



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
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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 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 16th

6.30pm Alina Ksiazek RIP

Sunday 17th

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Evangelii Gaudium Sunday**

9am Reginald Joseph RIP

10.30am Birthday Thanksgiving: Francis Anthony

6.30pm Eamon Kerins RIP

Monday 18th

9.30am Holy Souls

Tuesday 19th

9.30am Seamus Dooley RIP

Wednesday 20th

**Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Paul Chŏng
Ha-sang, & Companions, Memorial**

9.30am Thanksgiving to the Triune God

Thursday 21st St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast

9.30am Moira Humphrey RIP

Friday 22nd

9.30am Leonard Saasita Kapongo RIP

Saturday 23rd St Pio of Pietrelcina, Memorial

9.30am Wellbeing of Maura Hickey

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: 03/09/2023

Collection Gift Aid £157.00 Loose £544.12

TOTAL £701.12

Sunday Collection: 10/09/2023

Collection Gift Aid £158.00 Loose £467.45

Retiring Gift Aid £28.00 Loose £186.18

TOTAL £826.63

Last week's retiring collection was for Education Sunday, our parish raised a total of £214.18 Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.

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** (NB. The details may come up as RCAOS or Southwark – these are also correct)

VIA OUR QR CODE:

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



EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY

Sunday 17th September 2023

This weekend, is 'Evangelii Gaudium Sunday' or, as it used to be called, 'Home Mission Sunday'. A time to remind ourselves of the essential mission of the church to spread the joy of the gospel, the Good news not just in far flung places, but here at home in our own backyard. The title comes from the powerful and challenging Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel. Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. "Evangelii Gaudium" is Latin for "Joy of the Gospel".

The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops' Conference.

The collection on Evangelii Gaudium Sunday supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops' Conference. In the last year this has included:

- Enabling the recording of the videos on the four constitutions.
- Bringing together a working group from across England and Wales to prepare materials for the Jubilee Year 2025 and Year of Prayer 2024.
- Supporting Patrimony experts to deliver funding to 39 projects at outstanding Grade I and II* Catholic churches with the £6.6million awarded to the Catholic Bishops' Conference via Historic England through the governments' Culture Recovery Fund in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Supporting co-ordinators and their teams in dioceses through formation and sharing of best practice.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday/>

Please use the red bucket in the church porch or your gift aid envelopes.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION PROGRAMMES 2023/24

A quick reminder that application forms for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are now available from the church porch or the Parish Office.

Please ensure that you read through all the details provided thoroughly, there is a lot information within.

- FHC applications must be returned in person only during one of 3 sessions, as explained in the letter; dates are also on the back of this newsletter.
- Confirmation applications need to be returned by Friday 29th September 2023.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the Parish Secretary.



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, September 17, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103:1-4,9-12

A song of praise to God who is kind and merciful.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

FAMILY REFLECTION

Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as "I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks" or "I will accept your apology after you clean up your room." Do we sometimes "keep count" or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart.

Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.

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.*

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

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, Harry Lee, Margaret Cedro, Sharmain Tavares, Joseph Breem, Margaret Maguire, Patrick Quinn, Ida Phillips.

+++May They Rest In Peace +++

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.

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.



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.

BISHOP HOWARD TRIPP RIP ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop Howard Tripp's first anniversary of death is on 3 October. There will be a Year's Mind Mass for him - celebrated at St George's Cathedral - the day after, on **Wednesday 4th October at 12.30pm.** Bishop Paul Hendricks will be the main celebrant.

This Mass will be simply the usual lunchtime Cathedral Mass, but it was felt important to mark Bishop Howard's first anniversary in some small way, in the place where he lies at rest in the Cathedral crypt.

Bishop Howard gave 24 years of devoted episcopal service as Auxiliary Bishop in the South West Area of the Diocese, and continued his episcopal service indirectly during his 18 years of retirement. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Everyone is most welcome to attend the Mass.



HARVEST 2023: FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2023

Again, we are invited by CAFOD to live simply on this day, and dedicate any monies saved to help those in need. The retiring collection across all masses of Sunday 8th October will be for CAFOD. Donation envelopes are available. You can also donate on the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope, available in the church porch. Please visit the CAFOD website for further information:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>
You can help families fleeing conflict, parents fighting climate change and communities overcoming poverty together. Your donation will get to work quickly, around the world, wherever the need is greatest. Whichever way you support our work, you are saving lives and helping to ensure that no one is beyond reach of the love and care they need. Thank you for your continued support.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, our next class is being held this Sunday, 17th 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.



The dates for our subsequent classes are yet to be arranged; please read the newsletter for updates.

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.

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.

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 (name, contact details and current denomination or religion) to register for this next programme: kingston@rcaos.org.uk and we will email you back.

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!

DONS Local

Action Group

SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Ill-fitting school blazers. The loss of that sedate morning bus journey town. The beautiful screeches of delight emanating from the local playground. Yes, the school holidays are over. Not that our friends at the Dons Local Action Group witnessed any lessening of the demand for their support!!

Throughout the summer, the Dons have continued to support those families in need. Recent conversations with the Dons have seen a move away from 'our' target of non-perishable foodstuff. Whilst this is still urgently required, we have been advised of the need for a broader appeal to include some of the basic items, such as toothpaste, hand wash, bleach, tea, coffee, sugar, honey and spices for cooking etc, as well as the usual non-perishable foods.

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. All donations to the blue box at the entrance to the church please. Thank you for your on-going generosity.

'Let us Pray Together in the face of the many challenges and difficulties of our age. We should not remain idle spectators. Rather, may we actively engage for a more just and peaceful world.' ~ Pope Francis