



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 10TH DECEMBER 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

Saturday 9th	
6.30pm	Edward & Marie-Anne Xiberras RIP
Sunday 10th 2nd Sunday of Advent	
9am	Wellbeing of Michael Dequidt
10.30am	Jennie McKenzie RIP
6.30pm	Wladyslawa & Wladyslaw Twarog RIP
Monday 11th	
9.30am	George & Hanorah Johnson RIP
Tuesday 12th	
9.30am	Tommy Hennessy RIP
Wednesday 13th St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, Memorial	
9.30am	Christine RIP
Thursday 14th St John of the Cross, Priest, Memorial	
9.30am	Rosa Beresford RIP
Friday 15th	
9.30am	Toni Pearce RIP
Saturday 16th	
9.30am	Arthur Lawrence RIP
Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.	
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.	
Mass Times: Monday to Friday: 09:30 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	

PARISH OFFERINGS

SUNDAY COLLECTION:03/12/2023

Collection	Gift Aid	£136.50	Loose	£518.37
TOTAL		£654.87		

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.

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's 'Give A Little' web donation page.



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to make a Christmas Offering to our Clergy at this special time of the year. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST AGATHA'S

The obligation to attend Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent and the Solemnity of Christmas are two separate obligations, which cannot be fulfilled by attending one Mass.

The normal Sunday Masses at 6.30pm (Sat), 9am, 10.30am will be said as usual.

Christmas Eve this year falls on a Sunday; the Vigil Mass will be at 6.30pm and the Midnight Mass at 11pm, preceded by carols at 10.30pm. Please note that the Vigil Mass is a Mass of Christmas, it does not fulfil the Sunday obligation.

Christmas Day Masses will be at 9am and 10.30am. there will not be an Evening Mass. Boxing Day Mass will be 12pm.

ADVENT READING – 'MY DAY BY DAY'

Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent and copies of the Advent edition of 'My Day by Day' are available at the back of the Church, they cost £1 each (Please put money in the small donations box available.) This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during advent and is an excellent way to prepare for Christmas. A junior version is also available.

ADORATION & RECONCILIATION DURING ADVENT

Penitential Service – Wednesday 13th December

On Wednesday Evenings during Advent the church will be open from 7 – 8pm for Adoration and Reconciliation. A full Penitential Service will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. Reconciliation is also available after every Mass during the Advent period.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Our Advent and Christmas programme is available in the church porch and online at: www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CARDS, GIFTS AND CALENDARS

A selection of Christmas Cards, Calendars and Gifts are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively please contact the parish office during opening hours.

CHRISTINGLE 2023!!

We are very pleased that this year we will be returning to our full Advent and Christmas schedule, including our amazing Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. Christingle sign up is still available: Please sign up by this Sunday, at the 10.30am Mass!!



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM DEACON BOB BERESFORD

Bob Beresford, our Deacon, who with his wife Jane came to St Agatha's in 2003, will be leaving Kingston and writes as follows:

I am very grateful to the priests and parishioners for their warm goodwill and friendship from the moment my wife Jane and I arrived. I have been very happy here, and throughout these years have been glad to assist at the daily Masses and at weekends, and at other services. I am very grateful to all who helped and supported me through the pandemic and subsequently in being able to attend services. It was also wonderful to celebrate with so many my recent ninetieth birthday. I am still able to look after myself, but moving into a more suitable flat will now be helpful. So, I am planning, with the approval of the Archbishop, to move to a flat in Woolton, Liverpool, close to my son. He and the other children gratefully appreciate the friendship and support their Mother and I have received at St Agatha's. I intend to keep up my contact with the Parish as much as possible, and shall continue to remember the Parish and friends here.

May God continue to bless us.
RSB 20231110



SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP THIS CHRISTMAS.

This Christmas the Dons will be directly supporting 23 organisations and 100+ households, many immediate to us here at St Agatha's. They have advised us that, unfortunately, actual take up in the Kingston area is increasing.

Your response last week to this appeal was very heartening, and we hope to keep up the good work as time is running out to the planned delivery. As advised, this will be on Tuesday 19th December, and this has been agreed to complement their pre-Christmas programme. Thus, giving the Dons Team time to allocate the donated items to their intended recipients. So, please continue to be as generous as you can this next week. Thank you for your ongoing support.

****Our planned collection/delivery date is Tuesday 19th December, so please leave any donations with us by then to ensure a Christmas delivery.**

SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR REQUIRED

St Agatha's Catholic Primary School is looking to appoint a Foundation Governor to join their dedicated Governing body.

