

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Robert Beresford – Deacon

The parish office should be your first port of call for any 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 19TH FEBRUARY 2023
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 18th	
6.30pm	Nancy Petitjean RIP
Sunday 19th 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
9am	Vincent Arendse RIP
10.30am	Maria McCarthy RIP
6.30pm	Birthday Intentions
Monday 20th	
9.30am	Ann Gibbons RIP
Tuesday 21st	
9.30am	James Corcoran RIP
Wednesday 22nd Ash Wednesday	
9.30am	Whole School Mass Wellbeing of Rev Fr Ray Brennan
7.30pm	Wellbeing of Una Smith
Thursday 23rd St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr, Memorial	
9.30am	Nancy Petitjean RIP
Friday 24th	
9.30am	Patricia Corcoran RIP
Saturday 25th	
9.30am	Toni Pearce RIP
Exposition:	Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 9am.
Confessions:	Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM
Mass Times:	Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30
Baptisms:	Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.
Marriages:	Six months' notice required, Diocesan rule

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for this month is 'Parishes'. Click on this link for a short video and a message from the Pope himself: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5uRUQDij-g>

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 22nd February 2023

There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday at 9.30am and 7.30pm. We will be joined by children from St Agatha's School for the 9.30am Mass.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Our Lent and Holy Week Programme will be available in the church porch from Ash Wednesday. It will also be available on the Parish website.

CHRIST THE REDEEMER
CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

St Agatha's School are consulting stakeholders on their desire to join Christ the Redeemer Catholic Education Trust. To find out more and submit feedback go to www.ctrcet.org.uk by Friday 3rd Mar 2023.

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND COLLECTION
Sunday 26th February 2023

They've been there for us
Let us be there for them

Clergy Support Fund 2023
Please support our sick and retired
priests with a gift today

Next weekend there will be the annual collection for the Clergy Support Fund. The Clergy Support Fund of the Archdiocese of Southwark provides care for priests in their old age and retirement, and in their time of ill health. A gift to this worthy fund will ensure a dignified retirement for our priests, after they have dedicated a lifetime of service to Christ, His Church and His People.

In 2022, the Clergy Support Fund provided care to 73 retired priests, at a cost of £1.33 million. With the number of priests over the age of 65 steadily increasing, so too will the financial obligation to the Archdiocese.

Please be generous today with a gift to the Clergy Support Fund and continue to keep our priests in your prayers. Thank you!

- Donate Online: <https://rcaos.org.uk/donate/csf>
- QR Code (see right)
- Telephone Mon-Fri 9am-5pm: **020 7960 2504**
- Cash / Cheque – please use the Clergy Support Fund envelopes at the back of church or your gift aid envelopes.



PLEASE HELP, MORE CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED!

How does the church stay looking clean and tidy? There are a number of teams, on a rota, who keep the church looking good. Cleaning takes place every two weeks and only requires a commitment of four times a year. More volunteers are needed for this necessary work to keep our church sanctuary looking clean and welcoming. If you would like to become a "heavenly duster" or an "altar angel", please contact the Parish Secretary on 02085464633 or email kingston@rcaos.org.uk

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, February 19, 2023

Gospel Reading
Matthew 5:38-48

My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.

Gospel Reflection

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

Family Reflection

Family life teaches us many things. It is often at home that we learn practical skills such as cooking, riding a bike, and making repairs. Talk about some of the things that the members of your family have learned to do at home. We also learn about caring at home. Talk about times when you have learned a lesson about sharing, forgiving, or loving through an experience that happened at home.

Talk about how love is the most important thing a family can share with one another. Explain that it is the same in God’s family. Read aloud this Sunday’s Gospel, Matthew 5:38-48. Talk about how Jesus tried to teach his disciples how to love others beyond those who are closest to them. Jesus tells them to love even their enemies. As members of God’s family, we are called to do the same thing. Talk about some concrete ways you can “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”

Remind your children that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect. Jesus knows that we are human and will not always do everything correctly. Explain that what Jesus wants us to do is to love others as if they were Jesus himself. If we reach out in love to others, we are doing exactly what Jesus did. That is what perfection looks like. End this time together by praying the Act of Love.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle and Marie Chlebeckova. *Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.*

HOLY COMMUNION FOR
SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are sick and/or housebound, our Priests would be happy to visit you, to pray with you, and to bring you Holy Communion in your home, please do let the Parish Office know; home visits are by request. If you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass but who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Priests.

