

**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  
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 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 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 10am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (closed Wednesdays). Could you please limit telephone calls outside these hours to emergencies only. Thank You.

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES  
 SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2023  
 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**

<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	
6.30pm	Vincenzo Straccialano RIP
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	
9am	Antonella & Gianmarco RIP
10.30am	Wellbeing of Alex Fraser
6.30pm	Nancy Kilkenny
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> St George, Patron of England, Solemnity</b>	
9am	Teresa Dooley
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> St Mark, Evangelist, Feast</b>	
9.30am	Colette Hickey RIP
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	K.X. Antony RIP
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	
9am	Antonio Francisco RIP
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Sid
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe, Feast</b>	
9.30am	Sarah Townson

**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 AM  
**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

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MORNING ADORATION ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - MASS WILL BE AT 9AM**

**EASTER OFFERINGS**

Easter offering Envelopes are still available in the porch for your Easter offering. The collection over Easter is your personal gift to the priests to support their work in the parish over the year. Alternatively, you can make an offering by debit or credit card via our contactless handsets. You will find these at the back of the church, please choose 'Easter Offerings'. Thank you.

**COLLECTION FOR**

**MAINTENANCE OF ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL:**

This weekend there is a collection for the maintenance of St. Georges Cathedral, Southwark; this collection helps meet the cost of the upkeep of the cathedral. Please use your gift aid envelops or the red bucket in the church porch. Thank you.

**THANK YOU!!**

A Huge Thank you to everyone for your kind wishes, Easter cards, messages and gifts. You have all been so very kind! Also, a very special thank you to everyone who helped prepare the Church for Easter and helped make all our Holy Week services and Easter Triduum so very special – our church cleaners, our flower arrangers, our readers, sacristans, our altar servers and our musicians for their contributions and to everyone who took part in the ceremonies, we thank you.

There are dozens and dozens of people involved in making everything run smoothly at St. Agatha's during these celebratory periods; we thank you one and all.

~ Fr. Francis, Fr. Peter

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY BAPTISED AND CONFIRMED ADULT CATHOLICS!**

We would like to extend our congratulations to our newly Baptised and Confirmed Adult Catholics who came into the Church during our Easter Vigil celebration.

Joyce, Karin, Kate and Olesea received all three of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. Martin made his Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church and was Confirmed and received his First Holy Communion.

We commend these faithful candidates for steadfastly participating in the eight-month RCIA process of coming into the Church and receiving these Sacraments of Initiation. Our prayers are with each of you as you begin the adventure of living the challenging life of a faithful Catholic. As a parish, we welcome you to the Holy Catholic Church and we will continue to pray for you as you move forward with us and the whole Universal Church in our journey with Christ!

We also want to acknowledge the faithful Sponsors of these men and women who journeyed with their Candidate for the duration of the RCIA process: thank you to you all for your support, encouragement and reassurance during this period of the candidates lives.

Please continue to keep all our new Catholics and their Sponsors in your prayers for their continued growth and perseverance in the Faith.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE**

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

Our Evangelium course starts in October. The programme consists 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 for more details and to register for our next programme: [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)



## Luke 24:13-35

Christ appears to two disciples who are walking to Emmaus.

### Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

*Christ appears to two disciples who are walking to Emmaus.*

### Gospel Reflection

On most Sundays during the Easter season in Cycle A, our Gospel is taken from the Gospel of John. This week's Gospel, however, is taken from the Gospel of Luke. As in last week's Gospel, today's Gospel shows us how the first community of disciples came to believe that Christ had risen from the dead. In these stories we gain insight into how the community of the Church came to be formed.

When we read today's Gospel, we may be surprised to learn that these friends of Christ could walk and converse with him at some length yet not recognize him. Again, we discover that the risen Christ is not always easily recognized. Cleopas and the other disciple walk with a person whom they believe to be a stranger; only later do they discover that the stranger is Christ. We learn that the first community met and recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, just as we meet Christ in the Eucharist.

We can imagine the feelings of the two disciples in today's reading. They are leaving their community in Jerusalem. Their friend Christ has been crucified. Their hope is gone. They are trying to make sense of what has occurred, so that they can put the experience behind them.

Christ himself approaches the two men, but they take him for a stranger. Christ asks them what they are discussing. He invites them to share their experience and interpretation of the events surrounding his crucifixion and death. When the two disciples have done so, Christ offers his own interpretation of his crucifixion and resurrection, citing Jewish Scripture. In that encounter we find the model for our Liturgy of the Word—what we do each time we gather as a community for the Eucharist. We reflect upon our life experiences and interpret them in light of Scripture. We gather together to break open the Word of Christ.

