

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 Rev. Robert Beresford – Deacon

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 29TH JANUARY 2023

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 28th	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church, Memorial
6.30pm	Joyce Matterson RIP
Sunday 29th	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am	Edith Knight RIP
10.30am	Matthew Crocker RIP
6.30pm	Tony & Josephine Kelly
Monday 30th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 31st	St John Bosco, Priest, Memorial
9.30am	The Herd & Finn Families RIP
Wednesday 1st	
9.30am	Thanksgiving to The Triune God
Thursday 2nd	The Presentation of the Lord, Feast
	Whole School Mass
9.30am	Roger Isaia RIP
Friday 3rd	St. Lawrence of Canterbury, Bishop, Memorial
9.30am	John Charles Anthony Holland
Saturday 4th	
9.30am	Birthday Intentions for Elizabeth Galligan
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

ST AGATHA'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATION
Tuesday 7th February 2023

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.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2023
5th February 2023

Racial Justice Sunday is the day the church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: "All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together". It reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church.

Parishioners are warmly invited to attend 10am Mass in St George's Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson on Racial Justice Sunday, to celebrate the fact that we are all 'One in Christ'. The Mass will also be live-streamed via the RC Southwark YouTube account: <https://bit.ly/RJS2023>



St Agatha's RC Church
 Kingston upon Thames



Parish Novena

Starts Saturday 28th January 2023
 The Novena will be observed on Saturday and Sundays during the 6.30pm Mass. Monday to Friday please join us each day at 7pm.
 Everyone is Welcome

ST AGATHA'S FEAST DAY & PARISH NOVENA
Starts Saturday 28th January 2023

In recognition of our Parish's Feast Day of Saint Agatha on 5th February, we will observe a nine-day Novena before the Feast Day itself. The Novena will commence on Saturday 28th January 2023 continuing daily through to Sunday 5th February 2023, concluding with a Parish Thanksgiving on Tuesday 7th February 2023. The Novena will be observed on Saturday and Sundays during the evening, 6.30pm, Mass. Monday to Friday please join us each day at 7pm. Everyone is welcome....

Date	Guest Speaker	Subject
Monday 30 th January	St Agatha's School	
Tuesday 31 st January	Timothy Mazela	Life as a Catholic Teenager
Wednesday 1 st February	Miranda Anderson	A meditation on the family
Thursday 2 nd February	John de Quidt	Being Supported when Bereaved
Friday 3 rd February	Professor Peter Hindmarsh	Faith, certainty & uncertainty in medical practice

"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.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, January 29, 2023

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12a

Jesus teaches what it means to be happy.

Gospel Reflection

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favoured. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

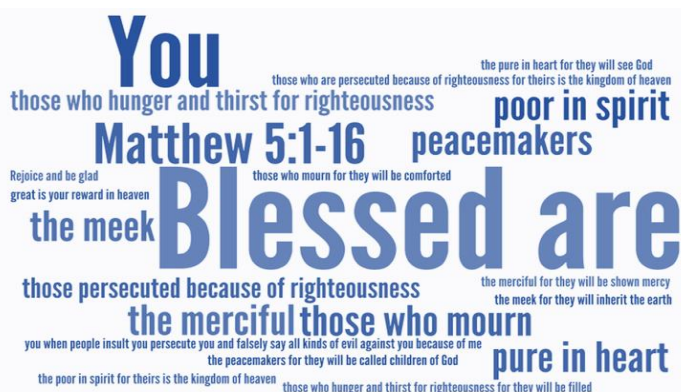
Family Reflection

Today's Gospel offers a contrast to many of the messages we hear in our society today. If we were to accept uncritically the "get ahead" messages of our culture, we would think that happiness means having money, being successful, having many possessions, and so on. When we think this way, we are not unlike the people who heard Jesus teach on the day that he taught the Beatitudes. The crowd that day also associated happiness with material possessions and status.

Talk as a family about what it means to be happy or to be blessed. Make a list of traits that you would associate with a happy person. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12a. Reflect on Jesus' description of happiness. Think about what each of the Beatitudes might have in common and write a family summary of the Beatitudes. Post the summary in a special place as a reminder of what your family will consider "true happiness."

Conclude by praying together prayers of petition based on the Beatitudes, e.g., "We pray that we will be peacemakers who seek to get along with other people even when this is difficult. We pray to the Lord." All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer."

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, Melba De Silva 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

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 Kortenaar, Ann Cunningham, Marilyn Celia Tinenti, Winifred Duckett, Elizabeth Sharkey, Margaret Scott, Martin Hughes, Emily Wright, Catherine Mary Fisher, Mary Cassidy, Frederick Thomas, Frances Carr, Catherine Sellwood, Alan Hanley, Attilio Francesco Papaiani (Franco).

+++May They Rest In Peace+++

MASS INTENTIONS

It is, again, a very busy time for Mass requests and Masses are being booked several weeks in advance. Therefore, if you have a particular date or time on which you want a Mass said, **it is very important that you let the parish office know ahead of time and as soon as possible.** You are very welcome to book your Mass intentions in advance. We are sorry but we cannot guarantee a requested date when submitting late Mass Intentions; if no date is specified or a date requested is not available, the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open Mass.

