



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

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
1 Wyndham Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey, KT2 5JR
Tel: 020 8546 4633
www.stagathaschurch.org.uk
kingston@rcaos.org.uk

The parish office should be your first port of call for all 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 OCTOBER 2023

TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Table with 2 columns: Day/Time and Mass/Event. Includes Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th, Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Saturday 21st.

Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.
Mass Times: Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass)
Confessions: Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.
Baptisms: Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.
Marriages: Six months' notice required, Diocesan rule

PARISH OFFERINGS

SUNDAY COLLECTION: 08/10/2023

Table with 4 columns: Collection, Gift Aid, £, Loose, £. Shows 2nd Collection and TOTAL £930.86

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

The retiring collection last weekend was for CAFOD. A total of £338.71 was collected. Thank you to everyone for contributing.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DONATE TO YOUR PARISH

MAKE A DONATION ONLINE:

Donate to St Agatha's Church online via Bank Transfer using the following details: Account Name: RCAS Kingston Account number: 10317821 Sort code: 60-60-02



VIA OUR QR CODE:

The QR code will take you to our parish 'Give A Little' web donation page.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'- cf. Luke 24:13-35

World Mission Sunday is a globally celebrated moment of grace. It's a chance to pray and give to support our sisters and brothers in Christ who live in areas of poverty, conflict and oppression.

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday and there will be the annual collection in aid of MISSIO, the churches' official organ for support of foreign missions.

MISSIO Donation envelopes are available in the church porch, or lease pop any spare change in the red bucket that will be available.

Further details are at https://missio.org.uk

EVENING OF PRAYER FOR MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST, READERS, MUSICIANS & CATECHISTS OF THE PARISH

Tuesday 31st October 2023

There will be an evening of prayer for Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers, Musicians and Catechists on Tuesday 31st October between 7pm and 8pm in the church to which everyone is invited.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

We will be holding a meeting on Thursday 19th October 2023 at 7pm in the church hall for everyone that wishes to enrol in the RCIA course.



R.C.I.A (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a set of rites, or ceremonies, designed to introduce and prepare non baptised adults into becoming full members of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation, namely, Baptism, (or Reception if already Baptised), Confirmation and Holy Eucharist

Baptised Adult Catholics seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation, and possibly the Holy Eucharist if not already received, can also join this programme. It can also be a good experience for full members of the Catholic Church who may not have practised their faith for a number of years, or for those who wish to more fully understand and deepen their faith.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

All Altar Servers are asked to come along to a brief training session on Saturday 11th November 2023 at 5pm. The session will last approximately an hour and parents of under 18s are asked to please remain in the church during the training.

If you would like to join our brilliant team of Altar Servers at St Agatha's, please do come along and join them; we especially welcome those who earlier this year completed their First Holy Communion.



Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, October 15, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23:1-6
The Lord is our shepherd.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:1-14 (shorter form Matthew 22:1-10)
Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Immediately after criticizing the religious leaders through the parable of the tenants in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus proceeded to tell another parable, again directed at the religious leaders. We hear this parable in today's Gospel.

In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah and in today's psalm, the Lord's goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God's salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks.

The parable Jesus tells is straightforward. The king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king's invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again to the listeners' great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city.

We might stop here for a moment. Why would some guests kill the servants sent to invite them to the king's wedding feast? It might be possible that the king was a tyrant, evidenced by the destruction of the city of those who refused his invitation. But if we follow this idea, then the allegory seems to be about something other than the kingdom of heaven. It is more likely that the destruction of the city would have been a powerful image corresponding to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, which would have been an important event for Matthew's audience.

With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation. Yet he asks us to repent for our sins.

Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.



FAMILY REFLECTION

Today's Gospel reminds us that God invites all of us to his kingdom. How do we respond to this invitation? In theological terms, God has granted us free will to accept or reject salvation. The parable of the wedding feast reminds us that God desires our wholehearted acceptance of his invitation to salvation.

As you gather as a family, discuss what you consider appropriate attire for various occasions. For example, if your family were invited to a neighbour's barbecue, what would you wear? If you were planning to attend the symphony, what might you wear? If invited to an evening wedding, what might you wear? Discuss how our preparations for an event and our choice of attire indicates the importance and value we place on the occasion. In today's Gospel Jesus uses this metaphor to talk about the kingdom of heaven. Read Matthew 22:1-14. Discuss why the guest was thrown out of the wedding feast. What does Jesus expect of those who accept his invitation of salvation? What would be the evidence of our conversion to God's salvation? Pray together as a family that you will respond wholeheartedly to God's invitation to salvation. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 23.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle.

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 or the Parish Secretary.

