

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 Ratray, 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 15TH DECEMBER 2019

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Saturday 14th	St John of the Cross, Priest, Memorial 120 Years of St Agatha's Church
9.30am	Rosa Beresford RIP
6.30pm	José Camara
Sunday 15th	Third Sunday of Advent
9.00am	Angelo Piccirillo RIP
10.30am	Margaret Kathleen Jennings RIP
6.30pm	Ellen Metcalfe RIP
Monday 16th	
9.30am	Frances Jarvis RIP
Tuesday 17th	
9.30am	Nigel Gadd RIP
Wednesday 18th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser
Thursday 19th	
9.30am	Breda & Seamus Madden RIP
Friday 20th	Whole School End of Term Mass
9.30am	Wellbeing of Andy Shepherd
7.30pm	Penitential Service & Confessions
Saturday 21st	
9.30am	Arokia Dass RIP
6.30pm	Jennifer Fernandopulle & Domingos Pereira RIP

Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.
Confessions: Saturday 10-10.30am, 6-6.15pm & at call.
Baptisms: By previous arrangement – Sunday at 12.30pm.
Marriages: Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.
ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (4th January 2020) 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

Elisabeth Mahoney, Mary Anne Clarke, Edith Kate Letchworth, Dominic Fuouco, John Henry Isaac, Adelaide Clement, Julia Walsh, Elizabeth Milnes, Elizabeth Trefler, Bishop Brown, George William Smith, Thomas Easter, Charles Arday, James Flynn, Frances Jarvis, Ada Laing, Margaret Reagan, Manuelina Fernandes, Ronald Mills, Hermann Hartjes, John Lemmon, Dan Geaney, Julian Harrison, Karl Heinz Benkert, James McHugh, Maria Teresa Grassi, May Young, Henry Edward Clarke, Patrick Nash, Una Conway, Mollie Flynn, Margaret Kennedy, Bridget McCleane, Curtis Conrad Oesterreicher, John King, Martin Coughlan, Ernest William Evans, Evelyn Golding. **+++ May they rest in Peace +++**

LET US REMEMBER ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Let us remember those who have died and their families with love and affection during this time of grief.

3rd Sunday of Advent Cycle A

Sunday 15th December 2019

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11 Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

Reflection

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Christmas Raffle and Christmas Cards

Raffle tickets for the Christmas hampers, will be on sale after all Masses, alternatively, please call in to the parish office, between 10am-2pm Mon-Fri. An assortment of Christmas Cards and 2020 calendars will also available to purchase in the Cloister. Our very own resident artist, Bob Meecham, has also produced a Christmas Card, a pack of 5 is £2.50 with 10p from each card going to the R.N.L.I.

HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11 Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

Family Reflection

It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God's salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled.

Read together today's Gospel. Think about John's question to Jesus: Are you the One? Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst.

Together as a family, look through the newspaper for signs of hope that God is at work in our world. Pray that the world will know God's salvation by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Seniors Christmas Lunch

Our annual Seniors Christmas lunch will be held this week on **Wednesday 18th December at 12.30pm** in the Cloister. Guests will be treated to a tasty Christmas meal and festive entertainment, along with the chance to catch up with friends and neighbours and the opportunity to meet new people. If you consider yourself a 'senior', please join us for lunch followed by a performance from St Agatha's school choir. If you plan to attend, there is still time to sign up on the list in the church porch or email your details to: kingston@rcaos.org.uk.

Advent Study and Reflection

During Advent we shall study and reflect upon the four beautiful passages from the Prophet Isaiah that form the first reading at our Advent Sunday masses.

The passages are:

Isaiah 11: 1-10 – Peace and Repentance

Isaiah 40: 1-11 – Good News

Isaiah 35: 1-10 – Joyful Hope

Isaiah 9: 2-7 – Saviour



The group will meet for the final time at the church on **Thursday 19th December at 8pm on.**

A PRAYER FOR THE Third Sunday of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
let the anticipation of your birth
fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation
be a sign to the world
that you are always near.
Amen.



