



#### CLERGY

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

St. Agatha's Catholic Church  
1 Wyndham Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey, KT2 5JR  
Tel: 020 8546 4633  
[www.stagathaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)  
[kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)

The parish office should be your first port of call for all 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.



## Society of African Missions

(SMA)

Society of African Missions  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023

This weekend we will be joined by Father Henry Somah, SMA, who will be doing a mission appeal at all the Sunday Masses for the Society of African Missions. We will have a Retiring Collection for the work of the SMA, please also use the red bucket in the church porch.

Fr Henry Somah was born in Liberia in West Africa and was ordained 19 years ago, is currently based in Manchester in the Mission Animation and Appeals Team of the Society of African Missions, British Province. He has previously worked in Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. We know that you will make him feel very welcome.

SMA are an international missionary Society with members coming from 24 countries. Their missionary focus is Africa and her people. Their purpose is to spread the Gospel. Their missionaries presently serve in 17 different African countries. For more information about the SMA please visit: <https://www.sma-gb.org/>

### FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

6.30pm Vincenzo Straccialano RIP

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am Thanksgiving to The Triune God

10.30am Joan & Alex Fraser

6.30pm Mabel Patrick RIP

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> St Pius X, Pope, Memorial

9.30am Holy Souls

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial

9.30am Rev. Fr. Gerry O'Brien RIP

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

9.30am Thanksgiving for Life & Remembering Deceased Members of Perera Family

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> St Bartholomew, Apostle, Feast

9.30am Richard Taylor RIP & Wellbeing of his Family

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Special Intentions to The Triune God

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Holy Souls

**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

**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

### PARISH OFFERINGS

Sunday Collection 13/08/2023

Collection Gift Aid £79.19 Loose £443.47

**TOTAL £522.66**

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.

### ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DONATE TO THE PARISH

#### MAKE A DONATION ONLINE

Another way to donate to St Agatha's Church is online by Bank Transfer using the following details: **Account Name: RCAS Kingston**  
**Account number: 10317821** Sort code: 60-60-02  
(NB. The details may come up as RCAOS or Southwark – this is also correct)

#### VIA OUR QR CODE

A new online donation system has been set up so that parishioners and visitors are now able to donate directly to the Parish by scanning a QR code; donations can be made either with or without Gift Aid, just follow the instructions on the screen. You will be able to make a one-off donation or even set up a monthly donation. Use your smart phone camera to scan the QR code and you will be taken to our parish 'Give A Little' web donation page. The QR code will appear in the weekly newsletter.



### HOUSEKEEPER/CLEANER ST AGATHA'S PARISH

Applications are invited for the post of Housekeeper/Cleaner. After many years of wonderful service, our current housekeeper/cleaner is leaving her role due to personal circumstance and we are therefore seeking a new Housekeeper/Cleaner. Would you like to join the parish team as our Housekeeper? If so, please apply!

The post holder will be required to provide confidential and efficient housekeeping and cleaning duties to a high standard, to the Parish Priests, whilst ensuring a pleasant, safe, welcoming and clean Presbytery is provided to other presbytery workers and parish visitors. The position requires 8-10 hours each week – work pattern to be agreed with the successful applicant. Previous experience of housekeeping and cleaning are essential, references will be required. Essential Skills Required: Knowledge of safe working practices; Confidentiality in all matters; Good organisational ability and attention to detail; Self-motivated; solution focussed and reliable; Courteous and polite manner; good communication skills and good time management, Flexible, adaptable and able to respond to changes in routine.

If you would like to know more about this position, please contact Karin, the Parish Secretary, on 020 8546 4633 during parish office hours.

### NEW TO THE PARISH?

If you are new to the parish, please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy, and please complete a family registration form which can be found in the church porch and is also on the parish website. A very warm welcome to our Parish; we hope that you are settling down in your new home and will soon feel part of our community.



## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/24

FHC application forms are now available from the church porch or the Parish Office.

Children must be in Year Four or above in September 2023.

Application forms must be completed and returned in person only at one of the following sessions:

➤ Friday 29th September 2023  
between 2pm and 5pm, at the Presbytery.

➤ Saturday 30th September 2023  
between 5.45pm and 6.15pm, in the Cloister.

➤ Sunday 1st October 2023  
after the 10.30am Mass, in the Cloister.



You must attach a PHOTOCOPY of your child's baptism certificate; we cannot accept any application forms without the certificate. If your child has not yet been baptised, please contact the Parish Office to discuss the procedure for enrolling on this programme.

**Late applications will not be accepted:**

**Reminders will be posted in the newsletter nearer the time.**

### CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023/24

Confirmation application forms are now available from the church porch or the Parish Office.

