



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 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

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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FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES
SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2019
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY (C)

Saturday 14th	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast
9.30am	Edith Knight RIP
6.30pm	Rev. Fr. Gerry O'Brien RIP
Sunday 15th	Twenty-Fourth Sunday
	Home Mission Sunday
9.00am	Rev. Fr. Gerry O'Brien RIP
10.30am	People of the Parish
6.30pm	Mrs Molly Lally RIP
Monday 16th	Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Memorial
9.30am	Sheila O'Hagon
Tuesday 17th	
9.30am	Christina Corcoan RIP
Wednesday 18th	
9.30am	Fr. Allan Collins RIP
Thursday 19th	
9.30am	Rev. Fr. Gerry O'Brien RIP
Friday 20th	Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, Paul Chöng Ha-sang, & Companions, Memorial
9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 21st	St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast
9.30am	Arend Dieperink RIP
6.30pm	Rosie Reed 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 & 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 (5th October) 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, 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

Edward Heaton Harris, Kathleen Edwards, Ellie Mary Cahill, Michael Henry, Marie Dolan, Thomas Murray, Carlo Fiorellino, Kate Glasbey, Percival Rowland McCormack, Francis Steward, Norma Verhoven, Arnold Brenninkmeyer, William Brady, Daniel Cullinane, Eric Wilson, Eric Ross, Peter Jones, Stella Teresa Solly, Alice Goodchild, Michael Harrison, Mary Josephine Thomas, John Elliot, Julia Forde, Reginald Jackson, Kathleen O'Connell, Cathleen Seymour, Colman Tierney, Nora Gugen, Seamus Dooley, Caroline Battye, Kathleen Isabel Shanahan, Mollie Laing, Gertrude Fielder, George Pollard, Christopher Doyle, Isabella Lowe, Anthony O'Connell, Frances Mary Oborn, Winifred Arendse.
+++ May they rest in Peace +++

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C
Sunday 15th September 2019

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-32

Jesus responds to those who criticise him for keeping company with the unworthy.

Reflection

In chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells three parables about losing, finding, and rejoicing. The outcasts of society, the taxpayers, and the sinners approach Jesus eager to hear what he has to say. In Luke's Gospel, hearing is a sign of conversion. The Pharisees and scribes, still suspicious of Jesus, complain about him associating with sinners. So, he tells them these three parables.

In the first story, the parable of The Lost Sheep, the shepherd leaves behind the 99 sheep to search for the 1 lost sheep. When he finds it, the shepherd rejoices not alone as in Matthew's version, but with friends and neighbours. In the same way, God rejoices more over 1 sinner who repents—like the outcasts who have come to hear Jesus—than over the 99 righteous like the Pharisees and scribes.

The second story, about a poor woman who will not stop searching until she finds her lost coin, makes the same point. Why are the Pharisees complaining? They should rejoice when the lost are found.

Finally, we come to what is probably the most memorable parable in the Gospels, the story we know as The Prodigal Son. Just as in The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin, this story (found only in Luke) is really about the seeker. The loving father is at the centre of this parable. Even though his son runs off with his father's inheritance and squanders the money, the father waits for him, hoping for his return. Upon his son's return, the father, "full of compassion," runs out to embrace and forgive him before the son can utter one word of repentance. At this point the rejoicing begins.

The parable does not end there. Rather, it makes one more point about the older son's reaction. This son who never left, just like the Pharisees and scribes who feel they are righteous, refuses to enter his father's house to join in the rejoicing. He has served his father. He has obeyed him. Perhaps it was not out of love. The father's response teaches us that God's care and compassion extend to the righteous and sinner alike. When we are lost, God doesn't wait for our return. He actively seeks us out. And when the lost are found, how could we not celebrate and rejoice?

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Sunday 15th September 2019

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-32 Jesus responds to those who criticise him for keeping company with the unworthy.

Family Reflection

Read or retell in your own words, the three stories from the Gospel. Ask your children to recall games they play that involve losing or hiding something and then finding it. (Hide and Go Seek, Ghost in the Graveyard, Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?) Talk about how exciting it is to find the person or thing being looked for.

