

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.

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES
SUNDAY 1ST MARCH 2020.
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

Saturday 29th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Anne Miles
6.30pm	Louis Briffa RIP
Sunday 1st 1st Sunday of Lent	
9.00am	Lugrece & Jean Ciantar RIP
10.30am	Birthday Thanksgiving for Christopher Romeu
6.30pm	Wellbeing of Loretta Jonassen
Monday 2nd St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales, Feast	
9.30am	Anna Morgan RIP
Tuesday 3rd	
9.30am	Thanksgiving for Mr. Alfred & Mrs. Sunita Pereira
Wednesday 4th	
9.30am	Pauline Welham RIP
Thursday 5th	
9.30am	Eno Rossetti RIP
Friday 6th CAFOD Fast Day	
9.30am	Thanksgiving for Makala Family
Saturday 7th Ss Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs, Memorial	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Adele & Marco
6.30pm	People of the Parish

Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.
Confessions: Saturday 10-10.30am, 6-6.15pm & at call.
Baptisms: By previous arrangement – Sunday at 12.30pm.
Marriages: Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.
ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (7th March 2020) WE WILL HAVE ONE HOUR OF EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT BETWEEN 10AM & 11AM.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: John Sewter, Christina Ward, Clare Horgan, Keith Fraser, Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison and Philip Cockle. *Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either you or your relatives want to be mentioned on our sick list.*

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph Alfred Smith, Agnes Guy, Hilda Davis, John Roycroft, Marjorie Lansley, William McDonagh, John Faith, Cyril Everest, Matthew Patrick O'Connor, Maureen Madden, Zena Kitchen, Elizabeth Agnes Wall, Doradea Marie Grassi, William Joseph McKenzie, Sarah Lewis, James Keeble, Tom Naughton, James Baker, John Christopher Letchworth, Margaret Laverty, George Davis, Kathleen Needham, Sarah Fox, John Fox, Martin Moone, Father Casper Lutz, Cynthia Cantoni, James Crowley, Phyllis Glenn, Louisa Margareta Marks, Patrick Bowen, Margaret Quaid, Daisy Cook, Christina Ross.

+++ May they rest in Peace +++

LET US REMEMBER ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Let us remember those who have died, those whose anniversaries occur about this time and their families, with love and affection during this time of grief. May the Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

Diocesan Directory 2020

Copies of the Diocesan Directory for 2020 are now available from the Parish Office. They cost £3.00 each.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE A
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

Reflection

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

This weekend we extend a very warm welcome to Fr. Ebuka Umekachikelu, MSP, who will be our interim assistant parish priest for the next few months. He will be introduced at the Masses this weekend and we know that you will make him feel very welcome.

THANKSGIVING / SEND FORTH MASS

At the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 8th March 2020 we will be joined by Fr. Pius Duke, MSP for a thanksgiving/send forth Mass. Please come along and join us.

MY DAY BY DAY

This Lenten booklet is available at the back of the church. There is one copy for each family. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter. A donation of £1.00 is encouraged, please put money in the box marked Papers

CTS BOOKLETS FOR LENT

Our CTS stand in the church porch has some suitable spiritual reading for Lent; do have a look at what is on offer today. Payments should be put in the wall box marked 'Papers'.

WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEKEND!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE A
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

Family Reflection

When Jesus resists the temptations presented to him by the devil, he draws on his religious upbringing and tradition. Jesus is able to quote from Scripture because he is the Son of God and because he was a human person who lived his Jewish beliefs fully. We who are responsible for raising children are also called upon to immerse them fully in our Catholic Christian tradition so that they too will be able to draw upon this tradition to resist the temptations they will face in their lives.

Use this Sunday as an opportunity to call your family's attention to the importance of Scripture in our lives. Gather your family around the family Bible and read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11. Recall that Jesus rebuked the devil's temptations by quoting Scripture. Take some time as a family to talk about the words that are found in the Bible and the importance of Scripture to our faith. Perhaps the older members of the family can share a favourite Scripture passage with everyone. Younger family members can tell their favourite story from the Bible and be shown where that story can be found. In each case, encourage a deeper sharing of faith by asking each person to tell why the Scripture passage shared is important to him or her. Conclude your time together by again reading Jesus' reply to the devil found in Matthew 4:4 ("One does not live by bread alone. . .") and praying the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

"The God Who Speaks" – Year of the Word 2020

To mark the special Year of the Word Archbishop John Wilson is inviting all Parishes in the diocese to join him for a special diocesan gathering in Aylesford on Saturday 27th June. Please see leaflets and noticeboard for more details. If you would like to attend, please contact the Parish Secretary.

St Patrick's Night Dinner

Our annual St Patrick's Night Dinner will be held on **Friday 20th March 2020** in the Cloister at 7.30pm. The price is £10 per head, drinks extra. The menu will comprise soda bread and toppings; bacon, parsley sauce, cabbage & potatoes, apple pie & custard, cheese and biscuits. Please sign up on the notice in the church porch.