CAFOD World Gifts

Gifts that make a difference

Get **FREE DELIVERY** for Christmas
Order before midnight on 16 December



The virtual gift for that person that has everything, to benefit those that are less fortunate.... Would the mother-in-law appreciate a 'Marvellous Moo Cow' in her name or perhaps 'The Goat that Gives'. Why would Grandad want yet another pair of socks, when you could nominate him for a 'Vegetable Garden' or 'Wonderful Worms' or even push the boat out on 'Build a Greenhouse'. Who wants a ribby jumper when they can 'Help a Llama Farmer'. For these and many other potentially life changing options, simply pick up a catalogue from the back of the church. Collect yours early to avoid disappointment. CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

St Agatha's Confirmation 2020

If you wish to enrol for next year's Confirmation programme please complete an application form, available from the back of the church, and return it to the parish office no later than **Friday 3rd January 2020**. There will be an enrolment meeting for Candidates and their families on Thursday 16th January 2020 at 7.45pm. The first candidate session will be Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 7.15pm. The Inscription Mass will be on Sunday 26th January 2020 at 6.30pm. A full programme of the sessions is available with the application form.



Primary School 2020 Application Forms

A priest will be available to sign Primary school application forms from **4-6pm on Wednesday 8th January 2020**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery. 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. 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**. The closing date for the application is 15th January 2020.

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

Bronze Volunteering opportunities.

For our young parishioners undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, we have a volunteering opportunity for 2 students doing their DofE to assist our First Holy Communion team with sessions in 2020. You will need to be available on selected Sunday afternoons 3.30pm-5.30pm from January to May (term-time only). Please email the Parish Secretary at:

kingston@rcaos.org.uk with your details including name, address, age, school or place you are completing DofE and we will put you in touch with the FHC team.

III. Christ Jesus -- "Mediator and Fullness of All Revelation"

God has said everything in his Word

"In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son." Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father's one, perfect and unsurpassable Word. In him he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one. St. John of the Cross, among others, commented strikingly on Hebrews 1:1-2:

In giving us his Son, his only Word (for he possesses no other), he spoke everything to us at once in this sole Word - and he has no more to say. . . because what he spoke before to the prophets in parts, he has now spoken all at once by giving us the All Who is His Son. Any person questioning God or desiring some vision or revelation would be guilty not only of foolish behaviour but also of offending him, by not fixing his eyes entirely upon Christ and by living with the desire for some other novelty.

There will be no further Revelation

"The Christian economy, therefore, since it is the new and definitive Covenant, will never pass away; and no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ."28 Yet even if Revelation is already complete, it has not been made completely explicit; it remains for Christian faith gradually to grasp its full significance over the course of the centuries.

Throughout the ages, there have been so-called "private" revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the Magisterium of the Church, the sensus fidelium knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church.

Christian faith cannot accept "revelations" that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfilment, as is the case in certain non-Christian religions and also in certain recent sects which base themselves on such "revelations".

Libreria Editrice Vaticana

"Christmas is fast approaching. And now that Christ has aroused our seasonal expectations, he'll soon fulfil them all!" -St. Augustine of Hippo

Important Upcoming Dates:

Sat 14 th Dec	120 years of St Agatha's Church
Sat 14 th Dec	Pre-Christmas Spruce up!
Sun 15 th Dec	Christingle Costume Fitting
Sun 15 th Dec	Christingle Readings Distribution
Wed 18 th Dec	Seniors Christmas Lunch
Thurs 19 th Dec	Advent Study and Reflection Group
Fri 20 th Dec	Whole School End of Term Mass
Fri 20 th Dec	Penitential Service
Mon 23 rd Dec	Christingle Rehearsals
Mon 23 rd Dec	Christingle Making
Tues 24 th Dec	Christingle Service

Offerings

First collection	Gift Aid	£444.50	Loose	£589.94
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£65.00	Loose	£141.83

TOTAL £1241.27

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

Christmas Offerings

Christmas offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to use them for a Christmas Offering for our Clergy. If you normally Gift Aid your weekly offerings would you please print your name/number clearly on the Envelope.

Crib Offerings

At the request of Archbishop John Wilson, this year's crib offerings will go to The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL). The Friends of the Holy Land have been giving hope and providing practical help to the most vulnerable Christians in and around Bethlehem for 10 years.

