

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 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 30TH JULY 2023**

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 29th	St Martha, Mary & Lazarus, Memorial
6.30pm	Intentions for Darryl Pearl
Sunday 30th	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am	Tommy Howard RIP
10.30am	Nancy Turnbull RIP
6.30pm	Intentions for Tim Cronin
Monday 31st	St Ignatius of Loyola, Memorial
9.30am	Baby Katrina Eileen Quigley RIP
Tuesday 1st	St Alphonsus Mary de' Liguori, Bishop, Memorial
9.30am	Patricia Corcoran RIP
Wednesday 2nd	
9.30am	Lydia Mary Joseph RIP
Thursday 3rd	
9.30am	Intentions for Marcel Schreur
Friday 4th	St John Mary Vianney, Memorial
9.30am	Intentions for Geraldine McCrory
Saturday 5th	
9.30am	Holy Souls

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

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

PARISH OFFERINGS

Sunday Collection 23/07/2023

Collection Gift Aid £149.00 Loose £504.71

TOTAL £653.71

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.

NEW TO THE PARISH?

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. 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.

PARISH MUSICIANS

The musicians of the Parish will be taking their traditional and well-earned break for the month of August. This means that our hymns during Mass may not be accompanied by musical instruments.

We would like to say a huge thank you to them all for everything they do throughout the year for the parish!

We are still in need of more musicians to join us when the music resume in September! If you would like to play the organ, the piano or even any other instrument, and would like to take a turn on Saturdays, at the 6.30pm Mass, or on Sunday mornings at either the 9am or 10.30am, Family Mass, or would be interested in joining the Folk Choir at the Sunday 6.30pm Mass, please contact the Parish Secretary, thank you.



PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave on the dates below during the summer break, therefore the parish office will be closed. Fr Peter will be available in case of an emergency or urgent matters only. For non-urgent enquiries please email kingston@rcaos.org.uk. For any other matters please wait until the parish office re-opens. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Parish Office will be closed on the following dates:

Monday 31st July & Tuesday 1st August

Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th August

Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th August

Monday 4th until Friday 8th September

The Parish Office will fully reopen on Monday 11th September 2023

HOST THE OUR LADY OF LOURDES STATUE IN YOUR HOME DURING OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

Our Lady's Statue has been in visitation since the start of May and will return to the church for the summer. Our Lady always draws us closer to her son, Jesus Christ. We invite you to spend a week with Our Lady by hosting the Lady of Lourdes statue in your home for a week during the autumn.

If you would like to receive the Pilgrim Virgin Statue in your home during September, October or November, please fill out the form available in the church porch and return it to the Parish Office. Please note, this is only a request which will be confirmed via a phone call to you. A date cannot be guaranteed and is subject to demand.



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/24

FHC application forms are now available from the church porch or the Parish Office.

Children must be in Year Four or above in September 2023.



Application forms must be completed and returned in person only at one of the following sessions:

- Friday 29th September 2023
between 2pm and 5pm, at the Presbytery.
- Saturday 30th September 2023
between 5.45pm and 6.15pm, in the Cloister.
- Sunday 1st October 2023
after the 10.30am Mass, in the Cloister.

You must attach a PHOTOCOPY of your child's baptism certificate; we cannot accept any application forms without the certificate. If your child has not yet been baptised, please contact the Parish Office to discuss the procedure for enrolling on this programme.

Late applications will not be accepted; Reminders will be posted in the newsletter nearer the time.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023/24



Confirmation application forms are now available from the church porch or the Parish Office.

Candidates must be in Year Nine or above in September 2023.

Application forms must be returned to the parish office no later than Friday 29th September 2023, so that we can identify how many candidates will be enrolling.

Late applications will not be accepted; Reminders will be posted in the newsletter nearer the time.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, our next class is being held on Sunday 17th September 2023. The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm.



Please ensure you complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office before you attend a class.

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

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or wanting to explore your Catholic faith further?



Our Evangelium course will start in October/November 2023. The

programme will consist of weekly sessions running until Easter, including vital dates during Lent.

Evangelium is for adults who have not been Baptised and for Christians of other denominations who want to be Received into the Catholic Church.

Please email the Parish Office with your details and to register for this next programme:

kingston@rcaos.org.uk

It can also be a good experience for full members of the Catholic Church who may not have practised their faith for a number of years, or for those who wish to more fully understand and deepen their faith. Everyone is welcome along!

MARRIAGES IN 2024



2024 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 the intended date.***

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.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2024

We are in the initial stages of exploring the possibility of a hosting a parish pilgrimage in 2024; A visit, not as tourists, but as people of Faith, an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Him and He with us. A Pilgrimage is a meaningful journey to a sacred place, it is also a beautiful experience with the chance to meet new people and see new places.

Destinations that are being considered are:

- Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- Lisieux, France
- San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy

We would like to hear from you if you would be interested in joining us on a pilgrimage; this will help give us an approximate number of travellers and therefore help with our enquires when contacting tours companies for dates and prices.

Please email kingstonevents@rcaos.org.uk to register your interest.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, July 30, 2023

Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 119:57,72,76-77,127-130 The law of the Lord
is more precious than silver and gold.*

Gospel Reading

*Matthew 13:44-52 (shorter form: Matthew 13:44-46)
Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of Heaven.*

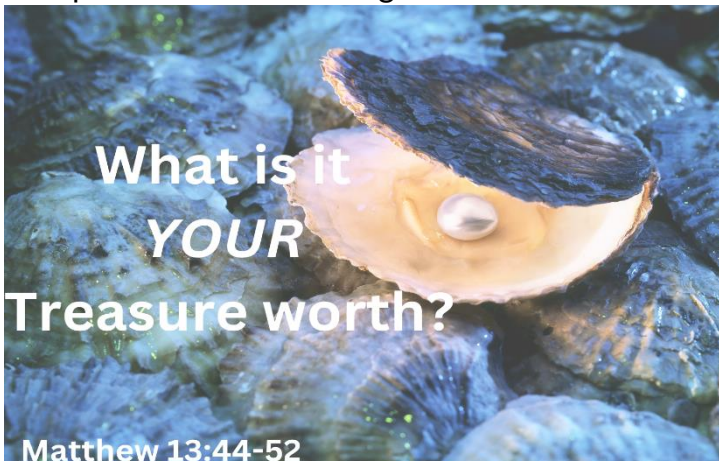
Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus' teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus' "new" teaching. Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.



