

*St. Agatha's Catholic Church*

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**St. Agatha's  
PARISH**

*Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever*

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

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

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday 10th January 2016

The Baptism of the Lord (C)

Saturday	9.30am	May McCambridge
	6.30pm	John Davis
Sunday	9.00am	Billy Horan
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Special Intention
Monday	9.30am	Fred & family
Tuesday	9.30am	Edward & John Lovekyn
Wednesday	9.30am	Tina Piccirillo
Thursday	9.30am	Millicent Mary Laing
Friday	9.30am	Mary Frances McDonald
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Thomas Joseph Byrne
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months notice required – Diocesan rule	

There are many vocations in the Church. But the most important vocation of all is common to all the baptised. It is the vocation we received at baptism – the vocation to be disciples of Jesus. This is the core vocation. Every other vocation in the Church must be seen in relation to this one.

We celebrate birthdays lavishly. So we should celebrate our baptismal day, because this was the day we were born as children of God. Every time we enter a church and sign ourselves with holy water we are reminding ourselves of our baptism, and committing ourselves to live up to it. To live one's baptism is to live as a disciple of Jesus.

## PARISH NOTICES

### Pre-baptism meeting

There will be a pre-baptism meeting for parents preparing children for baptism on **Monday 11th January at 7.30pm** in the Presbytery. Only one parent need attend. Please do not bring children.

### First Holy Communion 2016

First Holy Communion classes will resume on **Monday 11th January at 3.30pm** in the church children in St Agatha's School; on **Saturday 16th January at 10.00am** for the small group of children mostly at other schools.

### Confirmation 2016

Dates for **Confirmation** are as follows:

**Monday 11th January:** First Session 7.15–8.30pm

Sunday 17th January: Inscriptio Mass (6.30pm) with the Bishop

Saturday 30th January: Retreat (10am–4.00pm)

Saturday 5th March at 12 noon: Faith in Action

Sunday 13th March at 12 noon: Confirmation Mass with the Bishop

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord (cf. 1 Peter 2:9) is the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18–25). Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21).

The Week of Prayer in our area will begin with a service of prayer and praise on **Monday 18th January** at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Montem Road, New Malden at **8.00pm**. All Christians in the borough are warmly invited to attend.

### Parish Prayer Group

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

### Parish Men's Group

The **Parish Men's Group** will meet on **Wednesday 20th January** from **8.00pm** at the Wych Elm for a friendly and relaxed evening lubricated by a pint or two.

### Bishop's Visitation

Bishop Paul Hendricks will be visiting the parish during the weekend of **16th–17th January**. His visit will include but not be limited to the Inscriptio mass for confirmation candidates at 6.30pm on Sunday.

## REFLECTION

## Sharing in the Lord's Ministry

Lord Jesus, touch our eyes  
so that we may see the signs of your presence in our lives and in our world.  
Touch our ears so that we may hear your word.  
Touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith.  
Touch our hands so that we may give and receive.  
Touch our feet so that we may walk in your paths.  
Touch our minds so that we may understand your ways.  
Touch our wills so that they may be in tune with your will.  
Touch our hearts so that we may bring your love  
to our brothers and sisters, to the praise and glory of God. Amen

**Rev F McCarthy S.D.B.**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11**

We spend so much of our lives waiting for something. The wait often seems long, the necessary preparations all but impossible, the whole experience tainted by a lingering fear that something might go wrong. We hope our joy will come. We hope that we have done enough to make it happen. In the same way, we wait for God, clinging to our faith, our experience and the promise that we are not alone.

### **Second Reading: Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7**

After the coming of Christ, his followers continued to wait. Their wait was no longer for a saviour, but for eternal life with their saviour. While the preparation is just as important, the fear is gone. Saint Paul tells us that the love of Christ has been given to us, not because we earned it or deserve it, but because of his mercy. The chasm of our weakness is more than filled by his love.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22**

John the Baptist was an enigmatic character, a man of great faith and vision who preached repentance and new life. His baptism in water, he said, was a precursor to the baptism in the Spirit that Christ would give. He laid the groundwork, set the stage. Following the baptism of Jesus, the descent of the Spirit upon him and the words from heaven, the way forward becomes clear. There is no going back. Though we don't hear of John's reaction to Christ's baptism, it must have been overwhelming to behold. His life's work and mission were coming to fulfilment in the Messiah whom he first recognised as a baby in the womb. Now the baptism he gives shares that revelation with the world.

### PARISH DIARY

Monday 3.30pm: First Holy Communion Children – Monday Group  
Monday 7.15pm: First Confirmation Session  
Monday 7.30pm: Pre-baptism meeting  
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group  
Saturday 10.00am: First Holy Communion Children – Saturday Group

### OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid	£669.35	Loose	£449.38
Retiring collection (CAFOD)	Gift Aid	£14.50	Loose	£75.78

The retiring collection this weekend 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, Kay Williams, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Marie Elsey, Christopher Browne & Mary Wallace.

### ANNIVERSARIES

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 McEnery, Mary Blythe, Ellen Crowley, Bridget Dodd, Sandra Ruff, Agnes Mary Hill, Caroline Duckett, Thomas Begley, Joanna Herd, Eileen Sagar, Cyril Jarvis, Rosario Stroud, Arthur Squires, James Coughlan, George Alexander Bergin Winifred Frain, Ethel Finn, Joseph Coll, Michael Hart

+++ May they rest in peace +++

### The Mustard Seed

The next evening of renewal where we are given the opportunity to grow in faith in the power of the Holy Spirit will be on **Saturday 23rd January** at St Margaret's Catholic Church, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL, about one hundred yards from St Margarets rail station, at 7.45 pm for 8.00pm. Many people from Kingston attend this monthly event. All are welcome.

### Secular Franciscan Order

Members live in the everyday world following a variety of occupations and lifestyles. The spirituality of the Order is both Franciscan and secular, inspired by the style of St Francis of Assisi. The monthly Fraternity Meeting is held in the Parish Pastoral Centre at Our Lady Immaculate Church, Tolworth. The next meeting is on **Saturday January 16th at 3.00pm**. For further information please telephone Kathy Goggin 020 8399 7193 or Ann Groves 020 8395 1010.