

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 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 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 15TH JANUARY 2023
2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 14th	
6.30pm	Thanksgiving Intentions – Alice Esteban
Sunday 15th 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Peace Sunday	
9am	Cyril Jarvis RIP
10.30am	Narrie Curtin RIP
6.30pm	Wellbeing of the Reiz-Bennett Family
Monday 16th	
9.30am	Nina Vaccaro RIP
Tuesday 17th St Anthony, Abbot, Memorial	
9.30am	Frances Jarvis RIP
Wednesday 18th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Emily & Kevin Galligan
Thursday 19th	
9.30am	Maria McCarthy RIP
Friday 20th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 21st St Agnes, Martyr, Memorial	
9.30am	Rev. Fr Gerard O'Brien RIP
Exposition:	Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 9am.
Confessions:	Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM
Mass Times:	Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30
Baptisms:	Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.
Marriages:	Six months' notice required, Diocesan rule



ST AGATHA'S FEAST DAY & PARISH NOVENA
Starts Saturday 28th January 2023

In recognition of our Parish's Feast Day of Saint Agatha on 5th February, we will observe a nine-day Novena before the Feast Day itself. The Novena will commence on Saturday 28th January 2023 continuing daily through to Sunday 5th February 2023, concluding with a Parish Thanksgiving on Tuesday 7th February 2023. We are hoping that this Patronal Feast and the nine days of reflection and prayer proceeding it will be a wonderful celebration and give us all an opportunity to come together to share and celebrate our faith and the great Catholic heritage of our Parish and also offer a chance to reconnect with your faith in a sacred space. The programme will include guest speakers to help enrich and enliven your faith. We invite everyone to participate in this spiritual devotion programme; please enter into the occasion as fully as possible.

The Novena will be observed on Saturday and Sundays during the evening Mass. Monday to Friday please join us each day at 7pm. More details of the speakers will be announced next weekend as arrangements are confirmed....

"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.

ST AGATHA'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATION
Tuesday 7th February 2023

We would like to invite everyone along to celebrate with us our Feast Day for a special Thanksgiving Mass at 7pm. Mass will be followed by drinks and nibbles in the Cloister. Please do come along and join us.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL
CELEBRATION DAY
Friday 27th January 2023

St Paul's Day Celebration: The Missionaries of St Paul (MSP) invite all parishioners to the Annual St Paul's Day on Friday 27th January 2023 at St George's Cathedral SE1 7HY. Mass begins at 6:30pm, followed by reception in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!



PEACE SUNDAY 2023

Peace Sunday follows the international World Day of Peace and is celebrated in the parishes of England and Wales on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.

The theme is taken from the Holy Father's 2023 Message for World Peace Day is: "No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace."

He asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?'

A vaccine has been found for Covid-19, says the Holy Father, but we still need to tackle the virus of war, and of inequality, and this can only be done together.

In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media.

Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>

Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>

What is a Novena?

In the study of Acts 1:14, we observe the apostles praying in a manner that has been called the first Catholic novena.

The word "novena" comes from the Latin "novem," which means nine. Thus, novenas always include nine of something: months, weeks, days, hours or even the same prayer repeated nine times.

Novenas are an ancient tradition that goes back to the days of the Apostles. Jesus told His disciples to pray together after His ascension into heaven, so the apostles along with Mother Mary and other followers of Jesus gathered to pray in the Upper Room during the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost. (Thus, the recognition as the "first novena."). In the early Middle Ages, novenas were prayed in preparation for major liturgical events such as Christmas and Pentecost and later used as acts of reparation. When we pray a novena, we focus our attention intently on a special intention in order to receive special graces and either the answer to our prayer or discernment on what we need to do.

Having the "**right attitude**" is key to the use of novenas. When we pray a novena, we must take on Jesus' attitude in Gethsemane the night before He died. "Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me; still, **not My will but Yours be done**" (Lk 22:42).

Novenas help us to open ourselves to God in order to increase our faith and grow in the love of God and neighbour. They aid in inner healing, obtaining special graces, being transformed, and growing in virtue and holiness. They bring us peace and joy, regardless of the answer we've received to our petition.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Sunday, January 15, 2023

Gospel Reading

John 1:29-34 John testifies that Jesus is the Lamb of God, God's own Son.

Gospel Reflection

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

Family Reflection

The ministry of John the Baptist prepared for and pointed to the ministry of Jesus. In a similar way, our lives are to offer testimony to who we know Jesus to be for us and for the world. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. How does the witness of our lives give testimony to the reconciling presence of Christ?

As a family, identify as many titles for Jesus as possible, such as Lamb of God, Son of God, Prince of Peace, and so on. Talk together about what these different titles mean and what they tell you about Jesus. Then read together today's Gospel, John 1:29-34.

Consider how John the Baptist gives testimony to who Jesus is. Talk about what people might come to know about Jesus by observing your family life. Pray together that your family life will show others that Jesus is the Son of God, the lamb who takes away the sins of the world. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

The next session is being held on: Sunday 22nd January 2023. 11.45am-1pm (Session 3).



