



**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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[www.stagathaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)  
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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](mailto: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.

SUNDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 – 2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (C) FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES THIS WEEK	
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Mary Frances McNamara RIP
6.30pm	Gino Straccialano
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
9.00am	People of the Parish
10.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser
6.30pm	Sebastian Lawson RIP
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity</b>
9.30am	In Grateful Thanks to the Triune God for blessings received & intercessions always answered. Always.
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Brian De Sousa RIP
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	
9.30am	Marie Heighton
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	
9.30am	Frances Jarvis RIP
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	
9.30am	Joan Heelan RIP
6.30pm	Frank Gannon 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 and at call.
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement on Sundays at 12.30pm.
Marriages:	Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.
<i>ON THE FIRST SATURDAY (6<sup>th</sup> April 2019) OF EVERY MONTH WE WILL HAVE ONE HOUR OF EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. BETWEEN 10AM AND 11AM.</i>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Pat Appleby, John Sewter, Christina Ward, Bill Kerrigan, Tess Bird, Clare Horgan, Keith Fraser, Trish Taylor and Ryan Morrison. *Due to the new data protection rules we are unable to have names on the sick list unless we have written permission from the person to publicise their names. 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**

Mary Chisholm, Virginio Anghileri, Anne Lally, Frederic Leo Strawson, John McSorley, Robert Thomas Amon Kotei, Patricia Scott, Maria Winifred Taylor, Alfred Shoppee, Charles Kaufman, Mary Letitia Lally, William Kitchen, Joseph William Kilkenny, Valentine Percival Hafner, Patrick Cremin, Bernadette Teresa Clarke, Edith Conlon, Stantey Cook, Peggy McManus, Norman Owen, Bridget (Bridie) Crehan, Mary McGhee, Ann Rosemary Parker, Corina Gomes, Mary Jennings, John Fennell, Elisabeth Thyrsa Quinn, Ethel Myall, Joe Walsh, Joan Heelan, Oscar Verhoven.

+++ **May they rest in Peace** +++

**OFFERINGS**

First collection	Gift Aid	£450.53	Loose	£413.12
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£121.00	Loose	£168.05

**TOTAL £1152.70**

**This Sunday the retiring collection is for CAFOD Lenten Fast Day, or please use the CAFOD envelopes which are available at the back of the church.**

**THE FACE OF GOD**

**A REFLECTION OF PSALM 26:1, 7-9, 13-14**

The Second Sunday of Lent might be called Encouragement Sunday because of the Gospel of the Transfiguration. The life of faith is modelled on the story of Abraham. He was called to leave the security of home to travel on the strength of God's word, promising a rich land. 'How am I to know?', he asked. God's presence was made known to him in the form of fire.

Responding to this reading is a psalm of light. *The Lord is my light and my help.* It was in brilliant light that Jesus was transfigured on the mountain of prayer.

*It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; Hide not your face.*

The three apostles who would later see the face of Jesus sweating blood in agony were sustained by the memory of that face brilliant in divine light. They were told to listen to him.

Listen to the word and see the face. *Lectio Divina* involves staying with the words of the scripture until we can see the face of God in our daily experiences; moving from the word then to the word now. Like smelting metal until the face of the purifier is reflected on the surface.

It sets us a positive challenge for Lent: to spend more time pondering the word; to let the sacred texts change our focus from the faults of others towards seeing how God is given a face in their graces and virtues. That is how *I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.*

*It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face.*

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



**CAFOD Family Fast Day**  
(Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019)

**Let's eat simply so others can simply eat!**  
**Have a simple meal and give to save lives.**

CAFOD, the official Relief Agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, are part of one of the largest aid networks in the world. Because of their global reach and local presence through their sister agencies within the CARITAS Organisation, they have the potential to reach everyone in need. This support cannot be delivered without your help. The retiring collection at all masses of this weekend will be for CAFOD's Lenten Appeal. Please try and support the work of CAFOD and her sister agencies within CARITAS. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation, you will find Fast Day Envelopes at the back of the church with a tear-off slip to register your gift. Please go to [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) for more details of how your support can and does help those in need. CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

**British Summer Time**

Please remember that the clocks go forward one hour in the early hours of **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March (Mothering Sunday)**; Sunday mass will feel one hour earlier than usual!

