

CLERGY

Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest
Fr. Pius Duke, MSP — Assistant Priest
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 kingston@rcaos.org.uk

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 9.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday. Could you please limit telephone calls outside these hours to emergencies only.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES SUNDAY 20^{TH} JULY – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY (C)

Saturday 20th

9.30am No Intentions
 6.30pm People of the Parish
 Sunday 21st Sixteenth Sunday

9.00am Margaret Mary Shapland RIP

10.30am Nigel Gadd6.30pm Pauline Finn

Monday 22nd St Mary Magdalene, Feast 9.30am Patrick Joseph Collins RIP

Tuesday 23rd St Bridget, Patron of Europe, Feast

9.30am Private Birthday Intention

Wednesday 24th

9.30am Holy Souls

Thursday 25th St James, Apostle, Feast 9.30am Millicent Mary Laing RIP

Friday 26th Ss Joachim and Ann, Parents of the Blessed

Virgin Mary, Memorial

9.30am David Scally RIP

Saturday 27th

9.30am No Intentions

6.30pm John & Margaret Finn RIP Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.

Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.

Confessions: Saturday 10.00-10.30am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call. Baptisms: By previous arrangement on Sundays at 12.30pm. Marriages: Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.

ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (3rd August) WE WILL HAVE ONE HOUR OF EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. BETWEEN

10AM AND 11AM.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Pat Appleby, John Sewter, Christina Ward, Bill Kerrigan, Tess Bird, Clare Horgan, Keith Fraser, Trish Taylor and Ryan Morrison. *Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either you or your relatives and friends want to be mentioned in our sick list*

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Hutton, Josephine Lamb, Catherine (Trudy) McIntyre, Frances Cobb, Patrick Joseph Collins, Anne Keane, Mary Mackey, Mary Smith, George Dyke, Teresa Konrath, Agnes Egan, Elsie Doris Dowling, Colin James Hughes, Louisa Evans, Michael Halloran, Leonard Matthews, Christopher Robin O'Connor, William Goddard, Lucy Jane Chandler, Joseph Henry Wright, David McSorley, John Carr, Vidamantas Kavaliauskas, Lilian Gardner, Margaret Finn, Janet Nolan. ++ May they rest in Peace +++

and they resemble

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £467.40 Loose £476.76
Retiring Collection Gift Aid £11.50 Loose £164.45

TOTAL £1120.11

Last week's retiring collection was for Apostleship of the Sea.

<u>Summer Holidays</u> For all those on holiday over the coming weeks we hope that you have a refreshing and relaxing time, for those travelling, we pray that you will have a safe journey. For those visiting families, may it be moments to cherish and for those going on pilgrimage over the summer period, please keep the parish in your prayers. May God be with you all over this period. Pray for God's protection and safety for all families wherever they may be. God Bless you all.

OPEN WELCOME A REFLECTION OF PSALM 14:2-5

Abraham and Martha had the privilege of welcoming the Lord into their homes. We need not envy their privilege for all of us can have the doors of our lives open to welcome the Lord. As Saint Paul says in todays second reading, the exciting secret of our religion is Christ among us, our hope of glory. Elsewhere he wrote that our bodies are God's temples.

Psalm 14 is a song of pilgrims ascending the hill before entering the temple. They ask, *Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?* The remainder of the psalm is a challenging examination of conscience which is valid today as in the past.

How can one *walk without fault?* Certain qualities are listed in the psalm. For starters, we must act with justice and do no wrong to another. Then our speech must be truthful and our tongues never sullied by slander or slurs about our neighbour. We should avoid godless company, situations or reading likely to harm our faith: while honouring the good influence of *those who fear the Lord.* We should have the integrity to keep our pledges, our promises, our vows in marriage or religious commitment. The psalm highlights the injustice of cashing in on another's misfortune and of accepting bribes which prejudice the rights of the innocent.

Every day of life we are opening or closing our doors on the presence of the Lord in the way that we live. The response to the psalm repeats the key message: *The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

The Responsorial Psalms of Sunday – Silvester O'Flynn, The Columba Press

Appointment of the Eleventh Archbishop of Southwark

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop John Wilson as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Southwark. Archbishop-elect Wilson succeeds The Most Reverend Peter Smith, who has been Archbishop of Southwark since 2010. Archbishop-elect Wilson, has been Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster since 2015 and previously a priest in the Diocese of Leeds, will be the 11th Archbishop of Southwark and his Episcopal Installation will be celebrated in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, on 25th July 2019.

We are pleased to be able to inform the parish that the Diocese intends to live-broadcast the Installation from St George's Cathedral. The aim is to enable each parishioner (and those beyond) to engage with this important new beginning for Southwark. The broadcast will take place via the RC Southwark YouTube Channel. If you are not able to join them in person, you are welcome to tune-in from 11.50 am on the day (the service will commence at 12 noon).

https://youtu.be/wemICGkP6pA

Music at Masses

We are approaching the summer holidays and traditionally our musicians take a well-earned break for the month of August. This means that our songs during Mass may not be accompanied by musical instruments. If you would like to play any musical instrument at any Mass during this summertime, please let the priests know. We are still in need of more musicians to join when the musicians resume in September! A big thankyou to our musicians for all that they do for the parish!

Parish Office

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from Thursday 15th to Tuesday 27th August. Fr. Anthony will still be available in case of emergency or a pressing enquiry.

Sixteenth Sunday (C) Gospel Reading

Luke 10:38-42

Jesus visits the house of Martha and Mary.

