



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 17TH DECEMBER 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Saturday 16th	
6.30pm	Nancy Petitjean RIP
Sunday 17th 3rd Sunday of Advent	
9am	Arthur Lawrence RIP
10.30am	Michael Heelan RIP
6.30pm	Maggie Murphy
Monday 18th	
9.30am	John Lynch RIP
Tuesday 19th	
9.30am	Intentions for Colette & Malcolm
Wednesday 20th	
9.30am	Rosa Venetico RIP
Thursday 21st	
9.30am	Intentions for Mary Jo & Fred Davidson
Friday 22nd	
9.30am	Leela Rosammal RIP
Saturday 23rd	
9.30am	Kazzie Hodgkinson RIP
Exposition:	Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 9am.
Mass Times:	Monday to Friday: 09:30 Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30
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: 10/12/2023

Collection Gift Aid £155.50 Loose £461.28

TOTAL £616.78

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's 'Give A Little' web donation page.



CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST AGATHA'S

The obligation to attend Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent and the Solemnity of Christmas are two separate obligations, which cannot be fulfilled by attending one Mass.

The normal Sunday Masses at 6.30pm (Sat), 9am, 10.30am will be said as usual.

Christmas Eve this year falls on a Sunday; and the Vigil Mass is at 6.30pm and the Midnight Mass at 11pm, preceded by carols at 10.30pm. Please note that the Vigil Mass is a Mass of Christmas Day; it does not fulfil the Sunday obligation.

Christmas Day Masses will be at 9am and 10.30am. there will not be an Evening Mass. Boxing Day Mass will be 12pm.



Keeping our community fed, connected & supported.

SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP THIS CHRISTMAS.

This Christmas the Dons will be directly supporting 23 organisations and 100+ households, many immediate to us here at St Agatha's. They have advised us that, unfortunately, actual take up in the Kingston area is increasing.

Our planned collection/delivery date is this Tuesday, 19th December, so ensure any Christmas donations are with us by then please. Thank you for your continued support.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to make a Christmas Offering to our Clergy at this special time of the year. Thank you.



ADVENT READING – ‘MY DAY BY DAY’

Copies of the Advent edition of ‘My Day by Day’ are available at the back of the Church, they cost £1 each (Please put money in the small donations box available.) This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during advent and is an excellent way to prepare for Christmas. A junior version is also available.

ADORATION & RECONCILIATION DURING ADVENT

On Wednesday Evening the church will be open from 7 – 8pm for Adoration and Reconciliation. Everyone is welcome. Reconciliation is also available after every Mass during the Advent period.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Our Advent and Christmas programme is available in the church porch and online at: www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CARDS, GIFTS AND CALENDARS

A selection of Christmas Cards, Calendars and Gifts are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively please contact the parish office during opening hours.

CHRISTINGLE 2023!!

We are very pleased that this year we will be returning to our full Advent and Christmas schedule, including our amazing Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm.



Dates and times for your diary:

- Sunday 17th December: Christingle Dress and Lines Allocation, after 10.30am Mass.
- Friday 22nd December: 1st Dress Rehearsal in the church: 3.30 – 6pm
- Saturday 23rd December: Christingle Making, in the church hall and 2nd Dress Rehearsal in the church: 10.30am – 12.30pm
- Sunday 24th December – Christingle Service at 4pm.

MIDNIGHT MASS

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve is at 11pm. It will be preceded by carols from 10.30pm.



PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from Friday 22nd December 2023 until Monday 8th January 2024, therefore the parish office will be closed. Please only call the Presbytery in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry during this time.



For non-urgent enquiries please email kingston@rcaos.org.uk and Karin will respond upon her return.

Please ensure all enquiries are submitted by Thursday 21st December 2023 otherwise they will not be attended to until the office reopens. Thank you.

SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

St Agatha's Catholic Primary School is looking to appoint a Foundation Governor to join their dedicated Governing body.

The core responsibilities include:

- Ensuring accountability
- Monitoring and evaluating the school's progress
- Budgetary allocation and control
- Shaping plans for school improvement and overseeing their implementation
- Setting the school's aims and values
- Appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher

Please contact office@stagathas.school for further details. We look forward to hearing from you.



