

**PLEASE NOTE:** The best way to contact us is by email. All enquiries and non-urgent matters, including mass intentions, please email Karin Rattray, the Parish Secretary, at [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) In case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry only please call 020 8546 4633.

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES**

**SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Scott Kitchener RIP
6.30pm	Edmond Meaney RIP Marie-Anne & Edward Xiberras RIP
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	
9am	Delia Galligan RIP
10.30am	Wellbeing of Jeanie Henry Wellbeing of Merlyn & Keith Fraser
6.30pm	Marisa RIP
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> St Ambrose, Bishop, Memorial</b>	
9.30am	May McShane RIP
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity</b>	
9.30am	Dominica Lopez RIP
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Catherine Pereira Birthday
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Chris Bond
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Mary & Michael Doyle RIP
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Marisa RIP
6.30pm	James & Kathleen Boyle RIP
<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	

**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**

*Elizabeth Watson, Lugrece Chianta, Dino Rega, Michael Little, Margaret Patrick, Olive Burrett, Paddy Coughlin, Elizabeth Ann Moon, Mary Cockerell, Frederick Seymour, Hermine Gollob, Michael Murphy, Pauline Dubri, Darren Hickey, Ernest Joseph Mead, Frank Sewell-Knight, Nora Duffield, Hilda Duckett, John Smith, Vivien Braby, John Boyden, Arthur McLeod, James Wilson, Arthur O'Connor, Elisabeth Hall, Natalie Marie Williams, Margaret Dignum, Norah Owens, Hannah Walsh, Katherine Trigg, Teresa Short, Bernadette Morrissey. . ++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.

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE.....**

**Our Church is open for Public Masses**

In line with the Government's latest announcement, our Church reopened for Public Masses on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and we have resumed our normal Mass schedule. Please note: there may be last minute changes, depending on availability of stewards.

**Please continue to join us for live streaming of our Sunday 10.30am Mass**

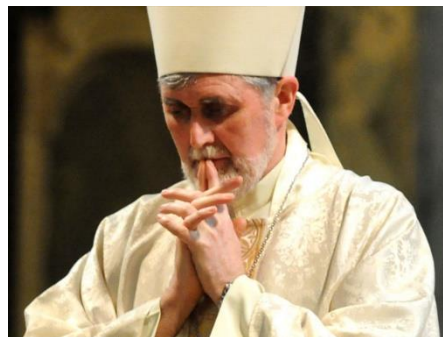
Live Streaming of the 10.30am Sunday Mass, will continue from our website home page and Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/agatha.kingston.92>

- We ask that you do not enter the church if you have cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Social distancing should be maintained at all times, both inside and outside the church building.
- Face coverings must be worn in the church at all times by people over the age of 10, unless they have a medical exemption.
- All surfaces will be cleaned when the church is closed. Please try to avoid touching things in church unnecessarily.
- Please ensure you observe the rules regarding face masks, NHS Track and Trace, use sanitising gel on entering and leaving.
- Please sit in designated seating, and as guided by our church stewards.

**We are very grateful for all the volunteer stewards who continue to help, without our stewards we could not open the church!**

**Retirement of Bishop Patrick Lynch**



Pope Francis has accepted a request from Bishop Patrick Lynch (Auxiliary in Southwark) to retire slightly early on health grounds. Thankfully, Bishop Pat's health is stable and he will be retiring in the Archdiocese. We thank Bishop Pat for his service and wish him well in his retirement. Please see the website for Archbishop John's message.



**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050





### Christmas Eve Christingle Service

Christmas is coming.... which means that we are getting closer to our Christingle Service. This is a very special way of celebrating the real meaning of Christmas with all our friends, family and the whole St Agatha's community. Sadly, this year we will not be able to have our traditional service, however, we are arranging a virtual service. Please join us for our online Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm. Full details will be available on the parish newsletter and website soon.....

### CHRISTINGLE-MAKING KITS

Christingle-making kits will be available to purchase at: ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL on the Astroturf at pick up on Wed 16th, Thurs 17th and Fri 18th December and at ST AGATHA'S CHURCH after mass on Sat 19th and Sun 20th December Just add an orange! Minimum donation £2 per kit

### Pre-Christmas Spruce Up

This year our dedicated Pre-Christmas Spruce Up morning will be on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December**, from 10am after morning Mass. There are a variety of tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to give up a few hours of their time to help us. A sign-up sheet will be in the church porch for volunteers to sign up or please call or email the parish office. (Even if you can only spare an hour or two, Fathers would really appreciate!) Tea, coffee and soup and all the cleaning products will be provided and comply with COVID-19 requirements.

### MASS INTENTIONS

It is again a very busy time for requests and sometimes Masses can be booked weeks in advance, so if you have a particular date or time on which you want the Mass said, it is imperative that you give the parish office plenty of notice to avoid disappointment; we will endeavour to accommodate the date asked for. If no date is specified the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open date. If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details. Mass intention envelopes are available in the church porch and can be left in the corresponding 'Mass Request Box' or posted at the Presbytery. Alternatively, please email the Parish office. When requesting a Mass, please CLEARLY indicate the NAME and INTENTION and whether the Mass is for the deceased, the sick or for another intention.

