

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

There are no feasts this week.

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday, named after the opening word "rejoice" of the Introit.

Next Sunday is a day of prayer for expectant mothers.

PARISH DIARY

Sunday (17th) 11.30am: Allocation of readings and costume fitting for Christingle Service
Tuesday 7.00pm: Penitential Service
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Saturday (23rd) 10.30am: Full rehearsal and Christingle making

OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid	£591.99	Loose	£284.83
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£17.00	Loose	£52.84

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Grace Gibbs, Simon Leo, Paul & June McMahon, Michael Boyle, 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, Anna O'Brien and Brian Towler.

ANNIVERSARIES

Bishop Brown, George William Smith, Thomas Easter, Charles Arday, James Flynn, 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, David McDonald, William Christopher Game, Natalino Evangelista

+++ May they rest in peace +++

New Parish email Address

Parishioners will be aware that the parish email address has changed on a number of occasions recently. The new (and final) address, as shown at the top of this page is parishoffice@stagathaschurch.org.uk. This address will be used by the Parish Administrator who will be appointed very shortly. All other email addresses are now closed. The parish website address remains unchanged as www.stagathaschurch.org.uk.



St. Agatha's Catholic Church

1 Wyndham Road

Kingston Upon Thames

Surrey KT2 5JR

Tel: 020-8546 4633

www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

parishoffice@stagathaschurch.org.uk

Parish Priest:

Fr Vitalis Vaakwagh Kondo MSP

Fr Julius Otoaye MSP

Deacon Robert Beresford

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 17th December 2017

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Saturday	6.30pm	John Dankis RIP
Sunday	9.00am	Arthur & Robin O'Connor RIP
	10.30am	Wellbeing of Gina Kirwan & family
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	11.00am	Requiem Katherine Teresa Kennedy
Tuesday	9.30am	Breda Madden RIP
Wednesday	9.30am	School end of term mass
Thursday	9.30am	Tosca Kneen RIP
Friday	9.30am	Intention of Mary McCambridge
Saturday	9.30am	Richard Yeo RIP
	6.30pm	Natalino Evangelista RIP
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-10.30am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Exposition:	Saturday 10.00-10.30am	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months' notice required - Diocesan rule	

Penitential Service

On **Tuesday 19th** there will be a Penitential Service in the church at **7.00pm**.

Midnight mass

This year the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will revert to its normal time of **11.00pm**. It will be preceded by carols from **10.30pm**. Full details of all our Christmas services are on a separate card available at the back of the church.

PARISH NOTICES

Christmas Eve Christingle Service

Christmas is coming.... which means that we are getting closer to our **Christingle Service**. This is a very special way of celebrating the real meaning of Christmas with all our friends, family and the whole St Agatha's community. **Actors** – Years 3–6 only; **Readers** – Year 6 and secondary school children. The younger children are invited to dress up as a shepherd, king, angel, donkey etc

Parent volunteers – If there are any parents who would like to help with dressing the children, make-up, lighting or rehearsing with the actors or readers we are very keen to hear from you too! Please sign up at the church or email Helen Mennis helenmennis@blueyonder.co.uk or Louisa Collyer-Hamlin louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk

Rehearsal dates & Christingle-making

Sunday 17th December Costume fitting and giving out readings – **11.30 – 12.30pm (after 10.30 mass)**.

Saturday 23rd December Practice in church **10.30 – 12.30pm, Full dress rehearsal and Christingle making** in the Cloister. All ages are welcome to join us in the Cloisters to make our Christingles & have a drink and biscuit. (Mums & Dads especially welcome! We'll even give you a cuppa!)

Sunday 24 December Christingle Service **4.00pm** (costumes & make-up from **3.00pm**). Warning: the church will be very full. If you don't want to stand, arrive early.

Day by Day

The booklet of daily readings and inspiring reflections for Advent – **Day by Day** – is still available at the back of the church. There is one copy for each family. There are also separate booklets for children and infants. Please take one – there is **no charge**.

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.

Crib Offerings

At the specific request of the Archbishop, the crib offerings this year will go to the Catholic Children's Society

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Course

The RCIA course is intended for adults who are seeking to be baptised and for Christians baptised in another denomination who would like to become Catholics. If you fall into either of these categories please contact Fr Vitalis as soon as reasonably practicable so that he may put your name down to start the course in January. The Rite of Election will take place in February.

Christmas gifts and supplies

The Christmas cards and calendars are still on sale in the cloister after the masses this weekend. Shop now before supplies run out.

Pilgrimage to Fatima

We are invited to join the St Joseph's, New Malden, pilgrimage to Fatima from **Monday 28th May to Thursday 31st May 2018**. This will be led by Fr Uche Njoku, the parish priest of St Joseph's. The cost is £490 per person based on a minimum of 30 passengers. The price includes Air Portugal flights from Heathrow, full board accommodation and transfers in Portugal. Booking forms are available from the St Joseph's parish office catholicnewmalden@icloud.com. For further details see the notice in the church porch.

Medjugorje Pilgrimages 2018

The Medjugorje Irish Centre is organising a series of pilgrimages to Medjugorje during 2018. For details see the poster on the notice board in the porch.

Parish Men's Group

The Parish Men's Group will not meet in December because of the close proximity of its usual meeting date to Christmas.

Reflection

In Advent, we not only celebrate the first coming of our Lord, but eagerly prepare for His Second Coming as well, when the restoration of all things takes place. Too often many of us shudder at the thought of our Lord's coming in glory, as if it were a frightening event--and certainly it will be for those who knowingly rejected Jesus. But for Christians who persevere it will be our great deliverance from the troubles and trials of this world. All the world will bend the knee--some in terror--but as for God's friends, they will bend the knee in joyful adoration as Jesus takes His place as King. The earliest Christians cried 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!' expecting Jesus to come at any moment. So should we--we should long for His return with our lamps trimmed and our souls ready. It is indeed something to celebrate--and prepare for. Advent turns our hearts and minds to this reality.

Gaudete Sunday

John Mallon—Catholic Online