**'O Lord make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen. ~ Henri Nouwen**

**HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

## REFLECTION – MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

The hardest thing in today's world is to admit that we have been wrong. We have built up a civilisation of 'rights and righteousness'; more precisely, of self-righteousness. Against this background the confession of Daniel that we have sinned is most edifying. Those who have been actively engaged in conflict-resolution know how the atmosphere changes when someone admits his wrongdoing. The amazing thing is that it is the very confession of failure that confers a new dignity on the person who does it. If 'to err is human', to confess it is to be lifted a bit higher. The two most stunning phenomena in today's world would be: sincerely admitting one's fault, and sincerely forgiving another. This super-human quality is to be found only in the hearts of those who have personalised the message that says, "don't judge, don't condemn, forgive, be generous beyond limit." I fell I can't. Jesus help me.

## REFLECTION – TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

It took some time for Joseph to accept the fact that in Mary there truly was Emmanuel – God with us. He was confused and uncertain about what he should do. It took time, and outside help, for him to discern what his next step should be. Perhaps you have also had to make difficult journeys on the way to some decisions or commitments. Recall that journey and the moment when it became clear to you what was being asked of you. Give thanks for the angels in human form who helped you along the way.

## REFLECTION – WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

Jesus was doing his best to get his disciples to face the reality that following in his footsteps was not a path to honour and glory but a path to humble, and sometimes humiliating, service. Then two of his disciples get their mother to look for positions of honour for themselves. A life of service and love of others is not easy, but it is rewarding. When have you been glad that you were in a position to serve rather than be served?

God's Word 2019 Daily Reflections, St Pauls Publishing

## Mustard Seed

The next evening of renewal with an opportunity to grow in faith in the power of the Holy Spirit will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at St Margaret's RC Church, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL, at 7.45 pm. The evening will include praise, reflection, and teaching plus individual prayer ministry for those wishing for it. The church is just by St Margaret's railway station (with direct trains from Kingston). All are welcome.

## 'Miserere - From Allegri to Macmillan'

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm the Merbecke Choir will perform a concert of sacred music at St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston. Tickets cost £6.00 and are available either on the door or can be reserved via [surbiton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:surbiton@rcaos.org.uk). All profits will be donated to the Parish's Lenten Project which this year is supporting the 'Christian Blind Mission'. More information can be found at: [www.straphaelsurbiton.org.uk](http://www.straphaelsurbiton.org.uk)

## Good Friday Walk of Witness

Churches Together in Kingston invite us all to participate in the Good Friday Walk of Witness beginning at 11.00am at the United Reform Church in Eden Street. Refreshments (hot cross buns) will be served from 10.00am. Everyone is welcome.

## The Passion of Jesus

**Good Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April and Easter Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April** – Further details are on the church noticeboard.

## Celebrate Twickenham! 2019



"Be strong and courageous! For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9 NLT). The annual Charismatic Catholic Family Weekend on **15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019** at St Mary's University. **Advance booking only!** For further information and a booking form, please see the poster on the notice board, pick up a flyer at the back of the church or visit: <https://www.celebrateconference.org/twickenham>

## Important Upcoming Dates:

Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Stations of the Cross
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	FHC Session 6
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Confirmation Session 7
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Stations of the Cross

## Confirmation 2019

Please note the following dates for upcoming sessions; *please observe the addition of a session on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March which parents are asked to attend from 8.15pm.*

Session 7	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7.15 – 8.30pm
Session 8	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7.15 – 8.30pm
Family Meeting – Final preparation for Candidates	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7.15 – 8.30pm
Family Meeting – Final preparation for Candidates	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7.15 – 8.30pm
Mass of Confirmation	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	12pm

## First Holy Communion 2019

Please note the following dates for upcoming sessions:

Children's Session 6	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	4 – 5pm
Children's Session 7	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	4 – 5pm
Children's Session 8	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	4 – 5pm
Group 1 Rehearsal	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	4 – 5pm
Group 1 Sacrament of Eucharist	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	12 noon
Group 2 Rehearsal	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	4 – 5pm
Group 2 Sacrament of Eucharist	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	12noon

## Parish Men's Group

The men of the parish usually meet together on the third Wednesday of each month but due to a clash with another event at the Wych Elm this has now been set for the fourth Wednesday of each month. Therefore, the group will meet on the following dates in 2019: **27<sup>th</sup> March**, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November. Please come along and join them.

