

St. Agatha's Catholic Church

1 Wyndham Road

Kingston Upon Thames

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www.stagathaschurch.org.uk



**St. Agatha's
PARISH**

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 January 2016 – Second Sunday of the Year (C)

Prayer for Peace on Earth

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Thomas Joseph Byrne
Sunday	9.00am	Pat McDonagh
	10.30am	Teresa White
	6.30pm	People of the Parish (Inscription mass)
Monday	9.30am	Deceased members of Crehan family
Tuesday	9.30am	Patrick & Terry Gallagher
Wednesday	9.30am	Anne Reynolds
Thursday	9.30am	Special Intention
Friday	9.30am	Anne O'Brien
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	In Thanksgiving
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00–11.00am, 18.00–18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months notice required – Diocesan rule	

If we take the miracle of Cana literally, we reduce it to a one-off wonder and greatly limit its meaning. It's not really about the power to change water into wine. We already know how to do that – it happens every year in our vineyards and wineries. The miracle has a deeper and broader meaning, and one that is valid for all time. It is about something far more valuable.

In attempting to describe the relationship between God and his people, the Bible uses the image of a bridegroom and his bride. And in describing the joy God finds among his people, it uses the image of the wedding feast.

PARISH NOTICES

Pax Christi

The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Its vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, it works with all who share its values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. For further information contact Pax Christi telephone 020 8203 4884 or email info@paxchristi.or.uk.

First Holy Communion 2016

The children attending St Agatha's School will come to the church for their next class at **3.30pm** on **Monday 18th January**; children mostly at other schools will come on **Saturday 23rd January** at **10.00am**.

Confirmation dates 2016

Sunday 17th January: Inscription Mass (6.30pm) with the Bishop

Monday 18th January: Session Two 7.15–8.30pm

Saturday 30th January: Retreat (10am–4.00pm)

Saturday 5th March: Faith in Action (12 noon – 4.00pm)

Sunday 13th March at 12 noon: Confirmation Mass with the Bishop

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord (cf. 1 Peter 2:9) is the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18–25). Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21).

The Week of Prayer in our area will begin with a service of prayer and praise on **Monday 18th January** at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Montem Road, New Malden at **8.00pm**. All Christians in the borough are warmly invited to attend.

For further information please see the poster on the church notice board.

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. Please enter via the Presbytery.

Parish Men's Group

The **Parish Men's Group** will meet on **Wednesday 20th January** from **8.00pm** at the Wych Elm for a friendly and relaxed evening lubricated by a pint or two.

Job offer – St Agatha's School

The school is looking for a part-time site assistant, 25 hours per week, salary range £11,690 to £12,532. Closing date for applications is **Friday 29th January**.

For further details see the church notice board.

REFLECTION

Water into wine

Jesus brought the wine of God's love into the world.
Everywhere he went the old was made new.
For the couple at Cana he changed water into wine.
For the widow of Nain he turned tears into joy.
For Zacchaeus he changed selfishness into love.
For the thief on Calvary he changed despair into hope.
And on Easter morning he changed death into life.
Lord, be present with us today and throughout our lives.
And when through human weakness the wine of love is found wanting,
touch our hearts and strengthen our wills,
so that we may taste the wine of unselfish love.

Rev F McCarthy S.D.B.

First Reading: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Isaiah's hopes for the people of Israel almost verge on the fanatic. He is convinced that God has not forgotten them, that redemption is but a day away. To a displaced and disinherited nation, these words either brought sustaining hope or seemed like a cruel taunt. This experience will no doubt be familiar to those who are displaced in our world today, waiting and wondering if they have been forgotten or if help is near at hand.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

The world is divided into those who have and those who have not. The division is striking, yet we are somehow numbed to it. Saint Paul offers a simple truth; the Spirit of God is given to each of us in different forms but in equal measure. We are destined to use these gifts not only for ourselves or for those that we love, but for the good of all humanity.

Gospel Reading: John 2: 1-11

In many ways, the story of Jesus' first miracle is quite unusual. We would expect Jesus to reserve miracles for more serious cases, like illness and death, rather than show his power to save a newly-married couple some embarrassment. Perhaps the reason is quite simple. Jesus revealed himself and performed this, his first miracle, because he was asked to by his mother. Mary, a woman of deep empathy, is keenly aware of the needs of this couple. She intercedes on their behalf with her Son, the Christ. Unable to deny his mother, even in this comparatively trivial situation, Jesus performs a miracle. If Jesus will not deny his mother this, he will not deny any of the prayers she brings to him.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 3.30pm: First Holy Communion Children – Monday Group
Monday 7.15pm: Confirmation Session Two
Monday 8.00pm: Service for Christian Unity, New Malden
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Wednesday 8.00pm: Parish Men's Group
Saturday 10.00am: First Holy Communion Children – Saturday Group

FEAST FOR THE WEEK

Thursday: St Agnes

OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid	£577.80	Loose	£364.01
Retiring collection (CAFOD)	Gift Aid	£13.50	Loose	£34.55

The retiring collection this weekend is for the work of Pax Christi. Next weekend, the retiring collection will be for racial justice.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

Arthur Squires, James Coughlan, George Alexander Bergin Winifred Frain, Ethel Finn, Joseph Coll, Michael Hart, Henry Heaton-Harris, James Burt, Madeline Gurney, William Hill, Marcella Sweeney, Patrick McDonagh, Joseph Ruddy, Frederick Burch, Umberto Milocco, Basil Gurney, Colin Alexander, Bruce Hickman, Eileen Mary Radnor, Peter McChrystal, Susan Prince, Patrick Walsh, Therese Currie, Peter Kearns, May East, Martin McDonagh, Una Reed, Liam Mullane, Mary Brice, Joseph Absalom, Eileen Ryan, James Milburn, Robert Francis Colclough, Agneta Hill, Mary Shanks, Mary Frances McDonnell, Winifred Gertrude Maton, William Little, Mary Abraham, Micheal Gray, Thyrsa Colclough, Micheal Cullen, Alfred Hall, Agnes Rimmer, Mary Johnson, James Norman, Margaret Heighton, John McParlane, Patric Emerson

+++ May they rest in peace +++

Bishop's Visitation

Bishop Paul Hendricks will be visiting the parish during the weekend of **16th–17th January**. His visit will include but not be limited to the Inscription mass for confirmation candidates at 6.30pm on Sunday.

Christmas raffle

The winner of the raffle for the Christmas hamper was Lorna McLarnon.