In the next part of the story, we find a model for our Liturgy of the Eucharist. The disciples invite the stranger (Christ) to stay with them. During the meal in which they share in the breaking of the bread, the disciples' eyes are opened; they recognize the stranger as Christ. In the Eucharist too we share in the breaking of the bread and discover Christ in our midst. Just as the disciples returned to Jerusalem to recount their experience to the other disciples, we too are sent from our Eucharistic gathering. Our experience of Christ in the Eucharist compels us to share the story with others.



## Family Reflection

Families, as the domestic church, have the opportunity to make the family meal a time of prayerful encounter with one another and with Christ. At a family meal we share our experiences of the day and connect them with the experiences of others in the family. We can also enjoy the meal as an opportunity to reflect upon our family life in light of Scripture. At their best our family meals can connect us to Christ too.

Choose a family meal this week to share one another's experiences of the week in a special way. Perhaps invite family members to plan and prepare the meal together. Begin the meal by reading today's Gospel, Luke 24:13-35. As you eat, talk together about how the disciples discussed their experiences in Jerusalem and how they came to understand them differently when Christ interpreted those events in the light of Scripture. Then invite each family member to share the things that are going on in his or her life. Consider what Jesus might say to each person if he were sitting at your dinner table. Conclude with a special prayer after your dinner. Pray a prayer of blessing for each family member, asking that Christ continue to be present in each person's life, helping each one to be a better follower of Christ. Conclude with a Sign of Peace.

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

### HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are sick and/or housebound, our Priests would be happy to visit you, to pray with you, and to bring you Holy Communion in your home, please do let the Parish Office know; home visits are by request. If you know of someone who is unable to attend Christ but who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Priests.

### 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

Michael Cooke, Linda Hull, Tom Kelleher, Ellen Smith, Hannah McCarthy, Caroline Sidaway, Stella Collins, Kenneth Rose, Daniel Paterson, Edward Arthur Kavanagh, Julia Whelan, Ethel Herbert, Anne Overy, George Sargent, Gretta Conway, Charles Edwards, Annie Laing, Percy Wright, Deidre Broadhurst, Michael Geary, Juan Ortiz, Patrick Rice, Margaret Clare Horgan, Walter Rolls Pearce, Bernard Brennan, Patrick Walsh, Guigielmo Dnorato, Angelina King, Patrick Edgecombe, William Rutter, Alexander Wilson, Christina Brennan, Claire Paterson, Mary Bruce, William Vivian. **+++May They Rest In Peace+++**



**PRIEST TRAINING FUND SECOND COLLECTION 30<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL 2023 ~ GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

Next week is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Christ until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese.

After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 3 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest.

We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today.

Thank you!

- Donate Online:  
[www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF)
- Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (right)
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm:  
**020 7960 2504**
- Cash / Cheque – please use the Priest Training Fund envelopes at the back of church or the red bucket.



**OUR VISION:** To build a resourceful community, tackling the effects of poverty.

*Keeping our community fed, connected & supported.*

**SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP**

For too many families, 'food deprivation' is a fact of life. An unacceptable fact of life in 2023! But wishing will not make it go away. It is here for the immediate future at least, so are we and so many like-minded folks.

Thanks to your generous support here at St Agatha's, parents have been able to feed their children. That is a simple fact not an exaggeration.

Please try to continue supporting this appeal on behalf of the Dons. And yes, they are actively supporting families in the KT2 Postcode area.

Our collection point remains in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, such as pasta, rice, cereals, tea and coffee UHT milk, tins of vegetable, fruit, soup and also pet food and toiletry items such as toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant. Please note that they accept non-food items such as toilet paper, washing up liquid, household cleaning products.

Please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, eggs or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life.

*Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

**SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION**

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**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23**

Remaining timetable for FHC 2023

- 23/04/2023 Sunday 11.45am-1pm Session 7
- 14/05/2023 Sunday 11.45am-1pm Session 8 (Plus a Parents Session in Cloister)
- 19/05/2023 Friday, 10.30am- FHC Parents Church Decorating
- 19/05/2023 Friday, 4pm Preparation for Reconciliation and FHC Mass
- 20/05/2023 Saturday, 11am Reconciliation
- 21/05/2023 Sunday, 12pm FHC Mass



**CONFIRMATION 2023**

Remaining timetable for Confirmation 2023:

- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.15pm – Session 5
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Retreat & Reconciliation 10am – 4pm, Holy Cross Chapel, New Malden
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7.15-8.30pm – Session 6 (REPLACEMENT SESSION DUE TO ADDITIONAL BANK HOLIDAY)
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, 7.15-8.30pm – Session 7
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 7.15-8.30pm – Session 8
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 7.15-9pm Final Preparation/Rehearsal for Candidates & Parents
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 12.30pm Confirmation Mass
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.15-8.30pm Evaluation and Reflection



**BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS**

For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm. Please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.



