

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
1 Wyndham Road
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 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 MARCH 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Saturday 25th	The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity
6.30pm	Louise Shackle RIP
Sunday 26th	5th Sunday of Lent
9am	Joan Heelan RIP
10.30am	Keith & Alan Fraser RIP
6.30pm	Nancy Petitjean RIP
Monday 27th	
9.30am	Zoran Popovic RIP
Tuesday 28th	
9.30am	Anne Cleave RIP
Wednesday 29th	
9.30am	Intentions of Orson Francescone, Jamie & Family
Thursday 30th	
9.30am	John Allen RIP
Friday 31st	
9.30am	<i>Whole School Mass</i> Holy Souls
Saturday 1st	
9.30am	Thanksgiving to the Triune God
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

BRITISH SUMMER TIME

Please remember that the clocks go forward one hour in the early hours of **this Sunday, 26th March**; Sunday Mass will feel one hour earlier than usual!



Change your **CLOCKS** and your **SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES!**



GIFT AID ENVELOPES

If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, your new packet of envelopes, which start on 9th 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.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.



Keeping our community fed, connected & supported.

SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Just a quick reminder about our donations box in support of Dons Local Action Group; A huge thank you to everyone that has already donated items.

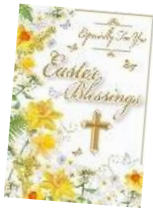
We are hoping to have adequate items to be able to provide them another delivery in time for Easter.

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.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

EASTER, CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS

A small selection of Easter, 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.



EASTER OFFERINGS

Easter offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to use them for an Easter Offering for our Clergy. If you normally Gift Aid your weekly offerings, would you please print your name/number clearly on the Easter Offering Envelope. Please leave the envelopes in the box in the porch. Thank you.

PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave for Easter Week and will return on Tuesday 18th April 2023, therefore the parish office will close on Thursday 6th April and reopen on Tuesday 18th April 2023.

Please ensure all Mass Requests for this period, Baptism Applications and any other enquiries are submitted before Thursday 6th April 2023 otherwise they will not be attended to until the office reopens.

Please only call the presbytery in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry during this time.

For all non-urgent enquiries, please email kingston@rcaos.org.uk and Karin will respond upon her return. **Thank you.**



Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A
Sunday, March 26, 2023

Gospel Reading

John 11:1-45 (shorter version John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45)
Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Gospel Reflection

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

Family Reflection

Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

Gather your family today and read today's Gospel in its shorter form, John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45. Write Jesus' promise from today's Gospel ("I am the resurrection and the life.") on a large sheet of white paper. As your family talks about what Jesus means by this promise, decorate Jesus' words with symbols that will remind you of his promise of eternal life. Display this reminder of Jesus' promise in a prominent place in your home and keep it there until Easter. Pray that you will always remain confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Conclude by praying together the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.

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 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

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 Dilliway, 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, John Allen, Alice Baker, Sarah Watson, John McKenna, James Patrick Kennedy, Caroline Hopkins, William Philip Murphy, Alice Delaney, Ellen Desmond, Eugene Doyle, Bernadette Harris, Evelyn Fiaschi, Clare Chambers, George Higginson.

+++May They Rest In Peace+++



Lent & Holy Week 2023

St Agatha's Church
Kingston upon Thames

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S CELEBRATIONS

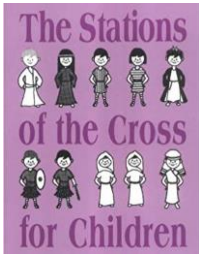
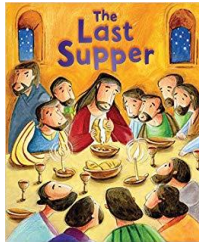
All children are welcome to join us at 12pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we observe both days with child-friendly services. During these hands-on services, children of all ages will walk together through the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross, learning as they go.

On Maundy Thursday we have a re-enactment of the last supper in the Cloister with readings, acting and singing, and lunch to share afterwards.

On Good Friday we have the Stations of the Cross read and acted by our young people.

Please sign up at the back of the church, or email: kingston@kingston.org.uk, if you are able to attend and your child(ren) would like to take part. Year 6 and above to read on Good Friday, but all children will be able to take part in both services as we need actors for a variety of roles.

