

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Friday: St Patrick, Patron of Ireland

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 5.45pm: Stations of the Cross
Monday 3.30pm: First Communion Preparation Class
Monday 7.15pm: Confirmation Preparation Class
Monday 7.30pm: Baptism Preparation Meeting
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Wednesday 8.00pm: Parish Men's Group
Friday 7.30pm: St Patrick's Night Dinner

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, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Marie Elsey, Christopher Browne, Mary Wallace, Rosa Vitolo, Elsie Malone & Colette Patten.

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine (Cathy) Rawlins who died on 2nd March. Funeral arrangements will be announce in due course. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. AMEN

ANNIVERSARIES

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, Frederic Leo Strawson, John McSorley, Robert Thomas Amon Kotei, Patricia Scott, Maria Winifred Taylor, Alfred Shoppee, Charles Kaufman, Mary Letitia Lally, William Kitchen, Joseph William Kilkenny.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

Stations of the Cross

This devotion provide an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord. **They will take place every Sunday during Lent at 5.45pm.**

Baptism Preparation Meeting

There will be a meeting for the parents of children seeking baptism in the Presbytery on **Monday 13th March at 7.30pm.** Only one parent need attend. Please do not bring children.



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever
Resident Priest:

Rev. Gregory Ackron

Deacon: Robert Beresford

St. Agatha's Catholic Church

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www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 12th March 2017 – Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Saturday	9.30am	Private Intention
	6.30pm	Eva Hendricks RIP
Sunday	9.00am	Special Intention
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Balbina Saiz RIP
Monday	9.30am	Dr Charles Forbes RIP
Tuesday	9.30am	Shawnton de Four RIP & his young family
Wednesday	9.30am	Private Intention
Thursday	9.30am	Special Intention
Friday	9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday	9.30am	Joseph Kilkenny RIP
	6.30pm	John Davis RIP
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule	

Lent is a time during which we should look forward to the celebrations of Holy Week, that is, to the joy of Easter; the triumph of Christ our Lord over death and sin. That is our great joy – that is the foundation of all our hope. But there is another looking forward which is part of Christian living and one to which we turn our attention in particular during Lent, and it is the looking forward to heaven, to the time when we shall be totally, wholly, with God. Therefore, how important it is in planning our Lent that there should be resolutions of a positive nature. Turning away from what separates us from God. The most dangerous of these is pride, followed by unkindness and grumbling. Let our Lent be not only cheerful but deeply joyous because we have determined to turn to God, to receive an outpouring of his love. **Cardinal Basil Hume**

PARISH NOTICES

FR GERRY (For those who missed this announcement last week)

My dear brothers and sisters, I am writing this brief item for the parish newsletter with a very heavy heart. It seems only yesterday that Father Gerry was taken ill and had to be taken to Kingston Hospital. As you know, Father's health and mobility have been in decline over the past year, and for Father his greatest fear was that the time for him to leave his beloved parish was drawing ever closer. As anyone who knew Father Gerry will appreciate without me telling them, Father has never put his needs above those of the people he served (his family, that is you and me), but the time has now come when his needs must become what we want for him. Father too has realised that he cannot do the many things that a parish family of this size requires and it is therefore with a heavy heart that he has decided that now is perhaps the best time for him to place the care of the parish of St Agatha in new and younger hands. It is therefore his decision that now is the right time for him to retire from active parish life. Naturally, he will continue to be close to this parish in spirit and to be involved in our lives with his love and his prayers.

I am certain that you will with me wish **OUR** Father Gerry every blessing asking him at the same time to continue to care and bless us while we and he enter into the next part of our journey of life.

Fr Geoffrey

Fr Gerry will be living for the time being at Coloma Court, West Wickham. We will provide a telephone number on which he can be contacted in due course.

Fr Gregory Ackron

Father Gregory will be resident here in the Presbytery for the time being in order to assist Father Geoffrey in the day to day administration of St Agatha's.

Preparation for Confirmation

The next class for those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be on **Monday 13th March at 7.15pm**. This will include preparation for the Confirmation Mass, which will take place at **noon** on **Sunday 19th March**.

Preparation for First Holy Communion

The children preparing for their First Holy Communion will meet for their next class on **Monday 15th March** at 3.30pm.

St Patrick's Night Dinner

The parish St Patrick's Night Dinner will be held on **Friday 17th March** in the Cloister at **7.30pm**. The price is £10.00 per head. The menu will comprise soda bread and toppings; bacon, parsley sauce, cabbage & potatoes; apple pie & custard; cheese and biscuits. Please sign up on the notice at the back of the church.

Catholic Truth Society publications

Parishioners will notice that a CTS stand with many new CTS publications has been reintroduced in the porch. It is hoped that new pamphlets will be displayed at various seasons of the year for parishioners' perusal. Parents with young children are particularly advised to make full use of this service. If anyone wishes for any particular pamphlets this can be arranged. The CTS is the main agency in this country for the proclamation of Catholic teaching. The new parish organiser is Richard Collyer-Hamlin. Payments should be put in the wall box marked 'papers'.

Parish Prayer Group

The Parish Prayer Group meets every **Tuesday at 8.00pm** in the church. During Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross followed by the Rosary. Please come along and join us during this Holy Season. Please enter by the main door of the Church.

Parish Men's Group

The Parish Men's Group will meet on **Wednesday 15th March** from **8.00pm** at the Wych Elm. All men of the parish are welcome to join us for an evening of friendship and good company, lubricated by the odd pint.

Cor et Lumen Christi—The Word on Fire

The Word on Fire is an opportunity to encounter the living God through sacred Scripture and to be inspired, informed and encouraged. It will take place at Highfield House, St John's Way, Chertsey, KT16 8BZ, on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th March. To book, please telephone 01932 565747. Further information is displayed on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

St Agatha's School is once again collecting the Active Kids vouchers. Please drop off your vouchers at the school or in the box at the back of the church.

A Day with Mary

There will be a Day with Mary on **Saturday 25th March** at Our Lady of Grace, Charlton Road, London SE7 from **9.30am** to **5.30pm**. The day will include the Angelus, sung liturgy, mass in honour of Our Lady, rosary and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. For more details see the poster on the notice board.

The Pilgrim

The new edition of the diocesan newspaper, the Pilgrim, is available in the newspaper rack in the porch. Please take one; there is no charge. It is very informative about what is happening in the Diocese.