



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

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

CLERGY

Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest  
Fr. Pius Duke, MSP — Assistant Priest  
Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

St. Agatha's Catholic Church  
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FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES (A)

SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2019 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019 – HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>

9.30am Arokia Dass RIP  
6.30pm Jennifer Fernandopulle & Domingos Pereira RIP

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.00am Angelo Piccirillo RIP  
10.30am People of the Parish  
6.30pm Patrick Joseph O'Neill RIP

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

9.30am Anna Morgan RIP

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Margaret Brennan RIP  
4pm Christingle Service  
6.30pm Natalino Evangelista RIP  
11pm *Midnight Mass (Carols at 10.30pm)*  
People of the Parish

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> The Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity

9am Angelo & Tina Piccirillo RIP  
10.30am Rev Fr. Gerry O'Brien RIP

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> St Stephen, the first Martyr, Feast

12pm Anne Carbery RIP

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> St John, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast

9.30am Mr & Mrs Solomon RIP

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, Feast

9.30am Bernard McGovern RIP  
6.30pm Wellbeing of Jackie Regan & Family

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Feast

9.00am Angelo Piccirillo RIP  
10.30am Patricia & Gerry White  
6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday 30<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Wellbeing of Fred Davidson & Family

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>

9.30am Wellbeing of the Murphy Family

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

12pm Sue & Robert Dooley

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

9.30am Wellbeing of Imelda & Patrick Stevens

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

9.30am Hannah Ruth Mennis RIP

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Ian Lilley RIP  
6.30pm People of the Parish

Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.  
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.  
Confessions: Saturday 10-10.30am, 6-6.15pm & at call.  
Baptisms: By previous arrangement – Sunday at 12.30pm.  
Marriages: Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.

ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (4<sup>th</sup> January 2020) WE WILL HAVE ONE HOUR OF EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. BETWEEN 10AM & 11AM.

Daily Adoration

Please note that there will be no Daily Adoration before Mass from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 inclusive. Adoration will resume on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Cycle A

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

Gospel Reading

*Matthew 1:18-24 An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.*

Reflection

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfilment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Christmas Programme 2019

The times and details of all Masses and Services are listed in the Advent and Christmas 2019 Programme that is available at the back of the church. Please pick up a copy.

Parish Office

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2019 until Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, therefore the parish office will be closed. Fr Anthony and Fr Pius will be available in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry only. For non-urgent enquiries please email [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)



### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 1:18-24 An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.*

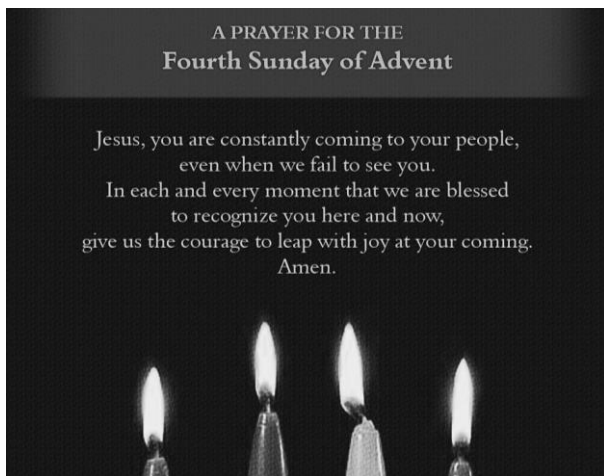
### Family Reflection

Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another.

Spend some time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God.

Pray together that your family life will be built on trust, as was the family life of Joseph and Mary. Pray and sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

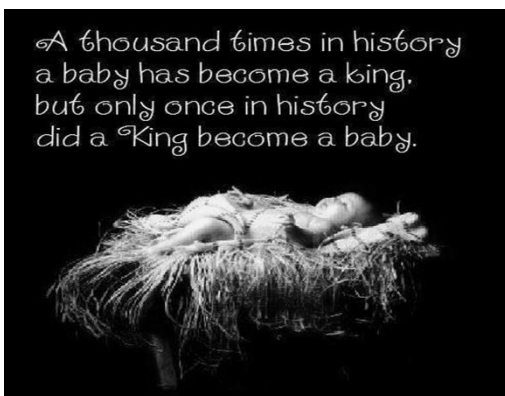


### Christmas Raffle

Raffle tickets for the Christmas hampers, will still be on sale after all Masses. we have over 40 great prizes to be won! The draw will be held on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 11.30am** in the Cloister, please come along and join us for a cup of tea or coffee after the family Mass. All winners who are not present will be contacted directly.