Ask your children if they have any memories of losing something special or being lost themselves. Share the stories as well as the fears or feelings. Then tell them that just as you would go to any length to find and bring them home if they were lost, so too would God. That is what Jesus is telling us in the three stories. No matter what we do, no matter how wrong we are, God, our loving father, is always anxious to forgive us and welcome us back home.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



Lately Dead

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Santaniello, who died on Wednesday 4th September 2019. Her funeral will take place on Monday 16th September 2019 at St. Agatha's church at 10.30am. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Bill Kerrigan, who died on Sunday 8th September. His Funeral will take place at St Agatha's Church on Friday 27th September 2019 at 11.30am.

'Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Deanery School's Education Mass

The Annual Deanery Mass for those who work in Catholic Education will take place at St. Raphael's on **Monday 16th September at 4.30pm** followed by refreshments in Alexander House. All teachers, classroom assistants, school governors and all those who have any connection with our Catholic Schools are most welcome to attend. (Parking is available for the Mass in the TA Centre).

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULT (RCIA)
Are you an adult wishing to become a Catholic but have not been baptized, then this programme is for you.... Are you a baptised adult of another Christian denomination wishing to become a Catholic, this programme is also for you.... Are you a Baptised Catholic but never received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and/or Confirmation, this programme is for you as well.... The programme is a preparation through prayer, study, discussion, and fellowship for the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. It is scheduled to begin on **Thursday 10th October at 8.00pm.** Please speak with Fr Anthony or contact the parish office for more details.

Volunteer Bookkeeper Needed!

We are looking for an experienced bookkeeper who would be able to volunteer for 2/3 hours a week in order to assist us with the parish bookkeeping, and to help us improve our accounting processes. Please speak with Fr. Anthony or email the parish office for further details.

St Agatha's Church Youth Club

St Agatha's Church Youth Club has resumed after the summer holidays. The

Youth Club will run 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 will aim to offer a range of sports, music, arts, crafts and cooking activities, trips and excursions and much more! Once 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 also like to thank the parishioners who have already come forward to help, however, **we urgently need more volunteers**, of all ages, to help behind the scenes with the various tasks involved with running the club, such as setting up and clearing away equipment, to ensure the club can continue. No experience of youth work is necessary. Could you spare just a few hours a month? Please sign up in the church porch or speak with Frs. Anthony or Pius, or contact the parish office for further details.

This is important: to get to know people, listen, expand the circle of ideas. The world is crisscrossed by roads that come closer together and move apart, but the important thing is that they lead towards the Good. ~ Pope Francis

Important Upcoming Dates:

Saturday 14 th Sept	Monk Memorial Mass
Friday 20 th Sept	St Agatha's Church Youth Club
Sunday 22 nd Sept	Baptism Preparation Class
Friday 27 th Sept	Secondary School Application Signing
Friday 27 th Sept	St Agatha's Church Youth Club

Offerings

First collection Gift Aid £513.85 Loose £604.06

Retiring Collection Gift Aid £81.20 Loose £71.80

TOTAL £1270.91

Last Sunday was Education Sunday, and our retiring collection was for the Catholic Education Service. This Sunday our collection is for Home Mission Sunday.

Home Mission Sunday

Today we celebrate Home Mission Sunday. We are invited to find ourselves in the Gospel story as we accompany the characters who call out, 'Rejoice with me!' These words express the joy of finding something, or someone they had lost. Imagine the joy in your own heart when you see someone you love coming home to Church, because they are seeking, or have found Christ. Occasionally this happens by direct divine intervention, but more often we are called to be the face of Christ, praying for, inviting and welcoming those we love into a relationship with Him.

Thankfully we are not alone in this task. The Home Mission Office is a national organisation that helps the local Church engage in the vital mission of Evangelisation. This weekend, they ask for our prayers and our financial support through the retiring collection. Our prayers help them to be attentive to the Holy Spirit who directs their work, and our donations to the second collection will enable them to help the local Church share the joy of the Gospel throughout England and Wales. In short, the retiring collection helps them to help us. For more information about the Home Mission Office or to donate online please visit:

www.homemission.org.uk

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday 4th October 2019.

A note for your diary - CAFOD Fast Day: Friday 4th October 2019. Once again CAFOD are asking for our support, CAFOD helps some of the poorest people throughout the world. Without our support, CAFOD and her sister agencies within CARITAS, cannot reach those communities in need. This Harvest get involved with Family Fast Day with your family, friends and parish. CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

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.



