

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 11TH FEBRUARY 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Saturday 10th	St Scholastica, Virgin, Memorial
6.30pm	John Monteiro RIP
Sunday 11th	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am	Neera Ponniah RIP
10.30am	Eileen McGeetrick RIP
6.30pm	Maud Cornelius RIP
Monday 12th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 13th	
9.30am	Jaquie Houlihan RIP
Wednesday 14th	Ash Wednesday
9.30am	Keith & Alan Fraser RIP
7pm	Edward & John Lovekyn RIP
Thursday 15th	
9.30am	Mary Frances McDonald RIP
Friday 16th	
9.30am	Thomas Joseph Byrne RIP
Saturday 17th	
9.30am	Beatrice & Samuel Joseph 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 order

PARISH OFFERINGS

SUNDAY COLLECTION: 04/02/2024

Collection	Gift Aid	£137.00	Loose	£530.34
Retiring	Gift Aid	£---	Loose	£192.36
TOTAL		£859.70		

Last Sunday we had a collection for Lepira, our parish raised a total of £192.36. 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.



ST AGATHA'S PARISH NOVENA & FEAST DAY

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, observed and contributed during our Parish Novena.

The talks given during the Novena are posted on our Novena webpage at: <https://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk/> for those that were unable to attend or if you should wish to revisit what was spoken about.

*"She teaches by her example, to hasten to the true Good – God alone."
~ St Methodius of Sicily (c 788-c 847) from a homily on St Agatha.*

PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave for part of the half-term break, therefore, the Parish Office will only be open on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February 2024, from 10am – 5pm. Please only call the presbytery in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry during this week. For non-urgent enquiries please email kingston@rcaos.org.uk. For any other matters please wait until the parish office fully re-opens on Monday 19th February 2024. Many thanks for your co-operation.



CLERGY SUPPORT FUND COLLECTION

Next weekend there will be the annual collection for the Clergy Support Fund. The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have one for parishes.

You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF or scan QR code.

You can also donate via telephone office hours Mon-Fri 020 7960 2504 or pick up a Clergy Support Fund envelope, available at the back of Church, and please return them next week. Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.



ASH WEDNESDAY

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February 2024. There will be two Masses at 9.30am and 7pm.

**MARY'S MEALS
FOREIGN CURRENCY CAMPAIGN**

We are very pleased to let you know that the parish raised a total of £557.68 during last year's Foreign Currency Campaign. Thank you to everyone that contributed. The envelopes remain in the church porch, and we will hold another campaign in the summer, so please keep collecting those coins!



Mary's Meals have sent the following message: "Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity in response to our Foreign Currency initiative. It raised a terrific £557.68 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 29 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all."

**CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY
Friday 23rd February 2024.**

The latest update from CAFOD on how her partners are supporting the people of Gaza can be viewed in the church entrance....



You are invited to join us on Friday 23rd February 2024, between 12pm and 1pm, for a simple soup lunch and raise money to help our catholic family, wherever they live. A bowl of soup and bread roll will cost just £1.50. All proceeds will be go towards the work of CAFOD. Thank you.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

All Altar Servers are asked to come along to a brief training session on Saturday 2nd March 2024 at 5pm. The session will last approximately an hour and parents of under 18s are asked to please remain in the church during the training.

If you would like to join our brilliant team of Altar Servers at St Agatha's, please do come along and join them; we especially welcome those who completed their First Holy Communion last year.



**HOST OUR LADY OF LOURDES STATUE
IN YOUR HOME FOR MAY DEVOTIONS**

Our Lady's Statue will now begin her home visitations again.

If you would like to receive the Pilgrim Virgin Statue in your home, please fill out the form available in the church porch and return it to the Parish Office.

Please note, this is only a request which will be confirmed via a phone call to you. A date cannot be guaranteed and is subject to demand.



**You are my refuge, O Lord,
you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Psalm 31:1-2,5,11



ASH WEDNESDAY

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February 2024. There will be two Masses at 9.30am and 7pm.



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*Throughout Lent the church will be open every Wednesday Evening for either Stations of the Cross or Exposition and Adoration, please see below for the full details.*

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Throughout Lent, Stations of the Cross will be led every Friday morning, after the Morning Mass (16th & 23rd February, 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd March). In addition, on alternating Wednesday Evenings, at 7pm (21st February, 6th & 20th March). This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord. *Everyone is welcome.*

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**EXPOSITION AND ADORATION**

**DURING LENT AND LENTEN RECONCILIATION:**

The church will be open on alternating Wednesday evenings during Lent from 7pm – 8pm for Exposition and Adoration. (28<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March). This is a beautiful opportunity for Quiet Prayer and Adoration. Please come for as long you can, be it 5 or 10 minutes or the whole hour, everyone is welcome. Reconciliation will also be available on these dates during this hour.

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LENT READING - 'MY DAY BY DAY'

Copies of the Lent edition of 'My Day by Day', for adults and juniors, are 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 every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter.



Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Sunday, February 11, 2024

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31:1-2,5,11

A prayer of contrition and confession for sin.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:40-45

Jesus cures a person with leprosy, who reports his cure to everyone.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behaviour of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honour. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honours the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity.

Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

FAMILY REFLECTION

Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals and as a family. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion.