### Christmas Cards and 2020 Calendars

An assortment of Christmas Cards and 2020 calendars are still available to purchase in the Cloister. Our very own resident artist, Bob Meecham, has also produced a Christmas Card, a pack of 5 is £2.50 with 10p from each card going to the R.N.L.I



### Important Upcoming Dates:

Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Christingle Rehearsals
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Christingle Making
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christingle Service
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Parish Office Closed until 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Raffle Draw
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020	Monthly Adoration
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Confirmation Application Closing Date
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School Application Signing
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	FHC Session 1
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Confirmation Family Meeting

### Christmas Eve Christingle Service

#### Important Dates:

#### Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec

Christingle Rehearsal and Christingle Making  
Practice in church, full dress rehearsal and Christingle making in the Cloisters. 10am – 12.30pm

#### Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

Christingle Service 4pm (costumes & make-up from 3pm)

Any queries please email:

Helen Mennis [helenmennis@gmail.com](mailto:helenmennis@gmail.com) or

Louisa Collyer-Hamlin [louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk)

#### Christingle Making

All ages are welcome to join us in the Cloisters to make our 250 Christingles and have a drink and biscuit (Mums and Dads especially welcome! We'll even give you a cuppa!). This is a tradition that the whole parish gets involved in and the more the merrier.

#### Christingle Service – Christmas Eve 4pm

This is a very special way of celebrating the real meaning of Christmas with all our friends, family and the whole St Agatha's community.

EVERYONE is welcome! We look forward to seeing you all there!

*Please note: All aisles must be kept clear; can we please ask that all pushchairs and prams are stored in the Cloister only.*

*Thank you.*

#### Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will be held at 11.00pm. It will be preceded by carols from 10.30pm.

God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it. Pope

## St Agatha's Confirmation 2020

If you wish to enrol for next year's Confirmation programme please complete an application form, available from the back of the church, and return it to the parish office no later than **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**. There will be an enrolment meeting for Candidates and their families on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.45pm. The first candidate session will be Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 at 7.15pm. The Inscriptio Mass will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 6.30pm. A full programme of the sessions is available with the application form.



## First Holy Communion

FHC Classes will start on **Sunday 12th January 2020 at 4pm** with Children's Session 1.



### Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Volunteering opportunities.

For our young parishioners undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, we have a volunteering opportunity for 2 students doing their DofE to assist our First Holy Communion team with sessions in 2020. You will need to be available on selected Sunday afternoons 3.30pm-5.30pm from January to May (term-time only). Please email the Parish Secretary at:

[kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) with your details including name, address, age, school or place you are completing DofE and we will put you in touch with the FHC team.

## Primary School 2020 Application Forms

A priest will be available to sign Primary school application forms from **4-6pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery. Regular Mass attendance is a requirement for a reference to be completed. If you have recently moved to the area you should seek a priest reference from your previous parish which we will then countersign. Please ensure that you complete as much of the forms as possible and if you have any reference letters, please also bring these along with you. Please bring all relating documents with you at this time, **especially Baptism Certificates**. The closing date for the application is 15th January 2020.

## St Agatha's Church Youth Club

St Agatha's Church Youth Club resumes on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 6pm**.



## Baptism Preparation Class

Our next Baptism preparation class is on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020**. Please contact the parish secretary to book your place. If you are considering your child's baptism in the next few months, please complete an application form and join us for this class. *Parents need to attend a Baptism preparation class before receiving a date for a baptism.* Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend the class. The Baptism preparation class is for the adults only; it is our experience that parents get more out of the sessions if they are not easily distracted.



## Offerings

<b>First collection</b>	Gift Aid	£397.50	Loose	£614.54
<b>Retiring Collection</b>	Gift Aid	£5.00	Loose	£102.91
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£1119.95</b>		

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Christmas offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to use them for a Christmas Offering for our Clergy. If you normally Gift Aid your weekly offerings would you please print your name/number clearly on the Envelope.