No rehearsals but on Good Friday, please come to the church at 11.15 to collect readings and have a quick practice.



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 29th March from 7pm – 8pm for Exposition and Adoration. 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 during this time.

CTS BOOKLETS

Our CTS rack in the church porch has various booklets available to purchase, including some suitable spiritual reading for Lent; do have a look at what is on offer today. The price for each booklet can be found on the back. Monies should be put in the wall box marked "papers".

"In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn." ~

Pope Francis – Lent 2023



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 16th APRIL 2023 NINE DAY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

On the 1st Sunday after Easter the entire Church is called to gather throughout the world to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. From St Maria Faustina's Diary it is clear that this Octave Day on Easter is the day chosen by Christ as a day of extraordinary graces – a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith.

How to observe the Feast of Mercy

1. Go to confession, preferably before that Sunday
2. Place your complete trust in Jesus
3. Celebrate the Feast
4. Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast
5. Venerate the Image of Divine Mercy
6. Be merciful to others, through your actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

In the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, Jesus asked that the **Feast of Divine Mercy**, known today as **Divine Mercy Sunday**, be preceded by a **Novena to The Divine Mercy**. A Novena is nine days of prayer in preparation for a feast. To properly celebrate this great day, we need to prepare well. As a Parish we are encouraging everyone to make a Novena to The Divine Mercy and pray the Chaplet.

'Jesus instructed St Faustina to write down and make (the Novena & Chaplet) before the Feast of Mercy. It begins on Good Friday' (Diary 1209 – 1229).

Divine Mercy pamphlets are available in the church porch. (Cost 50p each). Monies should be put in the wall box marked "papers".



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

or email kristinabcooper@gmail.com.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

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RCIA: CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES!

We extend warm congratulations to our five Catechumens and one Candidate who attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on Sunday 26th February 2023. These men and women, Elect as they are now called, have been participating in our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program and Archbishop Wilson has accepted them as being ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. During the season of Lent, they enter into a time of personal preparation that concludes at the Easter Vigil on Saturday 8th April.



The Elect now begin their final period of "purification and enlightenment" before the Easter Vigil. Over three Sundays, the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent, our Catechumens and Candidate will join us as we celebrate special rites called the "Scrutinies" during Mass (Sundays at 6.30pm). They are part of a series of rites belonging to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) that are celebrated during the season of Lent. Essentially these rites are composed of prayers of intercession and the laying on of hands so that the Holy Spirit may be invoked and the spirit of evil cast out. They are celebrated purposefully at Mass, so that the whole congregation is given the opportunity to pray for and support those preparing for the Easter sacraments and to make the point that conversion is not only a personal matter but a communal commitment.

Please pray for each of them as they prepare to be received into full communion in the Catholic Church!

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held this 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 class 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

The next session (6) will be held this Sunday, 26th March 2023. Session 7 is after the Easter break on Sunday 23rd April 2023.



CONFIRMATION 2023



Session 4 is being held on Monday 27th March 2023. 7.15-8.30pm. Session 5 is after the Easter break on Monday 24th April 2023.

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.

LIFTS TO MASS

If you could occasionally offer someone a lift to any of the Masses, that you normally attend, please could you kindly contact Karin in the Parish office to discuss further. We have a couple of parishioners who are unable to get to Mass due to mobility issues but live just a few roads away and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to come to Mass, even just occasionally. *Thank you!*

"SUNDAY 16TH APRIL – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY"

Afternoon devotions at St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston, KT1 2NA. 3pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Prayers. Followed by Confessions & Rosary, Concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3.45pm,

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/>

**ST AGATHA'S PSA
QUIZ
NIGHT**
TUESDAY
28TH MARCH
ARRIVE FROM 7.30PM,
QUIZ STARTS AT 8PM

AT THE
WYCH ELM PUB
93 ELM ROAD, KT2 6HT

£10 per person
Teams of 6-8

Fantastic prizes to be won,
kindly donated by the Wych
Elm, including dinner for two &
£60 vouchers!

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW AT
www.jumblebee.co.uk/stagsquiz2023