

### FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid	£590.54	Loose	£452.74	
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£13.50	Loose	£59.35	
					TOTAL £1116.13

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Christina Ward, Marie Ann Xibberas, Clare Horgan, Grace Gibbs, Paul and June McMahon, Michael Boyle, Eileen Hurley, Elizabeth O'Daley, Ellen Basci, Joan Gallagher, Stephane Patten, John Sewter, Ryan Morison, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Christopher Browne, Mary Wallace, Anna O'Brien and Brian Towler.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Frederic Leo Strawson, John McSorley, Robert Thomas Amon Kotei, Patricia Scott, Maria Winifred Taylor, Alfred Shoppee, Charles Kaufman, Mary Letitia Lally, William Kitchen, Joseph William Kilkenny, Valentine Percival Hafner, Patrick Cremin, Bernadette Teresa Clarke, Edith Conlon, Stantey Cook, Peggy McManus, Norman Owen, Bridget (Bridie) Crehan, Mary McGhee, Ann Rosemary Parker, Corina Gomes, Mary Jennings, John Fennell, Elisabeth Thyrsa Quinn, Ethel Myall, Joe Walsh, Joan Heelan, Oscar Verhoven, Walter Frederic Welch, Nora Cutbill, Joan Miles, Reiner Kasolowsky.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

### Parish Prayer Group

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

### Parish Office

The parish office should be your first port of call for any enquiries including arrangements for all sacraments (e.g. baptisms, weddings, funerals). Please email the Parish Secretary at [parishoffice@stagathaschurch.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@stagathaschurch.org.uk) or call on 020 8546 4633. The office is open from **9.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday**. Could you please limit telephone calls outside these hours to emergencies only.

### 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 or explore their faith more. If you fall into either of these categories please contact Fr. Vitalis. The course will commence later in the year.

### British Summer Time—Clocks Go Forward

Please remember that the clocks go forward one hour in the early hours of **25th March**; Masses on that Sunday will therefore be one hour earlier than they would otherwise have been.



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[parishoffice@stagathaschurch.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@stagathaschurch.org.uk)

### CLERGY

Fr. Vitalis Vaakwagh Kondo MSP — Parish Priest  
Fr. Julius Otoaye MSP  
Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 18th March 2018

Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Caroline Baskell RIP
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Joseph Kilkenny RIP
	10.30am	Anna Marie Borg RIP
	6.30pm	Crimelda Freitas
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Wellbeing of Michael and Sarah Beresford
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Wellbeing of Nancy Kilkenny
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Cathy Rawlins RIP
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Intention of Mark Ciantar
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Josn Heelan RIP
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Bridie John and Dennis Crehan RIP
	6.30pm	John Davis 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

### Good Friday

All children are welcome to join us at **12pm** on **Friday 30th March** as we observe Good Friday with a child-friendly service. During this hands-on service, children of all ages will walk together through the Stations of the Cross, learning as they go about the meaning of Good Friday. We will need children from year 5 and above, for readings, and actors from year 3 and above to take part in the performance; please sign up at the back of the church.

### Important Upcoming Dates

20th March	Confirmation Session 4
22nd March	Sacrament of Reconciliation
24th March	Easter Spring Clean
24th March	The Mustard Seed
25th March	British Summer Time Starts
30th March	Good Friday Children's Service—12pm

### **Reflection:**

Jesus invites the Greeks and each of us who merely wanted to see him, to look to a deeper, personal and lasting relationship with him by telling them about the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and decays to bring forth a rich harvest. Like the grain of wheat we have to let go and let God! Letting go wasn't easy for Jesus either. It was only after his prayer in Gethsemane wherein he sweated blood in agony, that he was able to say 'yes' to God. As the Second reading says "Although he was Son, he learnt through suffering what obedience was" and, as a result, "became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him." It was only when Jesus was willing to let go that he found strength and comfort in God. Is there anything that holds us back from letting God in? Are you happy merely looking at Jesus or do you wish to 'know him'? Lent is a season to lose ourselves in Jesus so that God can create a new covenant with us and write it on our hearts.

### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer and Benediction**

Will take place every Sunday during Lent at 5.30pm.

