

CLERGY

Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest Fr. Pius Duke, MSP — Assistant Priest 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 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 9.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday. Could you please limit telephone calls outside these hours to emergencies only.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES SUNDAY 9TH JUNE - PENTECOST SUNDAY(C)

Saturday 8th

9.30am Father Thomas McElbone RIP

6.30pm People of the Parish Sunday 9th **Pentecost Sunday** 9.00am Marie-Anne Xibberras RIP 10.30am Sean McConvey RIP

6.30pm Sydney George Alexander RIP

Mary, Mother of the Church, Memorial Monday 10th

9.30am Holy Souls

Tuesday 11th St Barnabas, Apostle, Memorial Desmond & Kitty Shier RIP

9.30am

Wednesday 12th 9.30am Wellbeing of Keith Fraser

Thursday 13th Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, Feast

Millicent Mary Laing RIP 9.30am

Friday 14st

9.30am France & Cyril Jarvis RIP

Saturday 15th

9.30am Montague Laing RIP

6.30pm Eleanor Margaret Alexander 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 and at call. Baptisms: By previous arrangement on Sundays at 12.30pm. Six months' notice required - Diocesan rule. Marriages:

ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (6th July) 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

Nora Willgoss, Henry Egan, Joseph McDonagh and Mary Brewer, Michael Bourke, Christopher Gray, Patrick Anthony Jarret, Modesta Divito, Sean McConvey, Rowland Stimson, Mary Ellen Lewis, Marisa Davies, Mother Brigid Taylor, John Trelfer, Denis Carpey, James Lamb, Anne Pettifer, Beatrice Heaton-Harris, Norah Chilton, Stella Patterson, John Hall, Patrick Hogan, Louise Wild-Smith, James Fitzgerald, Bridget Massie, Eileen O'Connor, Robert Stimson, Sylvia Lewis, Ernest Hopkins, Mary O'Flynn, Mary Keefe, Alexander Cameron, Kevin Heighton, Lilly Brain.

+++ May they rest in Peace +++

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £433.52 Loose £615.51 **Retiring Collection** £74.22 Gift Aid f10.00 Loose

TOTAL £1122.25

The collection for last weekend was for World Communications Day. The collection for this Sunday, 9th June, is for the Catholic Trust for England and Wales (CaTEW). The CaTEW (formerly the National Catholic Fund) supports the legal, financial and

charitable activities of the Bishops' Conference, its departments, agencies and offices. This collection helps supply the Bishops of England and Wales with the revenue necessary for the central administration of the Church in this country.

THE SPIRIT OF LIFE A REFLECTION OF PSALM 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34.

The writers of the Old Testament attributed the secret of life to the breath or spirit of God. According to the simple cosmology of Genesis, all was emptiness and darkness until the spirit of God breathed over the waters of chaos. This poetic imagery offers more meaning to life than a haphazard big bang theory can do. In the famous vision which Ezkhiel had of the valley of dry bones, there was no life in these clattering skeletons until the breath entered them. The writer of today's psalm, a beautiful hymn of creation, expresses this simple belief that life is the gift of God's breath on loan for a while. You send forth your spirit, Then, when the term of mortal life is they are created. complete, the breath of life is returned to God.

You take back your spirit, they die,

returning to the dust from which they came.

John's gospel describes Jesus at the last moment of his mortal life giving up his spirit as he breathed his last. His mission in the flesh was accomplished. But then, on the evening of the first day of the risen life, appearing to the disciples, he announced the start of the second mission: 'As the Father sent me, so I am sending you'. The mission of the church would be in the same power of the Spirit who had descended on Jesus at the Jordan. So, he breathed on the disciples and said to them: 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

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

Deacon Robert Beresford

Deacon Bob is very grateful to the parish for all the prayers and support received after his recent stay in hospital due to a mild heart attack, he would like to say 'Thank you' at all. Let us keep him in our prayers.