**COLD!!** We have to keep open the windows and doors to allow as much ventilation as possible to keep you safe – so please bear with us and find those winter jumpers and coats so that you can keep yourself warm when visiting the church. Thank you for your understanding.

Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down.

~ Pope Francis

### School Application Form Signing

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 school application forms on: **Friday 11th December 2020 between 2.30pm and 4pm** or **Thursday 17th December 2020 between 2.30pm and 4pm**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery.

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, if not baptised here at St Agatha's. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2020.

### Baptism Preparation Class and Baptisms

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the new year, 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 email the parish office to advise and arrange a date for your child's baptism.



### First Holy Communion 2021

Thank you to all parents/carers for returning the FHC application forms for 2021. Sadly, due to the current government restrictions the parents meeting and inscription Mass are not permitted to go ahead. An email has been sent to everyone who submitted an application advising of this and we will continue to update you as we have more details.



### St Agatha's Confirmation 2021

Applications and details for our next year's Confirmation will be available soon. 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.



**Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B**  
**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**Gospel Reading**

*Mark 1:1-8 John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.*

**Gospel Reflection**

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

**Family Reflection**

The season of Advent invites us to renew our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented for their sins and were baptized as a sign of God's forgiveness. In Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we use this Advent season to renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the way for Jesus.

As you gather together as a family, talk about ways in which the example of others has called you to be a follower of Jesus. Name the people who have been examples to you of Christian discipleship and describe their characteristics that you have tried to emulate. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:1-8.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. As a family, identify at least one action that you will take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus. Conclude in prayer together that God will receive this action and use it to lead others to Jesus. Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

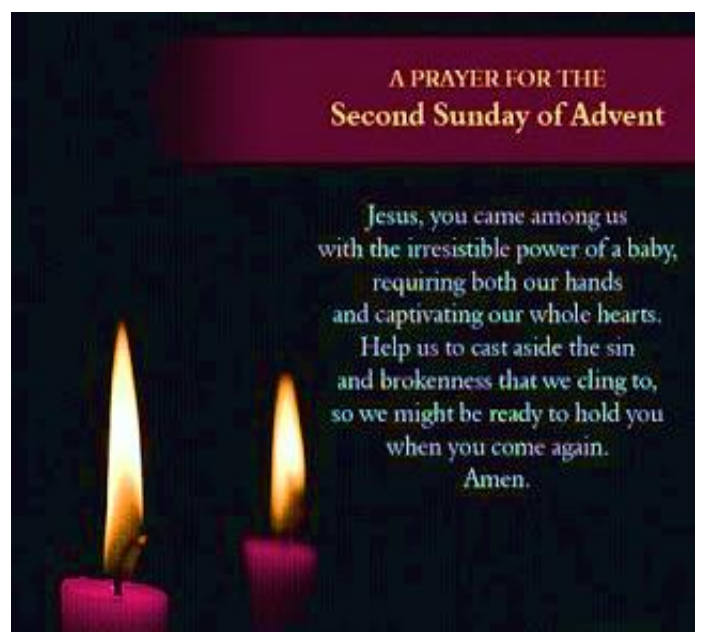
**Lord, let us see Your kindness  
and grant us Your salvation.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

**A PRAYER FOR THE  
Second Sunday of Advent**

Jesus, you came among us  
with the irresistible power of a baby,  
requiring both our hands  
and captivating our whole hearts.  
Help us to cast aside the sin  
and brokenness that we cling to,  
so we might be ready to hold you  
when you come again.  
Amen.



## FACE-COVERINGS/MASKS

Face coverings/masks are still 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-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#when-you-do-not-need-to-wear-a-face-covering>

**CAFOD. SURVIVE - REBUILD - HEAL.**



CAFOD during lockdown; in common with all charities relying upon public donations, CAFOD have witnessed a not unexpected drop in income as regular mass attendance becomes problematic. They do however, cite an increase in "parishioners" donating via on-line, text or telephone. In acknowledging this continued commitment and solidarity with our global family throughout coronavirus, CAFOD remind us of Pope Francis' expression in his encyclical Fratelli Tutti of being a "neighbour without borders".

If you are so minded to support CAFOD's work during these trying times or require more information, simply go to [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) or phone 020 7733 7900. CAFOD's website is literally a smorgasbord of campaigns, news and fundraising ideas. Fundraising can be enjoyable, hence the first three letters.

Christmas is coming! But how can you find unusual charity presents for your friends and family that make a difference to people living in poverty? Buying a World Gift is the perfect solution. World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families living in poverty across the world. Gifts that change lives and bring happiness! Order by 16 December for free delivery in time for Christmas! For each gift you buy this Christmas, you'll receive a beautiful gift card to pass on to your loved one. More information can be found at: [www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk](http://www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk)

**CAFOD thank you for your continued support.**

## OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

As we now come to the end of our second period of lockdown, your offertory donations are even more vital. A big thanks to all those who are still 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, 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.**

## GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/21

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)

Above all, in one way or another, fight for the common good, serve the poor, be protagonists of the revolution of charity and service, capable of resisting the pathologies of consumerism and superficial individualism. ~Christus Vivit, 147

6<sup>th</sup> Dec (Nearest Sunday to International Human Rights Day 8<sup>th</sup> Dec)