



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](mailto: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.

St. Agatha's Catholic Church  
1 Wyndham Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey, KT2 5JR  
Tel: 020 8546 4633  
[www.stagathaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)  
[kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)

**CLERGY**

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

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)  
FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Lawrence Family  
6.30pm Trevor De Sampayoe RIP

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**

9.00am People of the Parish  
10.30am Finbar Forde RIP  
6.30pm Baby Noah Hill RIP

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Paul Davidson Birthday

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am **St Matthias, Apostle, Feast**  
Eileen Caverly Wellbeing

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Holy Souls

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Fr. Gerry O'Brien Birthday

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Edward & John Lovekyn RIP

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Liam Calapini and Family  
6.30pm James Harrup 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.

Marriages: Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.

*ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (1<sup>st</sup> June) 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**

Mary Smith, Kathleen Wiseman, Francis Bruce, Mary Murphy, Patrick Dunne, John McMahon, John Paterson, Mabel Heck, Joyce Huntingford, Nora Conlon, David Walsh, Mary Oldknow, Rita Allen, Florence Busby, Maria Persechino, Salvatore Menale, Thomas Sheehy, James McCabe, Patricia Mulley, Flora Smith, Kenneth Albert Peacock, Michael Humphries, Eileen Renner, John Chandler. +++ **May they rest in Peace** +++

**OFFERINGS**

First collection	Gift Aid	£457.50	Loose	£509.42
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£20.50	Loose	£44.22

**TOTAL £1031.64**

The collection this weekend is for Ecclesiastical Education: this collection helps to meet the costs of training students for the permanent diaconate and students for the priesthood. It also supports certain forms of ongoing formation of the clergy.

**Music at Masses**

*As we now have hymns at all Masses, we are 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!*

**CALLED TO SERVE**

**A REFLECTION OF PSALM 99:1-3, 5**

On this Sunday each year, the gospel is about Jesus as shepherd. This suits the designation of the day as Vocations Sunday. 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.' It is a day for praying that the church will not lack people who answer the call of the Lord to dedicate their lives in God's service.

With a stretch of the imagination, we can detect in the responsorial psalm some of the forms of ministry or service to which people are called by the Lord. The psalm commences with the invitation to *all the earth to cry out with joy to the Lord*. Today's reading from Acts recounts the beginning of the mission to bring the good news to all nations, initiated by Paul and Barnabas. The good news of salvation in Christ Jesus is a source of light and joy to people searching for meaning, for forgiveness and for life beyond the grave. 'I give them eternal life', said the Lord.

Down the ages the world has been enriched by those who answered the call to *serve the lord with gladness*. The church has an unrivalled record in caring for the poor, long before social services were available, and of educating and nursing long before the state took up these programmes.

The vocation to teach is a noble calling... to remind people that *the Lord is God, he made us, we belong to him*.

*He is faithful from age to age...* may those he has called be faithful also.

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

**May Devotions**

It is a centuries-old custom of Catholics to dedicate the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month of May is always part of the Easter season, the fifty days we celebrate in the liturgy the Resurrection of Our Lord, a time also of awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The celebration of May as a Marian month fits well with the liturgical celebrations of Easter and Pentecost as we recall Mary's great joy in her Son's victory over death as well as her presence with the apostles in the upper room prayerfully awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. During May it has long been the tradition of the Catholic Church to highlight our devotion to Mary and seek her intercession in our lives. Each Sunday in May, from 5.30pm, we will have Rosary followed by Adoration and when possible, Benediction. Prayer life is essential in these changing times.

**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 will be available from next Saturday, 19th May. 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.

**"To love someone is to show to them their beauty, their worth and their importance."  
~ Jean Vanier, 1928-2019**

**HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### Gospel Reading John 10:27-30

Jesus describes his care for his sheep.

### Reflection

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. Already, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31 and 10:39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's Gospel reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of my sheep." Then Jesus asserts his unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he escapes arrest.

We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as his sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and his followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep.

Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, expressed as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

### Family Reflection

Not only can we recognize family members' voices, we can also read the tone of their voices and know something about how they are feeling. In our relationship with Jesus, we know Jesus' voice and are called to follow. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. Knowing Jesus means knowing the Father.

Read with your family today's Gospel, John 10:27-30. Ask your family members to talk about some ways that Jesus brings them closer to God and closer to one another. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

### 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.

In Jesus, God completely committed himself in order to restore hope to the poor, to those who were deprived of dignity, to strangers, to the sick, to captives, and to sinners, whom he welcomed with kindness. In all this, Jesus was the living expression of the Father's mercy."

~ Pope Francis

### Important Upcoming Dates:

Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Flower Arrangers 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	FHC Group 2 Sacrament
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunday Devotion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunday Devotion

### First Holy Communion 2019

Please note the following important upcoming dates:

Group 2 Rehearsal	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	4pm
Group 2 Sacrament of Eucharist	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	12noon

### Special Visit to the Cardinal Hume Centre

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the death of Cardinal Basil Hume who was deeply affected by the plight of the poor, particularly the homeless. This led him to open the Cardinal Hume centre, Westminster, for young people at risk and others in need. Our friends from St Thomas Aquinas Church in Ham have organised a visit and very much welcome members of our parish to join them. The visit will include a tour of the centre with frontline staff explaining the work of their specialist service teams aimed at turning lives around (1,200 last year). A simple lunch will be provided. Please contact Brendon Gately on 020 8546 8083 for further details, or if you would like to book a place.

### 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: **22<sup>nd</sup> May**, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November. Please come along and join them from 8pm.

### Baptism Preparation Class

Our next baptism preparation class will be on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY?

If so, you are invited to St George's Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Archdiocese of Southwark 2019 Spring Assembly
- A Day with Mary
- Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2019
- Job vacancies at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School



### MONTHLY TALKS AT ST. RAPHAEL'S ON TOPICS RELATED TO OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

St Raphael's Church in Kingston/Surbiton holds a monthly event: "Theology on Tap". Talks on topics related to the Catholic faith will be delivered by a range of speakers from within and outside the Parish. Quench your spiritual thirst with friends in the church hall (Alexander House) over a glass of wine or other refreshment.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May, we look forward to welcoming Fr Julian Shurgold back to Theology on Tap! This time, he will speak about the Crusades and the Inquisition: were they all bad?

All are welcome to attend and enjoy a glass of wine with nibbles from 6pm to 8pm. Donations will be invited each month to cover costs.