



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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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 all 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 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 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 23rd	St Pio of Pietrelcina, Memorial
6.30pm	Margaret Afua Pokuaa Agyemang RIP
Sunday 24th	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am	Nicole & Graham Wiggill
10.30am	Keith & Alan Fraser RIP
6.30pm	Mary Egan RIP
Monday 25th	
9.30am	Andre Coelho
Tuesday 26th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 27th	St Vincent de Paul, Priest, Memorial
9.30am	Wellbeing of Una Smith
Thursday 28th	
9.30am	Seamus Dooley RIP
Friday 29th	Ss Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels, Feast
9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 30th	St Jerome, Priest, Memorial
9.30am	Sylvia Marguerite Danon RIP
Exposition:	Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 9am. Monday to Friday: 09:30
Mass Times:	Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30
Confessions:	Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.
Baptisms:	Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.
Marriages:	Six months' notice required, Diocesan order

PARISH OFFERINGS

Sunday Collection: 17/09/2023

Collection Gift Aid £146.50 Loose £463.94
Retiring Gift Aid £20.00 Loose £192.61

TOTAL £828.05

Last week's retiring collection was for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday, our parish raised a total of £212.61. Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DONATE TO YOUR PARISH

MAKE A DONATION ONLINE:

Donate to St Agatha's Church online via Bank Transfer using the following details: **Account Name: RCAS Kingston Account number: 10317821 Sort code: 60-60-02** (NB. The details may come up as RCAOS or Southwark – these are also correct)

VIA OUR QR CODE:

The QR code will take you to our parish 'Give A Little' web donation page.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/24

FHC Application forms must be completed and returned in person only at one of the following sessions next weekend:

- Friday 29th September 2023 between 2pm and 5pm, at the Presbytery.
- Saturday 30th September 2023 between 5.45pm and 6.15pm, in the Cloister.
- Sunday 1st October 2023 after the 10.30am Mass, in the Cloister.



You must attach a PHOTOCOPY of your child's baptism certificate; we cannot accept any application forms without the certificate. If your child has not yet been baptised, please contact the Parish Office to discuss the procedure for enrolling on this programme.

Late applications will not be accepted.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023/24

Confirmation Application forms must be returned to the parish office no later than Friday 29th September 2023, so that we can identify how many candidates will be enrolling.

Candidates must be in Year Nine or above in September 2023.

Late applications will not be accepted:



HOST OUR LADY OF LOURDES STATUE IN YOUR HOME FOR OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

Our Lady's Statue was in visitation every week for May, June and July and she returned to the church for the summer break.

She will now begin her visitations for October devotions.

If you would like to receive the Pilgrim Virgin Statue in your home during September, October or November, please fill out the form available in the church porch and return it to the Parish Office.

Please note, this is only a request which will be confirmed via a phone call to you. A date cannot be guaranteed and is subject to demand.



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, September 24, 2023

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145:2-3,8-9,17-18

God is near to those who call upon him.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who laboured in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