Tea, Coffee and Cake

Tea, coffee and cake will be served in the Cloister after the Sunday 9am Mass on the **last Sunday of each month: 29th December 2019**. Do come and join us to meet and greet others, and our clergy, especially if you are new to the parish. If you attend this Mass and would like to help, please email the parish office.

Church Banners

A longstanding parishioner of St Agatha's has kindly sponsored the purchase of the new Advent Banners in the church; our thanks to him, we truly appreciate the donation. If anyone would be interested in sponsoring the purchase of further banners for instance for Christmas, Lent or Seasonal Banners, please contact the Parish Office to discuss further.

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

- **URGENT Volunteering appeal for KCAH**
- **Catholic History Walks for Advent & Christmas**
- **Conquest Art Group at St Pius**
- **London SW Catholic Social Group**
- **A Day with Mary**

Advent and Christmas Programme 2019

The times and details of all Masses and Services are listed in the Advent and Christmas 2019 Programme that is available at the back of the church. Please pick up a copy.

Penitential Service

On Friday 20th December there will be a Penitential Service in the church at 7.30pm.

Christmas Eve Christingle Service

Important Dates:

Sun 15th Dec

Christingle Costume Fitting & Readings Distribution
11.30am – 12.30pm (after 10.30 Mass)

Mon 23rd Dec

Christingle Rehearsal & Christingle Making
Practice in church, full dress rehearsal and Christingle making in the Cloisters. 10am – 12.30pm

Tues 24th Dec

Christingle Service 4pm (costumes & make-up from 3pm)

Any queries please email:

Helen Mennis helenmennis@gmail.com or

Louisa Collyer-Hamlin louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk

Christingle Making

All ages are welcome to join us in the Cloisters to make our 250 Christingles and have a drink and biscuit (Mums and Dads especially welcome! We'll even give you a cuppa!). This is a tradition that the whole parish gets involved in and the more the merrier.

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will be held at 11.00pm. It will be preceded by carols from 10.30pm.

Mass Intentions

Mass intentions envelopes are available at the back of the church. When requesting a Mass, please clearly indicate the intention and whether the Mass is for the deceased, the sick or for another intention.

It is a very busy time for requests and sometimes Masses can be booked several weeks in advance, so if you have a particular date or time on which you want the Mass, it is very important that you let the parish office know as soon as possible. We cannot guarantee a requested date when submitting Mass Intentions; if no date is specified or a date requested is not available, the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open date.

If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details or call into the office between 10am and 2pm.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

The draw for the Christmas Hampers will be held on Sunday 29th December 2019 at 11.30 in the Cloister, please come along and join us for a cup of tea or coffee after the family Mass. All winners who are not present will be contacted directly.



Christmas Decorations and Cleaning

A huge Thank You to everyone who kindly donated decorations, and to those who gave up their time to help decorate the church and cloister. Ours thanks also to everyone for your assistance with the Christmas cleaning day. A special thank you to the children and young adults of the parish who also generously gave their time to help; we look forward to seeing you again at further events through the year.

We think you will agree that the church is looking magnificent and very festive for this special time of the year. There are dozens and dozens of people involved in making everything run smoothly at St. Agatha's during the festive periods; we thank you one and all!

Advent Reading

Copies of 'Walk with Me' are still available at the back of the Church, a donation of £1.00 is encouraged, please put money in the box marked Papers. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during advent and is an excellent way to prepare for Christmas.

Also available is a brand-new magazine **Celebrate:Advent** for children, its full of activities and quizzes, it will encourage them to think about and grow in their faith while they have fun! 22 pages jam-packed with puzzles and facts. Celebrate:Advent comes with an Advent calendar and activity sheet for even more things to do. This year there's an easy way to refocus on the real meaning of Christmas as we Celebrate:Advent. Please pick up a copy from the back of the church, the cost of these is **£1 each**, please pop your money into the small box provided.

Parish Office

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from Wednesday 25th December 2019 until Monday 6th January 2020, therefore the parish office will be closed. Fr Anthony and Fr Pius will be available in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry only. For non-urgent enquiries please email kingston@rcaos.org.uk