Reflection

The story of Jesus in the home of Martha and Mary complements the story of the Good Samaritan, which immediately precedes it in Luke's Gospel. Both stories are unique to Luke. The story of the Samaritan opens with the words "a certain man." Today's reading opens with the words "a certain woman." The Samaritan is an example of how a disciple should see and act. Mary is an example of how a disciple should listen. Mary, a woman, is a marginalized person in society, like the Samaritan. Both do what is not expected of them. As a woman, Mary would be expected, like Martha, to prepare hospitality for a guest. Here again Jesus breaks with the social conventions of his time. Just as a Samaritan would not be a model for neighbourliness, so a woman would not sit with the men around the feet of a teacher.

Both stories exemplify how a disciple is to fulfil the dual command which begins chapter 10—love of God (Mary) and love of neighbour (the Samaritan). These are the two essentials of life in the kingdom. By using the examples of a Samaritan and a woman, however, Jesus is saying something more. Social codes and boundaries were strict in Jesus' time. Yet to love God with all one's heart and one's neighbour requires breaking those rules. The Kingdom of God is a society without distinctions and boundaries between its members. It is a society that requires times for seeing and doing and also times for listening and learning at the feet of a teacher.

Family Reflection

In our families and homes, we have boundaries. Some are geographical; we may have our own room or part of a room that we want others to stay out of. Parents may have home offices that are off-limits to children. Some boundaries are behavioural; children may speak one way to their friends, but they are not allowed to speak the same way to their parents or other adults. A Curfew is another type of boundary, whose purpose is to protect children's safety.

Talk about examples of boundaries in your family. For the most part, these boundaries are good. Talk about how sometimes we set up boundaries for the wrong reasons. For example, if we are angry with a sibling, we may draw a line and tell him or her to stay on his or her side. Explain that when we use boundaries to exclude others, we are being hurtful. Point out how in Jesus' time, some boundaries were used to unfairly exclude people. One example was from last week's Gospel: Samaritans. This Sunday's Gospel has another example: women. Talk about how the role of women has changed in your lifetime. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus breaks down a barrier that kept women from being disciples.

Read aloud Luke 10:38-42. Talk about how Martha is conditioned by the existing boundaries of her society, but how her sister, Mary, breaks through that boundary and becomes a disciple of Jesus. Talk about how you can work as a family to break down boundaries that separate people. Point out that when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we call God "Our Father," meaning that we are all his children; no boundaries should separate us. Conclude this time together by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Marriage



Our congratulations and best wishes to Siobhan and Pavel who were married here on Saturday 13th July 2019. May the Lord bless them as they begin their married lives together.

Bake Sale

On Sunday 7^{th} July students from Holy Cross school held a bake sale in aid of the Father Ray Foundation, Thailand, where they will be visiting in the summer. They would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who baked cakes or donated; they raised £300! They will update us on how the money was spent when they return from the visit.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Thursday 25th July Installation of Archbishop John Wilson

Friday 26th July Youth Club Sports & BBQ Wednesday 31st July Parish Men's Group Saturday 3rd August Monthly Adoration

St Agatha's Church Youth Club

The launch of the brand-new St Agatha's Church Youth Club is going well!

The Youth Club runs every Friday (Termtime) from 6 to 8pm and will be open to all children in year 6 and above. Meeting in the Cloister at St Agatha's Church, the club aims to offer a range of sports, music, arts, crafts, cooking and spiritual activities, trips and excursions and much more!



Once fully established the young people will play a major part in shaping the youth club and the activities that are run. We are looking forward to being able to offer a youth provision, offering a safe and fun place for young people to make new friends and take part in the activities we will offer.

We would like to thank those parishioners who have already come forward to help, however, we still need more volunteers, of all ages, to help behind the scenes with the various tasks involved with running the club, no experience of youth work is necessary. Could you spare just a few hours a month? Please speak with Frs. Anthony or Pius or contact the parish office for further details.

On Friday 26th July, from 6-8pm, we will be celebrating the start of the school holidays with a sports night and BBQ. We would greatly appreciate a donation of £2 per child. Please email the Parish Secretary to book your child's place by 4pm Wednesday 24th July, so that we can ensure adequate supplies. Please also advise of any dietary requirements. kingston@rcaos.org.uk Please do encourage any young people you know to come along and join in!

Baptism Preparation Class

Our next baptism preparation class will be held on **Sunday 22nd September 2019.** If you are considering your child's baptism, please complete an application form, available from the back of the church and return to the Parish Office and register for this class. Parents need to attend a Baptism preparation class before receiving a date for a child's baptism. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend the class. The Baptism preparation class is for adults only; it is our experience that parents get more out of the sessions if they are not easily distracted.

Parish Men's Group

The men of the parish meet together once a month at the Wych Elm The group will meet on the following dates in 2019, please note changes to some previously announced dates: **31**st **July**, 28th August, 11th September, 23rd October and 27th November. Please come along and join them from 8pm.

Please see the Parish noticeboard for more details of the following:

- ➤ The Mustard Seed
- St John's Seminary Chapel Appeal
- A Day with Mary at Our Lady & St Peter, Wimbledon Common
- Conquest Art Group at St Pius
- London SW Catholic Social Group

The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others. ~ Pope Francis.

ST AGATHA'S GIFT AID SCHEME



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 allowan ces 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 £104 each year (£2.00 per week) to the church, you would have paid Income Tax of £26.00 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	This amounts	Income Tax	Real amount
each week	to each year	reclaimed	of your gift
£2	£104	£26	£130
£5	£260	£65	£325
£10	£520	£130	£650
£20	£1040	£260	£1300

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 Fr. Anthony or the Parish Secretary.