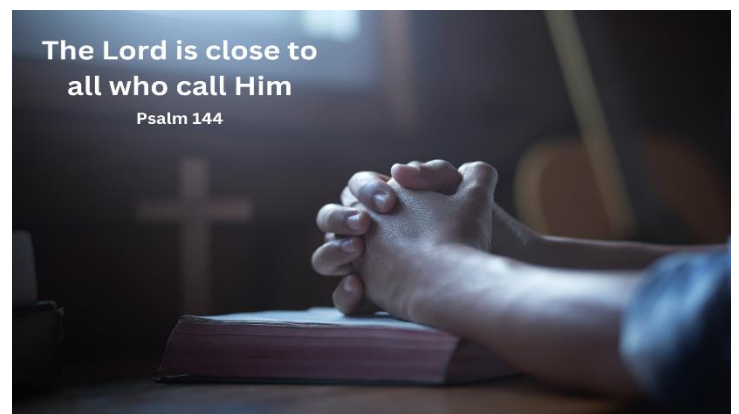
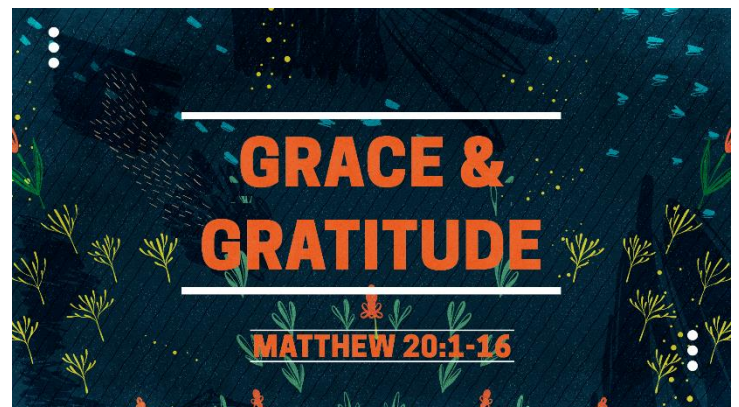
FAMILY REFLECTION

The workers in this parable sound very much like squabbling children, comparing what they have each been given and making complaints to the parent. Among children there is a tendency to equate love with gifts and material things. This tendency can devolve into a spirit of entitlement, which runs counter to the spirit of gratitude. Any effort we make to overcome this tendency, to keep love from being entwined with gifts and possessions, will enable our children to accept completely the love that God gives freely and generously.

Observe together any tendency within your family to make comparisons. Are children sometimes heard saying that another child received a greater portion of a favourite food at dinner or dessert? Does one person complain that a parent spends more time with one child over another? Ask if such comparisons are helpful. Discuss together why such comparisons are made. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16. Consider these questions: Why do the workers grumble? Is the landowner's assessment accurate? Unfortunately, we are sometimes like these workers when we make the comparisons we discussed earlier.

Conclude in prayer together remembering that love cannot and ought not to be measured. Sit quietly together acknowledging God's great love for each person as individuals and for your family. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 145, or the Lord's Prayer.

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. *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 Mass but who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Priests or the Parish Secretary.

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

Margaret Maguire, Patrick Quinn, Ida Phillips, Ellen Prince, Angela Young, Carlo Booth, Annie Margaritae Ruddy, Andrew Sharkey, John East, Maria Reddy, Christopher Mann, Gordon Williams, Joseph Behan, Tom Kavanagh, Dorothy Maurice, Edith Stimson, Cyril Dyer, Robert Laurent, Edith Mary Crowley, Blanche Sinteff, Eileen Mckenzie, Henry Rooke-Ley, John Mahoney, Eliza Burrell, Francis William Hardy, Albert Fell, Charles Cullen, Jack Davis, Nora Leek, William Francis Cahill, Josephine Tompsett, Isabel Rodrigues, Gelardo Rossi, Mildred Bull, Dennis Short.

+++May They Rest In Peace+++

NEW TO THE PARISH?

A very warm welcome to our Parish; we hope that you are settling down in your new home and will soon feel part of our community. If you are new to the parish, please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy, and please complete a family registration form which can be found in the church porch and is also on the parish website. If you have any questions or enquiries, please contact the Parish Secretary.



THE ROSARY

We pray the Rosary in the church every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning after Mass. Everyone is welcome to join in.



PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week at 10 am after Mass. Please stay after Mass for 10/15 mins to pray with fellow parishioners.



MASS INTENTIONS

Would you like a Mass offered at St Agatha for a particular intention? Perhaps you would like a deceased friend or relative remembered at the altar, or you would like a Mass said for yourself.

