, in order to obtain through her intercession, the grace that God would console and defend His Church in her sufferings. During October, we invite everyone to pray your rosary. We especially encourage families to pray the rosary together. We are all encouraged to make this a date with Mary.



Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, October 8, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 80:9,12-16,19-20

The Lord protects his vineyard, the house of Israel.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus tells the parable about the wicked tenants.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel follows directly after last Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus was questioned by Jewish religious leaders about the source of his teaching authority. After refusing to answer their questions, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons and then criticizes the priests and elders for their lack of belief in John the Baptist.

In today's Gospel, Jesus once again speaks to the priests and elders with a parable. In this parable, the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants and sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest that the tenants owe to him. Several times the servants are sent to collect payment, and each time they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the landowner sends his son to collect his rent. The tenants, believing that they will inherit the vineyard if the landowner dies without an heir, plot together and kill the landowner's son.

After telling the parable, Jesus questions the chief priests and elders about what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants. They all agree that the landowner will kill the wicked tenants and give the land to new tenants who will pay the rent.

In telling the parable, Jesus is clearly drawing upon Isaiah 5:1-7, which is today's first reading and one that the priests and elders would have known well. Jesus doesn't, therefore, have to explain the symbolism of the parable; the Pharisees would have understood that the vineyard represented Israel, the landowner represented God, the servants represented the prophets, and the bad tenants represented the religious leaders. Yet Jesus nonetheless explains the meaning of the parable for his audience: the Kingdom of God will be taken from the unbelieving and given to the faithful. The chief priests and elders have condemned themselves with their answer to Jesus' question.

Today's Gospel has a parallel in Mark 12:1-12. There are some notable differences, however. In Matthew's version, the religious leaders condemn themselves; in Mark's Gospel, Jesus answers his own question. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous. Matthew's Gospel was written about 70 years after Jesus' death and reflects the conflicts and tensions found in the Christian community for whom Matthew was writing. Many biblical scholars believe that the tension between Matthew's community and their Jewish neighbours can also be heard in today's reading.

This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways—through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers?



FAMILY REFLECTION

In an ideal household, family members know the rules and follow them consistently. Even the most conscientious among us, however, sometimes needs to be reminded of the rules and their importance. How we respond to such correction reveals our true character. In today's Gospel Jesus exposes the religious leaders for their failure to heed God's messengers. It is an opportunity for us to consider how we respond to those who are God's messengers today, calling us to correct our ways and return to the way of the Lord.

As you gather as a family, talk about some of the most important rules of your household. Consider how consistently family members follow these rules. How are family members reminded when rules are not being followed? How do they respond? In today's Gospel Jesus corrects the religious leaders through a parable telling them that they have not heeded God's messengers. Read Matthew 21:33-43. What are some of God's rules that we must follow? How do we respond to God's messengers today? Pray together as a family that you will heed God's messengers and follow God's ways. Pray together the Act of Contrition for the times when your family has not heeded God's word.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

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

William Duckett, Santina Peluso, Teresa McKeown, Evelyn Drake, Patsy Byrne, Mary Eliza Gosford, Peter Quinn, Nancy Davis, Thomas Joseph Crowley, Ann Higginson, Jack Chilton, Bertha Argent, Daniel McDonnell, Sister Monica Meaney, Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy, Annabelle Montague-Smith, James Coughlan, Mary McGilvray, Robert John Wiseman, Mary Elliott, George Henry Summersby, Andrew Leo Cremin, Pauline Welham, Timothy O'Brien, Clement Flynn, Umilta Ahwai, Kathleen McNulty, Leo Barrett, Mary Kennedy, Sybil Edna Isaac, Marguerite Mary Lucas, Elizabeth Mawer, Michael Jones, Kathleen Power, Rose Fry, Ethel Scully, Mary Darnell, Nestor Garcia.
+++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.



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2023!!

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

There will be a parent meeting on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7.30pm.

The Inscription Mass is on 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 2022/23

Registration for our next Confirmation programme is now closed. The Catechists are meeting next week to finalise the schedule and an email update will be sent out 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

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or wanting to explore your Catholic faith further?