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 Christ grant eternal rest to all who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES

Rose Fry, Ethel Scully, Mary Darnell, Nestor Garcia, Marion Mitchell, Leslie Abernethy, Joan Groser, Anne Flagg, Agnes Mary A'Hern, Irene Hanysek, Mary Alice Charlesworth, Emily Jones, Marie Maxwell-Arnot, Mary Moore, Elizabeth (Betty) Pryce, Bridget Culbert, Henry Joseph Winn, Joseph Kennedy, Keith Doolan, Christine Lepech-Bayram, Wilfrid Henry, Peter Hayward, Charles McDonald, Alfred Watson, Luigi Vago, Ada Mary, Constance Brassington, Mary Coulter, Donald Holton, Donald McDonald, Francis Bernard Page, Christina Norris, Patrick McDonagh, Horace Jelf, Beatrice Hughes, Bridget Pilgrim, Patric Treacy, Robert Flynn, Ian Wilson, John Walsh, Belinda McDonagh, Ted McMahon.

+++May They Rest In Peace+++

NEW TO THE PARISH?

A very warm welcome to our Parish; we hope that you are settling down in your new home and will soon feel part of our community. If you are new to the parish, please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy, and please complete a family registration form which can be found in the church porch and is also on the parish website. If you have any questions or enquiries, please contact the Parish Secretary.



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

There will be a parent meeting on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7.30pm.

The Inscription Mass is on Sunday 12th November 2023 at the 10.30am Mass. All children **MUST** attend the Mass. Session 1 for Children AND Parents will be immediately after Mass.



CONFIRMATION 2022/23

Registration for our next Confirmation programme is now closed. The Catechists have now finalised the schedule and this will be sent in an email update very shortly.



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, please register for our next class on Sunday 26th November 2023.

Please ensure you complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office before you attend a class.



Parents **MUST** attend a Baptism preparation class before a child's baptism, and it is encouraged that Godparents also attend.

MARRIAGES IN 2024

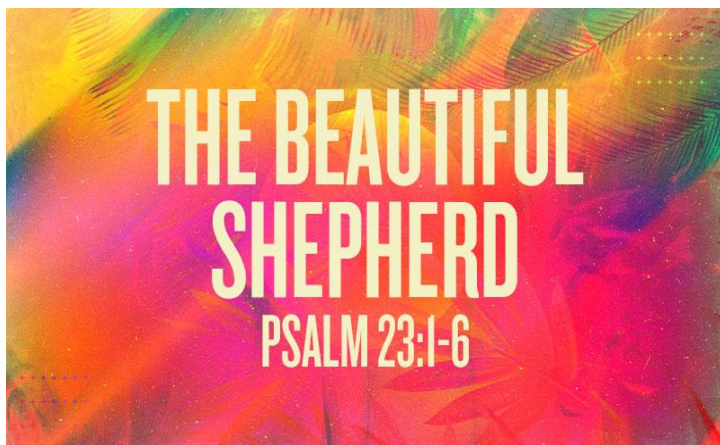
2024 may be the year that you plan to get married; many *Congratulations* if that is so. **Please remember that there is a lot of preparation that needs to take place and you are required to inform the church at least six months before the intended date.**



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

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

Please see the front page for the details of our current programme.



OCTOBER DEVOTION: THE HOLY ROSARY

Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. Pope Leo XIII personally started the practice of devoting October to the Rosary devotion. In a letter of September 1, 1883, mindful of the Rosary's power to strengthen faith and foster a life of virtue, he outlined the triumphs of the Rosary in past times and admonished the faithful to dedicate the month of October to the Blessed Virgin through the daily recitation of the Rosary, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, in order to obtain through her intercession, the grace that God would console and defend His Church in her sufferings. During October, we invite everyone to pray your rosary. We especially encourage families to pray the rosary together. We are all encouraged to make this a date with Mary.

THE ROSARY

We pray the Rosary in the church every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning after Mass. Everyone is welcome to join in.



PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week at 10 am after Mass. Please stay after Mass for 10/15 mins to pray with fellow parishioners.



PARISH MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be on Wednesday 1st November 2023, at the Wych Elm. Please come along and join them from 8pm. Everyone is welcome.



NOVEMBER - MONTH OF ALL SOULS

In the month of November, we remember all our loved ones whom God has called from this life and pray for them at our daily Masses. Envelopes are available at back of church for you to put in the list of all loved ones in your family and friends whom have died. You can place a donation inside the envelope. Please hand it to Father or place it in the basket at the altar throughout the month of November. *+++Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. +++*

ANNUAL BLESSING OF GRAVES

The annual blessing of graves will take place on Sunday 5th November 2023. There will be a short service in the chapel at Surbiton cemetery at 2.00pm, followed by blessing of graves. Also, a short service in the chapel at Kingston cemetery at 3.00pm followed by blessing of graves. (Please assemble at the cemetery chapels.)

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS FOR THE DECEASED CLERGY OF KINGSTON DEANERY

A Requiem Mass for the deceased clergy of Kingston Deanery will be held at St. Ann's on Friday 17th November 2023, 12pm. Everyone is welcome. Please note that the 85 bus stop is very near St Anne's, also there is a large car park available.

PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave for part of the half-term break, therefore, the Parish Office will only be from 10am – 4pm on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th October 2023. Please only call the presbytery in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry during this week. For non-urgent enquiries please email kingston@rcaos.org.uk. For any other matters please wait until the parish office fully re-opens on Monday 30th October 2023. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Please note that Father will NOT be available to sign school forms during the half term week.