Candidates must be in Year Nine or above in September 2023.

Application forms must be returned to the parish office no later than Friday 29th September 2023, so that we can identify how many candidates will be enrolling.

**Late applications will not be accepted:**

**Reminders will be posted in the newsletter nearer the time.**

### BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, our next class is being held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm. Please ensure you complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office before you attend a class.

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



### MARRIAGES IN 2024

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.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or wanting to explore your Catholic faith further?

Our Evangelium course will start in October/November 2023. The programme will consist of weekly sessions running until Easter, including vital dates during Lent.

Evangelium is for adults who have not been Baptised and for Christians of other denominations who want to be Received into the Catholic Church.

Please email the Parish Office with your details and to register for this next programme: [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)

It can also be a good experience for full members of the Catholic Church who may not have practised their faith for a number of years, or for those who wish to more fully understand and deepen their faith. Everyone is welcome along!



### SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

***Did you know you can make an impact in your community with just one item? By simply donating one food item today, you can help fight food poverty and make someone's day brighter!***

Just a quick reminder about our donations box in support of Dons Local Action Group; A huge thank you to those that have already donated items, these have again successfully been delivered to the DLAG hub. Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continuing support.

### CALL OF CREATION: READING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

You are invited to join this webinar hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD and St. Mary's University in conversation with Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Fiji and Sr Margaret Atkins.

When: Tuesday 12 September, 7:00PM

Duration: 1 hour

Further details available at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/call-of-creation-reading-the-signs-of-the-times/>

Register: <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/signsoftimes>

### A DAY WITH MARY

There will be a Day with Mary on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR. The day will begin with Mass at 10.15am and conclude at 5.15pm.

A Day with Mary is an open day of prayer held in a Catholic Church or shrine. It emphasizes Worship of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Our Lady. You are welcome to join the event for a little while or for the whole day. It includes the Mass, Scripture, Rosary, Meditations on the Passion, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, Processions of the Blessed Sacrament and of Our Lady, Act of Consecration, Theological Instructions, Hymns and periods of rest with refreshments (Please bring packed lunch). For more details see the posters on the church notice board or visit:

<https://www adaywithmary.org>

'Those who love, do not stand around  
doing nothing. Those who love, serve.  
They hurry to reach others, to serve  
in the name of Jesus. We love through  
our deeds, and love makes us happy!' ~

Pope Francis

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8  
All the nations will praise God.*

**GOSPEL READING**

*Matthew 15:21-28  
Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman  
because of her great faith.*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead, our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

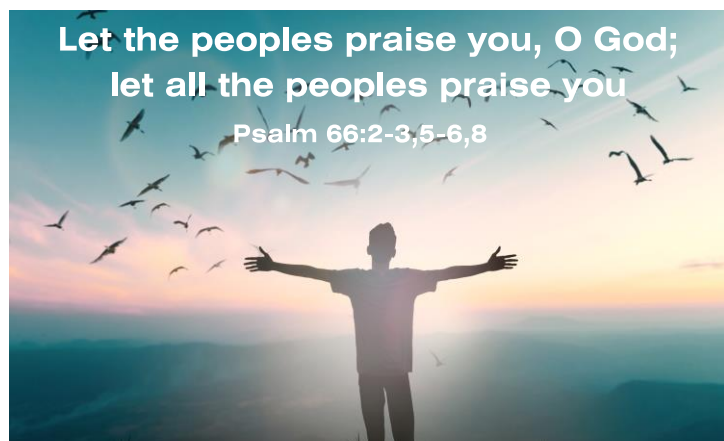
Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact, the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.



**FAMILY REFLECTION**

Even when spurned by Jesus, the faith of the Canaanite woman makes her bold enough to argue and ask again for what she needs. Her persistence and great confidence that Jesus could heal her daughter reminds us of the confidence with which our children bring to us their own needs. In their faith and trust we can find modern examples of how we might approach God in prayer.

As a family recall some times when a request for something was presented by one family member to another with confidence and persistence. If the request was denied, talk about why that was so. If the request was eventually granted, talk about what led to the change of heart. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 15:21-28. Was anyone surprised by Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman? Why or why not? What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman's daughter? When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. Invite family members to identify the things that they most need from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer your prayers.

*Sunday Connection, Loyola Press*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle.

*Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.*

**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 Christ grant eternal rest to all who have died.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Wilfrid William Hayward, Josephine Carroll, Ann Power, Giuseppe Sammarco, Libera Ricci Strafino, Marie Louise Crunelle, William Fry, Marion Sim, Eileen Porter, Bridget Barlow, Bill Marsh, Andrew de Quidt, Brendan Cornelius Lucy, Marco Vincenzo Straccialano, Rev. Fr. Gerry O'Brien, Rose Cusiack, Hilda Wells, Helen O'Leary, Marie Louise Fox, Christopher Doyle, Bridget Costello, Peggy Doreen Spong, Sabina Rocca, Charles Williams, Ada Maria Browne, James Shanahan, Edward Thomas Burton, Mabel Patrick, Matthew O'Connor, Maria Capaldi, Margaret Humberstone. Ronald Darnell, Laura Mary Gryspeerdt, William Robert Fewings, Rev. Fr. Denis Callan.

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



## ST AGATHA'S GIFT AID SCHEME

*giftaid it*  
making donations go further

### WHAT IS GIFT AID?

Gift Aid was set up by the Government as a way of helping people to give more to UK charities by giving back to the charities the basic rate tax paid on donations by UK taxpayers. It is a scheme designed to encourage donors to sign a declaration form so that all their donations to the Parish, within a tax year, can be treated as Gift Aid donations. The donations can be of any amount, there is no lower or upper limit and they do not have to be of a fixed amount or frequency. By signing the forms, donors can ensure that their parishes get a substantial refund from the Inland Revenue without having to increase their level of giving. For every pound you give, your parish will get back an additional 25 pence from the Inland Revenue. If you pay higher rate tax you can claim extra relief on your donations. If you claim age-related allowances or Tax Credits, Gift Aid donations can sometimes increase your entitlement.

If you do not pay UK tax, Gift Aid is not available for your donations, but this doesn't prevent you making normal, non-Gift Aid, donations so don't worry!

**EVERY £1 YOU GIVE IS WORTH £1.25 TO THE PARISH**

In order for the parish to benefit from your donations:

- You must be a UK Taxpayer
- You must complete a Gift Aid Declaration
- Your contributions must be easily identified as coming from you.

**IT'S SO SIMPLE AND IT HELPS THE PARISH SO MUCH**

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **How does it work?**

The parish needs to be able to prove to the Inland Revenue that they have kept proper records of your gifts. If you prefer to give by cash or cheque, then you must use the numbered envelope system (supplied by the parish) or by standing order. In other words, if you put your gift in the plate 'loose' i.e. without using a numbered envelope (unique to you), then regrettably the parish would be unable to identify the cash as coming from you and would not benefit from your generosity.

***I am already giving to my parish in the Offertory Collection. Will it cost me more to join the Gift Aid Scheme? Is this something extra?***  
No. It will cost you nothing extra. You are not being asked to give more money, simply to sign a declaration so that the parish can reclaim the tax refund on your giving. The Inland Revenue is only handing back to the parish the income tax you have already paid, so it will not affect you in any way.

#### **Do I have to make a Binding Commitment?**

No. Gift Aid is not a binding commitment and the parish will only claim back a tax refund on the actual amount you have given. You will not be asked to make up any missed payments, unless you choose to do so.

#### **What happens if I change my address?**

Just inform the Parish Gift Aid Secretary. You do not have to complete a new form.

### Do you pay Tax?

#### Then please join the Gift Aid Scheme

If you have an income (wage, salary, pension or investment income) on which you pay UK Income Tax you can boost the donations you are currently making to the parish by 25% without giving any extra!

It works like this.....

For example, if you give £260 each year (£5.00 per week) to the church, you would have paid Income Tax of £65.00 on that amount. By completing a Gift Aid declaration, you give the church authority to reclaim this amount of Tax from the Inland Revenue.

If you give each week	This amounts to each year	Income Tax reclaimed	Real amount of your gift
£5	£260	£65	£325
£10	£520	£130	£650
£20	£1040	£260	£1300
£40	£2080	£520	£2600

#### **What if I stop paying Income Tax or wish to cancel?**

Inform the Parish Gift Aid Secretary and we will cancel your Declaration.

#### **Can I change the amount I give?**

Yes. You can increase or decrease the amount you give at any time.

#### **Is Gift Aid Confidential?**

Yes. You do not have to disclose details of your income, savings, pensions or any other personal details.

#### **What if I move to another parish?**

If you have already signed a Gift Aid Declaration, all you have to do is to advise your new Parish Gift Aid Secretary of this fact and continue to use a method of payment that is easily recordable by the new parish.

#### **How do I join the Gift Aid Scheme?**

Forms can be found at the back of the church or contact our Parish Secretary. It simply asks you to give your name and address and your consent so that all your donations can be treated as Gift Aid donations. You should sign and date the form and return to the parish office. If you wish to donate by standing order, please also complete, sign and return the attached standing order mandate form.

**A FEW MINUTES IS ALL IT TAKES.**



If you require further information about the Gift Aid scheme, please contact the Parish Secretary.

