

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday The Baptism of the Lord

PARISH DIARY

Monday 3.30pm: First Holy Communion Preparation class
Monday 7.15pm: Meeting for candidates for confirmation and their parents
Monday 7.30pm: Baptism Preparation meeting
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group

OFFERINGS

Christmas offering Gift Aid £1247.25 Loose £1087.39
This weekend's retiring collection is for CAFOD.

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, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Marie Elsey, Christopher Browne, Mary Wallace, Rosa Vitolo, Elsie Malone & Colette Patten.

LATELY DEAD

The requiem mass for James Flynn will be celebrated on **Monday 9th January at 11.00am**. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. AMEN

ANNIVERSARIES

Teresa Buller, Clara Cunningham, Joan Culme, Daniel Quaid, Maurice Woolger, Azzopardi Twins, Joseph Kiernan, Mary Johnston, Sr. Lucy Proctor, William Finn, Nicholas Power, Constance Neve, Joan Marie Jackson, Mary Ann Jelley, Walter Padberg, Jerzy Henryk Kopicki, Douglas Carter, Teresa Scott, Annie Burton, Mary Dobson, Frederick Fear, Bridget Cumiskey, Alfred Mulcahy, Joseph Rice, Eileen Wharton, George Winnen, Charles Woogar, Alexander Paterson, Kathleen McEnergy, Mary Blythe, Ellen Crowley, Bridget Dodd, Sandra Ruff .

+++ May they rest in peace +++

FR GERRY

Please pray for the health and welfare of Fr Gerry. He has now been released from hospital. He needs a period of rest and recuperation so will be living for some weeks at Coloma Court, West Wickham. We will provide a telephone number on which he can be contacted in due course.



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

St. Agatha's Catholic Church

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Kingston Upon Thames

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www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

Please visit our website regularly to keep abreast of important current issues.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 8th January 2017

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Fr Caspar Lutz RIP
Sunday	9.00am	Hannah Mennis RIP
	10.30am	Remy Evans-Davie RIP
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am	Alfred Knight RIP
	11.00am	Requiem James Flynn
Tuesday	9.30am	Thomas Joseph Byrne RIP
Wednesday	9.30am	Edith Knight RIP
Thursday	9.30am	Holy Souls
Friday	9.30am	Marion Gannon RIP
Saturday	9.30am	John Hickey RIP
	6.30pm	Ian Fraser RIP
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months' notice required - Diocesan rule	

God revealed himself to the Jews through the Scriptures, and to the Gentiles through nature. Since the Magi were Gentiles, Matthew shows them receiving a revelation through astrology. The story highlights the paradox of how the Jews who have the Scriptures reject Jesus, while the Gentiles come and, with the help of the Scriptures, find and adore him. For Matthew the story of the Magi becomes an anticipation of the fate of Good News of salvation, a fate that he knew in the aftermath of the resurrection.

PARISH NOTICES

First Communion Preparation Programme

The next First Holy Communion preparation class will be on **Monday 9th January 2017 at 3.30pm.**

Confirmation Preparation Programme

There will be a meeting for candidates for confirmation and their parents on **Monday 9th January at 7.15pm.** The retreat day will be **Saturday 28th January** and the Confirmation mass with the Bishop will be on **Sunday 19th March.**

Prebaptism meeting

There will be a Prebaptism meeting in the Presbytery on **Monday 9th January** at 7.30pm. Only one parent need attend. Please do not bring children with you.

Parish Prayer Group

The Parish Prayer Group meets every **Tuesday at 8.00pm** in the church for rosary, praise and intercession. All parishioners are most welcome to join us. Please enter via the Presbytery.

Parish Men's Group

The next meeting of the Parish Men's Group will be on **Wednesday 18th January** at the Wych Elm from **8.00pm** onwards. All men of the parish are welcome to join us for an evening of fellowship, lubricated by a pint or two.

Southwark Catholic Directory 2017

Copies of the Diocesan directory for 2017 are available at the back of the church at a cost of three pounds. It contains full details of the parishes and organizations in the diocese, the clergy and the liturgical calendar and is a valuable reference book.

2017 diaries

Copies of the 2017 Catholic diary are also available at the back of the church. Please take one. There is no charge.

World Peace Day 2017

Next Sunday – **15th January** – has been chosen as Peace Sunday. It offers a timely opportunity for us to explore the Catholic tradition of nonviolence which goes back to Jesus and to develop ways to make Gospel nonviolence better known through our sacramental and education programmes, as well as an effective influence on our social justice work and political choices.

Hospital chaplain

If you, or a member of your family are admitted to Kingston Hospital you need to inform the ward staff that you are a Roman Catholic and would like to be visited by the Catholic Chaplain Fr. Julius. His phone number is 8942 2178.

REFLECTION

The Star of Bethlehem

Gordon Wilson's daughter was killed by a bomb in Enniskillen on Remembrance Day 1987. Instead of calling for revenge, he forgave her killers and began a campaign for peace and reconciliation. He said:

'I am a very ordinary sort of man. I have few personal ambitions and no political aspirations. I just want to live and let live. Life has been kind to me in the main, and I have tried to live by the Good Book. I do not profess to be a good man, but I aim to be. I would like to leave the world a better place than I found it, but I have no exaggerated ideas of my ability to do so. I have hitched my wagon to a star, a star of hope, the star of Bethlehem.'

Fr Flor McCarthy S.D.B.

First Reading: Isaiah 6: 1–6

'It's always darkest before the dawn'. At the time of Isaiah's prophesy, the birth of Christ was several hundred years away. This is a prophesy of hope, a hope that must have seemed frail and insubstantial at the time, that God would honour his promise and bring unity among people. Yet this deep faith that the light would come sustained the Jewish people. This same faith sustains us today.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 2–3, 5–6

Though Jesus was a Jew, his message was not reserved for the Jewish people. He also called pagans and Gentiles by name, inviting them into his company, sharing his words and work with them, issuing the promise of eternal life to all. God's love has never been as clear as in the life of Jesus. His plan for the unity of all humanity, his children, was made manifest.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1–12

The success of the Roman Empire depended on the division of its subjects; Jews and Gentiles, Judeans and Samaritans, Pharisees and Zealots. Only when all these factions were at odds with one another could Rome effectively occupy and rule Palestine. So when wise men, probably Gentiles, came from the East to worship a Jewish king, so overwhelmed by the signs of this special child, Herod became panicked. The unity of people is always a threat to those who wish to exert power and control over others for their own ends. From the earliest days following his birth, it was clear that Jesus would challenge the human perception of 'otherness' in his mission to draw the children of God into one.