## Altar Servers' Rally 2019

The annual rally for Southwark Altar Servers is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May at The Friars, Aylesford Priory, Kent. Bishop Paul Mason is the principal celebrant. The annual rally gives servers in Southwark a great opportunity to collectively acknowledge and celebrate their special Ministry of Service in the church. Furthermore, the event encourages servers to socialise with other servers and share and renew their faith. If you have not attended before please take the time to 'come and see'. All servers and their families and friends are welcome. A poster with more details is on the church noticeboard. Altar Servers perform a very important role in liturgical services. After approx. 2 years regular serving, servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen for Altar Servers and receive the Guild bronze medal. If you or your children are interested in joining the ministry or if you have questions about the ministry, please speak to Frs. Anthony or Pius.

## An Evening with Matt Maher

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 (7-9pm) St. George's Cathedral, in association with the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, will host international artist, Matt Maher, who will lead praise, worship and adoration. Since his 2008 major label debut, Matt Maher has become a staple in the artistic and song writing community. An eight time-GRAMMY nominee, he has garnered multiple radio successes writing and recording songs like "Lord, I Need You", "Hold Us Together" and "Christ Is Risen". In 2013, Matt had a career highlight performing at World Youth Day in Rio in front of Pope Francis and a crowd of 3 million people. He has penned songs recorded by Chris Tomlin, Crowder, Third Day, Matt Redman, Hillsong, Casting Crowns, Jesus Culture and Bethel among others. Matt has written or co-written five No. 1 radio singles. Places for this exciting event are limited and seats are selling fast, so you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are priced £10 each (to cover event costs). <http://buytickets.at/cathedraltour>

Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence. ~ Pope Francis

## LENT AND EASTER 2019 AT ST AGATHA'S

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

#### Gospel Reading *Luke 9:28b-36*

*Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, John, and James.*

#### Reflection

On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in His Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death.

As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus "master" instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the disciples listen to him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesdays, Friday mornings after Mass and at 5.30pm on Sundays during Lent. This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord.



### Lenten Reconciliation

A Lenten Reconciliation service will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm here in the Parish of St Agatha for everyone. It is an opportunity for those who would like to go to confession before the Easter Triduum, which begins on Maundy Thursday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the healing sacraments and a powerful help on our Journey of Faith.

*The times and details of all Masses and services are listed in the Lent and Holy Week 2019 Programme that is available at the back of the church. Please note that, on Maundy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper is at 7.30pm, the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday is at 3.00pm and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday is at 7.30pm. There are no morning masses these days, though there are children's celebrations at 12pm on both Thursday and Friday.*

### Church Flowers during Lent

One of the ways we have decided to observe Lent is by not having flowers in the church during this season of austerity and simple reflection. We hope this absence of flowers during Lent will amplify the resurrection message of the Easter flowers when they arrive!

### CTS Booklets for Lent

Our CTS rack in the church porch now has some suitable spiritual reading for Lent; do have a look at what is on offer today. Payments should be put in the wall box marked 'papers'.

### My Day by Day

This Lenten booklet is available at the back of the church. There is one copy for each family. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter. A recommended donation of £1 is welcomed. (Please put money in the box marked 'Papers'.)

### Stations of the Cross Paintings

We would like to remind everyone that local artist and parishioner, Bob Meecham, has a display of beautiful paintings, which are his interpretations of the Stations of the Cross, available to view in the cloister. Please feel free to take a look.

