

PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Thursday 12 noon: Children's Holy Thursday Service
Friday 10.00am: Good Friday Walk of Witness (walk starts at 11.00am)
Friday 12 noon: Children's Good Friday Service
Friday 12 noon: Passion on the Riverside in Richmond

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

This being Holy Week, all other feasts are transferred to other dates. The Feast of the Annunciation will be celebrated on **Monday 4th April**.

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £409.50 Loose £355.36.
Retiring collection (CAFOD) Gift Aid £6.00 Loose £66.56
The retiring collection this weekend is for CAFOD.

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, Rosa Vitolo & Elsie Malone.

ANNIVERSARIES

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, Kathleen Hatcher, Frederic White, Thomas Walsh, Gary Bellamy, Desmond Duggan, William Irvin Reed, Joseph Cassidy, Theodore Schlatter, Christina Josephine Pilgrim, Sydney George Alexander.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

The Folk Choir—Sunday evening

If you come to Mass at 6.30pm on Sundays, have you ever thought about singing with the Folk Choir? You might enjoy helping to lead the congregation during the service, learn some of the hymns we sing at Communion, maybe add a harmony? You will probably already know a lot of the hymns that we sing and you don't have to be able to read music. If you can't come every week, that's fine too. If you would like to know more, speak to Ossie or Chris (the two guys with guitars) after the Mass and they will be able to tell you all about it, or let Fr Gerry know and he'll pass it on.

St. Agatha's Catholic Church

1 Wyndham Road

Kingston Upon Thames

Surrey KT2 5JR

Tel: 020-8546 4633

www.stagathaschurch.org.uk



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 20th March 2016		
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (C)		
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	John Davis
Sunday	9.00am	In Thanksgiving
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Vincenzo Straccialano
Monday	9.30am	Joan Fox
Tuesday	9.30am	Thomas & Margaret O'Brien
Wednesday	9.30am	Patricia White
Thursday	8.00pm	John Rycroft
Friday	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday
Saturday	8.00pm	Tony Pierce
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months notice required – Diocesan rule	
	Please note that there are no morning masses on Thursday, Friday or Saturday	

Palm Sunday itself may remind us of the glory days of life; the days when we are celebrated and affirmed, when we are recognised and accepted by those who are near and dear to us. Monday and Tuesday can remind us of the ordinariness of much of life; the regular days when life goes on, chore by chore, unaware of and despite the approaching prospects. Spy Wednesday reminds us of the times when we have felt betrayed or let down by family, friends or colleagues or perhaps our own failings in this respect. It is a day for reminding ourselves of the bitter reality of human nature and how close betrayal is to the heart of any relationship or how central sin is to human nature.

PARISH NOTICES

Holy Week Services

All services are listed in the separate leaflet which is included with this newsletter. Further copies are also available at the back of the church.

First Holy Communion

The children will be taking a break for the Easter holiday. The next meeting for parents will be on **Tuesday 19th April**.

The children in Group 1 will meet on **Monday 25th April at 3.30pm**. The rehearsal for First Communion is on **Friday 29th April**. The First Communion Mass is on **Sunday 1st May at 12 noon**.

The children in Group 2 will meet on **Saturday 30th April at 10.00am**. The rehearsal for First Communion is on **Friday 5th May**. The First Communion Mass is on **Sunday 8th May at 12 noon**.

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.

Active Kids Vouchers

St Agatha's School is collecting these vouchers. Please place them in the box at the back of the church.

Richmond Passion on the Riverside

In medieval Britain, 'Mystery' plays were widely produced to help explain the tenets of our faith. This year such a play, professionally directed, will be performed on the Riverside in Richmond on Good Friday from **12.00pm to 1.30pm**. This promises to be a very moving spectacle. There is no charge for attending. Further details can be found on the poster in the church porch.

Celebrate Twickenham – Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly With Your God

This faith-filled event for all will take place on **18th & 19th June** at St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill. The programme includes 3 main talks, praise and worship, seminars and workshops, mass, theatre, adoration, prayer ministry and relaxation. There is a full programme for young people over the age of 4 plus a warm, welcoming crèche. Tickets cost £40.00 for adults, £20.00 for 18–21 year olds and £10.00 for children in nursery to year 13. The crèche for children of 4 and under is free. For details see the flyers at the back of the church.

Clocks go Forward

Please remember that the clocks go forward one hour in the early hours of 27th March (Easter Sunday). Masses on Easter Sunday will therefore be one hour earlier than they would otherwise have been.

Continued from page 1

Holy Thursday reminds us of the togetherness we enjoy in life. The Eucharist that Christ shared with the disciples represents the friendship and company he shared with them and the communion that he wished to share with them and with all of us into the future. The ordinary times when we are with friends and family are often the happiest and most contented days of our lives.

Good Friday represents all that is dark and evil in life. We remember the abandonment of Christ by his friends and disciples; the formal act of betrayal by Judas; the unjust condemnation; the mental anguish of Gethsemane; the horror and brutality of crucifixion Roman-style; the feeling of abandonment even by God the Father and the reality of death outside the walls of the city.

Saturday represents for us the emptiness of life on occasions; the feeling of futility; the bitter aftertaste of apparent failure; the many bereavements that mar most lives; the waiting that consumes our valuable time in the world. It represents the in-between times of our lives.

First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4–7

O for the gift of a well-trained tongue! The gift of sustaining the weary with a well-chosen word would be the pastor's dream. The struggle, like that of Isaiah, is not to be confounded but to continue with an open ear, with flint-like resolve to be servant-leaders, akin to the suffering servant who leads us from shame to grace.

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 6–11

St Paul turns poet in this reading. It is thought he was reciting an already well-versed prayer. Emptying the self; obedience to God's ways, will and word; humility and a spirit of service; these are the hallmarks of him whose name we bear as Christian people.

Gospel Reading: Luke 22: 14 – 23:56

Palm Sunday opens out into a week that is the highpoint of the Church year and a template for the life of every Christian. The events of Holy Week are the events of any of our lives – in miniature. The past is present; re-presented in the stories of this Holy Week.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

The annual Churches Together in Kingston Good Friday Walk of Witness will start at **11am** from the United Reform Church in Eden Street. Coffee and hot cross buns will be served in the church hall from **10am**. This is a great opportunity to witness to our faith to the people of Kingston.