Southwark Day of Renewal

Southwark Day of Renewal is an uplifting and faith building day for Catholics. '...a great cloud of witnesses' Hebrews 12:1. **Saturday 5th October 2019**, 9.45am – 4.45pm. This year's Southwark Day of Renewal will include an inspiring set of speakers, praise and worship, healing ministry and Mass. The speakers are from a variety of ministries and will share how their faith and the Holy Spirit has influenced their lives and the lives of those they minister to. It will be faith building and exciting day. Please see the parish noticeboard for more details.

Commissioning Day for Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The next Commissioning Day for Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be in at the Metropolitan Cathedral Church of St George on **Saturday 12th October 2019 at 10am concluding with Mass at 2.30pm. Please contact the parish office for further details.**

Annual day of recollection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers

The annual day of recollection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers for South West Area will take place at St. Boniface, Tooting SW17 9PG, on **Saturday 26th October 2019**. As we are preparing to keep "Year of the Word" from 1st December, the reflections of the day will be based on the Gospel of Matthew and the day itself will be given by Fr. Adrian Graffy.



Please collect an invitation and programme form from the back of the church; please return the reply slip to the parish office by 30th September 2019. All the ministers of word and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are requested to attend the day. Thank you.

An Introduction to Liturgy

The Centre for Catholic Formation (CCF) will host their annual introductory course to Liturgy and Worship which is held each autumn over two Saturdays at CCF, 21 Tooting Bec Road, SW17 8BS. **Saturdays 9th November and 23rd November 2019**, 10.30am – 4pm. £25 per person. If you want to find out more or wish to register for the course please contact ccrs@ccftootingbec.org.uk or call 020 8672 7684

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE C
SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

REMEMBERING MERCY

A REFLECTION OF PSALM 50:3-4, 12-13, 17-19.

This is a rare Sunday when the three readings share a common theme. God's mercy was shown to Moses, to Paul and to the sinners who were drawn to the company of Jesus. The *Miserere* psalm is one of the most heartfelt prayers ever composed, expressing at once the sinner's humble sorrow and the praise of God's mercy.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

We can hear its sentiment giving direction to the steps of the Prodigal Son. He decides to leave the land of famine when he remembers his father's house where mercy, kindness and compassion were valued. This uplifting memory gives renewed hope to his crushed spirit. He needs a total cleansing so he prayed for a *pure heart and a steadfast spirit*. He will humbly confess his sin against God and family. All he can offer his father is a humbled, contrite heart. His wasted body pleads:

*Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.*

Far from casting sinners away from his presence, Jesus was a scandal in the way he welcomed sinners, and even shared food with them. Paul, in the second reading, gives his personal experience: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them.' On the cross he took sin on himself that we might be justified before God.

This age-old psalm continues to provide the language of prayer to the crushed heart. And it goes beyond sorrow to the praise of God.

*O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.*

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

Secondary School 2019 Application Forms

The time of year has come when many parents are thinking about places in a Catholic School. Regular Mass attendance is a requirement for a reference to be completed. If you have recently moved to the area you should seek a priest reference from your previous parish which we will then countersign.

A priest will be available to sign secondary school application forms on **Friday 27th September between 2pm and 4pm**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery. Please ensure that you complete as much of the forms as possible and if you have any reference letters, please also bring these along with you. Please bring all relating documents with you at this time, especially Baptism Certificates.

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

- **The Mustard Seed (Please note a change of Date)**
- **St John's Seminary Chapel Appeal**
- **Conquest Art Group at St Pius**
- **London SW Catholic Social Group**
- **Parishioner/Teacher seeking Accommodation**
- **A Day with Mary**

Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport. ~ Pope Francis



**ST AGATHA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ADMISSION TO RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2020**



Children born between 01 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 are eligible to start school at St Agatha's in September 2020

Our open morning for prospective reception class parents is on

Friday 11th October 2019
(9.30am in the School Hall)

Closing date for all applications is

15th January 2020

Find further information, visit our website: www.stagathas.school

- telephone: 020 8546 3879 [ask for Sharon Parsons]
- e-mail: office@stagathas.school