

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 11.30am: Presentation on Clergy Support Fund campaign
Sunday 7.30pm: Presentation on Clergy Support Fund campaign
Monday 3.30pm: First Holy Communion Children – Group 1
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Wednesday 8.00pm: Presentation on Clergy Support Fund campaign
Friday 3.30pm: Rehearsal for First Holy Communion – Group 1
Saturday 10.00am: First Holy Communion Children – Group 2
Sunday (1st May) 12noon: First Holy Communion Mass – Group 1

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Saint Mark
Friday: St Catherine of Siena

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £531.09 Loose £345.94
Retiring collection (Ecclesiastical Education))
Gift Aid £173.00. Loose £94.09

The retiring collection this weekend is for the maintenance of St George’s Cathedral.

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, Rosa Vitolo, Elsie Malone & Colette Patten.

ANNIVERSARIES

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, Walter Rolls Pearce, Bernard Brennan, Patrick Walsh, Guiglielmo Dnorato, Angelina King, Patrick Edgecombe, William Rutter, Alexander Wilson, Christina Brennan, Claire Paterson, Mary Bruce, William Vivian, William Purton.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

Active Kids Vouchers

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



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O’Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

St. Agatha’s Catholic Church

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www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK		
Sunday 24th April 2016		
Fifth Sunday of Easter (C)		
Saturday	9.30am	Desmond Pearl
	6.30pm	Ella Mabel Slater
Sunday	9.00am	Mary Jo Davidson
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Vincenzo Straccialano
Monday	9.30am	Colette Patten
Tuesday	9.30am	John Joe Carroll
Wednesday	9.30am	Joan Kelly
Thursday	9.30am	Tina Piccirillo
Friday	9.30am	Arnold Boswell
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	In Thanksgiving
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00–11.00am, 18.00–18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months notice required – Diocesan rule	

‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ Of all the commandments Christ gave us this is the most important. It includes all the others. The only failure in the life of a Christian is the failure to love. Let us think about the people we find difficult to take into our hearts, and ask the Lord to help us to be more loving towards them. It is God who sets the example for us to follow.

Those who opt for love open themselves to the possibilities of a greater happiness than they have ever known. Love is well-being. It makes us fruitful. To refuse to love is to begin to die. To begin to love is to begin to live. While faith makes all things possible, love makes all things easy. Love heals everyone – both those who receive it and those who give it.

PARISH NOTICES

Clergy Support Fund Campaign at St Agatha's

Please remember to attend one of the presentations at St Agatha's if you possibly can. The presentations will take place in the Cloister and last for about an hour. A short film featuring retired clergy of the Diocese will be shown and light refreshments will be provided. Please come along even if you did not complete a contact card given out at Mass recently:

Sunday 24 April at 11.30 am (after 10.30 am Mass)

Sunday 24 April at 7.30 pm (after 6.30 pm Mass)

Wednesday 27 April at 8.00 pm

First Holy Communion

The children in Group 1 will meet on **Monday 25th April at 3.30pm**. The rehearsal for First Communion is on **Friday 29th April at 3.30pm**. The First Communion Mass is on **Sunday 1st May at 12 noon**. The children in Group 2 will meet on **Saturday 30th April at 10.00am** The rehearsal for First Communion is on **Friday 5th May at 3.30pm**. The First Communion Mass is on **Sunday 8th May at 12 noon**.

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. Please enter via the presbytery.

Pentecost Celebration

There will be a Pentecost celebration on **Saturday 14th May from 10.00am** to about **3.00pm** at St Joseph's Catholic Church, New Malden. The day will start with mass, followed by adoration, confessions, benediction, praise and prayer for healing. Please bring your own lunch.

Marriage / relationship course

Do you want to feel more connected to your partner? Do you long to confidently know each other's response to the key questions "Are you with me? Are you there for me?"

Join us for the Hold Me Tight® marriage/relationship course running in Kingston over seven Thursday evenings May 12th–June 30th 2016 (half term: June 2nd) at St Pauls Church, KT2 7SF. £70 per couple, concessions available – please ask.

Babysitting help also possible.

Contact: Kate/Julia on holdmetightkingston@gmail.com to book a place. Join the community and read benefits and FAQs at www.facebook.com/holdmetightkingston.

REFLECTION

Where love begins

It's easy to love at a distance, but not so easy to love at close quarters.

It's easier to give a few pounds to relieve famine in Africa than to relieve the loneliness of someone living next door.

It's easy to love people who are far away,

but not always easy to love those who are close at hand.

Yet, these are the people that Christ asks us to love.

We must begin by loving the people near us.

That is where our love must start.

But, of course, it doesn't have to end there.

And it shouldn't.

Fr Flor McCarthy S.D.B.

First Reading: Acts 14: 21–27

The outward stage of Paul's first missionary journey is over and they turn for the homeward run back to Antioch in Syria from where they had originally been sent out. (Note that there is another city in Turkey called Antioch also which they visit on route.) Back at base, they report to the community who had originally commissioned them for this missionary outreach and had probably covered their initial expenses.

Second Reading: Apocalypse 21: 1–5

The vision is of the arrival of a glorious future. The world of the past has gone. The persecution and the struggle are over. The promise is fulfilled. Here God lives among men. He is making his home among his people.

Gospel Reading: John 13: 31–35

Jesus has washed the feet of the disciples. Judas is leaving to betray him. Time is running out. The rest of the night with its pain, love and death bed messages is precious. John devotes four chapters of his Gospel to it.

Today's short opening reassures the disciples that despite the trauma of the Passion, the Father will glorify Jesus as His Son through the love that binds them together. In turn, the disciples must replicate that divine love. The command is not just to love each other, but to love as Jesus loves. This is the challenge.

Papal Exhortation

The Pope's new Apostolic Exhortation, 'The Joy of Love' which brings together the results of the 2014 and 2015 Synods on the Family has attracted much media attention. The Catholic Bishops' Conference website catholicnews.org.uk contains the text, a summary and comments. These are very well worth reading.