

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday: St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland
Saturday: St Francis Xavier

PARISH DIARY

Monday 3.30pm: First Holy Communion preparation class
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £508.30 Loose £382.01
Retiring collection (Catholic Youth Service)
Gift Aid £149.00 Loose £57.09

This weekend's retiring collection is for CAFOD.

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, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Marie Elsey, Christopher Browne, Mary Wallace, Rosa Vitolo, Elsie Malone & Colette Patten.

ANNIVERSARIES

Madeleine Plantin, Margaret Kelly, Edith Stimson, Ellen Metcalf, Mary Braby, William Howson, William McBride, Derrick Wright, Kitty Shier, Fr. Eugene O'Sullivan, Fr. Donagh O'Brien, Josephine Heaney, Edgar Thomas, Cynthia Marsh, Elizabeth Ryan, Mary Sheehy, Walter Joseph O'Sullivan, Bridget Ryan, Anita Galiano, Anne Slaughter, Brian Talbot, Marco Saiz, Sister Ambrosine, Honora Browne, Robert Dean, Margaret Prosser, Alice Bays, John Curtin, Baby Felix James Olney, Vincent Thomas McCall, Daniel Liddy, Annie Conway, Elizabeth Dorsett, Francis Mahony, Mary Anne Hubble, Frances Farr, Edna Johnson, James Jones, Anne Teresa Carbury, Ernestine Hannah Emerson, Vanda Cocco, Charles Selwood, Nellie Scaplehorn, General Jaeme Arrospide, John Fabriek, John Whelan, Isabel White, George Terence Dove, Mary Vivian, Lenord McIlbaltan, Hugh McFaul. +++ May they rest in peace +++

Clergy Support Fund Appeal

The Campaign has raised £2,431,000 to-date from parishes across the Archdiocese. Thank you to all of you who have donated or pledged so far; the total reached by our parish stands at £8,425. If you have yet to give and wish to make a contribution visit www.southwarkclergysupportfundcampaign.org or telephone 020 7960 2525. Donations can be made in form of a single gift or as a monthly sum. The overall target figure is £4,500,000: please consider supporting this major campaign for our sick and retired clergy.



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 27th November 2016

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Sarah Cronin
Sunday	9.00am	Tina Piccirillo
	10.30am	Walter Fraser
	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am	Carl Booth
Tuesday	9.30am	Lucy Gallagher
Wednesday	9.30am	Eamon Carey
Thursday	9.30am	Special Intention
Friday	9.30am	Private Intention
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	John Chandler
Confessions:	Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call	
Baptisms:	By previous arrangement	
Marriages:	Six months' notice required - Diocesan rule	

The chief function of the season of Advent is to prepare us for Christmas. However, to understand Christmas we have to start at the beginning - with the history of salvation.

God's plan of salvation is centred in Christ and realised through him. Advent looks back at the promises of his first coming, when that plan was announced. And it looks forward to his second coming when that plan will reach its complete fulfilment. And, of course, it celebrates his actual coming in time.

First Communion Preparation Programme 2016/17

Preparation classes continue on **Monday 21st November at 3.30pm.**

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Prayer Group

The Parish Prayer Group meets every **Tuesday** at **8.00pm** in the church for rosary, praise and intercession. All parishioners are most welcome to join us.

Sale of Christmas Trees

There will be a sale of Christmas trees in the church's car park on **Sunday 4th December**. This year the sale will run from 9.00 am until 12.00 pm. Every tree sold includes a 25% contribution to the school PSA fund. Free delivery can be arranged. To offer your help please contact richardcollyerhamlin@hotmail.com.

Christmas Hamper & Cards

Tickets for the raffle for the **Christmas hamper** will be on sale after all masses this weekend. Cards and gifts are still available in the Cloister.

St Agatha's School – Admission to Reception Class September 2017

Children born between 1st September 2012 and 31 August 2013 are eligible to start school in September 2017. The open morning for prospective reception class parents is on **Friday 2nd December** starting at **9.30am**. The closing date for all applications is **15th January 2017**. For further information see the school website www.stagathas.kingston.sch.uk or telephone 020 8546 3879 and ask for Sharon Parsons.

Christmas lunch

Our more mature parishioners are invited to a Christmas lunch in the Cloister on **Tuesday 11th December** at **12.30pm**. Please sign up on the notice at the back of the church.

Church Pre-Christmas Spruce up

We have a tremendous team of helpers in St Agatha's parish who work very hard to keep our church and grounds beautiful all year round. We would like to call for 'EXTRAS' – volunteers to come and help with our twice yearly spruce up, both inside and outside in the church grounds, (to boost the efforts of our regular team by tackling jobs like brass cleaning and ironing of altar cloths etc... in time for our special Christmas celebrations). This year our dedicated morning will be on **Saturday 10th December** after the 9.30am Mass. We hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to turn up to devote a few hours to help us. Please sign up on the noticeboard by the front door so that we can have soup and refreshments ready at 1.30pm according to numbers expected. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, Fr Gerry will be delighted! All teenagers will be made especially welcome, together with those aged 11 – 13 (accompanied by an adult please) but for safety reasons, sadly, please no smaller children.

REFLECTION

Encircling prayer

In today's second reading we hear St Paul say:
'Let your armour be the Lord.'

Hence we might pray as follows:

Circle me Lord. Keep protection near; keep danger afar.

Circle me Lord. Keep hope within; keep doubt without.

Circle me Lord. Keep light near; keep darkness afar.

Circle me Lord. Keep peace within; keep strife without.

Circle me Lord. Keep love within; keep hate without. Amen

Flor McCarthy S.D.B.

First Reading: Isaiah 2: 1–5

The prophet Isaiah paints a picture of the culmination of God's plan for his Chosen People and for the world. The temple in Jerusalem will be the gathering place, not only for Israel, but for all nations. The wisdom and law of the Lord will bring all peoples together and his justice will prevail. There will be an end to war and the establishment of peace and justice. This vision is given to encourage us to 'walk in the light of the Lord'.

Second Reading: Romans 13: 11–14

St Paul exhorts the Romans to behave worthily as they live in a privileged time – Christ has inaugurated the next stage of God's plan, so his followers are to live with their minds and hearts set on that plan's fulfilment. In practical terms, this means setting aside the deeds we would prefer to be obscured and living in the light. Our lives should be of transparent integrity.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24: 37–44

Christ calls for alertness and attention from his followers. He tells us how the people in Noah's time were so caught up in their own concerns that they failed to read the signs that were given to them. It should not be so for followers of Christ who have been instructed in what is to come. Christ calls for vigilance rather than worry! His word is faithful and he has prepared us. As his followers, we are called to be discerning about the present moment by reference to what he taught us during his First Coming and with our eyes set, in faith and hope, on what he means to accomplish by his coming in glory.

The Nativity – Wintershall

The annual Nativity play for all the family will be staged at the Wintershall Estate, Bramley, Surrey GU5 0LR on **14th – 18th December**. For further details see the church notice board or contact www.wintershall-estate.com or 01793 418299 for tickets.