

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](mailto: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 4 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020	
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, (A)	
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	
9.30am	Private Intention/Wellbeing of Elizabeth Galligan
6.30pm	Wellbeing & Recovery of Stephen Cooper
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
9am	Wellbeing of Henri Petit jean Viola O'Connor & Family
10.30am	Barbara McCode & Peter Frolan RIP
6.30pm	Hien Bagott RIP
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Protection, Peace, Health & Faith for Ian
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Special intentions for The Church of Sant'agata al Collegio in the Sicilian town of Caltanissetta.
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of the Rosary, Memorial</b>	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Mary Walsh & Family
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Maria Lindsey RIP
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> St John Henry Newman, Feast</b>	
9.30am	Celine Holsinger
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Wellbeing & Healing of Alana
6.30pm	Patricia & Gerry White
<b>Morning Prayer:</b> Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM	
<b>Mass Times:</b> Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30 Monday to Friday: 09:30	

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

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

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Timothy Hales, Catherine McCall, Jim McKay, James Coughlan, Pierre Detrulle, George Prosser, Luise Segat, Michael Murphy, Harry Williams, Frank Keefe, Sister Mary Francis Pentony, Samuel Medhurst, Walter Thomas Gifford, Elizabeth Noble, Ann Holmes, John Healey, Margaret Dalton, William Duckett, Santina Peluso, Teresa McKeown, Evely Drake, Patsy Byrne, Mary Eliza Gosford, Peter Quinn, Nancy Davis, Thomas Joseph Crowley, Ann Higginson, Jack Chilton, Bertha Argent, Daniel McDonnell, Sister Monica Meaney, Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy, Annabelle Montague-Smith, James Coughlan, Mary McGilvray.

**++May they rest in Peace ++**

#### 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.

#### First Holy Communion 2020

We would like to offer our congratulations to our 64 young people who received their First Holy Communion here at St Agatha's over the last couple of weekends. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and inspire them as they make their way through life as active members of the Church.



#### Baptism Preparation Class and Baptisms

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the upcoming months, please register for our next class (date to be confirmed) by completing and returning the baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office. If you have already attended a class earlier this year please call the parish office to discuss and arrange a date for your child's baptism.



#### Secondary School Application Forms

The time of year has come when many parents are thinking about places in a Catholic School. Regular Mass attendance is a requirement for a reference to be completed. If you have recently moved to the area you should seek a priest reference from your previous parish which we will then countersign. A priest will be available to sign secondary school application forms on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 between 11am and 1pm.** **No appointment is necessary,** please call at the Presbytery. *Please note the parish office will be closed during the half-term break.*

Please ensure that you complete as much of the forms as possible and if you have any reference letters, please also bring these along with you. Please bring all relating documents with you at this time, especially Baptism Certificates.

#### Parish Office

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, therefore the parish office will be closed.** Fr Anthony will be available in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry only. For non-urgent enquiries please email [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)

#### Special Thanks

We would like to say a very special thank you to the parishioners who have very kindly given a generous donation to the parish funds over the past few months. Without our usual weekly collections during the months of lockdown there was a significant impact on the parish finances and we greatly appreciate any donations received.



***Our thoughts and prayers are with the priests and parishioners of The Church of Sant'agata al Collegio in the Sicilian town of Caltanissetta.***

**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,  
CYCLE A, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020**

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 21:33-43*

*Jesus tells the parable about the wicked tenants.*

**Gospel Reflection**

Today's Gospel follows directly after last Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus was questioned by Jewish religious leaders about the source of his teaching authority. After refusing to answer their questions, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons and then criticizes the priests and elders for their lack of belief in John the Baptist.

In today's Gospel, Jesus once again speaks to the priests and elders with a parable. In this parable, the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants and sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest that the tenants owe to him. Several times the servants are sent to collect payment, and each time they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the landowner sends his son to collect his rent. The tenants, believing that they will inherit the vineyard if the landowner dies without an heir, plot together and kill the landowner's son.

After telling the parable, Jesus questions the chief priests and elders about what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants. They all agree that the landowner will kill the wicked tenants and give the land to new tenants who will pay the rent.

In telling the parable, Jesus is clearly drawing upon Isaiah 5:1-7, which is today's first reading and one that the priests and elders would have known well. Jesus doesn't, therefore, have to explain the symbolism of the parable; the Pharisees would have understood that the vineyard represented Israel, the landowner represented God, the servants represented the prophets, and the bad tenants represented the religious leaders. Yet Jesus nonetheless explains the meaning of the parable for his audience: the Kingdom of God will be taken from the unbelieving and given to the faithful. The chief priests and elders have condemned themselves with their answer to Jesus' question.

