

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Robert Beresford – Deacon

The parish office should be your first port of call for any 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 9TH APRIL 2023

EASTER SUNDAY (A)

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| Saturday 8th | Holy Saturday |
| | <i>No Morning Mass</i> |
| 8pm | <i>Easter Vigil</i> Catechumen & Candidate of the Parish |
| Sunday 9th | Easter Sunday |
| 9am | Nicole Wiggill - Birthday |
| 10.30am | Keith & Alan Fraser RIP |
| 6.30pm | James O'Keeffe RIP |
| Monday 10th | Easter Monday |
| 12pm | Private Intentions |
| Tuesday 11th | Easter Tuesday |
| 9.30am | John Heelan RIP |
| Wednesday 12th | Easter Wednesday |
| 9.30am | Holy Souls |
| Thursday 13th | Easter Thursday |
| 9.30am | Sheila McCormick RIP |
| Friday 14th | Easter Friday |
| 9.30am | Jane Beresford RIP |
| Saturday 15th | Easter Saturday |
| 9.30am | Thomas Gerard Luson RIP |

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

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| Saturday 15th | |
| 6.30pm | Caroline Baskell RIP |
| Sunday 16th | 2nd Sunday of Easter |
| 9am | Caroline & Bertram Woodhouse-Currie RIP |
| 10.30am | Keith & Alan Fraser RIP |
| 6.30pm | Caroline Hopkins RIP |
| Monday 17th | |
| 9am | Anne Hall RIP |
| Tuesday 18th | |
| 9.30am | A P Antony RIP |
| Wednesday 19th | |
| 9.30am | Millicent Mary Laing RIP |
| Thursday 20th | |
| 9.30am | Montague Laing RIP |
| Friday 21st | |
| 9.30am | Charles Laing RIP |
| Saturday 22nd | |
| 9.30am | Sarah Townson |

Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.
Confessions: Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM
Mass Times: Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30
Baptisms: Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.
Marriages: Six months' notice required, Diocesan rule



EASTER BLESSINGS

Happy Easter to you all from all of us here at St. Agatha's Parish! We pray for you and hope you and your families and loved ones have a joyful Easter Season. Easter brings so many promises of God to us, life is stronger than death, love can overcome hate, goodness ultimately triumphs over evil, and eternity and glory with God in Heaven. We pray that Jesus may live in all our hearts, that we may always embrace Him with love and gratitude. May His love and His peace fill our hearts, our lives, our homes and our families. God bless each and every one of you and your loved ones. May you have a happy and peaceful Easter and may God fill your hearts with the joy, peace and hope that only he can give. Fathers Francis and Peter, and Deacon Bob.

EASTER OFFERINGS

Easter offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to use them for an Easter Offering for our Clergy. If you normally Gift Aid your weekly offerings, would you please print your name/number clearly on the Easter Offering Envelope. Please leave the envelopes in the box in the porch. Alternatively, you can make an offering by debit or credit card via our contactless handsets. You will find these at the back of the church, please choose 'Easter Offerings'. Thank you.

EASTER READING - 'MY DAY BY DAY'

There are copies of the Easter edition of 'My Day by Day', for adults and juniors, available at the back of the Church – they cost £1.00 each. Please put money in the box marked 'My Day by Day'. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for Easter.

PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave for Easter Week and will return on Tuesday 18th April 2023, therefore the parish office will close on Thursday 6th April and reopen on Tuesday 18th April 2023.

Please ensure all Mass Requests for this period, Baptism Applications and any other enquiries are submitted before Thursday 6th April 2023 otherwise they will not be attended to until the office reopens. Please only call the presbytery in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry during this time.

For all non-urgent enquiries, please email kingston@rcaos.org.uk and Karin will respond upon her return. **Thank you.**



**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Sunday, April 9, 2023**

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-9 Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Gospel Reflection

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

Family Reflection

In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and scepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

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 and Marie Chlebeckova.

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.