'Participation, mission, and communion are the characteristics of a humble church, one that is attentive to the voice of the Spirit and one that is not self-centred.'

~ Pope Francis

DIOCESAN INFORMATION

SOUTHWARK, ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON BRETHERN CIO

Charity number: 1203417

Previously you will have known this charity as 'The Southwark Brethren', however this summer we became an incorporated Charity known as the Southwark and Arundel & Brighton Brethren CIO. Our aims have grown and we now support all priests working or retired. In the last eighteen months we have been able to help several with emergency treatment in hospital, followed by rehabilitation and convalescence. In addition, we have helped with emergency dental treatment. This is just the tip of the iceberg and medical needs present themselves which are varied and complex and which cannot always be supplied by the diocese or be the priest himself, and so today we ask for your generous support to continue our work for priests in whichever way is needed.

If you can help, please send a donation in one of the following ways: Cheques: payable to Southwark Arundel & Brighton Brethren CIO may be sent to 3 Birch Way, Warlingham, CR6 9DA, or by standing order by contacting either Frederika or Fr Paul Hough on 07939654522 and we will send you the account details. If you pay tax and wish to support with Gift Aid, or maybe you would like to remember us in your will, please feel free to contact us regarding this and the appropriate form will be sent to you. Your support is vital and we once again ask you to make a difference!

COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION: ST JOHN'S SEMINARY – WONERSH

As you are aware, after 130 years of forming men for the priesthood, St John's Seminary, known to so many, closed in July 2021. Some two years later, a book has been launched entitled: *These Walls Have Spoken: in Celebration of St John's Seminary – Wonersh*.

Showcasing over 300 pages of elegant photography and text, the book records what made Wonersh unique. In words and images, it tells the story of the Seminary and keeps its memory alive. The book lists the Seminary's treasures, and chronicles the final commemorative liturgies and celebrations – showing how Wonersh lives on in the sacred objects, furnishings and books that have gone on to enrich many other Catholic churches and institutions. The book is available for purchase at a cost of £25 plus P&P at: www.wonersh.shop

CATHOLIC WOMEN PRAYING TOGETHER

The annual Mass organised by Catholic Women Praying Together will be held this year on Wednesday 15th November at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. For background info: CWPT is the successor group formed from the Catholic Women of the Year Luncheon (which finished with its Golden Jubilee in 2018), and brings together representatives of the main Catholic women's organisations in the UK.

<https://www.catholicwomenprayingtogether.com/>

KINGSTON ARTISTS EXHIBIT

Our very own resident artist Bob Meecham has a painting on display at the Rose Theatre with Kingston Artists KAOS, during October until 4th November 2023.



KAOS
@ Rose Theatre
Kingston artists exhibit
recent works at Rose Theatre, Kingston
4 October - 4 November
Meet the artists/Private View 6 Oct, 6.30 - 8pm



@kaoskingston
www.kingstonartistsopenstudios.co.uk
Rose Theatre
24-26 High Street, Kingston KT1 1HL



CHRISTIANS IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE: ETHICS AND PRACTICE

A day of reflection and professional development organised by St Mary's University and the Christian Medical Fellowship.

Are you looking for an opportunity to meet people motivated by their faith to care for others? Would you like to explore the unique contribution that faith makes to the health and social care sector? Are you interested in learning about the ethical challenges work in this sector may bring? Join in on a day of reflection and professional development in Nottingham or via Zoom, organised by St Mary's University and the Christian Medical Fellowship. Further details are available at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/christians-in-health-and-social-care-ethics-and-practice/>

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIPS

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) is looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their internship programme. The scheme lasts for one or two years and gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the English Lake District. For more information please contact: director@castleriggmanor.co.uk



RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYST

The Bishops' Conference are looking for a Research and Policy Analyst to work across a diverse range of national and international policy areas. This role will suit someone with a committed interest in politics and social justice looking for the opportunity to apply their research capability. Salary: £32,500. Location: London/Hybrid. Contract: Full Time. Closing date: 29 October 2023. Applications: HR@cbcew.org.uk More details are available at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/research-and-policy-analyst/>

CATHOLIC UNION URGES PEOPLE TO HAVE THEIR SAY IN COVID INQUIRY

The Catholic Union has launched a new survey on people's thoughts, experiences and attitudes towards the closure of places of worship during the pandemic. The survey takes less than two minutes and will help us make the voices of Catholics heard and the survey results will shape the Catholic Union's submission to the UK Covid-19 public inquiry, which is currently considering the political decisions taken during the pandemic.

The QR code will link to the survey. Further details can be found at: <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2023/10/catholic-union-urges-people-to-have-their-say-in-covid-inquiry>



SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Just a quick reminder about our donations box in support of Dons Local Action Group; A huge thank you to those that have already donated items, these have again successfully been delivered to the DLAG hub. Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life. Thanking you in anticipation of your continuing support.

The Dons now have a programmed delivery of a monthly box of the above essentials the first full week of every month. We will try and support this initiative by delivering our contributions toward the end of each month. Obviously, this will only happen with your continued support. Thank you for your on-going generosity.