

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 all enquiries, including appointments, and arrangements for all sacraments (e.g. baptisms, weddings, funerals). Please email Karin Rattray, the Parish Secretary, at <u>kingston@rcaos.org.uk</u> 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> APRIL 2024	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)	
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	
6.30pm	Wellbeing of Noelle Forbes
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
9am	Magan Mecwan RIP
10.30am	Keith & Alan Fraser RIP
12.30pm	Mass of Confirmation 2024
6.30pm	People of the Parish
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Patron
	of Europe, Feast
9.30am	In Thanksgiving to the Triune God
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	
9.30am	Toni Pearce RIP
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Athanasius, Bishop, Memorial
9.30am	Birthday Intentions for Malcolm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ss Philip & James, Apostles, Feast
9.30am	Private Intentions to the Triune God
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	The English Martyrs, Feast
9.30am	Ledy Zanchet 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



#### COLLECTION FOR MAINTENANCE OF ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL:

This Sunday there is a collection for the maintenance of St. Georges Cathedral, Southwark; this collection helps meet the cost of the upkeep of the cathedral. St George's Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship.

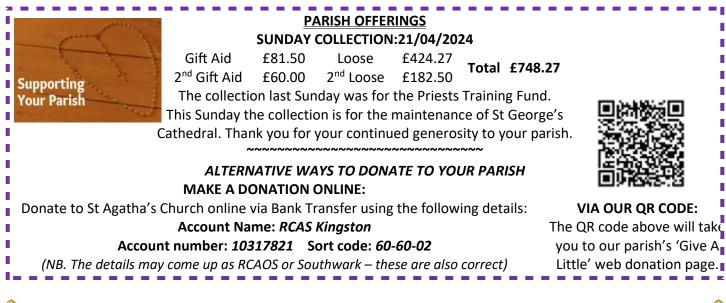
Please use your gift aid envelopes or the red bucket that will be available in the church porch. Thank you.

### **GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use the weekly envelopes, your new packet of envelopes has now arrived! They started on the 7th April. Please collect them from the church porch.

If you no longer require the envelopes, please let the Parish Office know. Thank you.

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* 





#### SAVE THE DATE!! ST AGATHA'S INTERNATIONAL DAY - SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 MANY NATIONS. ONE FAMILY

Everyone is invited to join us for our new International Day with lunch from many nations! The day will provide you with the fun and flavours of over a dozen countries without needing to step outside KT2. Kingston might just be a small suburb of Greater London, but we have at least 20 different countries represented in our congregation each week! Save the date: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024, further details will follow soon.....



#### SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT **SEMINARS 2024 - 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 Tuesday evenings 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 18<sup>th</sup> May. Everyone would be most welcome. Inspiring talks and music, small group sharing and daily reflections

Local Hub: NEW MALDEN St Joseph's Catholic Church, Montem Road, New Malden KT3 30W.

For further details, see the leaflets in the church porch, visit www.bit.lv/LISS2024

or email newmaldenple@rcaos.org.uk.

Or simply come along on Tuesdays from 7.30pm at St Joseph's Parish centre, New Malden, KT3 3QW.

The Annual Mass for London Migrant Workers in honour of St Joseph the Worker is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at St George's Cathedral, London SE1 6HR at 12.30pm. All are invited. You are welcome to come in national dress if you would like to take part in the banner procession at 12.15pm. The Mass is hosted by the three London Catholic Diocese, supported by the Justice and Peace Commissions and Ethnic Chaplaincies, Caritas Brentwood and London Citizens UK in celebration of all the people who live, work and contribute to life across our city.

# HOW BEAUTY DRAWS US CLOSER TO GOD Fr Patrick van der Vorst Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 7pm St Patrick's Church, Soho Square, London

Fr. Patrick van der Vorst is a priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster, a former Director of Sotheby's Europe, and the founder of the evangelistic www.Christian.Art. initiative Fr. Patrick will explore how beauty elevates us to encounter the Divine, SCAN TO SIGN UP how the Church has historically



sought to create art that facilitates this meeting, and how this can happen in our visually overstimulated world. The lecture will be followed by a Q&A and then refreshments will be available.

