

St. Agatha's Catholic Church

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St. Agatha's
PARISH

Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 31st January 2016

Fourth Sunday of the Year (C)

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Patrick Sheehy
Sunday	9.00am	Nora Mary O'Riordan
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Herd & Finn Families
Monday	9.30am	Special Intention
Tuesday	9.30am	Alan Murdo
Wednesday	9.30am	Bridie Mullen
Thursday	9.30am	Noel Browne
Friday	9.30am	Andy Morling
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Anne-Marie Cunningham
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 Gospel is a continuation of last Sunday's reading. We see the reaction to the homily Jesus gave in the synagogue at Nazareth. The people can't believe that the words of Isaiah could apply to him, the humble son of Joseph. On hearing that the benefits they have rejected will be offered to the Gentiles, the people rise up in fury and attempt to do away with Jesus. This foreshadows the ultimate fate of Jesus; but his hour has not yet come.

St Paul has been speaking of gifts and charisms. But here in the Second Reading he stresses the supreme importance of love. Without love all these gifts are useless.

PARISH NOTICES

CAFOD Lent Fast Day

This year, CAFOD's Lent Fast Day once again reminds us of the need for potable water throughout the world. We all hopefully appreciate the immediate benefits of a readily accessible source of drinking water. But for some, the presence of such water in their community has a hidden impact, in that women and children are released from the daily chore of fetching water in. So women and children, especially young girls, are free to pursue more fulfilling activities. For young girls like 14 year old Proscovia (featured in this year's campaign) it means that her education can be continued. A recent press release from the charity Why Water suggests that in Africa alone Women spent 40 billion hours a year walking for water. The figure may not be CAFOD's but the message is the same. Clean water improves lives: reduces disease: allows children to have a childhood and survive that childhood and have an education: allows women a more rewarding time with their family, and yes set up that market garden – not for them the delights of day-time TV. "Treat the earth well. It is not inherited from your parents, it is borrowed from your children." CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

First Holy Communion 2016

The children attending St Agatha's School will come to the church for their next class at **3.30pm** on **Monday 1st February**; children mostly at other schools will come on **Saturday 6th February** at **10.00am**.

Confirmation dates 2016

Monday 1st February: Session Four 7.15–8.30pm

Saturday 5th March: Faith in Action (12 noon – 4.00pm)

Sunday 13th March at 12 noon: Confirmation Mass with Bishop Paul

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. Please enter via the Presbytery.

Parish Men's Group

The Group will next on **Wednesday 17th February** from 8.00pm at the Wych Elm.

Life in the Spirit seminars – Seven sessions that will change your life

Life in the Spirit seminars are being held at Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon on seven consecutive Wednesdays starting on **3rd February**. Together they will give you a deeper understanding of the Father's Love and Mercy, a deeper and closer relationship with the Son and New Life in the Spirit – God's empowering Gift of Pentecost. They are highly recommended. For further details see the poster on the board at the back of the church. For general information feel free to speak to John de Quidt (020 8549 4175).

REFLECTION

A loving person

Jesus fulfilled the ideal of love Paul speaks about.

He was never in a hurry, and was always kindness itself.

He never envied anybody, and never boasted about himself.

He was never snobbish, or rude, or selfish. He did not take offence easily, nor did he keep talking about the wrong things other people did.

He preferred to remember the good things and to rejoice in them.

He was tough – he could face anything.

And he never lost trust in God, or in people.

He never lost hope, he never gave in.

He never stopped loving.

Rev F McCarthy S.D.B.

First Reading: Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 17-19

We are made in the image and likeness of God, who knows everything about each of us and has a plan for us all, as he did for Jeremiah. We are reminded that, as we walk our paths, God is with us, regardless of how tough the terrain may be. To know that is incredibly reassuring. What strength we have to support us as we make our journey through life!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 31 – 13: 13

In our modern world, the word love is used loosely to describe how we feel about everything: I love to sing, to dance. These things make **me** feel happy. But if I love in the true sense of the word, I am only interested in how those I love feel, not in me. This is such a perfect reading for our Holy Year of Mercy, for love is mercy. It is forgiveness and compassion. It is the bond that binds us together.

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:21-30

Jesus' mission was a challenging one and that gives us all hope. There are times for all of us when being a follower of Jesus can be difficult – on a personal level. There are times when spreading the Good News or bearing witness to our Christian faith, within and beyond our own communities, can prove very testing. It is comforting to remember that there are so many who have gone before us. So many, who like Jesus in the face of adversity, 'walked through the middle of the crowd' and went on their way. Filled with the courage of the Holy Spirit we too may find the courage to be undeterred in our mission.

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. United in adoration and prayer across the world, the 24 hours will begin with mass at 12.30pm. At 7.30pm evening prayer will be followed by a night of music, art, film prayer and reflection led by the Southwark Catholic Youth Service. Further details at the back of the church.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 3.30pm: First Holy Communion Children – Monday Group
Monday 7.15pm: Confirmation Session Four
Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group
Saturday 10.00am: First Holy Communion Children – Saturday Group

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday: The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)
Friday: St Agatha
Saturday: St Paul Miki and his companions

OFFERINGS

First collection Gift Aid £616.05 Loose £408.22
Retiring collection (Racial Justice) Gift Aid £13.00 Loose £87.37
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.

ANNIVERSARIES

William Brenninkmeyer, Patrick Nunez, Bridget Egan, Joseph Galligan, Maude Mansfield, Margarete Hards, Luigi Mezzetta, Frank Mifsud, Johannes Kortzenray, 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, Catherine McDonnell, Francis Brain, William Gentry, Karmimurz Skicki, Noreen Halloran.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

Job Offer – Kingston Street Pastor Co-ordinator

The Oxygen Trust is looking to recruit a Kingston Street Pastor Co-ordinator. The role is to represent Kingston Street Pastors and to take significant responsibility for the promotion, management and co-ordination of the Street Pastors' initiatives in Kingston. This includes organising weekly teams for patrols and supporting volunteer team members in their work to help, listen to and care for the people of Kingston upon Thames. The salary is up to £15,600 for a 20 hour week and includes a 5% pension. The closing date for applications is **7th March 2016**. For further information email john.trend@oxygen-online.org.