



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.

St. Agatha's Catholic Church
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Kingston upon Thames
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www.stagathaschurch.org.uk
kingston@rcaos.org.uk

CLERGY

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

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2019 – 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (C) FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES THIS WEEK

Saturday 23rd

9.30am Joan Heelan RIP
6.30pm Frank Gannon RIP

Sunday 24th

9.00am Tina Piccirillo RIP
10.30am People of the Parish
6.30pm John Davis RIP

Monday 25th

The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity

9.30am Private Intention

Tuesday 26th

9.30am Wellbeing Sebastian Lawson

Wednesday 27th

9.30am Madame Monique Aubry

Thursday 28th

9.30am Mrs Margaret Borg RIP

Friday 29th

9.30am Michael Boxall & John Hammond RIP

Saturday 30th

9.30am Dr Charles Forbes RIP
6.30pm Paddy Campion 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 (6th April 2019) OF EVERY MONTH 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. *Due to the new data protection rules we are unable to have names on the sick list unless we have written permission from the person to publicise their names. 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

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, Johanna Lombard, Theresa Dillaway, Catherine Henry, Bridget Battersby, Margaret Brigham, Mary Carraig, Leon Lorek, Mafalda Dilieto, Alan White, Johanna Norton, Carlo Marchese, Ruby May Fenton, Giovanni Grassi, James McArdle, Francis Brocking, Henry Wright, Sr. Stanislaus Holohan, Mario Bedoye, Maureen Swinbourne, Mary Lott,

+++ May they rest in Peace +++

OFFERINGS

First collection	Gift Aid	£508.71	Loose	£458.77
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£23.00	Loose	287.64

TOTAL £1278.12

Last Sunday the retiring collection was for CAFOD.

A GOD OF COMPASSION

A REFLECTION OF PSALM 102:1-4, 6-8, 11.

The idea still persists in some quarters that when some accident or misfortune happens to somebody, it is to be understood as a punishment from God for some sin, either committed personally or by a family member, even in a past generation. The unfortunate victim is then left with fear of a tyrannical God, or a God 'who has it in for me'. After two local tragedies in Galilee, Jesus tried to move people on from that horrible idea of God. Instead of passing judgement on those who were killed, the only conscience we are to judge over is our own. Then he added a parable of great encouragement, about the gardener who wants to give the fruitless tree one more chance. God is the one who so cares for us that he is always ready to give us one more chance.

There is no more appropriate psalm for this gospel than the one chosen for today. *The Lord is compassion and love.* It is one thing to say that God has compassion: it means more to say that God is compassion... and love.

The psalmist asks his soul to *give thanks to the Lord and to bless his holy name. God forgives all your guilt... heals every one of your ills... redeems your life from the grave... crowns you with love and compassion.* This compassionate God is the transcendent 'I Am who I Am' revealed to Moses in the first reading.

Lent's penance is a way of blessing God who is *slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

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

Baptism Preparation Class

Our next baptism preparation class will be on Sunday 28th April 2019, at 2pm, in the cloister. Please contact the parish secretary to book your place. If you are considering your child's baptism, please complete an application form and join us for this class. Parents need to attend a Baptism preparation class before receiving a date for your child's 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.

Eucharistic Adoration in The Kingston Deanery

A full list of times and days of Eucharistic Adoration in the Kingston Deanery has been published, please see the church noticeboard for full details.

British Summer Time

Please remember that the clocks go forward next week by one hour in the early hours of **Sunday 31st March (Mothering Sunday)**; Sunday mass will feel one hour earlier than usual!

Jesus wants evangelisers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence. ~ Pope Francis

HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

REFLECTION – TUESDAY 26TH MARCH 2019

Jesus surprised peter by telling him he needed to forgive seventy-seven times, but that is often the nature of hurt and healing. It does not happen all at once. Perhaps you have known the truth of this when something reminds you of a past hurt and you find you need in your heart to forgive, again and again, the person who hurt you. It can be a struggle, but worth it. Think of what it does to you when you cannot forgive. How has a capacity to have a forgiving heart helped you?

REFLECTION – THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2019

'Listen to my voice, then I will be your God and you shall be my people.' It is a mark of the true disciple that listens to the master, and listens not just casually, but with the ear of a disciple. In other words, we listen hoping to hear something that will make a difference, something that will enlighten, inspire or prompt us to change in some way to trust God as Jesus did, and to look on others around us with mercy and compassion, as Jesus did. That is the path of discipleship.

REFLECTION – SATURDAY 30TH MARCH 2019

It is great to have a relationship in which we can be fully ourselves and know that we will be accepted. When we find such a relationship it is a true blessing in life. Our loving God wants us to trust him in that way. God wants us to come to him as we are. In that way we bring ourselves to be touched by God so that he can heal us, bandage our wounds and bring us back to life. Pretentious prayers will fall on deaf ears. The Pharisee prayed as he thought he should; the publican prayed the only way he could.

