



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

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.

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CLERGY

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

**SUNDAY 10TH MARCH 2019 – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (C)
FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES THIS WEEK**

Saturday 9th	
9.30am	Private Intention for Family of Maria
6.30pm	Marie-Anne Xiberras RIP
Sunday 10th	1st Sunday of Lent
9.00am	Brian De Sousa RIP
10.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser
6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 11th	
9.30am	Gwen Hitchings RIP
Tuesday 12th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 13th	
9.30am	Rose Pereira RIP
Thursday 14th	Year 4 Mass
9.30am	Andrew Perez Rowland
Friday 15th	
9.30am	Anna Morgan RIP
Saturday 16th	
9.30am	Mary Frances McNamara RIP
6.30pm	Gino Straccialano
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.
Marriages:	Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.

ON THE FIRST SATURDAY (6th April 2019) OF EVERY MONTH 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. *Due to the new data protection rules we are unable to have names on the sick list unless we have written permission from the person to publicise their names. 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

Thomas Gerard Leslie Luson, John Conway, Cecil Cox, Christine Andrews, Elizabeth Clarke, J. P. McGowan, Renee Fox, Mr. H. Cockerhill, Mabel Rooke-Ley, Marie Monaghan, Arthur Tunesi, John Dignum, Helen Halden, Edna Morgan, Daniel Cremin, Richard de Kerckhove, Josephine May, Edith Anne Connellan, Forbes Stimson, Ann Elizabeth Harding, Agnes Hall, Winifred O'Connor, Timothy Malone, Alphonse Schembri, Gerry Byrne, Herbert Lewis, Thomas Francis Mulcahy, Mary Pickard, Rita Da Silva, Aaron Bennett, Mary Chisholm, Virginio Anghileri, Anne Lally.

+++ May they rest in Peace +++

OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid	£506.19	Loose	£615.52
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£140.70	Loose	£51.69

TOTAL £1314.10

Next Sunday the retiring collection is for CAFOD Lenten Fast Day or please use the CAFOD envelopes which are available at the back of the church.

God has two dwellings; one in heaven and the other in a thankful heart. ~ St Augustine

ANGELS OF PROTECTION

A REFLECTION OF PSALM 91:1-2, 10-15

Here is a classical prayer of trust in God for protection all through the journey of life.

For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you all in your ways. (91:11)

The psalm is used in today's liturgy as a response to the readings from Deuteronomy, which is the closest we get to a Creed in the Old Testament. It is a declaration of belief that God had chosen, rescued and protected this people on all their ways.

The devil quoted the lines about the angels of protection in tempting Jesus. His answer made the distinction between trusting God and testing God, which is the reaction of one who doubts rather than trusts.

This psalm has been chosen as the ideal night prayer in the breviary. The darkness of night holds no fear for those *who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shade of the Almighty*. Such is the depth of trust expressed that the text of this psalm has often been used by people as a sacred talisman to protect them from harm. The novelist, Boris Pasternack, describes Doctor Zhivago finding portions of the psalm sewn into the garments of the soldiers he was treating.

Who are the angels sent to guard us? We may think of our personal Guardian Angels, or apply the idea to God's messengers who come in the form of caring people who help us over our bumpy roads or in our dark nights.

My refuge, my strength, my God in whom I trust.

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

St Patrick's Night Dinner

The St Patrick's Night Dinner will be held on Friday 15th March in the Cloister at 7.30pm. The price is £10.00 per head, drinks extra. The menu will comprise soda bread and toppings; bacon, parsley sauce, cabbage & potatoes, apple pie & custard, cheese and biscuits. There is still time to sign up on the notice at the back of the church.

