



**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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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](mailto: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 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>**

6.30pm Matthew Jeremy Norton Crocker RIP

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Racial Justice Sunday**

9am Desmond Pearl RIP

10.30am Tom Howard RIP

6.30pm Oliver Cronin

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Edith Knight RIP

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Martin Mason RIP

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> St John Bosco, Priest, Memorial**

9.30am John Pereira RIP

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>**

9.30am Peace in the World

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> The Presentation of the Lord, Feast**

9.30am Roger Isaia RIP

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> St Laurence of Canterbury, Bishop, Memorial**

9.30am Christine Bond RIP

**Exposition:** Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.

**Morning Prayer:** Monday to Saturday 9am.

**Mass Times:** Monday to Friday: 09:30  
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 rule

**PARISH OFFERINGS**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION: 21/01/2024**

Collection Gift Aid £116.30 Loose £518.81

**TOTAL £635.11**

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's 'Give A Little' web donation page.



**ST AGATHA'S PARISH NOVENA & FEAST DAY**

In recognition of our Parish's Feast Day of Saint Agatha on 5<sup>th</sup> February, we will observe a nine-day Novena before the Feast Day itself. The Novena commenced on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and continues daily through to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024, concluding with a Parish Thanksgiving on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. We are hoping that this Patronal Feast and the nine days of reflection and prayer proceeding it will be a wonderful celebration and give us all an opportunity to come together to share and celebrate our faith and the great Catholic heritage of our Parish and also offer a chance to reconnect with your faith in a sacred space. The programme will include guest speakers to help enrich and enliven your faith. We invite everyone to participate in this spiritual devotion programme; please enter into the occasion as fully as possible.

*The Novena will be observed on Saturday and Sundays during the evening Masses. Monday to Friday please join us each day at 7pm. Details of the guest speakers are included within the newsletter. Or please pick up a leaflet in the church porch.*

**Please leave your Reparations for during the Novena in the basket available on the sanctuary. Donations are not necessary.**

*"She teaches by her example, to hasten to the true Good – God alone." ~ St Methodius of Sicily (c 788-c 847) from a homily on St Agatha.*

**ST AGATHA'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATION  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

We would like to invite everyone along to celebrate with us our Feast Day for a special Thanksgiving Mass at 7pm. Mass will be followed by drinks and nibbles in the Cloister.

**Please do come along and join us!**



## LEPRA – WORLD LEPROSY DAY APPEAL

2024 is Lepra's Centenary; Over **3 million** people are living with undiagnosed leprosy, which if not treated early enough may result in life-changing physical and mental health issues that can destroy people's lives. Leprosy, although curable is sadly surrounded by **myths and discrimination**, which often prevent people from coming forward to seek treatment. At Lepra, we aim to change the negative that surrounds the disease of leprosy and are committed to making sure that people affected by leprosy have the chance to live with **dignity** and their disease be of little adverse consequence to their lives.

Throughout our Parish Novena we will be supporting Lepra, with a final collection on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Your support would be much appreciated, thank you.



## RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2024

Racial Justice Sunday is the day the church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.

The theme this year is 'Seeing one another in the life of the Church'. The Image and Likeness of God resources spoke of recognising one another as children of God regardless of our race. This year's theme was identified to address this again with a different spotlight, the saints of every race and culture who reveal Christ to us. It is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background. This year's theme seeks to promote reflection, discussion and action on our theme and to encourage us to carry this through in the weeks and months after Racial Justice Sunday.

This Sunday we will have a retiring collection, please use your giftaid envelopes or the red bucket. Thank you.

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The annual **Racial Justice Mass** will be celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson, along with Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for Racial and Cultural Inclusion. Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 10 am in St George's Cathedral, Southwark. they will be joined by members of the Southwark Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion, and they will be celebrating the theme 'Seeing one another in the life of the Church'. Cultural dress is encouraged, early arrival is advised for this popular and lively Mass. Stay with us after Mass for light refreshments in Amigo Hall.

If you cannot join us in person, you are most welcome to participate online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwnra7P7Ufl>

## CRIB OFFERINGS

At the request of Archbishop John Wilson, this year's crib offerings will be donated to a local homeless charity: Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH). KCAH work with people facing housing crisis in the Kingston Borough.

