

PARISH DIARY

Monday 7.15pm: First Holy Communion children – Monday Group
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Wednesday 8.00pm: Parish Men’s Group
Friday 7.30pm: St Patrick’s Night Dinner
Saturday 10.00am: First Holy Communion children – Saturday Group

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday: St Patrick, Patron of Ireland
Saturday St Joseph

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £. Loose £.
Retiring collection (CAFOD) Gift Aid £. Loose £.
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 & Rosa Vitolo.

ANNIVERSARIES

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, Valentine Percival Hafner, Patrick Cremin, Bernadette Teresa Clarke.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

The Folk Choir—Sunday evening

If you come to Mass at 6.30pm on Sundays, have you ever thought about singing with the Folk Choir? You might enjoy helping to lead the congregation during the service, learn some of the hymns we sing at Communion, maybe add a harmony? You will probably already know a lot of the hymns that we sing and you don’t have to be able to read music. If you can’t come every week, that’s fine too. If you would like to know more, speak to Ossie or Chris (the two guys with guitars) after the Mass and they will be able to tell you all about it, or let Fr Gerry know and he’ll pass it on.



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O’Brien

Deacon: Rev. 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 13th March 2016

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

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| Saturday | 9.30am | Dante Alcantarini |
| | 6.30pm | Kevin Maher |
| Sunday | 9.00am | Pauline Welham |
| | 10.30am | Special Intention |
| | 12.30pm | People of the Parish (Confirmation Mass) |
| | 6.30pm | Mary Connell |
| Monday | 9.30am | Edith Knight |
| Tuesday | 9.30am | Lorie Day |
| Wednesday | 9.30am | Mary Murphy |
| Thursday | 9.30am | Margaret Jennings |
| Friday | 9.30am | Joe Kilkenny |
| Saturday | 9.30am | Holy Souls |
| | 6.30pm | John Davis |
| Confessions: | Saturday 10.00–11.00am, 18.00–18.15pm and at call | |
| Baptisms: | By previous arrangement | |
| Marriages: | Six months notice required – Diocesan rule | |

Christians see the radically new thing that God has done for us in and through Jesus. Specifically we see God’s love and compassion in Jesus’ treatment of a sinful woman. It’s an ‘entrapment’ story which sought to show Jesus’ wisdom in besting his adversaries.

The aim of the Scribes and Pharisees was to set a snare for Jesus. If he pardoned the woman, he could be accused of encouraging people to break the law of Moses. If he agreed that she should be stoned, he would lose his name for mercy. But Jesus turned the tables on her accusers by suggesting that they look at their own sins.

PARISH NOTICES

Clergy Support Fund Campaign

Archbishop Peter Smith would like every Catholic in the Diocese to have an opportunity to hear about the needs of sick and retired priests and how you can lend your support to this fundraising campaign to raise £4.5million over the next four years.

If you have completed a Contact Card in the last two weeks you will receive a personal invitation to a presentation together with details of the times of the presentations, which will take place in the weekend beginning 23/24 April. Cards are being distributed again at all Masses this weekend so that everyone who would like to know more about the needs of our sick and retired priests will have an opportunity to do so. Only one card need be completed per family, as provision will be made for other family members to attend. Please either hand in your completed card with the offertory collection or place it in the box provided in the church porch. Thank you.

The St Agatha's team will be available for questions at the back of the Church this weekend as you leave Mass.

Confirmation

The Confirmation Mass with Bishop Paul Hendricks will take place on **Sunday 13th March at 12.30pm.**

First Holy Communion

Group 1 will meet at **3.30pm** on **Monday 14th March.** Group 2 will meet at **10.00am** on **Saturday 19th March.**

St Patrick's Night Dinner

This event will be held on **Friday 18th March at 7.30pm** in the cloister. Tickets cost £10 each. Please sign up on the notice in the church porch.

Parish Men's Group

The next meeting of the Parish Men's Group will be on **Wednesday 16th March** at the Wych Elm from **8.00pm.** All men of the parish are invited to join us for a friendly and relaxed evening lubricated by a pint or two.

St Agatha's Church Easter Spring Clean

Fr Gerry invites Parish volunteers to help prepare our beautiful church for Holy Week and Easter. If you can spare a couple of hours after the morning mass on Saturday 19th March to help polish brass/iron altar cloths, etc. please add your name to the noticeboard list by the front door. Teens are especially welcome (those aged 11 - 13 accompanied by an adult please - no smaller children). A volunteers' gardening Saturday morning will be scheduled once the grounds have fully 'woken up'.

REFLECTION

It is interesting that although it takes two people to commit adultery, there is no mention of the man in the story. A conspiracy is afoot here. Nevertheless the importance of the event lies in Jesus not condemning this woman to the death penalty as was demanded by the Old Testament law (the man would have been subject to the same law by the way!) Once again the Pharisees are trying to trick Jesus. We may wonder what Jesus was writing on the ground as they continued to question him but he delivers a winning punch line in this debate and the condemners are forced to leave one by one. I presume they had to think about it for a while before admitting defeat. We live in a stone-throwing society that cares little for circumstances that cause people to make wrong choices. We want someone to blame and the sooner the better. Those who accuse others often do so from a lack of self-knowledge and laziness, because it is very easy to be negative. We all need forgiveness and as we approach Easter we see more clearly what Jesus has done for us by freeing us from all these burdens. We make mistakes but we can always start again. When we relate compassionately to those who are in difficulty we can rediscover our common humanity.

First Reading: Isaiah 43: 16-21

The message of Isaiah is one of renewal. It is a classic prophetic missive of reconciliation and encouragement. It challenges hearers to greater, higher perception of what is being revealed. God is in the process of the 'formation' of his people, that they / we may declare for him.

Second Reading: Philippians 3: 8-14

St Paul is in full sporting-metaphor mode in today's second reading. He also uses images from the fiscal world too and speaks of loss and gain. It is all ultimately about the riches of eternal life, made available through faith in the resurrection of Christ.

Gospel Reading: John 8: 1-11

The Gospel forms a prelude to the imminent passion of Jesus Christ. It is placed here on the fifth Sunday of Lent because it is the first episode of the action being brought against Jesus.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

The annual Churches Together in Kingston Good Friday Walk of Witness will start at **11 am** from the United Reform Church in Eden Street. Coffee and hot cross buns will be served in the church hall from **10am.** This is a great opportunity to witness to our faith to the people of Kingston.