'Miserere - From Allegri to Macmillan'

On Saturday 30th March at 7.30pm the Merbecke Choir will perform a concert of sacred music at St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston. Tickets cost £6.00 and are available either on the door or can be reserved via surbiton@rcaos.org.uk. All profits will be donated to the Parish's Lenten Project which this year is supporting the 'Christian Blind Mission'. More information can be found at: www.straphaelsurbiton.org.uk

CTS BOOKLETS FOR LENT

Our CTS rack in the church porch now has some suitable spiritual reading for Lent; do have a look at what is on offer today. Payments should be put in the wall box marked 'papers'.

My Day by Day

This Lenten booklet is available at the back of the church. There is one copy for each family. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter. A recommended donation of £1 is welcomed. (Please put money in the box marked 'Papers'.)

British Summer Time

Please remember that the clocks go forward one hour in the early hours of **Sunday 31st March (Mothering Sunday)**; Sunday mass will feel one hour earlier than usual!

HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

REFLECTION – TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2019

When we are at our most desperate, our prayer may be like an attempt to open God's heart to give us what we pray for. The prayer Jesus recommends reverses that direction. He invites us to pray that we may open our hearts to what God wants. We believe God loves us and wants the best for us. As St. Augustine said in one of his letters on prayer "God's gifts are very great, but we are very small and straitened in our capacity to receive." And so we ask God to open our hearts that we may be able to receive what he wants to give us.

REFLECTION – WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2019

The story of Jonah is like many a fairy tale; everything is exaggerated to dramatise the message. We are told the city took three days to cross. No city was that size in those days. In response to Jonah's preaching, even the cattle and other beasts fasted – unlike the unrepentant Israelites who ignored Jonah's call to repent. Yet God does not want dramatic penances or fasting, but a 'humble contrite heart', people who know their need for healing and come to God in confidence knowing that God is all tenderness and compassion.

REFLECTION – THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 2019

In the culture of the Middle East, hospitality is a priority. It would be unthinkable not to help a stranger seeking help. How much more would it be unthinkable to ignore the plea of a family member? When we think of the faithful love of God for us, it is not possible that God will ignore our prayer. What are the images that you find helpful and that encourage you to persist in prayer? Jesus also invites us to be reliable friends to those who turn to us for help.

God's Word 2019 Daily Reflections, St Pauls Publishing



CAFOD Family Fast Day
Friday 15th March 2019

Let's eat simply so others can simply eat!
Have a simple meal and give to save lives.

For more information please go to www.cafod.org.uk and learn of the work of 'our' relief agency. Next Sunday the retiring collection is for CAFOD Lenten Fast Day or please use the CAFOD envelopes available at the back of the church. CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

Mustard Seed

The next evening of renewal with an opportunity to grow in faith in the power of the Holy Spirit will be on Saturday 23rd March at St Margaret's RC Church, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL, at 7.45 pm. The evening will include praise, reflection, and teaching plus individual prayer ministry for those wishing for it. The church is just by St Margaret's railway station (with direct trains from Kingston). All are welcome.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Churches Together in Kingston invite us all to participate in the Good Friday Walk of Witness beginning at 11.00am at the United Reform Church in Eden Street. Refreshments (hot cross buns) will be served from 10.00am. Everyone is welcome.

The Passion of Jesus

Good Friday, 19th April and Easter Saturday, 20th April – Further details are on the church noticeboard.

Celebrate Twickenham! 2019



"Be strong and courageous! For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9 NLT)

The annual Charismatic Catholic Family Weekend on **15th and 16th June 2019** at St Mary's University. **Advance booking only!** For further information and a booking form, please see the poster on the notice board, pick up a flyer at the back of the church or visit:

<http://www.celebrateconference.org/twickenham>

Important Upcoming Dates:

Sunday 10 th Mar	Stations of the Cross
Monday 11 th Mar	Confirmation Session 7
Wednesday 23 rd Mar	Stations of the Cross
Friday 15 th Mar	CAFOD Lent Fast Day
Sunday 17 th Mar	FHC Session 6

Confirmation 2019

Please note the following dates for upcoming sessions:

