



Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

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 9.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday. Could you please limit telephone calls outside these hours to emergencies only

CLERGY

Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest
Fr. Pius Duke, MSP — Assistant Priest
Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

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FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES (A)

SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY 2020 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday 4th

9.30am Ian Lilley RIP

6.30pm People of the Parish

Sunday 5th The Epiphany of the Lord

9.00am Lugrece & Jean Ciantar RIP

10.30am Ian Lilley RIP

6.30pm Deceased of Nally & Perella Family RIP

Monday 6th

9.30am Mercedes Mesina RIP

Tuesday 7th

9.30am Pamela & Bernard Secrett

Wednesday 8th

9.30am Alfred Knight RIP

Thursday 9th

9.30am Rosa Vitolo RIP

Friday 10th Whole School Mass

9.30am Maria's Intentions

Saturday 11th

9.30am Wellbeing of Irene & Pat Domigan

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 (1st February 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: Pat Appleby, John Sewter, Christina Ward, Clare Horgan, Keith Fraser, Trish Taylor and Ryan Morrison. *Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either you or your relatives and friends want to be mentioned in our sick list.*

ANNIVERSARIES

Dorothy Eley, Vincent Raymond, Olive Bryden, Tony Green, Mary Josephine Edwards, Sarah Kelly, Helena Collins, Michael Frain, Ellen Merritt, Patrick Connolly, John Crehan, Michael Jordan, Teresa Buller, Clara Cunningham, Joan Culme, Daniel Quaid, Maurice Woolger, Azzopardi Twins, Joseph Kiernan, Mary Johnston, Sr. Lucy Proctor, William Finn, Nicholas Power, Constance Neve, Joan Marie Jackson, Mary Ann Jelley, Walter Padberg, Jerzy Henryk Kopicki, Douglas Carter, Teresa Scott, Annie Burton, Mary Dobson, Frederick Fear, Bridget Cumiskey, Alfred Mulcahy, Joseph Rice, Eileen Wharton,.

+++ May they rest in Peace +++

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tessie Bird who died recently, aged 93. 'Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.' Funeral details to follow.

LET US REMEMBER ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Let us remember those who have died, and their families, with love and affection during this time of grief.

The Epiphany of the Lord Cycle A

Sunday 5th January 2020

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Reflection

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

THANK YOU!!

A Huge Thank you to everyone for your kind wishes and the lovely Christmas cards, messages and gifts. You have all been so very kind, which help make for a very happy time in the Presbytery. Also, a very special thank you to the teams of volunteers who worked so hard to ensure that our Church and Cloister was so beautifully decorated, (as it always is), to Celebrate the Birth of Christ. To EVERYONE that helped make all our Christmas celebrations so very special, including the Seniors Lunch helpers and the school choir, Christingle service committee and especially the children, and to the Men of the Parish who set up the Crib and the youth group who set up the Christmas trees, we thank you! ~ Frs. Anthony & Pius.

Missionary Society of St Paul Celebration Day

The Missionary Society of St Paul of Nigeria UK Region will be holding its annual MSP Day Celebration at St George's Cathedral on **Friday 24th January 2020**, beginning with Mass at **6.30pm** Prompt, followed by a reception in the Amigo Hall. Everyone is invited; if you wish to attend, please RSVP the Parish Secretary as soon as possible.

WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEKEND!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

SCAM ALERT – Please be aware that fraudulent messages are circulating via e-mail allegedly coming from our Priests, Bishops, or others in the Catholic community, asking for money or gift cards. Please DISREGARD all such messages! Do NOT reply or engage with the individuals sending these messages. The email addresses typically look like they could be real; they ask if you are busy, ask for a favour, or directly asks for gift cards or funds. Do NOT send gift cards, money, or cash transfers if requested to do so over e-mail. If you receive messages asking for help like this from our Bishops or Priests, either contact their offices directly to check whether they are authentic, or just ignore the message. Do NOT reply to it.

St Agatha's Confirmation 2020

There will be an enrolment meeting for Candidates and their families on Thursday 16th January 2020 at 7.45pm. The first candidate session will be Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 7.15pm. The Inscription Mass will be on Sunday 26th January 2020 at 6.30pm. A full programme of the sessions was with the application form and can also be found on the parish website.



First Holy Communion

FHC Classes will start on **Sunday 12th January 2020 at 4pm** with Children's Session 1.



Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Volunteering opportunities.

For our young parishioners undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, we have a volunteering opportunity for 2 students doing their DofE to assist our First Holy Communion team with sessions in 2020. You will need to be available on selected Sunday afternoons 3.30pm-5.30pm from January to May (term-time only). Please email the Parish Secretary at: kingston@rcaos.org.uk with your details including name, address, age, school or place you are completing DofE and we will put you in touch with the FHC team.

Primary School 2020 Application Forms

A priest will be available to sign Primary school application forms from **4-6pm** on **Wednesday 8th January 2020**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery. 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. 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**.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2020.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Wed 8 th Jan	School Application Signing
Fri 10 th Jan	Whole School Mass
Fri 10 th Jan	St Agatha's Church Youth Group
Sun 12 th Jan	FHC Session 1
Thurs 16 th Jan	Confirmation Family Meeting
Fri 17 th Jan	St Agatha's Church Youth Group

Offerings

First collection	Gift Aid	£465.20	Loose	£425.25
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£5.00	Loose	£96.40
TOTAL		£991.85		

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

CRIB OFFERINGS

At the request of Archbishop John Wilson, this year's crib offerings will go to The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL). The Friends of the Holy Land have been giving hope and providing practical help to the most vulnerable Christians in and around Bethlehem for 10 years.

2020 Calendars

An assortment of 2020 calendars are still available to purchase at £1 each; please contact the parish office to purchase.

Christmas Raffle

Congratulations to all our Raffle Winners! We had a total of 44 prizes! We really appreciate the support of those that donated such great prizes and all the people that bought tickets. The raffle raised £304, which will help with the cost of our Christmas expenses.

St Agatha's Church Youth Club

St Agatha's Church Youth Club resumes on **Friday 10th January 2020 at 6pm**.



Baptism Preparation Class



Our next Baptism preparation class is on **Sunday 2nd February 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 receiving 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.

Church Banners

A longstanding parishioner of St Agatha's has kindly sponsored the purchase of the new Advent Banners in the church; our thanks to him, we truly appreciate the donation. If anyone would be interested in sponsoring the purchase of further banners for instance for Christmas, Lent or Seasonal Banners, please contact the Parish Office to discuss further.