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday 22nd January 2023. 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.

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

CONFIRMATION 2023

There will be an Introduction and Family Meeting for Candidates and their families on Monday 20th February 2023. Candidates to arrive for a 7.15pm start and parents to arrive at 8.30pm.

The first candidate session will be on Monday 27th February 2023 at 7.15pm.

The Confirmation Inscription Mass will be on **Sunday 5th March at 6.30pm**: Candidates MUST arrive by 6pm



MARRIAGES IN 2023



2023 may be the year that you plan to get married; many Congratulations if that is so.

Please remember that there is a lot of preparation that needs to take place and you are required to inform the church at least six months before.

If you plan to celebrate your wedding at another church all preparation for our parishioners must take place here at St. Agatha's. Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle, Melba De Silva and Marie Chlebeckova. *Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.*

HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are sick and/or housebound, our Priests would be happy to visit you, to pray with you, and to bring you Holy Communion in your home, please do let the Parish Office know; home visits are by request. If you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass but who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Priests.

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 Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES

Kathleen McEnery, Mary Blythe, Ellen Crowley, Bridget Dodd, Sandra Ruff, Agnes Mary Hill, Caroline Duckett, Thomas Begley, Joanna Herd, Eileen Sagar, Cyril Jarvis, Rosario Stroud, Amber Rose Kijowski, Arthur Squires, James Coughlan, George Alexander Bergin, Winifred Frain, Ethel Finn, Joseph Coll, Michael Hart, Henry Heaton-Harris, James Burt, Madeline Gurney, William Hill, Marcella Sweeney, Patrick McDonagh, Joseph Ruddy, Frederick Burch, Umberto Milocco, Basil Gurney, Colin Alexander, Bruce Hickman, Eileen Mary Radnor, Peter McChrystal, Susan Prince, Patrick Walsh, Therese Currie, Peter Kearns, May East, Martin McDonagh, Una Reed, Liam Mullane, Mary Brice, Joseph Absalom, Eileen Ryan, James Milburn, James Gerald Torrens, Robert Francis Colclough, Agneta Hill, Mary Shanks. **+++May They Rest In Peace+++**

THIS LAMB IS YOUR LAMB

John 1:29-34

"HERE AM I,
LORD; I COME TO
DO YOUR WILL."

PSALMS 40:2





SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Following on from your generosity before Christmas, we are now planning what will be our third delivery to the Dons. The final few days of January are provisionally pencilled in for the delivery. So please try and support this by contributing tinned and non-perishable foods into and around the box provided at the back of church. Thanking you in anticipation.

JOB VACANCY

Finance Director

Catholic Trust for England and Wales

Salary: £60-70,000 pro rata

Location: London/Home-based

Closing date: Sunday 22nd January 2023

A role offering an exciting opportunity to a fully qualified ACA, ACCA, CIMA accountant to provide direction and oversight to the financial management of the Catholic Trust for England and Wales, the secretariat serving the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The role will also provide financial oversight to Missio an associated charity helps local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background.

Further details available at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/vacancy-finance-director/>



St Agatha's Canasta Card Club

The St Agatha's Canasta Card Club meets each Monday in the Church Cloister between 1pm to 4pm to play Canasta, have a coffee/tea and a chat.

It is a lovely social time for parishioners to get together, meet new people and enjoy some fun time together and build community.

You don't have to sign up, you don't have to know how to play. Just come along and you will learn as you play.

Everyone is welcome, men, women, and young adults. Just come along and join as often or as little as you would like.

ASSISTED SUICIDE INQUIRY

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide and is inviting individual members of the public and interested organisations to comment, and also to suggest what actions might be helpful for the debate. All parishes have been asked by the bishops to participate in this enquiry.

Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. It is especially important that those who respond should oppose the idea of a 'Citizens' Assembly' or referendum on this issue, as these are easily abused to try to legalise assisted suicide.

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." (Pope Francis, July 28, 2013)

"More and more lonely elderly people exist in big cities, even in situations of serious illness and close to death. In such situations, the pressure of euthanasia is felt, especially when a utilitarian vision of the person creeps in. In this regard, I take this opportunity to reaffirm once again the firm and constant ethical condemnation of every form of direct euthanasia, in accordance with the Church's centuries-old teaching." (Pope Benedict XVI, February 25 2008)

The Catholic Church is clear that we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. Our call is one for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide.

Statements of the Bishops' Conference:
www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/

The Anscombe Centre have produced a statement and resources about this Inquiry:
<https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>.

The timeframe for answering the consultation is a short one. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January but happily the format of the Inquiry is simple, and not time-consuming - just six questions. To participate in the inquiry, please visit:
www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/M66AML/

"Peace is a gift of God, but requires our efforts. Let us be people of peace in prayer and deed. ~ Pope Francis