Gift Aid scheme

As the 2018/19 tax year has now ended, please let us know if, in the last year, you have changed your address or if you no longer pay tax so that we may update your details. The new gift aid envelopes are now available; if you are part of the scheme, please do ensure you come and collect your envelopes from the old sacristy after any mass or call or pop in to the parish office during office hours. Gift Aid is an important source of income for the Parish and we can claim a considerable sum from the government on all donations by UK taxpayers. If you would like to join the scheme, please speak with our Parish Secretary on 020 8546 4633. A big thank you to all involved as the tax we can reclaim is a great help to the parish.

Music at Masses

As we now have hymns at all Masses, we are still making an appeal for more musicians to lead the music. If you can play piano or organ and would like to take a turn at playing at one of the Masses, please contact one of the priests. Thank you!

"Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance." ~ Saint Francis of Assisi

Pentecost Sunday Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23, Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Reflection

The season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, taken from the Gospel of John, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts to each other. It is enough to know that, after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

We previously heard today's Gospel on the second Sunday of Easter. At that time, we also heard the passage that follows, which describes Jesus' appearance to Thomas. In that context, we were led to reflect on belief and unbelief.

In the context of the feast of Pentecost, this reading reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." As he breathes the Holy Spirit upon them, Jesus sends his disciples to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins.

This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. This reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are washed clean from sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God in forgiving sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

Family Reflection

Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the domestic Church, we learn how to forgive and we learn to accept forgiveness. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation.

As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting all to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting upon the concern and how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's psalm, or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another the sign of peace.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

"Do not grieve or complain that you were born in a time when you can no longer see God in the flesh. He did not in fact take this privilege from you. As He says: 'Whatever you have done to the least of my brothers, you did to me'." ~ Saint Augustine of Hippo

Important Upcoming Dates:

Monday 10th June Flower Arranging Workshop Monday 17th June Flower Arranging Workshop Sunday 23rd June Baptism Preparation Class

Parish Website

Work is currently being undertaken to establish a new parish website. Please bear with us as this is a work in progress. All the events of the parish and any news will be included on this site and, hopefully, will be accessible in due course. If you are unable to find what you are looking for please contact the Parish Secretary.

Flower Arranging Workshop

Thank you to everyone who came along to our first workshop, we had a great session. Are you interested in learning how to arrange flowers or wish to develop your skills further? You could be a complete beginner or already experienced. We will be holding 3 more flower arranging classes in June on Mondays (10th, 17th, 24th) at 7pm for one hour. These will be free of charge. If you are interested please contact the parish secretary at kingston@rcaos.org.uk or sign up in the church porch.

Baptism Preparation Class

Our next baptism preparation class will be on **Sunday 23rd June 2019**, at 2pm, in the cloister. Please contact the parish secretary to book your place. If you are considering your child's baptism, please complete an application form and join us for this class. *Parents need to attend a Baptism preparation class before receiving a date for your child's baptism*. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend the class. The Baptism preparation class is for the adults only; it is our experience that parents get more out of the sessions if they are not easily distracted.

Parish Men's Group

The men of the parish usually meet together on the third Wednesday of each month but due to a clash with another event at the Wych Elm this has now been set for the fourth Wednesday of each month. Therefore, the group will meet on the following dates in 2019: 26th June, 24th July, 28th August, 25th September, 23rd October and 27th November. Please come along and join them from 8pm.

CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY?

If so, you are invited to St George's Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday 13th July for a special Mass celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony, with refreshments afterwards. Places are limited so make sure of your personal invitation from Archbishop Peter Smith by contacting your parish priest or parish office and giving them your full names, address, phone number and the special anniversary you are celebrating this year: anyone celebrating their 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ qualifies. Close family are welcome to come with you.

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

- Request for Student Exchange placements
- 'The Gift' at St Joseph's Parish, New Malden.
- A Day with Mary
- Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2019
- FREE Flower Arranging Workshop
- > Job Vacancy at Holy Cross School
- ➤ The Mustard Seed
- St John's Seminary Chapel Appeal
- World Refugee Day Service