

**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](mailto: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 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

6.30pm Thomas Joseph Byrne RIP

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

9am Dorothy Hall RIP

10.30am Maria McCarthy RIP

6.30pm The Catechumen & Candidate of the Parish

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity**

9.30am Holy Souls

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

9.30am Zoran Popovic RIP

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9.30am Winston Churchill RIP

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

9.30am James Corcoran RIP

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Rev. Fr Albert Jenner RIP

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity**

9.30am Fanny Margaret Cook 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



**LENT AND HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME**

Our Lent and Holy Week Programme is available in the church porch. It is also available on the Parish website: [www.stagathaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY  
 CHILDREN'S CELEBRATIONS**

All children are welcome to join us at 12pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we observe both days with child-friendly services.

During these hands-on services, children of all ages will walk together through the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross, learning as they go.

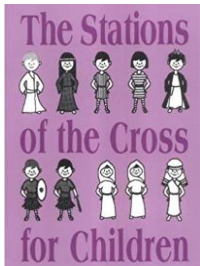
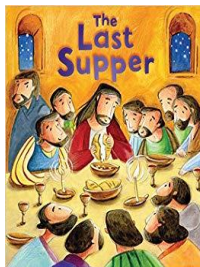
On Maundy Thursday we have a re-enactment of the last supper in the Cloister with readings, acting and singing, and lunch to share afterwards.

On Good Friday we have the Stations of the Cross read and acted by our young people.

Please sign up at the back of the church, or email: [kingston@kingston.org.uk](mailto:kingston@kingston.org.uk), if you are able to attend and your child(ren) would like to take part.

Year 6 and above to read on Good Friday, but all children will be able to take part in both services as we need actors for a variety of roles.

No rehearsals but on Good Friday, please come to the church at 11.15 to collect readings and have a quick practice.



**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. (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.

**CTS BOOKLETS**

Our CTS rack in the church porch has various booklets available to purchase, including some suitable spiritual reading for Lent; do have a look at what is on offer today. The price for each booklet can be found on the back. Monies should be put in the wall box marked "papers".

**BRITISH SUMMER TIME**

Please remember that the clocks go forward one hour in the early hours of next **Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March**; Sunday Mass will feel one hour earlier than usual!



**POOR PARISHES COLLECTION**

This weekend there is a retiring collection for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to the smaller parishes in the Diocese. Please use your gift aid envelopes or the red bucket in the church porch. Thank You.

**CAFOD LENTEN COLLECTION**

Thank for your contributions to our CAFOD Lenten Collection. The parish raised a total of £1380.66. Thank you for your continued support to CAFOD.



**Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A**  
**Sunday, March 19, 2023**

**Gospel Reading**

*John 9:1-41 (shorter form: John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38) Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.*

**Gospel Reflection**

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

**Family Reflection**

When infants are baptised, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptised continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows.

Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person's relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Then read together today's Gospel, John 9:1-41. Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

**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**

*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, Marie Teresa Finnegan, Elisabeth Thyrsa Quinn, Ethel Myall, Joe Walsh, Joan Heelan, Oscar Verhoven, Walter Frederic Welch, Nora Cutbill, Joan Miles, Reiner Kasilowsky, Kathleen Hatcher, Frederic White, Thomas Walsh, Gary Bellamy, Desmond Duggan.*

**+++May They Rest In Peace +++**





"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

### EASTER SPRING CLEAN

This year our dedicated Easter Spring Cleaning morning will be next Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> 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 is still 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 plants or 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!*



### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 NINE DAY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

On the 1st Sunday after Easter the entire Church is called to gather throughout the world to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. From St Maria Faustina's Diary it is clear that this Octave Day on Easter is the day chosen by Christ as a day of extraordinary graces - a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith.

*How to observe the Feast of Mercy*

1. Go to confession, preferably before that Sunday
2. Place your complete trust in Jesus
3. Celebrate the Feast
4. Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast
5. Venerate the Image of Divine Mercy
6. Be merciful to others, through your actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

In the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, Jesus asked that the **Feast of Divine Mercy**, known today as **Divine Mercy Sunday**, be preceded by a **Novena to The Divine Mercy**. A Novena is nine days of prayer in preparation for a feast. To properly celebrate this great day, we need to prepare well. As a Parish we are encouraging everyone to make a Novena to The Divine Mercy and pray the Chaplet.

'Jesus instructed St Faustina to write down and make (the Novena & Chaplet) before the Feast of Mercy. It begins on Good Friday' (Diary 1209 - 1229).

Divine Mercy pamphlets are available in the church porch. (Cost 50p each). Monies should be put in the wall box marked "papers".

### SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

#### RCIA: CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES!

We extend warm congratulations to our five Catechumens and one Candidate who attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023. These men and women, Elect as they are now called, have been participating in our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program and Archbishop Wilson has accepted them as being ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. During the season of Lent, they enter into a time of personal preparation that concludes at the Easter Vigil on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April.



The Elect now begin their final period of "purification and enlightenment" before the Easter Vigil. Over three Sundays, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent, our Catechumen and Candidate will join us as we celebrate special rites called the "Scrutinies" during Mass (Sundays at 6.30pm). They are part of a series of rites belonging to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) that are celebrated during the season of Lent. Essentially these rites are composed of prayers of intercession and the laying on of hands so that the Holy Spirit may be invoked and the spirit of evil cast out. They are celebrated purposefully at Mass, so that the whole congregation is given the opportunity to pray for and support those preparing for the Easter sacraments and to make the point that conversion is not only a personal matter but a communal commitment.

Please pray for each of them as they prepare to be received into full communion in the Catholic Church!

#### BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 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 Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

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

#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

The next session (6) will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Session 7 is after the Easter break on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.



#### CONFIRMATION 2023

Session 4 is being held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023. 7.15-8.30pm. Session 5 is after the Easter break on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

#### 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.

## ARCHDIOCESE LAUNCHES CARITAS SOUTHWARK

Archbishop John Wilson, announced the launch of Caritas Southwark last weekend in a pastoral letter to the faithful of the Archdiocese. Caritas is the Latin word for love and Caritas Southwark will be our Archdiocesan network to co-ordinate our practical loving service of others, putting faith into action. Recognising that the church has always served the poorest and the weakest, through parishes and schools, not to mention social and charitable projects and organisations, Archbishop Wilson says: "in such challenging times, it is important that we strengthen and enhance our charitable outreach, rooted in our faith in Christ. This will build on the excellent work already taking place and provide encouragement and support for new initiatives.

Caritas Southwark is about facilitation and collaboration, building up our common bond of charity through a more considered identity whereby our archdiocese can promote and recognise faith in action. The organisation will work with Southwark's parishes and schools to support them in serving those in need.

You can visit the official website for the Archdiocese of Southwark for more details and to read the full pastoral letter: <https://rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/caritas-southwark/>

**ST AGATHA'S PSA QUIZ NIGHT**  
TUESDAY 28TH MARCH  
ARRIVE FROM 7.30PM, QUIZ STARTS AT 8PM

AT THE **WYCH ELM PUB**  
93 ELM ROAD, KT2 6HT  
**£10 per person**  
Teams of 6-8  
Fantastic prizes to be won, kindly donated by the Wych Elm, including dinner for two & £60 vouchers!

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW AT  
[www.jumblebee.co.uk/stagsquiz2023](http://www.jumblebee.co.uk/stagsquiz2023)

## LIFTS TO MASS

If you could occasionally offer someone a lift to any of the Masses, that you normally attend, please could you kindly contact Karin in the Parish office to discuss further. We have a couple of parishioners who are unable to get to Mass due to mobility issues but live just a few roads away and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to come to Mass, even just occasionally. *Thank you!*



*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.*

### THE CATHOLIC UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

Dear friends, a new inquiry has been launched by the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights into human rights at work and we need your help to respond.

Part of the inquiry is considering freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and freedom of expression in the workplace. It includes questions on whether our law strikes the right balance between employee rights to freedom of religion or belief and the rights of employers.

It is vital that there is a strong response from lay Catholics to this inquiry as there are increasing reports about it being difficult to be a faithful and open Catholic in the workplace.

To help shape the Catholic Union's evidence to the inquiry, we're asking our members and supporters to share their views and experiences with us. We would be very grateful if you could spare a few moments of your time to complete our survey on religion in the workplace. The responses will form the basis of our written evidence to the inquiry. If you have had a positive or negative experience of faith at work, we want to hear from you.

Additionally, the Catholic Union is encouraging those with a particular interest or expertise to submit evidence directly to the Committee, which is made up of a cross-party group of MPs and peers. The Committee is expected to report and make recommendations to the UK Government later this year.

Please [click here](https://catholicunion.org.uk/2023/03/catholic-union-launches-religion-in-the-workplace-survey) to take our survey. The closing date is 20 March 2023. <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2023/03/catholic-union-launches-religion-in-the-workplace-survey>



"Is your faith tired? Do you want to reinvigorate it? Look for God's gaze: sit in adoration, allow yourself to be forgiven in Confession, stand before the Crucified One. In short, let him love you." ~ Pope Francis – Lent 2023