

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 Rev. Robert Beresford – Deacon

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 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 26TH FEBRUARY 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Saturday 25th	
6.30pm	Patricia McColgan RIP
Sunday 26th 1st Sunday of lent	
9am	Intentions for John De Quidt
10.30am	Keith & Alan Fraser RIP
6.30pm	Birthday Thanksgiving Intentions
Monday 27th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Anthony Cotmore Patricia Cotmore RIP
Tuesday 28th	
9.30am	Margaret Quigley & Family RIP
Wednesday 1st St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales, Feast	
9.30am	Zoran Popovic RIP
Thursday 2nd	
9.30am	Tim Cronin – Birthday
Friday 3rd CAFOD Fast Day	
9.30am	Arthur Lawrence RIP
Saturday 4th	
9.30am	Stella Mak – Birthday
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

LENT AND HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Our Lent and Holy Week Programme is available in the church porch. It is also available on the Parish website: www.stagathaschurch.org.uk



The retiring collection at all masses over Sunday 5th March 2023 will be for CAFOD – our relief agency. Donation envelopes are also available at the back of church.

CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND COLLECTION

Sunday 26th February 2023

**They've been there for us
Let us be there for them**

Clergy Support Fund 2023

**Please support our sick and retired
priests with a gift today**

This weekend there will be the annual collection for the Clergy Support Fund.

The Clergy Support Fund of the Archdiocese of Southwark provides care for priests in their old age and retirement, and in their time of ill health. A gift to this worthy fund will ensure a dignified retirement for our priests, after they have dedicated a lifetime of service to Christ, His Church and His People.

In 2022, the Clergy Support Fund provided care to 73 retired priests, at a cost of £1.33 million. With the number of priests over the age of 65 steadily increasing, so too will the financial obligation to the Archdiocese.

Please be generous today with a gift to the Clergy Support Fund and continue to keep our priests in your prayers. Thank you!

• Donate Online: <https://rcaos.org.uk/donate/csf>

• QR Code (see right)

• Telephone Mon-Fri 9am-5pm: **020 7960 2504**

• Cash / Cheque – please use the Clergy Support Fund envelopes at the back of church or your gift aid envelopes.



PLEASE HELP, MORE CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED!

How does the church stay looking clean and tidy? There are a number of teams, on a rota, who keep the church looking good. Cleaning takes place every two weeks and only requires a commitment of four times a year. More volunteers are needed for this necessary work to keep our church sanctuary looking clean and welcoming. If you would like to become a "heavenly duster" or an "altar angel", please contact the Parish Secretary on 02085464633 or email kingston@rcaos.org.uk



First Sunday of Lent, Cycle A
Sunday, February 26, 2023

Gospel Reading
Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

Gospel Reflection

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

Family Reflection

When Jesus resists the temptations presented to him by the devil, he draws on his religious upbringing and tradition. Jesus is able to quote from Scripture because he is the Son of God and because he was a human person who lived his Jewish beliefs fully. We who are responsible for raising children are also called upon to immerse them fully in our Catholic Christian tradition so that they too will be able to draw upon this tradition to resist the temptations they will face in their lives.

Use this Sunday as an opportunity to call your family's attention to the importance of Scripture in our lives. Gather your family around the family Bible and read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11. Recall that Jesus rebuked the devil's temptations by quoting Scripture. Take some time as a family to talk about the words that are found in the Bible and the importance of Scripture to our faith. Perhaps the older members of the family can share a favourite Scripture passage with everyone. Younger family members can tell their favourite story from the Bible and be shown where that story can be found. In each case, encourage a deeper sharing of faith by asking each person to tell why the Scripture passage shared is important to him or her. Conclude your time together by again reading Jesus' reply to the devil found in Matthew 4:4 ("One does not live by bread alone . . .") and praying the Lord's Prayer.

+++ LATELY DEAD+++

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Colette Hickey, who died recently aged 86. Her requiem will take place on here on Monday 27th March 2023 at 12pm

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

+++ 'Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.' +++

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 Mass 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 Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES

Rose Pullen, Jorge Potier, Frederic Whelan, Ronald Macdonald, Charles Crawley, Edit Brown, John McSweeney, Elizabeth Heppel, Mary Ellen White, Bernard Mackey, Kate Goddard, Eugenie Connolly, Mario Porlanti, Sr. Declan Carroll, Eileen Murphy, Tom Costello, Vladas Dankis, William Wiseman, George Bruce, Annie Ashworth, Elfrida Medhurst, John Neilan, Robert Eurell, Angelo Pacitti, Rita Andrew, Joseph Alfred Smith, Agnes Guy, Hilda Davis, John Roycroft, Marjorie Lansley, William McDonagh, John Faith, Cyril Everest, Matthew Patrick O'Connor, Maureen Madden, Zena Kitchen, Elizabeth Agnes Wall, Doradea Marie Grassi, William Joseph McKenzie, Sarah Lewis, James Keeble, Tom Naughton.

+++May They Rest In Peace+++

MASS INTENTIONS

It is, again, a very busy time for Mass requests and Masses are being booked several weeks in advance. Therefore, 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.

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. Thank you.



