

PARISH DIARY

Monday 7.15pm: Confirmation class session 7
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Friday 3.30pm: First Holy Communion Group 2 rehearsal for Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 10.30am: First Holy Communion Group 2 Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 12noon: Confirmation candidates Faith in Action and Reconciliation

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday: St David Patron of Wales

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £801.90 Loose £224.60
Retiring collection (Fast Day) Gift Aid £4.50 Loose £156.90
The retiring collection this weekend 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, Kay Williams, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Marie Elsey, Christopher Browne, Mary Wallace & Rosa Vitolo.

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for Mary Connell who died recently. Her requiem will take place at **10.30am on Thursday 3rd March**. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. AMEN

ANNIVERSARIES

Bernard McArdle, Mary West, George Alexander, Thomas McCormack, Charles Waddell, Mervyn Woolger, Ursula Nolan, Julia Turner, Nestor Paralta, Maria Onorato, Michael Whelan, Giovanna Capaldi, Mary Ellen O'Donoghue, John Mclaughlin Sim, Josephine Flynn, Kathleen Law, James Brooks, John Connell, Susan Thomas, 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

+++ May they rest in peace +++

Jubilee Year of Mercy – Open 24 hours

On **4th – 5th March** there will be a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Mercy at St George's, the cathedral of our diocese. Mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm. Evening prayer at 7.30pm will be followed by a night of music, art, film, prayer and reflection. For further details see the poster at the back of the church.



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

St. Agatha's Catholic Church

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Please visit our website regularly to keep abreast of important current issues.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 28th February 2016

Third Sunday of Lent (C)

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	John & Margaret Finn
Sunday	9.00am	Arthur & Robin O'Connor
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Clara Parker
Monday	9.30am	Pat McDonagh
Tuesday	9.30am	Thomas Naughton
Wednesday	9.30am	Kenneth Francis
Thursday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	10.30am	Requiem Mary Connell
Friday	9.30am	Thomas Joseph Galligan
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Fr Thomas McElhone
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 First Reading tells how God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and revealed his name as *Yahweh* ('I am the Existing One'). God has heard the cries of his oppressed people, and sends Moses to liberate them. It is a turning point in the Old Testament. It leads to the Exodus and beyond.

In the Gospel we see how Jesus rejected the popular belief that accidents which befall people are inflicted by God as punishment for sin. Still, sin calls for repentance. And Jesus tells the Jews they will lose the promise unless they repent. The barren fig tree symbolises the barren state of Israel. But God is patient. There is still time to repent, though that time is getting short.

REFLECTION

God told Moses he was standing on holy ground. What was it that made that particular piece of scrubland holy? It was the presence of God. Here in church we are standing on holy ground because we are in the presence of God. Moses was told to take off his shoes. That is why Moslems remove their shoes before entering a mosque. We Christians don't take off our shoes before entering a church. But there is something we ought to put on before entering, namely a sense of reverence.

Here we experience the presence of God. But let us not forget that God is everywhere. Which means that all places are holy, the whole earth is holy. The difference between the secular and the sacred is ours, not God's.

PARISH NOTICES

Confirmation

The Confirmation candidates will meet at **7.15pm on Monday 29th February** for session 7.

On **Saturday 5th March** they will have their Faith in Action Day and reconciliation from **noon until 4.00pm**.

The Confirmation Mass with Bishop Paul Hendricks will take place on **Sunday 13th March at 12 noon**.

First Holy Communion

There is a rehearsal for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for children in Group 2 on **Friday 4th March at 3.30pm**. These children will come to the church on **Saturday 5th March at 10.30am** to celebrate the sacrament.

Parish Prayer Group

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

Active Kids Vouchers

St Agatha's School is collecting these vouchers. Please place them in the box at the back of the church.

Calling all Musicians! – Sunday morning

If you attend the 10.30 am Mass on a Sunday, and can play an instrument, would you please consider sharing your talent once every few weeks by joining the music group. We will be having a rota meeting after Mass on 6th March in the old sacristy, so do come and make yourselves known! We would love to have more pianists, but any instruments are welcome. You will need to be able to read music, of course! If you can't come on 6th March, you can always give your details to Fr. Gerry, or one of our regular pianists. Thank you.

REFLECTION

Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles. Lord, fill our eyes with seeing, and our minds with knowing.

Let there be moments when the radiance of your presence illuminates the darkness in which we walk.

Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns, unconsumed.

And we, clay touched by your hand,

will reach out for holiness and exclaim in wonder,

'How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it.'

Anon

First Reading: Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15

The situation of the Israelite people, at this time, was harsh; they were struggling and oppressed by the ruling Pharaoh in Egypt. While out tending sheep, Moses experiences the presence of God in the Burning Bush. To awaken Moses to his presence he is asked to remove the sandals from his feet. God knows the suffering of his people and asks Moses to call the people to freedom, to a land where milk and honey flow, letting God's name be known – 'I am who I am'.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

Paul reminds the Corinthians that they should put God at the centre of their life. He points out that they will always be tempted to replace God with something else, idolatry, like the ancient Israelites were tempted. He warns against this. Instead they are to rely on God, who is faithful, to deliver them from this temptation.

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Jesus in today's Gospel is helping the crowd around him deal with the age old question; why do bad things happen? This question surfaces in the wake of the slaughter in the Temple of unsuspecting Galileans at worship, at the command of Pilate. However, Jesus doesn't answer the question in the way we might expect or desire; rather, he reassures the crowd that it was not a consequence of some action or sin. Jesus does, however, communicate that those who survive are called to repent; twice Jesus says 'unless you repent you will all perish as they did'. He illustrates his meaning with a parable, wherein a tree is given extra time and care to produce fruit, but if it doesn't it will be cut down.

Women's World Day of Prayer – Praying for Cuba

There will be a prayer meeting on **Friday 4th March at 10.30am** at St Mark's Church, St Mark's Hill, Surbiton. See the poster at the back of the church for more details. There is also an evening prayer meeting at **8.00pm** at the New Malden Methodist Church, in New Malden High Street.