

PARISH DIARY

Monday 7.15pm: First Holy Communion meeting for parents
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Wednesday 8.00pm: Parish Men's Group
Friday 7.30pm: St George's Dinner

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday: St Anselm
Saturday: St George Patron of England

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £597.40 Loose £327.97
Retiring collection (CAFOD) Gift Aid £51.00 Loose £105.48

The retiring collection this weekend is for Ecclesiastical Education.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Grace Gibbs, Simon Leo, Paul & June McMahon, Michael Boyle, Maureen Allen, Eileen Hurley, Elizabeth O'Daley, Ellen Basci, Joan Gallagher, Kay Kennedy, Stephane Patten, John Sewter, Ryan Morison, Kay Williams, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Marie Elsey, Christopher Browne, Mary Wallace, Rosa Vitolo, Elsie Malone & Colette Patten.

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for Bridget Battersby who died recently and whose funeral has already taken place. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. AMEN

ANNIVERSARIES

Caroline Louisa Currie, Catherine Barkell, Harold Ward, Michael Mullen, George Steele, Monique Ricquer, Mary Doyle, Eleanor Dean, Arthur Helliwell, Cormac Scott Byrne, Alice McMahon, James Mullens, John Browne, Una Matthews, Denise Hawkes, Tess Hegarty, Ken Sykes, Emanuele Giammacco, David Jones, Ellen Moore, Carmello Giamocco, Catherine Cusiack, Mary Squires, Bridget Kieley, Michael Cooke, Linda Hull, Tom Kelleher, Ellen Smith, Hannah McCarthy, Caroline Sidaway, Stella Collins, Kenneth Rose, Daniel Paterson, Edward Arthur Kavanagh. +++ May they rest in peace +++

The 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 23rd April** at St Margaret's Catholic Church, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL, by St Margarets rail station, at **7.45 pm** for **8.00pm** until **10.00pm**. The evening will include praise, reflection, teaching plus individual prayer ministry for those wishing for it. All are welcome.

St. Agatha's Catholic Church

1 Wyndham Road

Kingston Upon Thames

Surrey KT2 5JR

Tel: 020-8546 4633

www.stagathaschurch.org.uk



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

Please visit our website regularly to keep abreast of important current issues.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 17th April 2016 – Fourth Sunday of Easter (C)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

Saturday	9.30am	Mary Murphy
	6.30pm	Special Intention
Sunday	9.00am	Desmond Pearl
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	John Pereira
Monday	9.30am	Joan Heelan
Tuesday	9.30am	Joan Kelly
Wednesday	9.30am	Noel Roycroft
Thursday	9.30am	Special Intention
Friday	9.30am	David Glynn
Saturday	9.30am	Desmond Pearl
	6.30pm	Ella Mabel Slater

Confessions: Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call

Vocations Sunday: God's call to each person is individual. Some he invites to lay life. Others he calls to priesthood and religious life. The temptation is to grade and compare these invitations. Comparison destroys the appreciation of uniqueness. Today, we can focus on those called to priesthood. At a time when there is much social change and much questioning of the role of the priest in present day society, it is valuable to focus on a core role of the priest today. Priesthood is a gift from God to his people to enable us, as a community, to share fully in the Eucharist and through it to grow in an awareness of God's presence in every aspect of our lives. It is not given for the priest himself, but is a gift given for all through one individual. The world sees such a call as foolhardy and futile. To a person of faith, the call is one of love and mutual trust. We pray that God's call may be answered in many hearts this year.

PARISH NOTICES

Clergy Support Fund Campaign at St Agatha's

Please remember to attend one of the presentations at St Agatha's if you possibly can. The presentations will take place in the Cloister and last for about an hour. A short film featuring retired clergy of the Diocese will be shown and light refreshments will be provided. Please come along even if you did not complete a contact card given out at Mass recently:

Sunday 24 April at 11.30 am (after 10.30 am Mass)

Sunday 24 April at 7.30 pm (after 6.30 pm Mass)

Wednesday 27 April at 8.00 pm

First Holy Communion

The next meeting for parents will be on **Tuesday 19th April**.