God's Word 2019 Daily Reflections, St Pauls Publishing

Please see the Parish noticeboard for more details of the following events...

'Miserere - From Allegri to Macmillan'

Saturday 30th March at 7.30pm the Merbecke Choir will perform a concert of sacred music at St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston.

The New Malden Passion Play

Saturday 13th April 2019 at 1 & 3pm
Blagdon Park Recreation Ground, New Malden

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Churches Together in Kingston invite us all to participate in the Good Friday Walk of Witness beginning at 11.00am at the United Reform Church in Eden Street. Refreshments (hot cross buns) will be served from 10.00am. Everyone is welcome.

The Passion of Jesus

Good Friday, 19th April and Easter Saturday, 20th April

'The Gift' at St Joseph's Parish, New Malden

You are warmly invited to 'The Gift', a monthly post Easter event.

Celebrate Twickenham! 2019



15th and 16th June 2019 at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed — what gospel is that? ~ St. Óscar Romero

Important Upcoming Dates:

Sunday 24 th Mar	Stations of the Cross
Monday 25 th Mar	Confirmation Session
Wednesday 27 th Mar	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 27 th Mar	Parish Men's Group
Friday 29 th Mar	Confirmation Rehearsal
Sunday 31 st Mar	Confirmation Mass
Sunday 31 st Mar	FHC Session 7
Sunday 31 st Mar	Stations of the Cross

Confirmation 2019

Please note the following dates for upcoming sessions; *please observe the addition of a session on Monday 25th March. The rehearsal session is on Friday 29th March; parents are asked to attend from 8.15pm.*

Final Session	Monday 25 th Mar	7.15 – 8.30pm
Rehearsal	Friday 29 th Mar	7.15 – 8.30pm
Mass of Confirmation	Sunday 31 st Mar	12pm

First Holy Communion 2019

Please note the following dates for upcoming sessions:

Children's Session 7	Sunday 31 st Mar	4 – 5pm
Children's Session 8	Sunday 28 th April	4 – 5pm
Group 1 Rehearsal	Friday 3 rd May	4 – 5pm
Group 1 Sacrament of Eucharist	Sunday 5 th May	12 noon
Group 2 Rehearsal	Friday 10 th May	4 – 5pm
Group 2 Sacrament of Eucharist	Sunday 12 th May	12noon

Parish Men's Group

The men of the parish usually meet together on the third Wednesday of each month but due to a clash with another event at the Wych Elm this has now been set for the fourth Wednesday of each month. Therefore, the group will meet on the following dates in 2019: **27th March**, 24th April, 22nd May, 26th June, 24th July, 28th August, 25th September, 23rd October and 27th November. Please come along and join them.

Altar Servers' Rally 2019

The annual rally for Southwark Altar Servers is on Monday 6th May at The Friars, Aylesford Priory, Kent. Bishop Paul Mason is the principal celebrant. The annual rally gives servers in Southwark a great opportunity to collectively acknowledge and celebrate their special Ministry of Service in the church. Furthermore, the event encourages servers to socialise with other servers and share and renew their faith. If you have not attended before please take the time to 'come and see'. All servers and their families and friends are welcome. A poster with more details is on the church noticeboard. Altar Servers perform a very important role in liturgical services. After approx. 2 years regular serving, servers will be enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen for Altar Servers and receive the Guild bronze medal. If you or your children are interested in joining the ministry or if you have questions about the ministry, please speak to Frs. Anthony or Pius. Further details are available on the Parish Noticeboard. Please let us know if you are intending to attend.



MONTHLY TALKS AT ST. RAPHAEL'S ON TOPICS RELATED TO OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

St Raphael's Church in Kingston/Surbiton holds a monthly event: "Theology on Tap. Talks on topics related to the Catholic faith will be delivered by a range of speakers from within and outside the Parish. Quench your spiritual thirst with friends in the church hall (Alexander House) over a glass of wine or other refreshment.

Sunday 31st March 2019

Fr. David Howell, Assistant Priest, St Saviour's Church, Lewisham

All are welcome to attend and enjoy a glass of wine with nibbles from 6pm to 8pm. Donations will be invited each month to cover costs.

LENT AND EASTER 2019 AT ST AGATHA'S

3rd Sunday of Lent Gospel Reading *Luke 13:1-9*

Jesus preaches a lesson on repentance.

Reflection

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

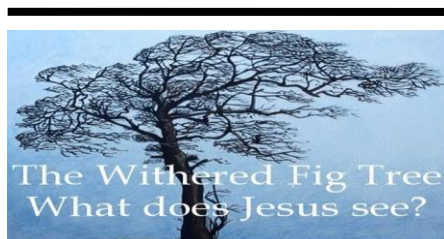
Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesdays, Friday mornings after Mass and at 5.30pm on Sundays during Lent. This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord.