## CRIB OFFERINGS

At the request of Archbishop John Wilson, this year's crib offerings will go to The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL). The Friends of the Holy Land have been giving hope and providing practical help to the most vulnerable Christians in and around Bethlehem for 10 years.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Pat Appleby, John Sewter, Christina Ward, 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

*Margaret Kennedy, Bridget McCleane, Curtis Conrad Oesterreicher, John King, Martin Coughlan, Ernest William Evans, Evelyn Golding, Lilian Mary Duckett, Dominico Ferritto, Mary Anne Mullen, David McDonald, William Christopher Game, Natalino Evangelista, Bernard McArdle, Barbara McArdle, Margaret Brennan, William Albert Robinson, John Cullinane, Maud Adams, Percy Smith, Alice Rigby, Richard Browne, Henry Talbot, Catherine Boulter, Ellen McDonnell, Annie Jardine, Joseph Rankin, Millicent Prince, Ellen Jarvis, Keith Perkins, Georgina Darnell, Mary Absalom, Arthur Norris, William Dorsett, Monica Brennan, Rose Mary Irgolith, Elizabeth McKenna, Astor Charles Henchy, Antonietta Ambruso, Lionel Jones, Bertram Woodhouse Currie, John McDonnell, Alfred North, Nora Cremin, Henry Desmond, Kathleen Anderson, Kevin Smith, John McCormack, Marguerite Hards, Moyra McCullagh, Lilian Teresa Cullen, Violet Palmeri, Francis Cardinal Bourne, Michael Cooney, Mary Angela Gilbert, John Williamson, Patricia Crump, John Pereira, Olga Paine, Peter Kelly, Jeremiah O'Dowd, Rose Wilson, Mary Westhead, Anna Hanson, John Stevenson, Stanley Bays, Jack Allen, Hannah Mennis, Edgar Duckett, Fredrick Thomas.*

**+++ May they rest in Peace +++**

## LET US REMEMBER ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Let us remember those who have died, and their families, with love and affection during this time of grief.

We must not seek the child Jesus in the pretty figures of our Christmas cribs. We must seek him among the undernourished children who have gone to bed at night with nothing to eat. Saint Óscar Romero





### Christmas Decorations and Cleaning

A huge Thank You to everyone who kindly donated decorations, and to those who gave up their time to help decorate the church and cloister. Ours thanks also to everyone for your assistance with the Christmas cleaning day. A special thank you to the children and young adults of the parish who also generously gave their time to help; we look forward to seeing you again at further events through the year.

We think you will agree that the church is looking magnificent and very festive for this special time of the year. There are dozens and dozens of people involved in making everything run smoothly at St. Agatha's during the festive periods; we thank you one and all!

### Tea, Coffee and Cake

Tea, coffee and cake will be served in the Cloister after the Sunday 9am Mass on the **last Sunday of each month: 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019**. Do come and join us to meet and greet others, and our clergy, especially if you are new to the parish. If you attend this Mass and would like to help, please email the parish office.

### Church Banners

A longstanding parishioner of St Agatha's has kindly sponsored the purchase of the new Advent Banners in the church; our thanks to him, we truly appreciate the donation. If anyone would be interested in sponsoring the purchase of further banners for instance for Christmas, Lent or Seasonal Banners, please contact the Parish Office to discuss further.

### Mass Intentions

Mass intentions envelopes are available at the back of the church. When requesting a Mass, please clearly indicate the intention and whether the Mass is for the deceased, the sick or for another intention.

It is a very busy time for requests and sometimes Masses can be booked several weeks in advance, so if you have a particular date or time on which you want the Mass, it is very important that you let the parish office know as soon as possible. We cannot guarantee a requested date when submitting Mass Intentions; if no date is specified or a date requested is not available, the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open date.

If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details or call into the office between 10am and 2pm.

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

- **URGENT Volunteering appeal for KCAH**
- **Catholic History Walks for Advent & Christmas**
- **Conquest Art Group at St Pius**
- **London SW Catholic Social Group**
- **A Day with Mary**

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Cycle A

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 In a dream, God tells Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus from King Herod.*

### Reflection

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

### Family Reflection

In the midst of the Christmas season, it is quite appropriate that our liturgy asks us to pause to consider the Holy Family. In today's Gospel, we hear about how Joseph protected Jesus from danger by relocating the family to Egypt in obedience to God. Following the model of the Holy Family, we might use this feast to recall the responsibility that each family member has to contribute to the good of the family and recommit ourselves to one another.

Gather together as a family to work on a common project. You might prepare a meal together, prepare a special dessert, or perhaps do a craft together. When you finish, talk about how each family member contributed to the common project. Remind one another that each member of the family contributes to the good of the whole family. Recall that Jesus was also part of a family and that this Sunday we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23. Pray together that your family will continue to protect and care for one another as Mary and Joseph protected and cared for Jesus.