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 us 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.

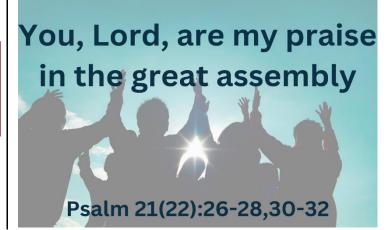
#### LET US REMEMBER

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

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, Margaret Mary Garvey, Victor Derrington, Angela Miles, Henry Sweeny, Helen McGowan, Tina Piccirillo, Thomas Jude Horgan, Edward Statham Rimmer, Bridget Hickey, Teresa (Tess) White, Anne Rogerson, George Frederick Worley, Alice Power, Denis McCartie, Isabel Sherlock, Charles Leite.

+++May They Rest In Peace +++



#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, CYCLE B SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 22:26-27,28,30,31-32 The whole world shall praise the Lord.

#### **GOSPEL READING**

John 15:1-8 Jesus teaches that he is the vine and that his disciples are the branches.

#### **GOSPEL REFLECTION**

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfilment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.

Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbour. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.

#### FAMILY REFLECTION

The goal of our life of prayer is to increase our awareness that Jesus lives with us always. Prayer is more than a dialogue with God; prayer is a lifting of our minds and hearts to God so that God might dwell and act within us and through us. The pinnacle of our life of prayer is our communion with Jesus in the Eucharist. Through this sacrament, we receive Jesus himself, and he remains with us. Our life of prayer and our union with Jesus will lead us to fruitful service to others.

Place a plant in your gathering space. Invite everyone to look at the plant, noting the connection between the plant and its leaves. Talk about the integral connection between all the parts of a healthy plant. Introduce today's Gospel by saying that Jesus talked about his relationship to his disciples using this metaphor. Read today's Gospel, John 15:1-8. Talk about the ways in which we are invited to relate to Jesus as his disciples today prayer, Scripture, the Eucharist, and so on. When we do these things, Jesus promises to remain with us and to lead us to serve others well. Pray together that we will continue to be attentive and open to Jesus as he works in our lives today. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



AND FOLLOW YOU MORE NEARLY

### 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.

#### SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

Please note the following remaining and important dates for the FHC Programme. Please remember that there are two groups this year completing their FHC, so please make sure you take note of the relevant dates for your child's group.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May: Reconciliation for Children & Parents 11am

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May: Session 7 (11.45-1pm)

- ➤ Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May: Final Preparation & Rehearsal 4pm Group 1
- ➤ Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May: FHC Parents Church Decorating 10.30am
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Final Preparation & Rehearsal 4pm Group 2
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May: FHC Mass 12pm Group 1
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May: FHC Mass 12pm Group 2

## CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS

A selection of First Holy Communion cards is available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses. Cards are just £1 each! Please leave money in box available. Thank you.

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS**

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, our next Baptism Preparation class will be held in June 2024 (Date yet to be confirmed).

In the meantime, please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.

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

## MARRIAGES IN 2024/25

2024 or 2025 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 <u>you are required to inform the church at least six months before the intended date.</u>

If you plan to celebrate your wedding at another church all preparations for our parishioners must Parish Office and we will happily guide you.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or wanting to explore your Catholics faith further? Our Evangelium course starts in October. The programme consists of weekly sessions running until Easter, including vital dates during Lent.

Evangelium is for adults who have not been Baptised (or have not received Confirmation or Holy Communion) and for Christians of other denominations who want to be Received into the Catholic Church.

Please email the Parish Office for more details and to register for our next programme: <u>kingston@rcaos.org.uk</u>

"If we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, He will revive the theological virtues within us. If we have lost trust, God will reopen us to faith. If we are discouraged, God will reawaken hope within us. If our heart is hardened, God will soften it with His love." ~ Pope Francis









