



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

St. Agatha's Catholic Church
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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 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.

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES
 SUNDAY 14TH JULY – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY (C)**

Saturday 13th	
9.30am	No Intentions
6.30pm	Mary Crehan RIP
Sunday 14th	Fifteenth Sunday
9.00am	People of the Parish
10.30am	No Intentions
6.30pm	No Intentions
Monday 15th	St Bonaventure, Bishop, Memorial
9.30am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 16th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Teresa Dooley
Wednesday 17th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser
Thursday 18th	
9.30am	No Intentions
Friday 19th	
9.30am	St Agatha's Whole School Mass
Saturday 20th	
9.30am	Mo Intentions
6.30pm	People of the Parish
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.
<i>ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (6th July) WE WILL HAVE ONE HOUR OF EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. BETWEEN 10AM AND 11AM.</i>	

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. *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

Sarah Birch, Kathleen Godfrey, George Staunton, James Reed, Ann Deuvall, Horace Cave, Sean & Joan O'Connor, Georgina Perez, Margaret Johnson, Eve Pearce, Anne Brown, Antonio Tomassi, Harriet Johnson, David Crew, Frances Trout, Annie Evenden, Patricia Green, Peter Henry Bowden, Antony Cox, Eileen Flynn, William Miles, Margaret Smith, Jesse Higgs, Jacqueline Sewter, Mary Hutton, Josephine Lamb, Cathrine (Trudy) McIntyre.

+++ May they rest in Peace +++

OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid	£453.55	Loose	£473.96
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£21.40	Loose	£83.99

TOTAL £1032.89

Sea Sunday (Sunday 14th July)

Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Today's retiring collection is for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This collection is vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. Thank you. To donate online please visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk where this year's Sea Sunday supporting video can also be viewed.

LAMENTATION

A REFLECTION OF PSALM 68:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37

These verses are from a long psalm of lamentation which begins in terrible distress... *the waters have risen to my neck, there is no foothold...* and ends in assurance of God's help. The psalmist clings to God in faith and trust.

In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails.

The lamentation psalms have been the source of confidence to troubled souls down the ages. Brian Keenan, in his book, *An Evil Cradling*, described the consolation which the psalms gave him and his fellow captive, John MacCarthy, during their captivity in Beirut. In his dark dungeon Keenan developed a fascination with the blind harpist, Turlogh O'Carolan. In his novel called *Turlogh*, he returned to the consolation of the psalms. The tortured soul of the musician found affinity with the psalmist's plea for redemption and liberation from suffering. The psalms' resolution in joy and praise convinced the musician of the eventual happiness.

The mugged traveller in Jesus' parable, thrown in the ditch, might well have prayed: *As for me in my poverty and pain, let your help, O Lord, lift me up.* Priest and Levite passed him by, but help came from an unexpected source, a detested Samaritan. The Lord hears the cry of the poor and his answer may come in a way not expected. As the Irish proverb puts it: God's help is closer than the door.

'The Word is near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.'

*I will praise God's name with a song,
 I will glorify him with thanksgiving.*

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

Bake Sale

Last Sunday students from Holy Cross school held a bake sale in aid of the Father Ray Foundation, Thailand, where they will be visiting in the summer. They would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who baked cakes or donated; they raised £300! They will update us on how the money was spent when they return from the visit.

Appointment of the Eleventh Archbishop of Southwark

The Holy See has announced that Pope Francis has appointed Bishop John Wilson as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Southwark. Archbishop-elect Wilson succeeds The Most Reverend Peter Smith, who has been Archbishop of Southwark since 2010. Archbishop-elect Wilson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster since 2015 and previously a priest in the Diocese of Leeds, will be the 11th Archbishop of Southwark and his Episcopal Installation will be celebrated in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, on 25th July 2019.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Thursday 18 th July	St Agathas School Year 6 Leavers Mass
Friday 19 th July	St Agatha's School Whole School Mass
Friday 19 th July	Youth Club
Thursday 25 th July	Installation of Archbishop John Wilson
Friday 26 th July	Youth Club Sports & BBQ

We ask for peace and freedom for the many men and women subject to old and new forms of enslavement on the part of criminal individuals and groups. ~ Pope Francis

HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

Fifteenth Sunday (C)

Gospel Reading

Luke 10:25-37

The parable of the Good Samaritan

Reflection

As Jesus continues his journey to Jerusalem, he is confronted by a scholar of the law who wants to test him. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment. Here, in Luke's Gospel, the lawyer asks what we must do to inherit eternal life. In the other two Gospels, Jesus answers the question by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5, on loving God with all your heart, and Leviticus 19:18, on loving your neighbour. Here Jesus asks the expert to answer this question, "What is written in the law?" The man is caught and responds with Deuteronomy 6:5. This verse is one of the most important prayers in Judaism, and it was said twice a day in Jesus' time. Love of God and love of neighbour are what is required for eternal life. Jesus' response is simple, "Do this and you will live."

