

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Francis Olaseni, MSP – Parish Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 Rev. Fr. Peter Akor, MSP – Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain
 Rev. Robert Beresford – Deacon

St. Agatha's Catholic Church
 1 Wyndham Road
 Kingston upon Thames
 Surrey, KT2 5JR
 Tel: 020 8546 4633
www.stagathaschurch.org.uk
kingston@rcaos.org.uk

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. Thank You.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2022

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 3rd	St Francis Xavier, Priest, Memorial
9.30am	Marcella Family RIP
6.30pm	Mrs Molina Sandoval RIP
Sunday 4th	2nd Sunday of Advent
9am	Vincent Arendse RIP
10.30am	Keith & Alan Fraser RIP
6.30pm	Deceased Members of the Perera Family
Monday 5th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Liz
Tuesday 6th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Elizabeth De Paula
Wednesday 7th	St Ambrose, Bishop, Memorial
9.30am	Yousif Polus RIP
Thursday 8th	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity
9.30am	Wellbeing of Mary Moynihan
Friday 9th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 10th	
9.30am	Tony Pearce RIP
6.30pm	Mina Kearns RIP
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 AM
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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Please join us at the 10.30am Mass this Sunday, 4th December 2022, when we will have a children's liturgy session. Children's Liturgy is held every other Sunday during term time at the 10.30am Family Mass. The children are asked to come forward after the opening prayer of the Mass and then they proceed to the where the Liturgy takes place. They return to join the full congregation at the offertory. Any work they have done is brought up during the offertory as their gift to God and the Community. Children's Liturgy is run by the parents/adults in the parish who are keen to pass on their faith to the children. They use a variety of resources and each session is based on the readings of the day. If you would like to join the team, please contact the parish office for further information. This is the final Children's Liturgy session of the year and it will resume in the New Year.



**DONS Local
Action Group**
*Keeping our community fed,
connected & supported.*

OUR VISION: To build a resourceful community tackling the effects of poverty.

Supporting Dons Local Action Group this Christmas.

Just a quick reminder about our donations box in support of Dons Local Action Group; A huge thank you to everyone that has already donated items, these have successfully been delivered to the DLAG hub. We are aspiring to have adequate items to be able to provide them another delivery in time for Christmas.

The Dons have emphasised that they need tinned foodstuffs. To quote them "There is little point in giving a family mince pies, if there is no food in the house". So, the challenge to us all at St Agatha's is to provide tinned food. To emphasise again, "tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned vegetables and tinned fruit"!!

Our collection point is in the church porch for you to donate any non-perishable items, such as pasta, rice, cereals, tea and coffee UHT milk, tins of vegetable, fruit, soup and also pet food and toiletry items such as toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant. Please do not donate anything that is perishable such as fruit, vegetables, eggs or bread items. Please also check the date on all items to ensure they have a good storage life. Thanking you in anticipation of your continuing support.





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### ADVENT READING - 'MY DAY BY DAY'

This Sunday is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent and copies of the Advent edition of 'My Day by Day' are available at the back of the Church, they cost £1 each (Please put money in the box marked Newspapers or the small donations box available.) This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during advent and is an excellent way to prepare for Christmas. A junior version is also available.

### CHURCH DECORATING

This year we will have a dedicated day for decorating and preparing our church for our Christmas services on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Our Christmas trees will need erecting and decorating, the church decorating, and our crib will be constructed at this time. The more helpers the quicker the process! Please contact or email the parish office if you are able to help for a couple of hours between 2pm and 6pm and we will confirm the times nearer to the day. Thank you.

### CHRISTINGLE 2022!!

We are very pleased to announce that this year we will be returning to our full advent and Christmas schedule, including our amazing Christingle Service on Christmas Eve.



Christingle sign is now available!! Please sign up by Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Dates and times for your diary:

- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle Dress and Lines Allocation, after 10.30am Mass.
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 - Dress Rehearsal in the church, 10am - 1pm.
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 - Christingle Making, 10am in the church hall.
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - Christingle Service at 4pm.

### ADORATION & RECONCILIATION DURING ADVENT

On Wednesday Evenings during Advent the church will be open from 7.30 - 8.30pm for Adoration and Reconciliation. Everyone is welcome. Reconciliation is also available after every Mass during the advent period.

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Our Advent and Christmas programme is available in the church porch and online at: [www.stagathaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)

### CHRISTMAS CARDS, GIFTS AND CALENDARS

A selection of Christmas Cards are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively contact the parish office during opening hours. More cards, gifts and 2023 calendars will be available from Monday.

### MASS INTENTIONS

It is again a very busy time for Mass requests and Masses can be booked weeks in advance, so, if you have a particular date or time on which you want a Mass said, **it is very important that you let the parish office know ahead of time and as soon as possible.** You are very welcome to book your Mass intentions in advance. We are sorry but we cannot guarantee a requested date when submitting late Mass Intentions; if no date is specified or a date requested is not available, the Mass Intention will be assigned to the next open Mass.

Mass intentions envelopes are available at the back of the church. When requesting a Mass, please clearly indicate the intention and whether the Mass is for the deceased, the sick or for another intention.