Session 7	Monday 11 th	7.15 – 8.30pm
Session 8	Monday 18 th	7.15 – 8.30pm
Family Meeting – Final preparation for Candidates	Friday 29 th Mar	7.15 – 8.30pm
Mass of Confirmation	Sunday 31 st Mar	12pm

First Holy Communion 2019

Please note the following dates for upcoming sessions:

Children's Session 6	Sunday 17 th Mar	4 – 5pm
Children's Session 7	Sunday 31 st Mar	4 – 5pm
Children's Session 8	Sunday 28 th April	4 – 5pm
Group 1 Rehearsal	Friday 3 rd May	4 – 5pm
Group 1 Sacrament of Eucharist	Sunday 5 th May	12 noon
Group 2 Rehearsal	Friday 10 th May	4 – 5pm
Group 2 Sacrament of Eucharist	Sunday 12 th May	12noon

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: **27th March**, 24th April, 22nd May, 26th June, 24th July, 28th August, 25th September, 23rd October and 27th November. Please come along and join them.

Altar Servers' Rally 2019

The annual rally for Southwark Altar Servers is on Monday 6th May at The Friars, Aylesford Priory, Kent. Bishop Paul Mason is the principal celebrant. The annual rally gives servers in Southwark a great opportunity to collectively acknowledge and celebrate their special Ministry of Service in the church. Furthermore, the event encourages servers to socialise with other servers and share and renew their faith. If you have not attended before please take the time to 'come and see'. All servers and their families and friends are welcome. A poster with more details is on the church noticeboard. Altar Servers perform a very important role in liturgical services. After approx. 2 years regular serving, servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen for Altar Servers and receive the Guild bronze medal. If you or your children are interested in joining the ministry or if you have questions about the ministry, please speak to Frs. Anthony or Pius.

An Evening with Matt Maher

On Friday 31st May 2019 (7-9pm) St. George's Cathedral, in association with the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, will host international artist, Matt Maher, who will lead praise, worship and adoration. Since his 2008 major label debut, Matt Maher has become a staple in the artistic and song writing community. An eight time-GRAMMY nominee, he has garnered multiple radio successes writing and recording songs like "Lord, I Need You", "Hold Us Together" and "Christ Is Risen". In 2013, Matt had a career highlight performing at World Youth Day in Rio in front of Pope Francis and a crowd of 3 million people. He has penned songs recorded by Chris Tomlin, Crowder, Third Day, Matt Redman, Hillsong, Casting Crowns, Jesus Culture and Bethel among others. Matt has written or co-written five No. 1 radio singles. Places for this exciting event are limited and seats are selling fast, so you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are priced £10 each (to cover event costs). <http://buytickets.at/cathedraltour>

Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. ~ Pope Francis

LENT AND EASTER 2019 AT ST AGATHA'S

1st Sunday of Lent

Gospel Reading *Luke 4:1-13*

In the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Reflection

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels, after his baptism, Jesus is reported to have spent forty days in the desert, fasting and praying. In Luke and in Matthew, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger, he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him, and he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test. In each case, Jesus resists, citing words from Scripture to rebuke the devil's temptation.

Each temptation that Jesus faces offers insight into the spirituality we hope to develop as we keep the forty days of the Season of Lent. We can trust God to provide for our material needs. We worship God because God alone has dominion over us and our world. We can trust God to be faithful to his promises. Jesus' rejection of the devil's temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the Word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil by his confidence in God's protection and faithfulness.

This Gospel highlights for us one of the central themes of the Season of Lent. We are dependent upon God for all that we have and all that we are. Anything that leads us to reject this dependency or to distrust its sufficiency is a temptation from the devil.

Luke ends his report of Jesus' temptation in the desert by noting that the devil departs for a time. The implication is that the devil will return. Jesus knows that he will be tempted again in the Garden of Gethsemane. The depth of Jesus' trust in God is shown most fully when Jesus rejects the temptation to turn away from the task God has given to him. Jesus' final rebuke of the devil is his sacrifice on the Cross.

