

PARISH DIARY

- Monday 7.15pm: Confirmation class session 6
- Tuesday 7.30pm: Meeting for First Holy Communion parents
- Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
- Friday 3.30pm: First Holy Communion Group 1 rehearsal for Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Saturday 10.30am: First Holy Communion Group 1 Sacrament of Reconciliation

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: The Chair of Peter

OFFERINGS

First collection                      Gift Aid   £638.20   Loose   £249.78  
 Retiring collection (CAFOD)      Gift Aid   £49.50   Loose   £80.36  
 The retiring collection this weekend is for CAFOD Family Fast Day.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

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, Frederic Whelan, Ronald Macdonald, Charles Crawley, Edit Brown, John McSweeny, Elizabeth Heppel, Mary Ellen White, Bernard Mackey, Kate Goddard, Eugenie Connolly, Mario Porlanti, Sr. Declan Carroll, Eileen Murphy, Tom Costello, Vladas Dankis

+++ May they rest in peace +++

Calling all Musicians!

If you attend the 10.30 am Mass on a Sunday, and can play an instrument, would you please consider sharing your talent once every few weeks by joining the music group. We will be having a rota meeting after Mass on 6<sup>th</sup> March in the old sacristy, so do come and make yourselves known! We would love to have more pianists, but any instruments are welcome. You will need to be able to read music, of course! If you can't come on 6<sup>th</sup> March, you can always give your details to Fr. Gerry, or one of our regular pianists. Thank you.



*Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever*

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

*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)

*Please visit our website regularly to keep abreast of important current issues.*

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK		
Sunday 21st February 2016		
Second Sunday of Lent (C)		
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Sheila McCormick
Sunday	9.00am	Tina Piccirillo
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Vincenzo Straccialano
Monday	9.30am	Ted McMahon
Tuesday	9.30am	Frederick & Frances Greeves
Wednesday	9.30am	Rose Pereira
Thursday	9.30am	John & Margaret Finlay
Friday	9.30am	Joan Lucey
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	John & Margaret Finn
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months notice required - Diocesan rule	

The First Reading tells of God's promise to Abraham that he would have numerous descendants, and that these descendants would possess the land of Canaan. As a pledge of his fidelity God made a solemn covenant with him. Our passage describes an ancient rite of covenant or treaty making. To ratify a covenant the contracting parties cut an animal (or animals) in two and walked between the divided parts, invoking the fate of the animals upon themselves should they fail to observe the terms of the contract. Since God's covenant with Abraham is unilateral, only God (symbolised by the furnace and the torch passed between the two pieces. The birds of prey symbolise the forces hostile to Israel. This covenant led to the covenant at Sinai and culminated in the new and eternal covenant which Jesus sealed with his own blood on Calvary.

## PARISH NOTICES

### Lent Fast Day – Friday 19 February 2016

Fast Days are our opportunity to support the vital work of CAFOD, which this year is focusing on providing clean water supplies. Fast Day Envelopes may be returned at all masses on Saturday / Sunday 20/21 February. The UK Government has promised to match every pound and penny you give this Lent. Further, if you are a UK tax payer, you can Gift Aid your donation so CAFOD can claim back the equivalent of basic rate tax paid on the monies. More information from Cafod.org.uk. CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

### Sacramental preparation

The Confirmation candidates will meet at 7.15pm on Monday 22nd February for session 6.

There is a meeting for parents of all children preparing for First Holy Communion at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd February.

There is a rehearsal for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for children in Group 1 on Friday 26th February at 3.30pm. These children will come to the church on Saturday 27th February at 10.30am to celebrate the sacrament.

### 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.

### Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, Tolworth

The school is looking for a suitably qualified practising Catholic to become its new Head Teacher. The post would start in September 2016. The deadline for applications is 29 February. For more details email: [governors@oli.rbksch.org](mailto:governors@oli.rbksch.org).

### Jubilee Year of Mercy – Open 24 hours

On 4th – 5th March there will be a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Mercy at St George's, the cathedral of our diocese. Mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm. At 7.30pm there will be evening prayer will be followed by a night of music, art, film, prayer and reflection. For further details see the poster at the back of the church.

### Active Kids Vouchers

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

### Women's World Day of Prayer – Praying for Cuba

There will be a prayer meeting on 4th March at 10.30am at St Mark's Church, St Mark's Hill, Surbiton. See the poster at the back of the church for more details. There is also an evening prayer meeting at 8.00pm at the New Malden Methodist Church, in New Malden High Street.

## REFLECTION

### What I fail to do

It isn't the things you do, it's the things you leave undone,  
which give you a little heartache at the setting of the sun.  
The gentle word forgotten, the letter you didn't write,  
the flowers you might have sent are your haunting ghosts tonight.  
The stone you might have lifted out of your brother's way;  
the little heart-felt counsel you were hurried too much to say.  
The tender touch of the hand, the gentle and kindly tone;  
which we have no time or thought for, with troubles enough of our own.

Anon

### First Reading: Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18

Abram, later known as Abraham, is promised a covenant relationship with and by God. A covenant is a binding agreement between unequal parties; in this case God and Abram. God promises that Abram will have biological descendants, that they will be as many as the stars and that they are to have this land to dwell on – eventually! Abram's response is one of trust, faith and belief in the Lord. The firebrand through the sacrifice Abram has offered is a symbol of the binding of that covenant.

### Second Reading: Philippians 3: 17 – 4:1

Paul's message here to the Philippians, and indeed to us, is that if we want to be followers of Christ, we must always be friendly with the cross. We must identify with the message and the reality of the crucified Christ. That reality includes humiliation which will be followed by glory; this motivated Paul to endure his imprisonment and to urge his beloved family in Philippi to stand firm.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36

Jesus shares a deep experience on the mountain top, with God the Father, Moses and Elijah and his disciples Peter, James and John. We observe that it is while in prayer to the Father that Jesus is transfigured. Moses and Elijah representing the Law and the Prophets, appear with Jesus. The subject of their conversation is about Jesus' passing or exodus to the Father. The disciples, awed at the vision before them, want to cling to this moment which they don't understand – this moment of mystery. They misinterpret the situation, wanting to build tents, when suddenly God reveals who Jesus really is 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.'

### WALK WITH ME

Copies of this booklet are still available at the back of the church. There is one copy for every family. There is no charge so please take one.