

**CLERGY**

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain  
Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain  
Rev. Robert Beresford – Deacon

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](mailto: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 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Bonaventure, Bishop, Memorial</b>
6.30pm	Chantry of St Mary Magdalene
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
9am	Guy Hawkins RIP
10.30am	Keith & Alan Fraser RIP
6.30pm	Birthday Intentions for Olivia Coley
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Walentyrna & Zygmunt Liphardt RIP
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Rev Fr Peter Akor
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Luiz Alberto Hochegger RIP
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Birthday Intentions for Alma Maria & Julian
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	
9.30am	Whole School Mass Holy Soss
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene, Feast</b>
9.30am	Birthday Intentions for Coralie Cronin

**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

**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

**PARISH OFFERINGS**

**Sunday Collection 09/07/2023**

Collection Gift Aid £142.50 Loose £447.38

Retiring Gift Aid £57.00 Loose £116.33

**TOTAL £763.11**

Last Sunday's retiring collection was for Sea Sunday. Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.

Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. Our parish raised £173.33. Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea please visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
PROGRAMME 2023/24**

FHC application forms are now available from the church porch or the Parish Office.

Children must be in Year Four or above in September 2023.



Application forms must be completed and returned in person only at one of the following sessions:

➤ Friday 29th September 2023  
between 2pm and 5pm, at the Presbytery.

➤ Saturday 30th September 2023  
between 5.45pm and 6.15pm, in the Cloister.

➤ Sunday 1st October 2023  
after the 10.30am Mass, in the Cloister.

You must attach a PHOTOCOPY of your child's baptism certificate; we cannot accept any application forms without the certificate. If your child has not yet been baptised, please contact the Parish Office to discuss the procedure for enrolling on this programme.

**Late applications will not be accepted; Reminders will be posted in the newsletter nearer the time.**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023/24**

Confirmation application forms are now available from the church porch or the Parish Office.

Candidates must be in Year Nine or above in September 2023.

Application forms must be returned to the parish office no later than Friday 29th September 2023, so that we can identify how many candidates will be enrolling.

**Late applications will not be accepted; Reminders will be posted in the newsletter nearer the time.**



**HOST THE OUR LADY OF LOURDES STATUE IN  
YOUR HOME DURING OCTOBER DEVOTIONS**

Our Lady's Statue has been in visitation since the start of May and will now return to the church for the summer. Our Lady always draws us closer to her son, Jesus Christ. We invite you to spend a week with Our Lady by hosting the Lady of Lourdes statue in your home for a week during the autumn.

If you would like to receive the Pilgrim Virgin Statue in your home during September, October or November, please fill out the form available in the church porch and return it to the Parish Office. Please note, this is only a request which will be confirmed via a phone call to you. A date cannot be guaranteed and is subject to demand.



**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A**  
**Sunday, July 16, 2023**

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 65:10-14*

*A prayer of praise to God for his abundance.*

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 13:1-23 (shorter form: Matthew 13:1-9)*

*Jesus teaches that the kingdom of heaven is like seed that has been sown on good soil.*

**Gospel Reflection**

Today's Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward—of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.



**Family Reflection**

Today's Gospel reminds us that in order for God's Word to take root in us and produce abundant fruit, we must endeavour to be like good soil. Families, in particular, hold the responsibility for "preparing the soil" so that the seeds of God's Word can grow strong. There are many ways in which families do this—family traditions in which faith is celebrated, prayer and reading of Scripture, and instruction on the faith. In these ways, parents fulfil the promises they made at their child's Baptism.

Gather together as a family and reflect together on the Sacrament of Baptism. Tell the story of the Baptism of each child, showing any pictures that were taken. If you have your child's Baptism candle or gown, share these as well. Recall together that one of the promises that parents make at their child's Baptism is to bring them up in the practice of our faith. Talk together about the importance of this promise to your family. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 13:1-23. Reflect together on the ways in which your family practices your faith (daily prayer, Mass attendance, religious instruction, etc.). Remind one another that we do these things as a family so that God's Word can take root in our lives and produce abundant fruit. Conclude in prayer together by praying today's Psalm, Psalm 65.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

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**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.*

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**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**

*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, Frances Cobb, Patrick Joseph Collins, Anne Keane.*

**+++May They Rest In Peace +++**

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**LIFTS TO MASS**

If you could occasionally offer someone a lift to any of the Masses, that you normally attend, please could you kindly contact Karin in the Parish office to discuss further. We have a couple of parishioners who are unable to get to Mass due to mobility issues but live just a few roads away and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to come to Mass, even just occasionally. Thank you!

## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

### BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



For those who wish to have their child baptised, our next class is being held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm.

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 recommended that Godparents also attend.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or wanting to explore your Catholic faith further?

Our Evangelium course will start in October/November 2023. The programme will consist of weekly sessions running until Easter, including vital dates during Lent.

Evangelium is for adults who have not been Baptised and for Christians of other denominations who want to be Received into the Catholic Church.

Please email the Parish Office with your details and to register for this next programme: [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)

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. Everyone is welcome along!



### 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.**

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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.



## PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2024

We are in the initial stages of exploring the possibility of a hosting a parish pilgrimage in 2024; A visit, not as tourists, but as people of Faith, an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Him and He with us. A Pilgrimage is a meaningful journey to a sacred place, it is also a beautiful experience with the chance to meet new people and see new places.