*“Learning
together in
God’s love”*

St Agatha's School vision is to nurture children's holistic development, guided by catholic values in partnership with parents and the community.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check and other Safe Recruitment employment checks. We are an equal opportunities employer.

St Agatha's Catholic Primary School
St Agatha's Drive, Kingston Upon Thames, KT2 5TY

AND MARY SAID,

MY SOUL
MAGNIFIES
THE LORD,
AND MY
SPIRIT
REJOICES IN
GOD MY
SAVIOR.

LUKE 1:46-47



Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B
Sunday, December 17, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

Mary sings praise to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8,19-28

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfil the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

3rd Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

Sunday, 17 December 2023

RESPONSE: my spirit rejoices in God my saviour

FAMILY REFLECTION

In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.

As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus' presence in our world. Consider some of the signs of Jesus' presence that you have experienced. During Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:6-8,19-28. Discuss the signs of Jesus' presence in our world that you named and explain what these signs tell us about God and God's love for us. Pray together that your family will be led to recognize that Jesus is present among us. Read and pray together the psalm for today's Mass, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).

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.

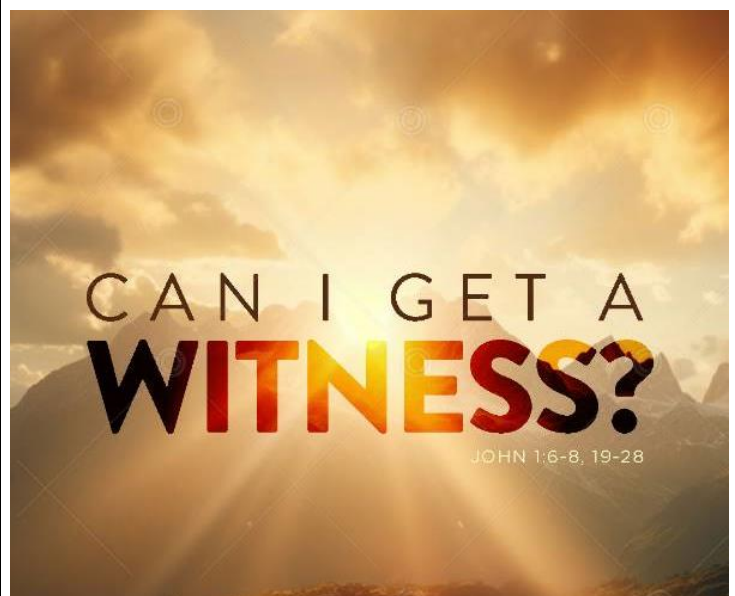
LET US REMEMBER

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

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, Lilian Mary Duckett, Dominico Ferritto, Mary Anne Mullen, Rev. Fr. Richard Harriott, David McDonald, William Christopher Game, Natalino Evangelista.

+++May They Rest In Peace+++



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023/24

The next session is being held on: Sunday 14th
January 2024. 11.45am-1pm (Session 2)



CONFIRMATION 2023/24

An email update and the schedule has been sent to candidates and parents – if you have not received this, please contact the Parish Office ASAP.



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the New Year, please sign up for our class that will be held in January 2024 (Date to be Confirmed). 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 be done through the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

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.



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.



Two icons: one for Canasta (a hand of cards) and one for Scrabble (a Scrabble board).

St Agatha's Canasta Club & Scrabble Club
The canasta club and scrabble club will be taking a break over the Christmas and New Year break and will resume the week commencing 8th January 2024.

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS AT OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH

This Sunday, 17th December at 3.00pm followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. All welcome to join!
Ewell Road, Tolworth, KT6 7DG

THE CATHOLIC UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN "Shocking" impact of church lockdowns revealed by Catholic Union

The impact of closing churches and other places of worship during the Covid-19 pandemic has been revealed in a major new study.

A survey carried out by the Catholic Union found that 62 percent of people said that their physical or mental health had been affected by church closures.

The survey also found that 90 percent of people thought that places of worship should be treated as "essential" services alongside food shops and healthcare facilities in any future pandemic, meaning they would not be forced to close.

Further details of the report can be found at: <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2023/12/shocking-impact-of-church-lockdowns-revealed/>



"Jesus says to every believer and to his church: be open, because the Gospel message needs you to witness to it and proclaim it! Church, be open to the breath of the Holy Spirit, who pushes you to be missionary, to evangelize!" ~ Pope Francis