Gather with your family and talk about some of the choices you have made as a family. (where to go on vacation, what activities to do together, how to spend our evenings, and so on) How does your family go about making these decisions? What do your choices communicate to others about your family's values? In today's Gospel, Jesus was faced with a choice. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:40-45. In choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus chose to show God's compassion and mercy. All our choices reflect our faith, and others are watching. Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help your family show compassion to others in your family decisions. Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 32, or pray the Prayer for Vocations.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Sunday 11th February 2024

RESPONSE: YOU CAN MAKE US CLEAN

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

Ethel Maud Ward, Lucinda Potesta, Joseph McGuckin, Louise Maud Dawson, Antonio Ferritto, Bronislaw Jaroszynski, Mary Ellen Miles, Julia Woodhams, William Lovely, Margaret North, Elsie Brady, Harold Ladlier, Harold Mays, Bridget Woolgar, Florence Brockwell, Ellen McKay, Magdlen Saxby, Alice Burgess, Kevin Flynn, Ryan Wrathall, John Wall, Alfred Robert Frederick Brockwell, Michael Higgins, Patrick Howard, John Frank Sewter, Susanna McMahon, Kathleen Brocking, Victoria Tanousis, Ernest James Priest, Fanny Margaret Cork, Morwen Short, Margaret Radley, Georgina Helen Petit, Selene Robinson, Peter Mulvaney, Alicia Coll, Anthony Scott, Edward Cook, Agnes Hope, Alison Weyers, Mary Connell.

+++May They Rest In Peace +++

CONFIRMATION 2024

PLEASE NOTE: THIS YEARS PROGRAMME IS FULL. WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY LATE APPLICATIONS.

There will be an Introduction and Family Meeting for Candidates and their families on Monday 19th February 2024. Candidates to arrive for a 7.15pm start and parents to arrive at 8.15pm.

The first candidate session will be on Monday 26th February 2024 at 7.15pm.

The Confirmation Inscription Mass will be on **Sunday 3rd March at 6.30pm**: Candidates MUST arrive by 6pm



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

The next session is being held on: Sunday 25th February 2024. 11.45am to 1pm (Session 4).

Please note there will NOT be a Parents session held as previously scheduled.



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held this Sunday, 25th February 2024.

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 on Sunday 21st April 2024.

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



PARISH MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be on **Wednesday 21st February 2024**. Please note that they will be meeting at The Albert on Kingston Hill, instead of the usual location, The Wych Elm. Please come along and join them from 8pm. Everyone is welcome.



THE ROSARY

We pray the Rosary in the church every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning after Mass. Everyone is welcome to join in.



DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

We 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



St Agatha's Canasta Club

The Canasta Club meets on Mondays between 1pm to 4pm.

St Agatha's Scrabble Club

The Scrabble Club meets on Thursdays from 2.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along and share the space, warmth, and have a chat and a cuppa. You will find them in the Church Hall!

BOOK LAUNCH AND LAUNCH OF ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY PRESS - 27TH FEBRUARY 2024

You are warmly invited to the launch of St. Mary's University Press and the launch of its first book, "Catholic Social Thought, the Market and Public Policy – Twenty-first Century Challenges". The book is edited by Philip Booth and Andre Alves, with contributions from: Hugo Chelo, Inês Gregório, Andrew M. Yuengert, Martin Schlag, Jay W. Richards, Robert G. Kennedy, Kaetana Numa, Stephen Nakrosis, Samuel Gregg, Russell Sparkes and Leonardo Franchi. It includes forewords by Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly (member of the Vatican Council for the Economy) and the Most Rev. John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark.

Book launch and launch of St. Mary's University Press - 27th February 2024: The launch will be held at St. Mary's University, Waldegrave Drawing Room, starting at 6 pm. You can sign up at: <https://estore.stmarys.ac.uk/product-catalogue/conferences-events/book-launches>

KINGSTON STREET PASTORS ARE RECRUITING FOR A NEW DEPUTY COORDINATOR

An exciting opportunity to play a major role in the leadership and development of Street Pastors in Kingston. Part time role: Up to 20hrs per week. Salary range: Up to £15k - £16k. Closing date for applications: Sunday 3rd March 11.30pm.



Full job specification and how to apply can be found at: [Deputy Coordinator - CharityJob.co.uk](https://www.charityjob.co.uk)

HEADTEACHER VACANCY – ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MORTLAKE

An exciting opportunity has arisen at St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School in Mortlake for a highly skilled and inspirational Headteacher to play a critical part in supporting young people to achieve their very best. An application form, further details and a job description can be downloaded from our website, our e-teach home page, TES or directly from the school office. For more information please contact the school office on 020 8876 6679.



<https://www.eteach.com/job/headteacher-1400612>

ST JOSEPH'S MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE 2024

Parishioners of St Agatha's have been invited to join the St Josephs Medjugorje Pilgrimage with Fr Uche. Thursday 23rd May to Thursday 30th May 2024 approx £829, including flights from Luton, luggage, airport transfer, accommodation, breakfast and one main meal a day plus full pilgrimage programme. SPACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE. Please contact Anne D'Silva at St Joseph's – details available on the parish notice board.

"Prayer gives us the strength to strive ahead, overcome our fears, and glimpse the salvation that God prepares for us, even amid the darkness. Prayer also draws God's salvation near." ~ Pope Francis