Family Reflection

Like the person who found the buried treasure and the merchant who acquired the pearl of great price, we seek to find the signs of the kingdom of heaven in our lives. In fact, we even work to bring about God's kingdom in our actions and in our words. We pray that our family values reflect our pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

As you gather as a family, talk about what your family values. Make a list together of those things that your family considers most important, such as family, friends, faith, trust, and love. Place this list before you as you read today's Gospel in its shorter form, Matthew 13:44-46. In these parables, Jesus teaches us that it is worth giving up even valuable things in order to possess the kingdom of heaven. Look at the list your family made and talk about how these things are important to the kingdom of heaven. What has your family given up to make these values important in your life? As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. Pray together for God's kingdom by praying the Lord's 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. *Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.*

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

Marcella Massey Hill, Mary Kate Walsh, Thomas Stapleton, Matthew Power, Kathleen Harmsworth, Bridget Anderson, Jane Black, Maurice O'Sullivan, Margaret Markey, James Owens, Frederick George Higgins, Christina Stilwell, Ted Hegarty, Joseph Goldsmith, Muriel Connellan, John Smyth, Delia Galligan, Gertrude Farrell, Freda Ross, John Dracas, Richard North, Madeleine Miller, Brian Barrett, Sheila Eugenia Taylor, Christopher Byrne, Josephine McParlane. **+++May They Rest In Peace+++**

LIFTS TO MASS

If you could occasionally offer someone a lift to any of the Masses, that you normally attend, please could you kindly contact Karin in the Parish office to discuss further. We have a couple of parishioners who are unable to get to Mass due to mobility issues but live just a few roads away and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to come to Mass, even just occasionally. Thank you!

JOB VACANCY

HOUSEKEEPER/CLEANER ST AGATHA'S PARISH

Applications are invited for the post of Housekeeper/Cleaner. After many years of wonderful service, our current housekeeper is leaving her role due to personal circumstance and we are therefore seeking a new Housekeeper/Cleaner. Would you like to join the parish team as our Housekeeper? If so, please apply! The post holder will be required to provide confidential and efficient housekeeping and cleaning duties to a high standard, to the Parish Priests, whilst ensuring a pleasant, safe, welcoming and clean Presbytery is provided to other presbytery workers and parish visitors. The position requires 8-10 hours each week – work pattern to be agreed with the successful applicant. Previous experience of housekeeping and cleaning essential. Knowledge of safe working practices. Essential Skills Required: Confidentiality in all matters, Good organisational ability and attention to detail, Self-motivated, solution focussed and reliable, Courteous and polite manner, good communication skills and good time management, Flexible, adaptable and able to respond to changes in routine. If you would like to know more about this position, please contact Karin, the Parish Secretary, on 020 8546 4633 during parish office hours.

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Young overseas student seeking accommodation close to Kingston University. Just needs a quiet room, with shared facilities, preferably with a Christian family. She can only afford £500 monthly, with bills included. She needs to be closer to the university to use their library facilities. She needs to leave her current property on 21st August 2023. If you can help, please contact me, Helen Emmett, Our Lady Immaculate SVP Conference, on 07402327177. Thank you for your anticipated support with this request.

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION AND PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE TO WALSINGHAM

Saturday 5th August, led by Archbishop Kevin McDonald, commencing at the 12 Noon Pilgrim Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation.

Built around the midday Holy Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Kevin with Fr Daniel Rooke, the day will also include opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. This time will include the Holy Rosary, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Litany of Life and Benediction. Mid-afternoon will herald a change of location from the Shrine to the Priory in the village, walking the Pilgrim Way, to the original site of the Holy House of Nazareth. This is the now traditional silent walk, a prayerful walk with Jesus to Calvary. The Pilgrimage concludes in the Priory grounds with the final prayers. While the focus is prayer and reparation for sins against life, the pilgrimage is also a chance for those attending to spend time in the peace and quiet of England's Nazareth

For details see the leaflets in the church porch or the poster on the noticeboard. Further details are also available at: www.prolifepilgrimage.org. Please join in the 'great prayer for life' asked for by Pope Saint John Paul II.

SOUTHWARK JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION AUTUMN ASSEMBLY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2023

Archdiocese of Southwark 2023 Autumn Assembly by the Justice and Peace Commission on Saturday 23rd September 2023 entitled The Right to Stay: Free to Choose in response to the message of the Holy Father for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, at St Edmund of Canterbury Catholic Church, 20 Village Way, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3NP. Parish Mass 10am. Registration 10.30am. Programme starts 11am. Finishes 4pm. Free Entrance. Donations suggested. Lunch provided. All welcome. Keynote speaker: Rt. Rev. Paul McAleenan, Bishop for Migration & Refugees and Member of the Department for International Affairs at the Bishops Conference for England and Wales on 'Love the Stranger', What really happened at Napier Barracks? To reserve a place please email: justiceandpeace@rcaos.org.uk

'Let us Pray Together that the world Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon will help young people to set out on the journey, witnessing to the Gospel with own lives.' ~ Pope Francis