The children in Group 1 will meet on **Monday 25th April** at **3.30pm**. The rehearsal for First Communion is on **Friday 29th April**. The First Communion Mass is on **Sunday 1st May** at **12 noon**. The children in Group 2 will meet on **Saturday 30th April** at **10.00am**. The rehearsal for First Communion is on **Friday 5th May**. The First Communion Mass is on **Sunday 8th May** at **12 noon**.

Parish Prayer Group

The **Parish Prayer Group** meets every **Tuesday** at **8.00pm** in the church for rosary, prayer and intercession. All parishioners are most welcome to join us.

Parish Men's Group

The next meeting of the Parish Men's Group will be on **Wednesday 20th April** at the Wych Elm from **8.00pm**. All men of the parish are invited to join us.

St George's Dinner

The St George's Dinner will take place in the cloister on **Friday 22nd April** at **7.30pm**. Tickets cost £10 per head with all profits going to CAFOD. Please sign up on the poster on the church porch where you will also find further information.

Pentecost Celebration

There will be a Pentecost celebration on **Saturday 14th May** from **10.00am** to **4.00pm** at St Joseph's Catholic Church, New Malden. More details next week.

Papal Exhortation

The Pope's new Apostolic Exhortation, 'The Joy of Love' which brings together the results of the 2014 and 2015 Synods on the Family has attracted much media attention. The Catholic Bishops' Conference website catholicnews.org.uk contains the text, a summary and comments. These are very well worth reading.

Active Kids Vouchers

St Agatha's School is collecting these vouchers. Please place them in the box at the back of the church.

REFLECTION

The vocation to love

The deepest wound of all is that which affects the heart:
the feeling that one has not been loved, that one is not precious to anyone.

Many people today are wounded at heart.

Each of us can do something to heal their wounds.

We have hands that can make things, and minds that can understand things.

But above all we have hearts that can give life.

We are not sterile people. We can give life to people that are inwardly broken.

We can show them that they are important, and so bring life to them.

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is also vocations Sunday.

But all vocations are vocations to love.

Fr Flor McCarthy S.D.B.

First Reading: Acts 13: 14, 43-52

The Church is expanding rapidly. Paul and Barnabas have headed off to bring the Gospel to ex-pat Jewish communities all over the Middle East. Their initial reception was enthusiastic but some established traditional religious Jews not only disowned the missionary pair, but quickly ran them out of town.

Second Reading: Apocalypse 7: 9, 14-17

A central feature of the Apocalypse is the struggle between the forces of good and evil. This struggle is depicted through a three fold repeated structure. Firstly, there is persecution of the faithful. Secondly, there is defeat of the evil ones. Thirdly, there is the triumph of God and his allies. This weekend's reading is a glorious foretelling of how the Lamb leads his faithful ones to victory and then on to the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Reading: John 10: 27-30

John's Gospel, chapter 10, is based on two themes. Jesus as the messianic shepherd and Jesus as Son of God. The Gospel readings on this fourth Sunday for Years A & B very vividly highlight the role of Jesus as messianic shepherd, an image originating in the Exodus of the Jews from slavery. This emphasis has influenced the title of Good Shepherd Sunday.

The Gospel reading in Year C opens with the reassuring promise of eternal life for the flock under His care, a promise that is underpinned by the assertion that Jesus is not only the promised shepherd Messiah, but that He is the Son of God. 'The Father and I are one.' This is the opening salvo in Jesus' response to those who are challenging His authority to preach and to lead God's people.

Today's Gospel is a transition snippet between a visionary piece about Jesus' ministry as shepherd and a vigorous defence of His identity as Son of God. The latter is the fundamental question in today's world. Preparatory reading of the complete chapter 10 will give a context for a homily exploring the mystery of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.