Their aim is help them secure a safe and stable home and to help them start rebuilding their lives. Please offer your support if you can; your kind donations made at the manger scene this Christmastide will go to support homeless in our Borough. Further details about KCAH can be found at: <https://kcah.org.uk/>



## 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

Thomas Joseph Byrne, Margaret Barry, Edmundo Marcantonio, Margaret Marks, Frances Mary O'Sullivan, William Dowling, Margaret Dunne, Frederick Scott, Fr Kevin O'Hanlon, William Kelly, Desmond Pearl, Matthew Jeremy Norton Crocker, Mary Dann, Margaret Murphy, Dinah North, Eleanor Weldon, Edward Smith, Evelyn Bidwell, Frederic William Humm. Helen Cave, Mary Kiely, Charles Miller, Sandra Stiff, Sylvia Mitchell, Dorothy Hall, William Brenninkmeyer, Patrick Nunez, Martin & Nora Connolly, Baby Mary Connolly, Bridget Egan, Joseph Galligan, Maude Mansfield, Margarete Hards, Luigi Mezzetta, Frank Mifsud, Johannes Kortenray, Ann Cunningham. Marilyn Celia Tinenti, Winifred Duckett, Elizabeth Sharkey, Margaret Scott, Martin Hughes, Emily Wright, Catherine Mary Fisher, Mary Cassidy, Frederick Thomas, Frances Carr.

+++May They Rest In Peace+++



**Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B**  
**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 95:1-2,6-7,7-9*  
*A song of praise to the Lord.*

**GOSPEL READING**

*Mark 1:21-28*

*Jesus heals a man with an unclean spirit and his fame spreads throughout Galilee.*

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

Today's Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' authority and contrasting it with the scribes'. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed; Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

**FAMILY REFLECTION**

The people who heard Jesus teach and saw him heal in today's Gospel were said to have been astonished and amazed by the authority of his teaching. So compelling were Jesus' words and actions that the news about him could not be contained; it spread quickly throughout all of Galilee. Two thousand years later, the news about Jesus continues to spread. We are called to participate in sharing the Good News of Jesus with others in our words and in our deeds.

Gather as a family and try to name some amazing things, events, or people. In today's Gospel we hear that the people were astonished and amazed by their experience of Jesus. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:21-28. What did the people who saw and heard Jesus find so amazing? (In Jesus, the people heard and saw the power and authority of God at work.) People should see in our lives the power and authority of God at work. Can you name any modern examples of people in whom you have seen the power and authority of God at work? Conclude in prayer together that we will experience wonder at the work of God in our world today. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

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**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B  
Sunday, January 28, 2024

**RESPONSE: HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS**

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**Even the Demons  
Believe**

MARK 1:21-28



**PSALM 95**  
**HARDEN NOT  
YOUR HEARTS**



**CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY**  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.

With all these homeless Christmas Trees littering our streets, it is only natural for our thoughts to turn to Easter and the preceding lent. A gentle reminder and note for your diary from CAFOD.

**You are invited to join us on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, between 12pm and 1pm, for a simple soup lunch and raise money to help our catholic family, wherever they live.**  
**A bowl of soup and bread roll will cost just £1.50.**  
**All proceeds will be go towards the work of CAFOD. Thank you.**

**THE ROSARY**

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



**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET**

We 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



**St Agatha's Canasta Club**  
The Canasta Club meets on Mondays between 1pm to 4pm.

**St Agatha's Scrabble Club**  
The Scrabble Club meets on Thursdays from 2.30pm.

**Everyone is welcome to come along and share the space, warmth, and have a chat and a cuppa.**  
**You will find them in the Church Hall!**

**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 Office.



**SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR**

St Agatha's Catholic Primary School is looking to appoint a Foundation Governor to join their dedicated Governing body. The core responsibilities include:



- Ensuring accountability
- Monitoring and evaluating the school's progress
- Budgetary allocation and control
- Shaping plans for school improvement and overseeing their implementation
- Setting the school's aims and values
- Appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher

Please contact [office@stagathas.school](mailto:office@stagathas.school) for further details. We look forward to hearing from you.



*"Learning together in God's love"*

St Agatha's School vision is to nurture children's holistic development, guided by catholic values in partnership with parents and the community.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check and other Safe Recruitment employment checks. We are an equal opportunities employer.

St Agatha's Catholic Primary School, St Agatha's Drive, Kingston Upon Thames, KT2 5TY

**'Loving is the greatest gift. we receive it when we make room for the Lord in prayer, when we welcome Him in His transforming word and in the humility of His broken Bread.'** ~ Pope Francis