Lenten Reconciliation

A Lenten Reconciliation service will be held on **Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm** here in the Parish of St Agatha for everyone. It is an opportunity for those who would like to go to confession before the Easter Triduum, which begins on Maundy Thursday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the healing sacraments and a powerful help on our Journey of Faith.

The times and details of all Masses and services are listed in the Lent and Holy Week 2019 Programme that is available at the back of the church. Please note that, on Maundy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper is at 7.30pm, the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday is at 3.00pm and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday is at 7.30pm. There are no morning masses these days, though there are children's celebrations at 12pm on both Thursday and Friday.

Church Flowers during Lent

One of the ways we have decided to observe Lent is by not having flowers in the church during this season of austerity and simple reflection. We hope this absence of flowers during Lent will amplify the resurrection message of the Easter flowers when they arrive!

CTS Booklets for Lent

Our CTS rack in the church porch now has some suitable spiritual reading for Lent; do have a look at what is on offer today. Payments should be put in the wall box marked 'papers'.

My Day by Day

This Lenten booklet is available at the back of the church. There is one copy for each family. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter. A recommended donation of £1 is welcomed. (Please put money in the box marked 'Papers'.)

Stations of the Cross Paintings

We would like to remind everyone that local artist and parishioner, Bob Meecham, has a display of beautiful paintings, which are his interpretations of the Stations of the Cross, available to view in the cloister. Please feel free to take a look.

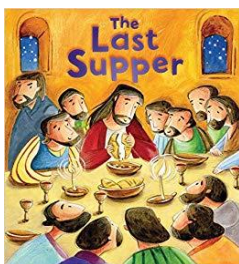
LENT AND EASTER 2019 AT ST AGATHA'S

St Agatha's Church Easter Spring Clean

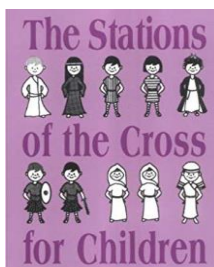
In previous years, when asked, we have been blessed with a great turnout of parishioners to help clear, tidy up and plant in the church grounds. This year we are having a day dedicated to 'Spring Cleaning and Tidying up our Church and Grounds' and we again call on our kind volunteers to help prepare our beautiful church inside and outside for Easter. If you can spare a couple of hours on **Saturday 6th April**, please come along and join us in the Cloister after the morning Mass. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to assist. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, it will be greatly appreciated! All teenagers will be especially welcome, together with those aged 11 – 13 (accompanied by an adult please) but for safety purposes, sadly, no smaller children. Volunteers who would like to help spruce up the gardens – please kindly bring gardening tools and gloves with you. Refreshments will be available and a soup lunch will be provided after. There is a sheet in the church porch for volunteers to sign up so that we can have refreshments arranged according to numbers expected. Many thanks.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Children's Celebrations

All children are welcome to join us at 12pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we observe both days with child-friendly services. During these hands-on services, children of all ages will walk together through the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross, learning as they go. On Maundy



Thursday we will need children from year 3 and above and on Good Friday we will need children from year 5 and above, for readings, and actors from year 3 and above to take part in the performance; please sign up at the back of the church or email:



helenmennis@gmail.com or louisacollyerhamlin@yahoo.co.uk

Friday Penance

'The Bishops [of England and Wales] wish to remind us that every Friday is set aside as a special day of penitence, as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. They believe that it is important that all the faithful again be united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance because they recognise that the virtue of penitence is best acquired as part of a common resolve and common witness. The law of the Church requires Catholics on Fridays to abstain from meat, or some other form of food, or to observe some other form of penance laid down by the Bishops' Conference (Canon1251). The Bishops decided to re-establish the practice that this penance should be fulfilled simply by abstaining from meat and by uniting this to prayer. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake'.

The form of penance we chose to adopt each Friday is a matter of personal choice and does not have to take the same form every Friday. Failure to undertake this penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin.

'What can I do for Lent?'

'Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving' is the Lenten tradition. We are required to fast by reducing food intake on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but giving up something (e.g. chocolate or alcohol) is also fasting. Extra prayer during Lent is very important. Other suggestions also include:

- *say some additional prayers each day
- *visit the Blessed Sacrament
- *go to weekday Mass if you can
- *buy a booklet to guide your reflections.
- *make the special effort involved in family prayer.
- *choose one of the Gospels and read it during Lent.
- *study the Sunday readings before coming to Mass
- *read Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation 'GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE'
- *come to the Stations of the Cross
- *receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- *Make a special effort to help someone who is poor, sick, old or lonely.
- *Giving to those less fortunate than yourself.