### **Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross will be conducted after Friday morning Masses and at 7pm on Fridays during Lent.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

A Lenten Reconciliation service will be held on **Thursday 22nd March at 7pm** here in the Parish of St Agatha's for those who would like to go to confession before Easter. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the healing sacraments and a powerful help on our Journey of Faith.

### **Easter Services 2018**

A programme of the upcoming Holy Week and Easter Triduum services will be available later this week.

### **St Agatha's Church Choir**

The next choir practice will be on **Wednesday 21st March from 7-8pm** in the church. If you are interested do come along and try it; if you feel you cannot commit to joining us regularly we will welcome people to join us for special services as long as you attend several rehearsals beforehand. There is no need to have sung in a church choir before and it doesn't matter if you haven't a wonderful voice it will improve with practice. You don't need to be able to read music. Much of what we sing can be learnt by listening carefully.

### **Preparation for First Holy Communion**

The next classes for our young people who are preparing for First Holy Communion will be on **19th March and Monday 23rd April at 3.30pm.**

The rehearsal for Group 1 will be on **Friday 27th April at 3.30pm.**

The First Holy Communion Mass will be on **Sunday 29th April at 12noon.**

The rehearsal for Group 2 will be on **Friday 5th May at 3.30pm.**

The First Holy Communion Mass will be on **Sunday 6th May at 12noon.**

### **Confirmation**

The next preparation Session before Easter break will be on **Tuesday 20th March.**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on **Sunday 13th May.**

### **Universe Media Publications**

Print circulation has declined amidst the growth of alternative news sources. New media have been emerging, innovating, and becoming affordable for the average reader. Regular and cable television channels have introduced more news providers and the emergence of the 24-hours news cycle has accelerated the rate at which people learn about what is happening around them. We at St Agatha's have noticed the decline in uptake of the Universe Media Publications provided in the church (The Universe, Catholic Times, Ireland's Own, Pilgrim) and it is with regret that we will be cancelling our subscription this month for these publications. If anybody has any concerns, please contact the Parish Secretary to discuss.

### **St Agatha's Church Easter Spring Clean**

We call on kind Parish volunteers to help prepare our beautiful church inside and outside for Easter Holy Week. If you can spare a couple of hours after the morning Mass on **Saturday 24th March** to help polish brass/iron altar cloths, etc.. Please add your name to the notice board list by the front door. Teens are especially welcome (those aged 11 - 13 to be accompanied by an adult please - no smaller children). Volunteers who would like to help spruce up the garden - please bring gardening tools with you.

### **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 24th March** at St Margaret's RC Church, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL, 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. The church is just by St Margarets railway station (with direct trains from Kingston). All are welcome.

### **The Passion of Jesus**

On **Good Friday, 30th March**, 20,000 people will gather to watch the Easter story in **Trafalgar Square, Central London.** Supported by the Mayor of London, one hundred Wintershall players bring their electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus to this iconic location in the capital. The 90-minute production is completely free of charge - a gift to Londoners and visitors. No tickets are required. There is a performance at **12noon and 3.15 pm.** The production is open air with visibility maximised using large screens. There is a realistic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised. British sign language interpretation is provided. The designated Disabled Seating Area will be on the North Terrace at the top of the stairs in front of the National Gallery. Level access is available from East and West of the Square. All stewards in the Square will be able to assist and direct.

### **Altar Servers' Rally 2018**

The annual rally for Southwark Altar Servers is on **Monday 7th May at The Friars, Aylesford Priory, Kent. Bishop Paul Mason** is the principal celebrant. The annual rally gives servers in Southwark a great opportunity to collectively acknowledge and celebrate their special Ministry of Service in the church. Furthermore, the event encourages servers to socialise with other servers and share and renew their faith. If you have not attended before please take the time to 'come and see'. All servers and their families and friends are welcome. A poster with more details is on the church noticeboard.

Altar Servers perform a very important role in liturgical services. After approx. 2 years regular serving, servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen for Altar Servers and receive the Guild bronze medal. If you or your child are interested in joining the ministry or if you have questions about the ministry, please speak to Fr. Vitalis.