If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details. Thank you.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, please attend our next class being held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023. The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm.

Please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.

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



### MARRIAGES IN 2023

2023 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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022/23**  
The next session is being held on: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023. 11.45am-1pm (Session 2)



'since rights and the resulting duties follow naturally from human interaction, it is easy to forget that they are the fruit of a commonly held sense of justice built primarily upon solidarity among the members of society, and hence valid at all times and for all peoples.' ~

Pope Benedict XVI.

International Human Rights Day is observed on 10th December



Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle A  
Sunday, December 4, 2022

**Gospel Reading**  
Matthew 3:1-12

*John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.*

**Gospel Reflection**

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: "... the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

**Family Reflection**

We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out the sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel. Talk about how John reminds the people that they prepare for the reign of God by reforming their lives. As a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas such as the following: Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around your family Advent wreath. Read again today's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-3. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.

**++ LATELY DEAD++**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Walsh, who died on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. Her requiem will take place on here on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 11am.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

+++ 'Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.' +++

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR  
THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cackle, Melba De Silva and Marie Chlebeckova.

*Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.*

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**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.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

*John Whelan, Isabel White, George Terence Dove, Mary Vivian, Lenord McIlbalton, Hugh McFaul, Joseph O'Connell, Barbara Croucher, Thomas Conway, 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, +++May They Rest In Peace +++*



**Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.**



**CAFOD World Gifts - Ethical Charity Gifts**

Christmas is fast approaching, and CAFOD have just the best unusual presents for your friends and family that can make a real difference to people living in poverty!

World Gifts are CAFOD's range of virtual gifts that make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. For each gift you buy this Christmas, you'll receive a beautiful gift card to pass on to your loved one.

**Exciting new World Gifts for 2022!:**

- Super soup kitchen £10
- Promoting peace £18
- Therapy through play £20
- Clever self-watering garden £20
- Women refugees empowered £52
- Life changing loan £200



Hopefully one of these new gifts will spark your interest, if not, your old favourites are still available! Check out their full range here: . <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Make sure to order by 15<sup>th</sup> December for a free delivery before Christmas or 20<sup>th</sup> December 12 noon and choose Express delivery to ensure your loved ones can enjoy their gifts at Christmas!

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

**CHAPLAINCY APPRENTICE**

CTK Emmanuel

Blackheath, SE13 5GE

Part Time, Part Year

Start Date: January 2023, Salary range: £12,000

CTK Emmanuel is part of the Christ the King Sixth Forms group of three highly successful Catholic sixth forms located in southeast London and Kent. As a professional centre for excellence, CTK Emmanuel offers Applied Technical Qualifications, equivalent to 3 A Levels, and highly specialised routes to university. Located on the Blackheath borders with excellent transport links, CTK Emmanuel students aspire to be the best and to reach the top in their chosen ambitions.

An opportunity has arisen for an exceptional Chaplaincy Apprentice to join the outstanding Chaplaincy Team at CTK. The successful candidate will be a practising Catholic ideally with some experience of working with young people and leading liturgy and prayer.

The hours of this vacancy are 8.30am – 4.30pm, 4 days a week.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a talented staff team in a professional centre for excellence. You will be supported to develop your career in an environment of positive encouragement and mutual respect. You'll be a key part in helping students to reach their potential. You will ensure they feel confident about going out into the world and being extraordinary in life and in their future career.

**Join us to be inspired, be extraordinary, and be the best you can be.**

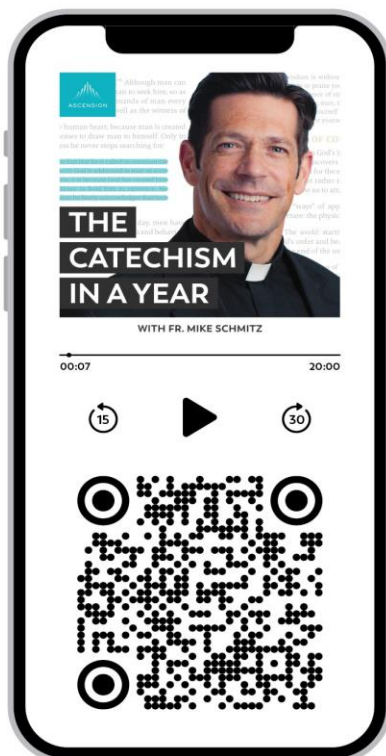
For details of how to apply and a job description please visit the vacancies page of our website, <https://www.ctl.ac.uk/vacancies/> Christ the King Sixth Forms is committed to equality, diversity and inclusivity. We encourage applicants from all sectors of the community and are especially keen to encourage candidates from under-represented groups to apply.

If you have any queries, please contact us at

[recruitment@ctksfc.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@ctksfc.ac.uk) or 02082979433.

**Closing Date: 10am on Monday 12th December 2022**

**Interviews: Wednesday 14th December 2022**



**Understand Your Catholic Faith with  
The Catechism in a Year Podcast  
with Fr. Mike Schmitz!**

**Starting January 1, 2023**

By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

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