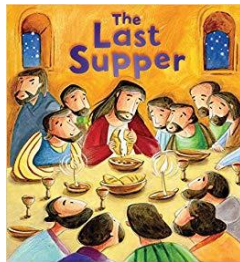
## LENT AND EASTER 2019 AT ST AGATHA'S

### St Agatha's Church Easter Spring Clean

In previous years, when asked, we have been blessed with a great turnout of parishioners to help clear, tidy up and plant in the church grounds. This year we are having a day dedicated to 'Spring Cleaning and Tidying up our Church and Grounds' and we again call on our kind volunteers to help prepare our beautiful church inside and outside for Easter. If you can spare a couple of hours on **Saturday 6th April**, please come along and join us in the Cloister after the morning Mass. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to assist. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, it will be greatly appreciated! All teenagers will be especially welcome, together with those aged 11 – 13 (accompanied by an adult please) but for safety purposes, sadly, no smaller children. Volunteers who would like to help spruce up the gardens – please kindly bring gardening tools and gloves with you. Refreshments will be available and a soup lunch will be provided after. There is a sheet in the church porch for volunteers to sign up so that we can have refreshments arranged according to numbers expected. Many thanks.

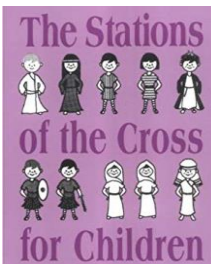
### Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Children's Celebrations

All children are welcome to join us at 12pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we observe both days with child-friendly services. During these hands-on services, children of all ages will walk together through the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross, learning as they go. On Maundy



Thursday we will need children from year 3 and above and on Good Friday we will need children from year 5 and above, for readings, and actors from year 3 and above to take part in the performance; please sign up at the back of the church or email:

[helenmennis@gmail.com](mailto:helenmennis@gmail.com) or [louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk)



### Friday Penance

'The Bishops [of England and Wales] wish to remind us that every Friday is set aside as a special day of penitence, as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. They believe that it is important that all the faithful again be united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance because they recognise that the virtue of penitence is best acquired as part of a common resolve and common witness. The law of the Church requires Catholics on Fridays to abstain from meat, or some other form of food, or to observe some other form of penance laid down by the Bishops' Conference (Canon1251). The Bishops decided to re-establish the practice that this penance should be fulfilled simply by abstaining from meat and by uniting this to prayer. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake'.

The form of penance we chose to adopt each Friday is a matter of personal choice and does not have to take the same form every Friday. Failure to undertake this penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin.

### 'What can I do for Lent?'

'Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving' is the Lenten tradition. We are required to fast by reducing food intake on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but giving up something (e.g. chocolate or alcohol) is also fasting. Extra prayer during Lent is very important.

Other suggestions also include:

- \*say some additional prayers each day
- \*visit the Blessed Sacrament
- \*go to weekday Mass if you can
- \*buy a booklet to guide your reflections.
- \*make the special effort involved in family prayer.
- \*choose one of the Gospels and read it during Lent.
- \*study the Sunday readings before coming to Mass
- \*read Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation 'GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE'
- \*come to the Stations of the Cross
- \*receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- \*Make a special effort to help someone who is poor, sick, old or lonely.
- \*Giving to those less fortunate than yourself.

**"Where do I find hope? In the poor Jesus, Jesus who made himself poor for us? And of poverty. Poverty calls us to sow hope. This seems a bit difficult to understand. I remember Fr. Arrupe [Father General of the Jesuits from 1965-1983] wrote a letter to the Society's centres for social research. At the end he said to us: 'Look, you can't speak of poverty without having experience with the poor.' You can't speak of poverty in the abstract: that doesn't exist. Poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus, in that child who is hungry, in the one who is sick, in those unjust social structures. Go forward; look there upon the flesh of Jesus. But don't let wellbeing rob you of hope, that spirit of wellbeing that, in the end, leads you to becoming a nothing in life. Young persons should bet on their high ideals, that's my advice. But where do I find hope? In the flesh of Jesus who suffers and in true poverty. There is a connection between the two." ~ Pope Francis**