Our subsequent class will be held in September 2023.

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

**CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS**

A small selection of Confirmation and First holy Communion cards are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively contact the parish office during opening hours. Cards are just £1 each! Please leave money in box available. Thank you.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, your new packet of envelopes, which started on Easter Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, are ready for collection from the church porch.

If you are not part of the Parish Gift Aid scheme and would like to join, please contact the Parish Office for further information.

*Thank you to everyone for your continued support.*

**'God's gaze never stops with our past filled of errors, but looks with infinite confidence at what we can become.' ~ Pope Francis**



## SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COURSE 2023 - IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Join at St George's Cathedral, at a "hub" venue in the diocese or on Zoom to explore how to live more fully in the power of the Spirit.

The Archdiocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis and the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal team are again organising Life in the Spirit Seminars for the Archdiocese during Eastertide.

The Seminars will run on five Tuesday evenings (2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th May and 6th June) at St George's Cathedral and at local hubs\* across the Archdiocese as well as on Zoom, with a Pentecost Saturday retreat day for all participants at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 27th May. Everyone would be most welcome. Inspiring talks and music, small group sharing and daily reflections (with food provided for those attending Tuesday evening sessions at the Cathedral).

\* **Local Hub: NEW MALDEN St Joseph's Catholic Church, Montem Road, New Malden KT3 3QW.**

For further details, see the leaflets in the church porch or visit: [www.bit.ly/SOUTHWARK2023](http://www.bit.ly/SOUTHWARK2023) or email [kristinabcooper@gmail.com](mailto:kristinabcooper@gmail.com).

## TEACHING AND LEADING IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Are you a Catholic and a teacher, middle or senior leader in a community school or academy and interested in taking up a role in Catholic education? If so, the Archdiocese of Southwark Education Commission would like to invite you to a twilight session: Teaching and Leading in Catholic Schools.



The session will include opportunities to meet current leaders and the education team, find out about Catholic schools and tips in relation to the application process. This event will be held on Thursday 27th April 2023 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road SE1 6HR.

If you are interested in attending, please register here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/teaching-in-and-leading-catholic-schools/> or if you have any queries please contact Sharon Docherty, RE Team Leader and Professional Learning Manager [sharondocherty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sharondocherty@rcaos.org.uk)

## CHRISTIAN CLIMATE ACTION

### DIRECT ACTION, PUBLIC WITNESS FOR THE CLIMATE

THE BIG ONE – THIS APRIL - *Will you be one of 100,000 people surrounding the Houses of Parliament to demand action on the climate emergency?*

The biggest climate protest yet is taking place from 21st April – 24th April. Join Christian Climate Action as they take a stand against fossil fuel company greed and government inaction – which is fuelling both the cost-of-living crisis and the climate crisis.



For further information:

<https://christianclimateaction.org/2022/10/22/the-big-one/>

## SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 18TH-25TH AUGUST 2023

Message from Bishop Paul: 'After the restrictions of the past few years, I'm delighted that we are now once more able to include support for pilgrims who need assistance for medical or mobility reasons. In Lourdes, those who are often marginalised are placed at the centre, and we who travel with them are blessed by their presence. I warmly invite you to join us.' For details, please see: <https://www.tangneytours.com/pilgrimages/>

## VOCATIONS WEBINAR: 'THE GOOD SHEPHERD CALLS'

*"I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own and my own know me." (John 10:14)*

Have you ever considered you may be called to the priesthood or the religious life? God has a definite plan and purpose for all of our lives. Some men are called to be a priests or deacons, and some women and men are called to the religious life or to be consecrated singles.

Southwark Vocations will be hosting a 60-minute webinar on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm entitled 'The Good Shepherd Calls' where different presenters will share their experiences about discovering God's plan for each one of us. Please join by registering for this event in advance by using following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdOuprDMtH9wKUQ777ddSSjLBucMtsONT>

## Do you want there to be a strong Catholic voice in our society?



The Catholic Union is the voice of the laity in society. For over 150 years, we have educated and informed Parliament, the Government, the Media and the Public about the Catholic viewpoint on the issues of the day.

## We need your help so please join the Catholic Union today!

As a Member you can

- participate in our work
- attend talks and other social events
- receive regular news and events briefings

For details about how to join (free for students and Under 25s) please click on our website:

[www.catholicunion.org.uk](http://www.catholicunion.org.uk)