Having been shown up by Jesus, the lawyer tries another question: Who is my neighbour whom I must love like myself? In the society of Jesus' time, with its distinctions between Jews and Gentiles, men and women, clean and unclean, this was a trick question. Jesus responds with one of the most beautiful of all the parables, the Good Samaritan. It is found only in Luke's Gospel.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho descends 3,300 feet in just 17 miles. Its narrow passes and rocky terrain made it an easy place for bandits to wait for travellers. The traveller in this parable is identified only as "a certain man." Luke uses this phrase in many of his parables so that the audience, Jew or Gentile, could identify with the man. After the attack, the man is left for dead, naked and bleeding on the side of the road. A priest comes along, but rather than helping, as one might expect, he moves to the other side of the road. Another religious person comes along, a Levite who assists in the Temple. His reaction is the same as the priest's. Both of them choose to not even find out if the man is alive. A third person comes along. The listeners would probably expect him to be an Israelite. This would make the parable a criticism of the religious leadership. Instead he is a Samaritan, an Israelite's most hated neighbour. Samaritans were descendants of Jews from the northern part of the country, who had intermarried with Gentiles and did not worship in Jerusalem. The Samaritan not only goes over to the injured man but cleans his wounds, puts him on his own animal, takes him to an inn to recover, and promises to pay all his expenses. The hated enemy is the compassionate neighbour in this parable.

Jesus has demolished all boundary expectations. It is not social definitions such as class, religion, gender, or ethnicity that determines who is our neighbour. A neighbour is a person who acts with compassion toward another. The point becomes not who deserves to be loved as I love myself, but that I become a person who treats everyone with compassion.

When Jesus asks the lawyer, who was the neighbour in the story, the lawyer can't bring himself to say it was the Samaritan. All he says is that it was "the one who treated him with mercy." Jesus' response was similar to that of the first discussion: "Go and do likewise." The lawyer, and we, know what is right. The key is to do it.

Family Reflection

Families rely on selfless love. Parents show love for their children not just when it's convenient, but whenever their children's needs must be met. Imagine if the members of a family were concerned only with their own needs. How quickly things would fall apart!

In the story of the Good Samaritan, we learn about someone who went out of his way to care for the needs of another. He recognized the victim as his brother and accepted responsibility for him. As a family, talk about the responsibilities of each member of the family. Share how you, as parents, care for the needs of everyone in the family even when it's inconvenient. Ask your children to share times when they did chores and helped the family even when it was not convenient.

Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Luke 10:25-37. Talk about how the Samaritan went out of his way to care for the needs of the victim. Make a commitment as a family to follow the example of the Good Samaritan. Explain that the more you learn to accept responsibility for each other's needs at home, the more you'll be able to accept responsibility for the needs of others in the world.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

St Agatha's Church Youth Club

The launch of the brand-new St Agatha's Church Youth Club is going well!

The Youth Club runs every Friday (Term-time) from 6 to 8pm and will be open to all children in year 6 and above.

Meeting in the Cloister at St Agatha's Church, the club aims to offer a range of sports, music, arts, crafts, cooking and spiritual activities, trips and excursions and much more!

Once fully established the young people will play a major part in shaping the youth club and the activities that are run. We are looking forward to being able to offer a youth provision, offering a safe and fun place for young people to make new friends and take part in the activities we will offer.

We would like to thank those parishioners who have already come forward to help, however, we still need more volunteers, of all ages, to help behind the scenes with the various tasks involved with running the club, no experience of youth work is necessary. Could you spare just a few hours a month? Please speak with Frs. Anthony or Pius or contact the parish office for further details.

On Friday 26th July we will be celebrating the start of the school holidays with a sports night and BBQ, we would greatly appreciate a donation of £2 per child. Please email the Parish Secretary to book your child's place by 4pm Wednesday 24th July, so that we can ensure adequate supplies. Please also advise of any dietary requirements. kingston@rcaos.org.uk

Please do encourage any young people you know to come along and join in!

Baptism Preparation Class

Our next baptism preparation class will be held on **Sunday 22nd September 2019**. If you are considering your child's baptism, please complete an application form, available from the back of the church and return to the Parish Office and register for this class. Parents need to attend a Baptism preparation class before receiving a date for a child's baptism. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend the class. The Baptism preparation class is for adults only; it is our experience that parents get more out of the sessions if they are not easily distracted.

Parish Men's Group

The men of the parish meet together once a month at the Wych Elm. The group will meet on the following dates in 2019, please note changes to some previously announced dates: 31st July, 28th August, 11th September, 23rd October and 27th November. Please come along and join them from 8pm.

Gift Aid scheme

The new gift aid envelopes are now available; 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. *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 or remove your details.*

Music at Masses

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

Please see the Parish noticeboard for more details of the following:

- **Knock Pilgrimage 2019**
- **The Mustard Seed**
- **St John's Seminary Chapel Appeal**
- **A Day with Mary**
- **Conquest Art Group at St Pius**