The core responsibilities include:

- Ensuring accountability
- Monitoring and evaluating the school's progress
- Budgetary allocation and control
- Shaping plans for school improvement and overseeing their implementation
- Setting the school's aims and values
- Appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher



Please contact office@stagathas.school for further details. We look forward to hearing from you.



"Learning together in God's love"

St Agatha's School vision is to nurture children's holistic development, guided by catholic values in partnership with parents and the community.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check and other Safe Recruitment employment checks. We are an equal opportunities employer.

St Agatha's Catholic Primary School
St Agatha's Drive, Kingston Upon Thames, KT2 5TY

MASS INTENTIONS

It is again a very busy time for Mass requests and we are already booking Masses well into the New Year, so, if you have a particular date or time on which you want a Mass said during Advent or Christmas Time, it is very important that you inquire with the Parish Office as soon as possible.

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.

Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B
Sunday, December 10, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85:9-14

The Lord's salvation is near.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead, Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

2nd Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

Sunday, 10 December 2023

RESPONSE: COME, LORD JESUS, COME

FAMILY REFLECTION

The season of Advent invites us to renew our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented for their sins and were baptized as a sign of God's forgiveness. In Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we use this Advent season to renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the way for Jesus.

As you gather together as a family, talk about ways in which the example of others has called you to be a follower of Jesus. Name the people who have been examples to you of Christian discipleship and describe their characteristics that you have tried to emulate. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:1-8.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. As a family, identify at least one action that you will take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus. Conclude in prayer together that God will receive this action and use it to lead others to Jesus. Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

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.

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

Ernest Joseph Mead, Frank Sewell-Knight, Nora Duffield, Hilda Duckett, John Smith, Vivien Braby, John Boyden, Arthur McLeod, James Wilson, Arthur O'Connor, Elisabeth Hall, Natalie Marie Williams, Margaret Dignum, Norah Owens, Hannah Walsh, Katherine Trigg, Teresa Short, Bernadette Morrissey, Elisabeth Mahoney, Mary Anne Clarke, Edith Kate Letchworth, Dominic Fuouco, John Henry Isaac, Adelaide Clement, Julia Walsh, Elizabeth Milnes, Elizabeth Trelfer, Velma Joyce Morgan, Bishop Brown, George William Smith, Thomas Easter, Charles Arday, James Flynn, Frances Jarvis.

+++May They Rest In Peace+++



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023/24

The next session is being held on: Sunday 14th January 2024. 11.45am-1pm (Session 2)



CONFIRMATION 2023/24

An email update and the schedule has been sent to candidates and parents – if you have not received this, please contact the Parish Office ASAP.



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the New Year, please sign up for our class that will be held in January 2024 (Date to be Confirmed).



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 Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

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.



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.



CAFOD World Gifts - Ethical Charity Gifts

Christmas is fast approaching, and CAFOD have just the best unusual presents for your friends and family that can make a real difference to people living in poverty!



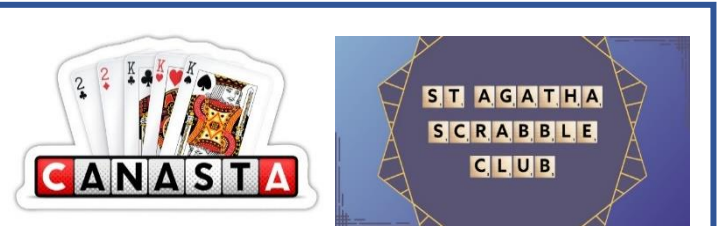
World Gifts are CAFOD's range of virtual gifts that make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. For each gift you buy this Christmas, you'll receive a beautiful gift card to pass on to your loved one.

Check out their full range here:

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

or pick up catalogue in the church porch

Make sure to order by 14th December for a free delivery before Christmas or 19th December 12 noon and choose Express delivery to ensure your loved ones can enjoy their gifts at Christmas! **CAFOD a thank you for your continued support.**



St Agatha's Canasta Club

The St Agatha's Canasta Card Club meets each Monday in the Church Cloister between 1pm to 4pm to play Canasta, have a coffee/tea and a chat.

NEW!! Scrabble Club

The Scrabble Club plan to meet on Thursdays at 2.30pm, anyone who is interested in playing scrabble, please come along. Everyone is welcome.

These are lovely opportunities for social time and for parishioners to get together, meet new people and enjoy some fun time together.

You don't have to sign up, you don't have to know how to play. Just come along and you will learn as you play. Everyone is welcome, men, women, and young adults. Just come along and join as often or as little as you would like. We look forward to welcoming you.

Everyone is welcome to come along and share the space, warmth, and have a chat and a cuppa.

"Contemplative prayer places us before God who looks upon us with love. The light of that gaze illuminates our spirit, giving it eyes of mercy to contemplate the world." ~

Pope Francis