Destinations that are being considered are:

- Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- Lisieux, France
- San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy

We would like to hear from you if you would be interested in joining us on a pilgrimage; this will help give us an approximate number of travellers and therefore help with our enquires when contacting tours companies for dates and prices.

Please email [kingstonevents@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingstonevents@rcaos.org.uk) to register your interest.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Would you like a Mass offered at St Agatha for a particular intention? Perhaps you would like a deceased friend or relative remembered at the altar, or you would like a Mass said for yourself.

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. If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details. If you have a particular date or time on which you want a Mass said, **it is very important that you let the parish office know ahead of time and as soon as possible.** You are very welcome to book your Mass intentions in advance. We are sorry but we cannot guarantee a requested date when submitting late Mass Intentions; if no date is specified or a date requested is not available, the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open Mass. Many people would like for their intention on a Sunday, we will try our very best to facilitate this, but these are the most sought-after slots.

The usual offering per Mass is a minimum of £10, this amount is pre-set by Southwark Diocese for all parishes within her jurisdiction, but you can give more. This 'stipend' goes to the priest offering the Mass, not the parish; stipends are given to priests as they do not receive a salary, and sometimes they are their only source of income.

**Please note that the Mass diary is pre-arranged for the week ahead and the intentions can be viewed on the front of the Parish Newsletter, in the church porch or on the Parish website.**

**JOB VACANCY**  
**HOUSEKEEPER/CLEANER**  
**ST AGATHA'S PARISH**

Applications are invited for the post of Housekeeper/Cleaner. After many years of wonderful service, our current housekeeper is leaving her role due to personal circumstance and we are therefore seeking a new Housekeeper/ Cleaner. Would you like to join the parish team as our Housekeeper? If so, please apply! The post holder will be required to provide a confidential and efficient housekeeping and cleaning duties to a high standard, to the Parish Priests, whilst ensuring a pleasant, safe, welcoming and clean Presbytery is provided to other presbytery workers and parish visitors. The position requires 8-10 hours each week – work pattern to be agreed with the successful applicant. Previous experience of housekeeping and cleaning essential. Knowledge of safe working practices. Essential Skills Required: Confidentiality in all matters, Good organisational ability and attention to detail, Self-motivated, solution focussed and reliable, Courteous and polite manner, good communication skills and good time management, Flexible, adaptable and able to respond to changes in routine. If you would like to know more about this position, please contact Karin, the Parish Secretary, on 020 8546 4633 during parish office hours.

**SOUTHWARK METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL**  
**TRIBUNAL AUDITORS**

The tribunal are seeking Auditors who can help with interviews for witnesses. The position is an unpaid service; however, business mileage and other transport related costs are fully reimbursed. You will need to be a retired or serving teacher, police officer, lawyer/solicitor, deacon or other professional. Training will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Streatham. If you would like to be considered for this role, please speak with Fr Francis.

'God is not far away, He is a Father, He knows you and loves you; he wants to hold your hand, even when you travel on steep paths, even when you fall. Indeed, often in your weakest moments, you can feel his presence more strongly. He is with you; He is your Father!' ~ Pope Francis

**LOVE HEALS – BODY MIND and SPIRIT MINISTRY**

LOVE HEALS BODY MIND AND SPIRIT MINISTRY Welcomes you to come to a day Retreat of quiet Reflection on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 11am –4:30pm, at Our Lady of Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street, Piccadilly, W1F 9JR. Nearest Tube Stations: Piccadilly Circus exit 2.



Celebrant Priest: Father Mark Elliott Smith  
Lunch - Please bring your own Lunch - Tea and Coffee available.

Further details:

Enquiries: Eileen and David Brum 020 8542 2476

email: [lovehealsbodymindspirit@gmail.com](mailto:lovehealsbodymindspirit@gmail.com)

Website: [www.lovehealsbodymindspirit.com](http://www.lovehealsbodymindspirit.com)

**NEW DAWN IN THE CHURCH**

This 5-day Catholic Conference takes place each year at the Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham. This year it runs from 31 July to 4 August 2023. It offers an outstanding programme of liturgy, sacraments, prayer, praise, worship, teaching, workshops, fellowship, community and a fully facilitated Family Camp. Please see the flyer in the church porch; full conference details including how to register can be found at: <https://www.newdawn.org.uk>



**PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION AND PRAYER**  
**FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE TO WALSINGHAM**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August, led by Archbishop Kevin McDonald, commencing at the 12 Noon Pilgrim Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation.

Built around the midday Holy Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Kevin with Fr Daniel Rooke, the day will also include opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. This time will include the Holy Rosary, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Litany of Life and Benediction. Mid-afternoon will herald a change of location from the Shrine to the Priory in the village, walking the Pilgrim Way, to the original site of the Holy House of Nazareth. This is the now traditional silent walk, a prayerful walk with Jesus to Calvary. The Pilgrimage concludes in the Priory grounds with the final prayers. While the focus is prayer and reparation for sins against life, the pilgrimage is also a chance for those attending to spend time in the peace and quiet of England's Nazareth

For details see the leaflets in the church porch or the poster on the noticeboard. Further details are also available at: [www.prolifepilgrimage.org](http://www.prolifepilgrimage.org). Please join in the 'great prayer for life' asked for by Pope Saint John Paul II.