Important Upcoming Dates:

Sun 1 st March	FHC Session 6
Sun 1 st March	Stations of the Cross
Wed 4 th March	Stations of the Cross
Thurs 5 th March	Confirmation Session 6
Fri 6 th March	CAFOD Fast Day
Fri 6 th March	Stations of the Cross
Fri 6 th March	CAFOD Soup Lunch
Fri 6 th March	St Agatha's Church Youth Club
Sat 7 th March	Monthly Adoration
Sun 8 th March	Thanksgiving Mass for Fr. Pius Duke
Sun 8 th March	Stations of the Cross

Offerings

First collection	Gift Aid	£438.07	Loose	£519.51
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£0	Loose	£59.75
TOTAL		£1017.33		

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

The Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary

The Archbishop invited all Catholics to begin a personal 33-day consecration to Jesus through Mary, from Friday 21st February 2020 all. This included an invitation to go to the Sacrament of Confession during Lent. A copy of the Novena pamphlet is available at the back of the church for your use in the church.

Parish Men's Group

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be on **Thursday 19th March** at the Wych Elm from 8.00pm. Everyone is welcome, please come along and bring your friends.



First Holy Communion

FHC Classes continue with children's Session 6 on Sunday 1st March 2020. The following session 7 will be on 15th March 2020.



St Agatha's Confirmation 2020

The next candidate session will be on Thursday 5th March 2020. The following session will be on Thursday 12th March 2020.



A full programme of all the FHC and Confirmation sessions can be found on the parish website.

God loves all men and women on earth and gives them the hope of a new era, an era of peace. His love, fully revealed in the Incarnate Son, is the foundation of universal peace. When welcomed in the depths of the human heart, this love reconciles people with God and with themselves, renews human relationships and stirs that desire for brotherhood capable of banishing the temptation of violence and war. ~ Pope Saint John Paul II

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHAPTER TWO

GOD COMES TO MEET MAN

Part 3 – SACRED SCRIPTURE

V. Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church

"and such is the force and power of the Word of God that it can serve the Church as her support and vigour, and the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life."¹⁰⁹ Hence "access to Sacred Scripture ought to be open wide to the Christian faithful."

"Therefore, the study of the sacred page should be the very soul of sacred theology. the ministry of the Word, too - pastoral preaching, catechetics and all forms of Christian instruction, among which the liturgical homily should hold pride of place - is healthily nourished and thrives in holiness through the Word of Scripture."

The Church "forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful... to learn the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.

Libreria Editrice Vaticana

CAFOD
Just one world

Let's eat simply so others can simply eat!
Have a simple meal and give to save lives.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday 6 March 2020.

Once again CAFOD invite us to "eat a simple meal this Family Fast Day". This is an opportunity to reach out to some of the poorest, and most marginalised of our sisters and brothers. So, will we eat a simple meal during Friday 6 March, and give what we save to those that do not have the luxury of anything but a simple meal. The retiring collection across all masses of Sunday 8th March will be for CAFOD. If you are a UK tax payer you can maximise your donation by completing the Gift Aid declaration on the Fast Day Envelopes, that will be strategically placed around the church. By signing the Gift Aid Declaration, CAFOD will be able to claim an additional 25% (the basic tax paid) on your donation. CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

Please join us on Friday 6th March 2020, between 12.30 and 1.30pm for a simple soup lunch to help our family,



wherever they live. A bowl of soup and bread roll will cost just £1.50. All proceeds will be going towards the work of CAFOD.

Baptism Preparation Class

Our next Baptism preparation class is on **Sunday 5th April 2020**. Please contact the parish secretary to book your place. If you are considering your child's baptism in the next few months, please complete an application form and join us for this class. *Parents need to attend a Baptism preparation class before arranging a date for a baptism.* Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend the class. The Baptism preparation class is for the adults only; it is our experience that parents get more out of the sessions if they are not easily distracted.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Course

The Programme for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) course is intended for adults who wish to receive any of the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation and for Christians baptised in another denomination who would like to become Catholic. If you fall into either of these categories please speak with Fr. Anthony. The course is expected to start in October 2020.



Missio Red Boxes

Volunteer required for this parish

We are seeking a parish representative or 'secretary' for this worthy Catholic charity. You will not be alone! All volunteers have the full support of the Missio team who will support you at every stage and answer all queries. Missio also runs a day-long training course for local secretaries when they take over, which is a useful opportunity to ask questions direct and to meet others who are doing the same thing in their own parishes. By supporting Missio, you play a vital part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future. If you are interested, please contact Karin in the parish office to discuss further.