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 Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES

Charles Hope, Ethel Pyke, Edward Mitchell, Vincenza Marchese, Sheila McCormick, Edwin Reeves, Bridget Fenton, Mary Kathleen Dudley, William Lucas, Bruno Zuffo, Bernard McArdle, Mary West, George Alexander, Thomas McCormack, Charles Waddell, Mervyn Woolger, Ursula Nolan, Julia Turner, Nestor Paralta, Maria Onorato, Michael Whelan, Giovanna Capaldi, Mary Ellen O'Donoghue, John Mclaughlin Sim, Josephine Flynn, Kathleen Law, James Brooks, John Connell, Susan Thomas, Rose Pullen, Jorge Potier.
+++May They Rest In Peace +++

MASS INTENTIONS

It is, again, a very busy time for Mass requests and Masses are being booked several weeks in advance. Therefore, if you have a particular date or time on which you want a Mass said, **it is very important that you let the parish office know ahead of time and as soon as possible.** You are very welcome to book your Mass intentions in advance. We are sorry but we cannot guarantee a requested date when submitting late Mass Intentions; if no date is specified or a date requested is not available, the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open Mass.

Mass intentions envelopes are available at the back of the church. When requesting a Mass, please clearly indicate the intention and whether the Mass is for the deceased, the sick or for another intention.

If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details. Thank you.





LENT READING - 'MY DAY BY DAY'

Copies of the Lent edition of 'My Day by Day', for adults and juniors, are available at the back of the Church - they cost £1.00 each. Please put money in the box marked 'My Day by Day'. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter.

EASTER SPRING CLEAN
Save the date!!



This year our dedicated Easter Spring Cleaning morning will be on Saturday 25th March 2023, from 10am. There are a variety of tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to give up a few hours of their time to help us. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church porch for volunteers to sign up or please email the parish office. (Even if you can only spare an hour or two, Fathers would really appreciate!) refreshments and all cleaning products will be provided. Everyone is welcome, teens especially, those aged 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult please

We would also like to ensure the church grounds are looking their best too and we would welcome anyone who can bring a few spring flowers along for the front gardens and help to plant them. Again, please get in touch with the Parish Secretary if you would like to help out. Please bring your favourite garden tools and gardening gloves!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Throughout Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held on Tuesdays at 7pm and Friday mornings after the Morning Mass. This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord. Everyone is welcome.

EXPOSITION AND ADORATION DURING LENT AND LENTEN RECONCILIATION

The church will be open on Wednesday evenings during Lent from 7pm - 8pm for Exposition and Adoration. (1st 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March).

This is a beautiful opportunity for quiet prayer and adoration. Please come for as long you can, be it 5 or 10 minutes or the whole hour, everyone is welcome. Reconciliation will also be available on these dates during this time.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

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BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held this Sunday, 19th February 2023.

The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm. Please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.

Our subsequent classes will be held on Sunday 26th March 2023 and Sunday 30th April 2023.

Parents must attend a Baptism preparation class before a child's baptism, and it is recommended that Godparents also attend.

CONFIRMATION 2023

There will be an Introduction and Family Meeting for Candidates and their families on Monday 20th February 2023. Candidates to arrive for a 7.15pm start and parents to arrive at 8.30pm.



The first candidate session will be on Monday 27th February 2023 at 7.15pm.

The Confirmation Inscription Mass will be on **Sunday 5th March at 6.30pm**: Candidates **MUST** arrive by 6pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23



The next session is being held on: Sunday 5th March 2023. 11.45am to 1pm (Session 5).

Please note there will **NOT** be a Parents session held as previously scheduled.