Our Evangelium course will start in October/November 2023. The programme will consist of weekly sessions running until Easter, including vital dates during Lent.

If you would like to join this year's RCIA programme, Please pick up an 'INITIAL ENQUIRY FORM' from the church porch and return to the Parish Secretary in the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Our Evangelium programme is for adults who have not been Baptised and for Christians of other denominations who want to be Received into the Catholic Church.

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. Everyone is welcome along!



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.



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.

KINGSTON ARTISTS EXHIBIT

Our very own resident artist Bob Meecham has a painting on display at the Rose Theatre with Kingston Artists KAOS during October until 4th November 2023.

KAOS
@ Rose Theatre

Kingston artists exhibit
recent works at Rose Theatre, Kingston
4 October - 4 November

Meet the artists/Private View 6 Oct, 6.30 - 8pm



@kaoskingston
www.kingstonartistsopenstudios.co.uk

Rose Theatre
24-26 High Street, Kingston KT1 1HL

ROSE
THEATRE

'Lord's gaze that blesses invites us to be a Church that, with a glad heart, contemplates God's work and discerns the present, a Church that does not lose heart, does not barricade itself behind preconceived notions, does not let the world dictate its agenda.'

~ Pope Francis

DIOCESAN INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION: ST JOHN'S SEMINARY – WONERSH

As you are aware, after 130 years of forming men for the priesthood, St John's Seminary, known to so many, closed in July 2021. Some two years later, a book has been launched entitled: *These Walls Have Spoken: in Celebration of St John's Seminary – Wonersh*.

Showcasing over 300 pages of elegant photography and text, the book records what made Wonersh unique. In words and images, it tells the story of the Seminary and keeps its memory alive. The book lists the Seminary's treasures, and chronicles the final commemorative liturgies and celebrations – showing how Wonersh lives on in the sacred objects, furnishings and books that have gone on to enrich many other Catholic churches and institutions. The book is available for purchase at a cost of £25 plus P&P at: www.wonersh.shop

CATHOLIC WOMEN PRAYING TOGETHER

The annual Mass organised by Catholic Women Praying Together will be held this year on Wednesday 15th November at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. For background info: CWPT is the successor group formed from the Catholic Women of the Year Luncheon (which finished with its Golden Jubilee in 2018), and brings together representatives of the main Catholic women's organisations in the UK.

<https://www.catholicwomenprayingtogether.com/>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL MANAGER

CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE & BASILICA OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM

An opportunity to support the new Rector to develop the mission of the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham. This is a key management role which will require the highest level of people management skills and sound governance abilities developed further in a relevant environment. Salary: £60,000 Closing date for applications: 20th October 2023. Further information at:

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/2023/09/29/new-job-opportunity-at-the-shrine-general-manager/>

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIPS

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) is looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their internship programme. The scheme lasts for one or two years and gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the English Lake District. For more information contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

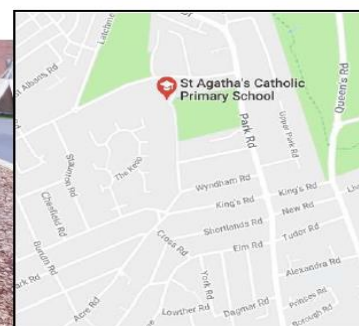


SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Just a quick reminder about our donations box in support of Dons Local Action Group; A huge thank you to those that have already donated items, these have again successfully been delivered to the DLAG hub this week. 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. The Dons now have a programmed delivery of a monthly box of the above essentials the first full week of every month. We will try and support this initiative by delivering our contributions toward the end of each month. Obviously, this will only happen with your continued support. Thank you for your on-going generosity.



ST AGATHA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSION TO RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2024



Children born between 01 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 are eligible to start school at St Agatha's in September 2024

Open Days for prospective reception class parents start at **9.15am** on:

Tuesday 19th September
Thursday 12th October
Tuesday 31st October
Tuesday 14th November

BOOKINGS NOT REQUIRED, PLEASE ARRIVE AT 9.15
Closing date for all applications is - 15th January 2024

Find further information: visit our website: www.stagathas.school / telephone: 020 8546 3879 [ask for Sharon Parsons] / e-mail: office@stagathas.school