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. If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details. If you have a particular date or time on which you want a Mass said, **it is very important that you let the parish office know ahead of time and as soon as possible.** You are very welcome to book your Mass intentions in advance. We are sorry but we cannot guarantee a requested date when submitting late Mass Intentions; if no date is specified or a date requested is not available, the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open Mass. Many people would like for their intention on a Sunday. We will try our very best to facilitate this, but these are the most sought-after slots.

The usual offering per Mass is a minimum of £10, this amount is pre-set by Southwark Diocese for all parishes within her jurisdiction, but you can give more. This 'stipend' goes to the priest offering the Mass, not the parish. Stipends are given to priests as they do not receive a salary, and sometimes they are their only source of income.

Please note that the Mass diary is pre-arranged for the week ahead and the intentions can be viewed on the front of the Parish Newsletter, in the church porch or on the Parish website.



HARVEST 2023: FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2023

Again, we are invited by CAFOD to live simply on this day, and dedicate any monies saved to help those in need. The retiring collection across all masses of Sunday 8th October will be for CAFOD. Donation envelopes are available. You can also donate on the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope, available in the church porch. Please visit the CAFOD website for further information:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

You can help families fleeing conflict, parents fighting climate change and communities overcoming poverty together. Your donation will get to work quickly, around the world, wherever the need is greatest. Whichever way you support our work, you are saving lives and helping to ensure that no one is beyond reach of the love and care they need. Thank you for your continued support.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

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BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, please register for our next class – date to be confirmed.



Please ensure you complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office before you attend a class.

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

MARRIAGES IN 2024

2024 may be the year that you plan to get married; many *Congratulations* if that is so. ***Please remember that there is a lot of preparation that needs to take place and you are required to inform the church at least six months before the intended date.***



If you plan to celebrate your wedding at another church all preparations for our parishioners must take place here at St. Agatha's. Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

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

Our Evangelium course will start in October/November 2023. The programme will consist 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 with your details (name, contact details and current denomination or religion) to register for this next programme: kingston@rcaos.org.uk and we will email you back. It can also be a good experience for full members of the Catholic Church who may not have practised their faith for a number of years, or for those who wish to more fully understand and deepen their faith. Everyone is welcome along!

BISHOP HOWARD TRIPP RIP ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop Howard Tripp's first anniversary of death is on 3 October. There will be a Year's Mind Mass for him - celebrated at St George's Cathedral - the day after, on **Wednesday 4th October at 12.30pm**. Bishop Paul Hendricks will be the main celebrant.

This Mass will be simply the usual lunchtime Cathedral Mass, but it was felt important to mark Bishop Howard's first anniversary in some small way, in the place where he lies at rest in the Cathedral crypt.

Bishop Howard gave 24 years of devoted episcopal service as Auxiliary Bishop in the South West Area of the Diocese, and continued his episcopal service indirectly during his 18 years of retirement. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Everyone is most welcome to attend the Mass.

**DONS Local
Action Group**

SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Ill-fitting school blazers. The loss of that sedate morning bus journey town. The beautiful screeches of delight emanating from the local playground. Yes, the school holidays are over. Not that our friends at the Dons Local Action Group witnessed any lessening of the demand for their support!!

Throughout the summer, the Dons have continued to support those families in need. Recent conversations with the Dons have seen a move away from 'our' target of non-perishable foodstuff. Whilst this is still urgently required, we have been advised of the need for a broader appeal to include some of the basic items, such as toothpaste, hand wash, bleach, tea, coffee, sugar, honey and spices for cooking etc, as well as the usual non-perishable foods.

The Dons now have a programmed delivery of a monthly box of the above essentials the first full week of every month. We will try and support this initiative by delivering our contributions toward the end of each month. Obviously, this will only happen with your continued support. All donations to the blue box at the entrance to the church please.

Thank you for your on-going generosity.

'Prayer is "water for the soul". It is humble, unseen, yet gives life.

Those who pray grow inwardly. They know how to raise their gaze on high,

remembering they are made for Heaven.' ~ Pope Francis