Today's Gospel has a parallel in Mark 12:1-12. There are some notable differences, however. In Matthew's version, the religious leaders condemn themselves; in Mark's Gospel, Jesus answers his own question. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous. Matthew's Gospel was written about 70 years after Jesus' death and reflects the conflicts and tensions found in the Christian community for whom Matthew was writing. Many biblical scholars believe that the tension between Matthew's community and their Jewish neighbours can also be heard in today's reading.

This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways—through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers?

**Family Reflection**

In an ideal household, family members know the rules and follow them consistently. Even the most conscientious among us, however, sometimes needs to be reminded of the rules and their importance. How we respond to such correction reveals our true character. In today's Gospel Jesus exposes the religious leaders for their failure to heed God's messengers. It is an opportunity for us to consider how we respond to those who are God's messengers today, calling us to correct our ways and return to the way of the Lord.

As you gather as a family, talk about some of the most important rules of your household. Consider how consistently family members follow these rules. How are family members reminded when rules are not being followed? How do they respond? In today's Gospel Jesus corrects the religious leaders through a parable telling them that they have not heeded God's messengers. Read Matthew 21:33-43. What are some of God's rules that we must follow? How do we respond to God's messengers today? Pray together as a family that you will heed God's messengers and follow God's ways. Pray together the Act of Contrition for the times when your family has not heeded God's word.

**Sunday Connection, Loyola Press**





### First Holy Communion 2020/2021

Applications and details for our next year's FHC will be available next week. Please check the website and newsletter for updates.

### St Agatha's Confirmation 2020

An important email has been sent to all Confirmation candidates and parents this week, please check your inboxes. If you have not received them, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.



### St Agatha's Confirmation 2021

Applications and details for our next year's Confirmation will be available in November. Please check the website and newsletter for updates.

### Marriages in 2021

2021 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.



### FACE-COVERINGS/MASKS

Face coverings/masks are mandatory in all Places of Worship. All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet. If you attend Mass from this date onwards, please ensure that you have a face-covering/mask with you and to put it on before you enter the Church. Priests in the sanctuary, providing they are sufficiently distant (2m or more) from the congregation, do not need to wear a face covering except when distributing Holy Communion (please see below).



There are some exceptions to this rule, and who needs to wear a covering, details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/facecoverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-yourown/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-makeyour-own#when-you-do-not-need-to-wear-a-face-covering>

Do we realize that something is wrong in a world where there are so many farm workers without land, so many families without a home, so many laborers without rights, so many persons whose dignity is not respected? ...So let's not be afraid to say it: we need change; we want change. ~

Pope Francis

### GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/21

**Our Gift Aid envelopes for 2020/21 which commenced in April, are now available to collect from the church entrance. However, if you would prefer to have your envelopes posted/hand delivered, please email the parish office quoting you gift aid number and we will endeavour to get them to you as soon as possible.**

Could all of those parishioners who are in touch with and are keeping those members of our community who do not have access to the internet with news, please convey this message to them. Also, for those of you who have been putting their weekly offering aside at home, we now have a donations box in the church porch where you can post your envelopes when you visit.

If you do still give to the Church by weekly envelopes, we really encourage you to switch to weekly or monthly standing orders from your bank. A bank mandate form can be downloaded from the 'support us' page of the Parish website. For 2nd collections you can make individual online payments to the same account quoting your Gift Aid number and the cause to which you are giving. Parishioners who do not belong to the Gift Aid scheme can give to the Church by online transfer from their bank; please, kindly add the reference NGA (Non-Gift Aid)

### OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

A big thanks to all those who are managing to support the parish financially through the different means of financial offerings and contributions during these difficult times.

Like many charities, our church is funded entirely by your donations and while we continue to serve the community using new technology, our church still needs to be insured and maintained. We are doing our best to save money but, although our heating expenses may have been reduced, we still have to pay contributions to the diocese, salaries and other various expenses.

Without our usual weekly collections during the months of lockdown there has been a significant impact on the parish finances and we would greatly appreciate your donations to enable us to continue without financial concern after the current situation is over.

If you would like to support St Agatha's Church please go to the 'support us' page on the parish website for our gift aid and standing order forms. Alternatively, the church's bank details for making regular standing orders or one-off bank transfers directly are:

**Our account details are as follows:**

**Please pay: National Westminster, Kingston Marketplace**

**For the credit of: St Agatha's Roman Catholic Church**

**Bank details: Account number: 10317821**

**Sort code: 60-60-02**

**Please ensure you make the reference (that will appear on our Bank Statement) "your name" followed by "offertory".**

**We thank you for your continued generosity.**