Jesus' responses to the temptations of the devil teach us how we can respond to temptation. As we start our journey through Lent, this Sunday's Gospel calls us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice, God's promise of protection can be trusted, and God alone is God.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesdays, Friday mornings after Mass and at 5.30pm on Sundays during Lent. This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord.

Lenten Reconciliation

A Lenten Reconciliation service will be held on Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm here in the Parish of St Agatha for everyone. It is an opportunity for those who would like to go to confession before the Easter Triduum, which begins on Maundy Thursday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the healing sacraments and a powerful help on our Journey of Faith.

The times and details of all Masses and services are listed in the Lent and Holy Week 2019 Programme that is available at the back of the church. Please note that, on Maundy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper is at 7.30pm, the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday is at 3.00pm and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday is at 7.30pm. There are no morning masses these days, though there are children's celebrations at 12pm on both Thursday and Friday.

Church Flowers during Lent

One of the ways we have decided to observe Lent is by not having flowers in the church during this season of austerity and simple reflection. We hope this absence of flowers during Lent will amplify the resurrection message of the Easter flowers when they arrive!

St Agatha's Church Easter Spring Clean

In previous years, when asked, we have been blessed with a great turnout of parishioners to help clear, tidy up and plant in the church grounds. This year we are having a day dedicated to 'Spring Cleaning and Tidying up our Church and Grounds' and we again call on our kind volunteers to help prepare our beautiful church inside and outside for Easter. If you can spare a couple of hours on **Saturday 6th April**, please come along and join us in the Cloister after the morning Mass. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to assist. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, it will be greatly appreciated! All teenagers will be especially welcome, together with those aged 11 – 13 (accompanied by an adult please) but for safety purposes, sadly, no smaller children. Volunteers who would like to help spruce up the gardens – please kindly bring gardening tools and gloves with you. Refreshments will be available and a soup lunch will be provided after. There is a sheet in the church porch for volunteers to sign up so that we can have refreshments arranged according to numbers expected. Many thanks.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Children's Celebrations

All children are welcome to join us at 12pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we observe both days with child-friendly services. During these hands-on services, children of all ages will walk together through the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross, learning as they go. On Good Friday we will need children from year 5 and above, for readings, and actors from year 3 and above to take part in the performance; please sign up at the back of the church or email Helen at: helenmennis@blueyonder.co.uk or Louisa at: louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk

Friday Penance

'The Bishops [of England and Wales] wish to remind us that every Friday is set aside as a special day of penitence, as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. They believe that it is important that all the faithful again be united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance because they recognise that the virtue of penitence is best acquired as part of a common resolve and common witness. The law of the Church requires Catholics on Fridays to abstain from meat, or some other form of food, or to observe some other form of penance laid down by the Bishops' Conference (Canon 1251). The Bishops decided to re-establish the practice that this penance should be fulfilled simply by abstaining from meat and by uniting this to prayer. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake'.

The form of penance we chose to adopt each Friday is a matter of personal choice and does not have to take the same form every Friday. Failure to undertake this penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin.

'What can I do for Lent?'

'Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving' is the Lenten tradition. We are required to fast by reducing food intake on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but giving up something (e.g. chocolate or alcohol) is also fasting. Extra prayer during Lent is very important.

Other suggestions also include:

- *say some additional prayers each day
- *visit the Blessed Sacrament
- *go to weekday Mass if you can
- *buy a booklet to guide your reflections.
- *make the special effort involved in family prayer.
- *choose one of the Gospels and read it during Lent.
- *study the Sunday readings before coming to Mass
- *read Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation 'GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE'
- *come to the Stations of the Cross
- *receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- *Make a special effort to help someone who is poor, sick, old or lonely.
- *Giving to those less fortunate than yourself.