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 Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES

Nellie O'Brien, Mary Hobbs, Harriet Roberts, Gertrude Thompson, Marie Philomena Sinteff, Denis Kennedy, John Nash, Mabel Friend, Frederick Evenden, Theresa Mary McKay, Mary Browne, Samuel Moorhouse, Anne Hall, Catherine West, Sister Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Inge Quarta, Clara Hawkins, May Lott, Caroline Milburn, Arthur Burgess, Jane Beresford, Charles Harold Jarvis, Joyce McDonagh, Peter Horsfield, Caroline Louisa Currie, Catherine Barkell, Harold Ward, Michael Mullen, George Steele, Monique Ricquer, Mary Doyle, Eleanor Dean, Arthur Helliwell, Cormac Scott Byrne, Alice McMahon, James Mullens, John Browne, Una Matthews, Denise Hawkes, Tess Hegarty, Ken Sykes, Emanuele Giammacco, David Jones, Ellen Moore, Carmello Giamocco, Catherine Cusiack, Mary Squires, Bridget Kieley, Michael Cooke, Linda Hull, Tom Kelleher, Ellen Smith,

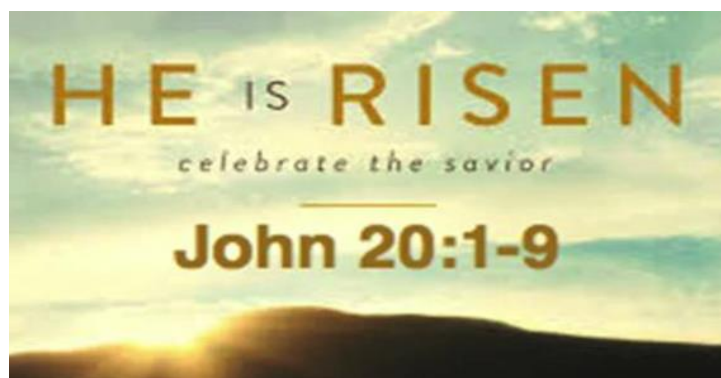
+++May They Rest In Peace+++

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, your new packet of envelopes, which start on Easter Sunday, 9th April, are ready for collection from the church porch. If you are unable to come by and pick them up, please email the Parish Office.

If you are not part of the Parish Gift Aid scheme and would like to join, please contact the Parish Office for further information.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.



Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (Sunday of Divine Mercy)
Sunday, April 16, 2023

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31 Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Gospel Reflection

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

Family Reflection

Many of us can relate to Thomas's response to the news that the disciples had seen Jesus. We want to see for ourselves too, but we grow in faith, trusting the experience and knowledge of others.

Many of us have heard the saying "Seeing is believing." As your family gathers, take some time to consider what that saying means. What are some things we believe because we see them? Is there anything we believe without seeing? Today's Gospel reminds us that faith sometimes asks us to believe things we cannot see with our eyes. Read today's Gospel, John 19:19-31, with your family. Think about Thomas's response to the reports about the risen Lord. Is Thomas's doubt reasonable? How does Jesus respond to Thomas? Jesus grants Thomas the evidence that Thomas needs to believe, but Jesus also affirms the faith of those who will be called upon to believe without first-hand experience. We are among those whom Jesus calls blessed. Discuss with your family the basis of each member's faith in Jesus—the witness of the first disciples, the Gospels, the continuing activity of the Holy Spirit, the community of the Church.

Pray together that your faith in Jesus will be strong. Pray an act of faith together.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

The next session is after the Easter break on Sunday 23rd April 2023.

CONFIRMATION 2023

Session 5 is after the Easter break on Monday 24th April 2023.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday, 30th April 2023. The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm. Please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.



Our subsequent class will be held in September 2023.

Parents must attend a Baptism preparation class before a child's baptism, and it is recommended that Godparents also attend.

MARRIAGES IN 2023 and 2024

2023 or 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 preparation for our parishioners must take place here at St. Agatha's.

Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS

A small selection of Easter, Confirmation and First holy Communion cards are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively contact the parish office during opening hours. Cards are just £1 each! Please leave money in box available. Thank you.



OUR VISION: To build a resourceful community, tackling the effects of poverty.

Keeping our community fed, connected & supported.

SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

The latest delivery of your donations to the Dons have been successfully delivered, and gratefully received.

For too many families, 'food deprivation' is a fact of life. An unacceptable fact of life in 2023! But wishing will not make it go away. It is here for the immediate future at least, so are we and so many like-minded folks.

Thanks to your generous support here at St Agatha's, parents have been able to feed their children. That is a simple fact not an exaggeration.

Please try to continue supporting this appeal on behalf of the Dons. And yes, they are actively supporting families in the KT2 Postcode area.

Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, such as pasta, rice, cereals, tea and coffee UHT milk, tins of vegetable, fruit, soup and also pet food and toiletry items such as toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant. Please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, eggs or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 16th APRIL 2023
NINE DAY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

On the 1st Sunday after Easter the entire Church is called to gather throughout the world to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. From St Maria Faustina's Diary it is clear that this Octave Day on Easter is the day chosen by Christ as a day of extraordinary graces – a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith.

How to observe the Feast of Mercy

1. Go to confession, preferably before that Sunday
2. Place your complete trust in Jesus
3. Celebrate the Feast
4. Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast
5. Venerate the Image of Divine Mercy
6. Be merciful to others, through your actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

In the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, Jesus asked that the **Feast of Divine Mercy**, known today as **Divine Mercy Sunday**, be preceded by a **Novena to The Divine Mercy**. A Novena is nine days of prayer in preparation for a feast. To properly celebrate this great day, we need to prepare well. As a Parish we are encouraging everyone to make a Novena to The Divine Mercy and pray the Chaplet. 'Jesus instructed St Faustina to write down and make (the Novena & Chaplet) before the Feast of Mercy. It begins on Good Friday' (Diary 1209 – 1229).

Divine Mercy pamphlets are available in the church porch. (Cost 50p each). Monies should be put in the wall box marked "papers".



SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COURSE 2023 - IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Join at St George's Cathedral, at a "hub" venue in the diocese or on Zoom to explore how to live more fully in the power of the Spirit.

The Archdiocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis and the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal team are again organising Life in the Spirit Seminars for the Archdiocese during Eastertide.

The Seminars will run on five Tuesday evenings (2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th May and 6th June) at St George's Cathedral and at local hubs across the Archdiocese as well as on Zoom, with a Pentecost Saturday retreat day for all participants at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 27th May. Everyone would be most welcome. Inspiring talks and music, small group sharing and daily reflections (with food provided for those attending Tuesday evening sessions at the Cathedral).

Local Hub: NEW MALDEN St Joseph's Catholic Church, Montem Road, New Malden KT3 3QW.

For further details, see the leaflets in the church porch or visit:

www.bit.ly/SOUTHWARK2023 or email kristinabcooper@gmail.com.

TEACHING AND LEADING IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Are you a Catholic and a teacher, middle or senior leader in a community school or academy and interested in taking up a role in Catholic education? If so, the Archdiocese of Southwark Education Commission would like to invite you to a twilight session: Teaching and Leading in Catholic Schools.



The session will include opportunities to meet current leaders and the education team, find out about Catholic schools and tips in relation to the application process. This event will be held on Thursday 27th April 2023 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road SE1 6HR.

If you are interested in attending, please register here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/teaching-in-and-leading-catholic-schools/> or if you have any queries please contact Sharon Docherty, RE Team Leader and Professional Learning Manager sharondocherty@rcaos.org.uk

HEAD TEACHER VACANCY

ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Governing Body of St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School, Mortlake wish to appoint an inspirational individual to the post of Head Teacher from September 2023.



Further information and an application pack is available on Eteach: <https://www.eteach.com> or on the school website: <https://www.st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk>
Closing date: Wednesday 26th April at Midday.

"SUNDAY 16TH APRIL – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY"

Afternoon devotions at St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston, KT1 2NA. 3pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Prayers. Followed by Confessions & Rosary, Concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3.45pm,

CHRISTIAN CLIMATE ACTION

DIRECT ACTION, PUBLIC WITNESS FOR THE CLIMATE

THE BIG ONE – THIS APRIL - Will you be one of 100,000 people surrounding the Houses of Parliament to demand action on the climate emergency?

The biggest climate protest yet is taking place from 21st April – 24th April. Join Christian Climate Action as they take a stand against fossil fuel company greed and government inaction – which is fuelling both the cost-of-living crisis and the climate crisis.



For further information:

<https://christianclimateaction.org/2022/10/22/the-big-one/>

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

18TH-25TH AUGUST 2023

Message from Bishop Paul: 'After the restrictions of the past few years, I'm delighted that we are now once more able to include support for pilgrims who need assistance for medical or mobility reasons. In Lourdes, those who are often marginalised are placed at the centre, and we who travel with them are blessed by their presence. I warmly invite you to join us.' For details, please see: <https://www.tangneytours.com/pilgrimages/>

"During these Holy days, let's draw near the Crucified One. Let's place ourselves before him, stripped, to take an honest look at ourselves, removing whatever is superfluous. Let's look at him, wounded, and place our wounds in his. Let's let Jesus regenerate hope in us." ~ Pope Francis – Lent 2023