LENT READING - 'MY DAY BY DAY'

Copies of the Lent edition of 'My Day by Day', for adults and juniors, are available at the back of the Church - they cost £1.00 each. Please put money in the box marked 'My Day by Day'. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Throughout Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held on Tuesdays at 7pm and Friday mornings after the Morning Mass. This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord. Everyone is welcome.

EXPOSITION AND ADORATION DURING LENT AND LENTEN RECONCILIATION

The church will be open on Wednesday evenings during Lent from 7pm - 8pm for Exposition and Adoration. (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March).

This is a beautiful opportunity for quiet prayer and adoration. Please come for as long you can, be it 5 or 10 minutes or the whole hour, everyone is welcome. Reconciliation will also be available on these dates during this time.

EASTER SPRING CLEAN

Save the date!!



This year our dedicated Easter Spring Cleaning morning will be on Saturday 25th March 2023, from 10am. There are a variety of tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to give up a few hours of their time to help us. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church porch for volunteers to sign up or please email the parish office. (Even if you can only spare an hour or two, Fathers would really appreciate!) refreshments and all cleaning products will be provided. Everyone is welcome, teens especially, those aged 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult please

We would also like to ensure the church grounds are looking their best too and we would welcome anyone who can bring a few spring plants or flowers along for the front gardens and help to plant them. Again, please get in touch with the Parish Secretary if you would like to help out. Please bring your favourite garden tools and gardening gloves!

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

CONFIRMATION 2023

Session 2 is on Monday 27th February 2023. 7.15-8.30pm.

The Confirmation Inscriptio Mass is on **Sunday 5th March at 6.30pm**: Candidates **MUST** arrive by 6pm

Session 3 is on Monday 13th March 2023. 7.15-8.30pm.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23



The next session is being held on: Sunday 5th March 2023. 11.45am to 1pm (Session 5).

Please note there will **NOT** be a Parents session held as previously scheduled.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday, 26th March 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 classes will be held Sunday 30th April 2023.

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



MARRIAGES IN 2023 and 2024



2023 or 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 preparation for our parishioners must take place here at St. Agatha's.

Please contact the Parish Office and we will happily guide you.



**RENEWED IN HOPE
DIOCESAN ONLINE RETREAT**

A retreat for Lent 2023, introduced by Archbishop John Wilson, led by members of the Spirituality Commission.

The Archdiocese of Southwark is offering a retreat experience for individuals and parishes during Lent 2023. Drawing on the Mass readings for the Sundays of Lent, Renewed in Hope will help us find fresh ways of living and working in hope, in the company of Jesus. We live in a divided world, where many are struggling to survive. Through his life, death and resurrection, the suffering and risen Christ continues to make all things new.

The retreat is designed for individuals and is based on a weekly video accompanied by suggested exercises for prayer and reflection. These resources will be available in advance so that the videos can be viewed at any convenient time.

Individuals can join one of the online groups that will be offered on different days of the week and at different times of the day.

For more details and to register follow this link:

<https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/renewedbyhope>

GODCALLS: ADVENTURE

GodCalls Adventure from the National Office for Vocation, is a free, 40-day self-guided course which aims to help you grow in holiness, and root each day in prayer.

The downloadable resources focus on cultivating different virtues, ranging from meekness to purity, gratitude to courage.

There is also guidance on using the Bible, how to pray and reflect with the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross.

Further details at: www.godcalls.co.uk/godcalls-adventure

GodCalls Adventure is not just for Lent, try the 40 days at any point of the year



**A SPECIAL PRAYER INITIATIVE FOR THE
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' PONTIFICATE**

In a month's time, on 13th March, Pope Francis will be celebrating ten years of his pontificate.

To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "viral" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a [special online map](#) featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him.

Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Marys. "In the end we will send the Holy Father the map with the 'little candles' which represent the Hail Marys that are prayed for him, thanking God for His Mercy, "

No other phrase has been repeated by Pope Francis more than the seven words he utters at the end of almost every speech he has delivered since his election as pontiff in March 2013 – "Do not forget to pray for me!" Now — on the eve of the 10-year anniversary of his election as pontiff — this new initiative is underway asking Catholics around the world to commit to doing just that and making good on the pope's request.

<https://www.decimus-annus.org/it>



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – FRIDAY 3rd MARCH 2023

In response to the awful scenes in Turkey and Syria, relief agencies whether faith-based or otherwise, will be appealing for your support. The immediate and long-term needs of those impacted by the 'war' in the Ukraine have not gone away. Historical aid projects and perceived needs in Africa and Asia, must not be ignored because they cannot compete with the above for media attention. What a mess. Yet throughout we see the beauty of those willingly giving of their time and efforts, to alleviate the suffering of others. Whether it be by the removing of rubble, greeting refugees or setting up mother and baby clinics. CAFOD the official relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, under the umbrella of Caritas, are not physically able to do all of the above. But they, in our name, are at the shoulder side supporting and enabling those that are.

The retiring collection at all masses over Sunday 5th March 2023 will be for CAFOD - our relief agency.

CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

CAFOD SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.



SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

A fourth delivery of donations has successfully been delivered to the Dons; again they were very grateful for your continued generosity! 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 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. The donations box will be left in the church porch and as donations accumulate, they will then be delivered.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

"Lent is the "favourable time" to return to what is essential, to divest ourselves of all that weighs us down, to be reconciled with God, and to rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit hidden beneath the ashes of our frail humanity." ~ Pope Francis