Mass intentions envelopes are available at the back of the church. When requesting a Mass, please clearly indicate the intention and whether the Mass is for the deceased, the sick or for another intention.

If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details. Thank you.



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23

The next session is being held on: Sunday 5th February 2023. 11.45am to 1pm (Session 3).
Session 4 will be held on Sunday 5th February 2023.



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday 19th February 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.

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

CONFIRMATION 2023

There will be an Introduction and Family Meeting for Candidates and their families on Monday 20th February 2023. Candidates to arrive for a 7.15pm start and parents to arrive at 8.30pm.

The first candidate session will be on Monday 27th February 2023 at 7.15pm.

The Confirmation Inscription Mass will be on **Sunday 5th March at 6.30pm**: Candidates MUST arrive by 6pm



MARRIAGES IN 2023



2023 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.

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.

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 Card Club

The St Agatha's Canasta Card Club meets each Monday in the Church Cloister between 1pm to 4pm to play Canasta, have a coffee/tea and a chat.

It is a lovely social time for parishioners to get together, meet new people and enjoy some fun time together and build community.

You don't have to sign up, you don't have to know how to play. Just come along and you will learn as you play.

Everyone is welcome, men, women, and young adults. Just come along and join as often or as little as you would like. We look forward to welcoming you.

Are you interested in playing chess or scrabble perhaps? These games are also available and you would be very welcome to come along and share the space, warmth and to also have a chat and a coffee.



*Keeping our community fed,
connected & supported.*

SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

A third delivery of donations has successfully been delivered to the Dons; they were very grateful for your continued generosity.

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. The donations box will be left in the church porch and as donations accumulate, they will then be delivered.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

"True happiness is being with the Lord and living for love. Do you believe this? True happiness is not in having something or in becoming someone; true happiness is being with the Lord and living for love." ~ Pope Francis

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE – DIOCEASN UPCOMING EVENTS

MARRIAGE WEEK

This annual event takes place from February 7-14. If you are fortunate enough to be in a marriage you should look after it – and there are several ways of doing just that: visit <https://marriage-week.org.uk>

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE

How to get the marriage you want out of the marriage you have. This Saturday morning online course on February 18 is aimed at couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to improve their relationship further and gain insights into their communication and the call of the Church to the married. There is no personal sharing between couples. For details email Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or phone 07983 524 727.

GRIEF IN LOSS, HOPE IN CHRIST

If you are mourning the death of a loved one, this weekend may be for you. It's being held at Aylesford Priory from March 24-26; cost £230 single, £210 shared. For more details phone 01622 717272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

SycamOre is an online course exploring our Catholic faith and suitable for individuals and couples alike. It runs throughout Lent, with weekly one-hour sessions on Tuesday evenings from 8-9pm starting on February 28. For more details or to register, visit the website: **Growing in Faith Together – Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis** (rcaos.org.uk)

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

Have you suffered a divorce or separation? If so, there is a residential weekend to help you heal being held from April 21-23 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. For more details, ring Freda on 01322 838415 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

The Universe Catholic Weekly Newspaper

Is true to its mission of being “a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it” Keeping Catholics informed about their faith and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription.

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Below is the link to the latest edition of the Universe Catholic Weekly: -

<https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/universe-weekly-newsletters/january-2023/UNIVERSE%2020%20JANUARY%202023.pdf>



CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK

During Lent, or later in the year if you prefer, CAFOD is encouraging individuals, families, friends, parishes and schools to get involved in, “The Big Lent Walk” or “The Big CAFOD Walk”. Help raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. You do not have to walk 200km during Lent, i.e. 5km every day for 40 days, just choose a goal that suits you.

For more details just visit: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

CAFOD launched the Walk for Water in Lent 2021 during lockdowns in England and Wales. It raised £750,000 for vital water projects in some of the most drought-stricken regions of the world and a Walk Against Hunger followed in Lent 2022. During Lent 2023 CAFOD will be running its first Big Lent Walk. Individuals are welcome to take part, when and where they choose over 40 days. It's a great way of enjoying the natural world and an opportunity for prayer and reflection while at the same time standing in solidarity with people living in poverty.

RENEWED IN HOPE DIOCESAN ONLINE RETREAT



A retreat for Lent 2023, introduced by Archbishop John Wilson, led by members of the Spirituality Commission.

The Archdiocese of Southwark is offering a retreat experience for individuals and parishes during Lent 2023. Drawing on the Mass readings for the Sundays of Lent, Renewed in Hope will help us find fresh ways of living and working in hope, in the company of Jesus. We live in a divided world, where many are struggling to survive. Through his life, death and resurrection, the suffering and risen Christ continues to make all things new.

The retreat is designed for individuals and is based on a weekly video accompanied by suggested exercises for prayer and reflection. These resources will be available in advance so that the videos can be viewed at any convenient time.

Individuals can join one of the online groups that will be offered on different days of the week and at different times of the day.

For more details and to register follow this link:

<https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/renewedbyhope>