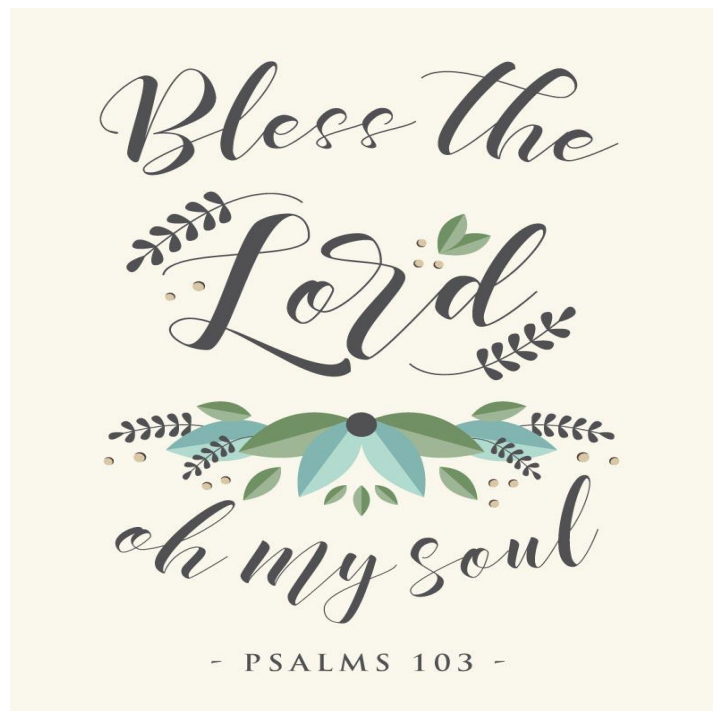
MARRIAGES IN 2023 and 2024

2023 or 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 preparation for our parishioners must take place here at St. Agatha's.

Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.



**RENEWED IN HOPE
DIOCESAN ONLINE RETREAT**

A retreat for Lent 2023, introduced by Archbishop John Wilson, led by members of the Spirituality Commission.

The Archdiocese of Southwark is offering a retreat experience for individuals and parishes during Lent 2023. Drawing on the Mass readings for the Sundays of Lent, Renewed in Hope will help us find fresh ways of living and working in hope, in the company of Jesus. We live in a divided world, where many are struggling to survive. Through his life, death and resurrection, the suffering and risen Christ continues to make all things new.

The retreat is designed for individuals and is based on a weekly video accompanied by suggested exercises for prayer and reflection. These resources will be available in advance so that the videos can be viewed at any convenient time.

Individuals can join one of the online groups that will be offered on different days of the week and at different times of the day.

For more details and to register follow this link:

<https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/renewedbyhope>

GODCALLS: ADVENTURE

GodCalls Adventure from the National Office for Vocation, is a free, 40-day self-guided course which aims to help you grow in holiness, and root each day in prayer.

The downloadable resources focus on cultivating different virtues, ranging from meekness to purity, gratitude to courage.

There is also guidance on using the Bible, how to pray and reflect with the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross.

Further details at: www.godcalls.co.uk/godcalls-adventure

GodCalls Adventure is not just for Lent, try the 40 days at any point of the year



**A SPECIAL PRAYER INITIATIVE FOR THE
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' PONTIFICATE**

In a months' time, on 13th March, Pope Francis will be celebrating ten years of his pontificate.

To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "viral" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a [special online map](#) featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him.

Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Marys. "In the end we will send the Holy Father the map with the 'little candles' which represent the Hail Marys that are prayed for him, thanking God for His Mercy, "

No other phrase has been repeated by Pope Francis more than the seven words he utters at the end of almost every speech he has delivered since his election as pontiff in March 2013 – "Do not forget to pray for me!" Now — on the eve of the 10-year anniversary of his election as pontiff — this new initiative is underway asking Catholics around the world to commit to doing just that and making good on the pope's request.

<https://www.decimus-annus.org/it>



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – FRIDAY 3rd MARCH 2023

In response to the awful scenes in Turkey and Syria, relief agencies whether faith-based or otherwise, will be appealing for your support. The immediate and long-term needs of those impacted by the 'war' in the Ukraine have not gone away. Historical aid projects and perceived needs in Africa and Asia, must not be ignored because they cannot compete with the above for media attention. What a mess. Yet throughout we see the beauty of those willingly giving of their time and efforts, to alleviate the suffering of others. Whether it be by the removing of rubble, greeting refugees or setting up mother and baby clinics. CAFOD the official relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, under the umbrella of Caritas, are not physically able to do all of the above. But they, in our name, are at the shoulder side supporting and enabling those that are.

The retiring collection at all masses over Sunday 5th March 2023 will be for CAFOD - our relief agency.

CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

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CAFOD SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.



*Keeping our community fed,
connected & supported.*

SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, such as pasta, rice, cereals, tea and coffee UHT milk, tins of vegetable, fruit, soup and also pet food and toiletry items such as toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant. Please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, eggs or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life. The donations box will be left in the church porch and as donations accumulate, they will then be delivered. *Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

"Each one of us needs other people. Even weakness, if endured together with others, can become a strength that will make the world better" ~ Pope Francis