Please see the Parish noticeboard for more details of the following:

- A Day with Mary
- Volunteer Roles at Southwark Archdiocese
- London SW Catholic Social Group
- Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine
- The Mustard Seed
- Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
- Morning Lenten Services at St Thomas Aquinas

You pay God a compliment by asking great things of Him ~ St Teresa of Avila

LENT AND EASTER 2020 AT ST AGATHA'S

The Bishops of England and Wales have dedicated this year for all our parishes to focus on the Word of God and encourage people to read passages of the scriptures more frequently so that it is a greater guide and strength in their daily life. Perhaps we could all make this part of our Lenten resolution to read and reflect on a few sentences of the Gospel or one of the Epistles at times during the week. 'Reading Matthew in Lent' is a series of simple podcasts for the Lenten season offering a daily reading from St Matthew's Gospel from Ash Wednesday to Easter Monday. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/reading-matthew/>

The times and details of all Masses and services are listed in the Lent and Holy Week 2020 Programme that is available at the back of the church. Please note that, on Maundy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper is at 7.30pm, the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday is at 3pm and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday is at 8pm. There are no morning masses these days, though there are children's celebrations at 12pm on both Thursday and Friday, and stations of the cross at 10am on Good Friday.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesdays, Friday mornings after Mass and at 5.30pm on Sundays during Lent. This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord.



Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Children's Celebrations

All children are welcome to join us at 12pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we observe both days with child-friendly services. During these hands-on services, children of all ages will walk together through the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross, learning as they go. On Good Friday we will need children from year 5 and above, for readings, and actors from year 3 and above to take part in the performance; sign up forms will be available at the back of the church soon.

Lenten Reconciliation

A Lenten Reconciliation service will be held on Thursday 2nd April at 7.30pm here in the Parish of St Agatha for everyone. It is an opportunity for those who would like to go to confession before the Easter Triduum, which begins on Maundy Thursday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the healing sacraments and a powerful help on our Journey of Faith.

Friday Penance

'The Bishops [of England and Wales] wish to remind us that every Friday is set aside as a special day of penitence, as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. They believe that it is important that all the faithful again be united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance because they recognise that the virtue of penitence is best acquired as part of a common resolve and common witness. The law of the Church requires Catholics on Fridays to abstain from meat, or some other form of food, or to observe some other form of penance laid down by the Bishops' Conference (Canon 1251). The Bishops decided to re-establish the practice that this penance should be fulfilled simply by abstaining from meat and by uniting this to prayer. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake'. The form of penance we chose to adopt each Friday is a matter of personal choice and does not have to take the same form every Friday. Failure to undertake this penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE A SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020 Lent – An annual retreat

The Church provides Lent almost like an annual retreat, a time for deepening the understanding of our Christian faith, a time for reflection and renewal, a time to make a fresh start.

It was a pious custom in the past for people, as part of their Lenten observance to go to Mass every day during this time. This is even more meaningful now since the Second Vatican Council and the reformation of the liturgy, because we are provided with a magnificent set of Scripture readings from both the Hebrew (Old) and Christian (New) Testaments every day during the Lenten season.

In the First Reading of today's Mass, Moses speaks to the Israelites at the end of their forty years wandering in the desert and he prepares them for their new life in the Promised Land. That is what the Lenten season is meant to do for us also.

Traditionally on this First Sunday of Lent the Gospel speaks of the temptations of Jesus in the desert. Jesus has just completed his forty days of preparation in the desert and he now faces one more test before he begins his mission. This incident takes place between the baptism of Jesus and the start of his public mission, beginning (in Luke's gospel) at Nazareth.

LivingSpace

'What can I do for Lent?'

'Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving' is the Lenten tradition. We are required to fast by reducing food intake on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but giving up something (e.g. chocolate or alcohol) is also fasting. Extra prayer during Lent is very important.

Other suggestions also include:

- *say some additional prayers each day
- *visit the Blessed Sacrament
- *go to weekday Mass if you can
- *buy a booklet to guide your reflections.
- *make the special effort involved in family prayer.
- *choose one of the Gospels and read it during Lent.
- *study the Sunday readings before coming to Mass
- *come to the Stations of the Cross
- *receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- *Make a special effort to help someone who is poor, sick, old or lonely.
- *Giving to those less fortunate than yourself.

St Agatha's Church Easter Spring Clean

In previous years, when asked, we have been blessed with a great turnout of parishioners to help clear, tidy up and plant in the church grounds. This year we are having a day dedicated to 'Spring Cleaning and Tidying up our Church and Grounds' and we again call on our kind volunteers to help prepare our beautiful church inside and outside for Easter. If you can spare a couple of hours on **Saturday 28th March 2020**, please come along and join us in the Cloister after the morning Mass. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to assist. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, it will be greatly appreciated! All teenagers will be especially welcome, together with those aged 11 – 13 (accompanied by an adult please) but for safety purposes, sadly, no smaller children. Volunteers who would like to help spruce up the gardens – please kindly bring gardening tools and gloves with you. Refreshments will be available and a soup lunch will be provided after. There will be a sheet in the church porch for volunteers to sign up so that we can have refreshments arranged according to numbers expected. Many thanks.

Church Flowers during Lent

One of the ways we have decided to observe Lent is by not having flowers in the church during this season of austerity and simple reflection. We hope this absence of flowers during Lent will amplify the resurrection message of the Easter flowers when they arrive!