

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish office will not be staffed during this lockdown. 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 Fr Anthony or Fr Ebuka will be available in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry only on 020 8546 4633.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2020

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, (A)

Saturday 7th	Seamus Dooley RIP
Sunday 8th	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Remembrance Sunday Marie-Ann & Edward Xiberras RIP Jeremy Langstaff RIP Alan Butler RIP Carla Long RIP
Monday 9th	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast Thanksgiving Intentions, Britz Family
Tuesday 10th	St Leo the Great, Pope, Memorial Wellbeing & Recovery of Henri-Pierre Dequidt
Wednesday 11th	St Martin of Tours, Bishop, Memorial Margaret Quigley & Family RIP
Thursday 12th	St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr, Memorial The People of Nigeria
Friday 13th	Angelo Piccirillo RIP
Saturday 14th	Veronica Peters and Angel Peters RIP

Private Prayer: 09:00 – 10.00 AM
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

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

Harriet Alexander, Sydney Rhodes, Enid Waller, Frederick Hubble, Frank McCantie, Frederick Miller, Ivy Wilson, Julia Mary Twomey, Isabella Newton, John Saxby, Bridget Goldsmith, John Forde, Leo Duckett, Fr. Hugh Glen, Lilian Taylor, Patrick Francis Crowley, Gerald Stewart, John Finn, George Caine, Jane Gardner, Thomas Egan, Julia Larkins, William Henry Jones, Catherine Delaney, George Smith, Christina Dunne, Catherine White, Mary Gallagher, Mary Owen, Angelo Piccirillo, Ellen Sheehy, Joseph Thomas Dudley.

++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.....

The Church will be closed for public masses from Thursday 5th November 2020 in line with the latest government COVID-19 restrictions.

Dear Parishioners, following the Prime Minister's address to the Nation concerning Coronavirus and the closure of all shops selling non-essentials goods and other premises including places of worship, our Archbishop has sadly mandated the closure of all the Churches in Southwark Archdiocese. There will be no public masses or other services (aside from funerals) in the Church from Thursday 5th November until Wednesday 2nd December. The intentions during this period will still be offered by the priests' in their private daily Masses. Please post any Mass Intention envelopes through the presbytery door, or email via the parish email address kingston@rcaos.org.uk

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>

A Statement from the President and Vice President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales concerning the Church's position on the National Lockdown can be read on our website.

Our Church will be open for Private Prayer from Thursday 5th Nov to Wednesday 2nd Dec 2020 from 9am to 10am on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, as follows:

Thursday 5 th Nov	Saturday 7 th Nov	
Tuesday 10 th Nov	Thursday 12 th Nov	Saturday 14 th Nov
Tuesday 17 th Nov	Thursday 19 th Nov	Saturday 21 st Nov
Tuesday 24 th Nov	Thursday 26 th Nov	Saturday 28 th Nov
Tuesday 1 st Dec		

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during these times.

Further days and times may still be announced... Please check the website regularly for updated information. Please note: there may also be last minute changes, depending on availability of stewards.

Please ensure you observe the rules regarding face masks, NHS Track and Trace, social distancing, use sanitising gel on entering and leaving, and please follow the instructions of the church stewards on duty.

We are very grateful for all the volunteer stewards who help to keep the church open; without stewards we cannot open the church for private prayer.



PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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.

Ecclesiastical Education Sunday 8th November 2020

The Priest Training Fund, known as the Ecclesiastical Education Fund, pays for men studying for the Priesthood and Diaconate here in Southwark. It costs £30,000 a year, for six years, to sponsor each seminarian, so your generous support in this appeal makes a real difference in our ability to fund and support men saying 'Yes' to the vocation of Priesthood. We currently have 8 men in formation for the Priesthood for Southwark.

This year we have Priest Training Fund gift aid envelopes available, which we will leave out all week for those coming in for private prayer. You can also donate online via:

www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/donate.html

(select Priest Training Fund) or by scanning the QR code (right). Please be generous today and keep our seminarians, and priests, in your prayers. Thank you.



November – Month of All Souls

In the month of November, we remember all our loved ones whom God has called from this life and pray for them at our daily Masses. Envelopes are available at back of church for you to put in the list of all loved ones in your family and friends whom have died. You can place a donation for the Masses inside the envelope. Envelopes can be left in the 'Mass Request Box', posted at the Presbytery or please hand it to Fr. Anthony or Fr. Ebuka. Alternatively, please email the names to the parish email and we will place them in the basket.

Annual Blessing of Graves

The annual Blessing of Graves was due to take place this coming Sunday, 8th November, in Surbiton and Kingston Cemeteries. Sadly, this is now cancelled as per the new government guidelines. We continue to pray for our dearly departed, especially during this month of November.

'Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon them. May They Rest in Peace.' Amen



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 will be 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 now be available in December. 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.



Mass Intentions

Fr Anthony and Fr Ebuka will continue to offer daily Masses. Mass intentions 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. If you have a particular date or time on which you want the Mass said, it is imperative that 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.

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, teaching his disciples the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven.

Gospel Reflection

In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared.

When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home.

As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel.

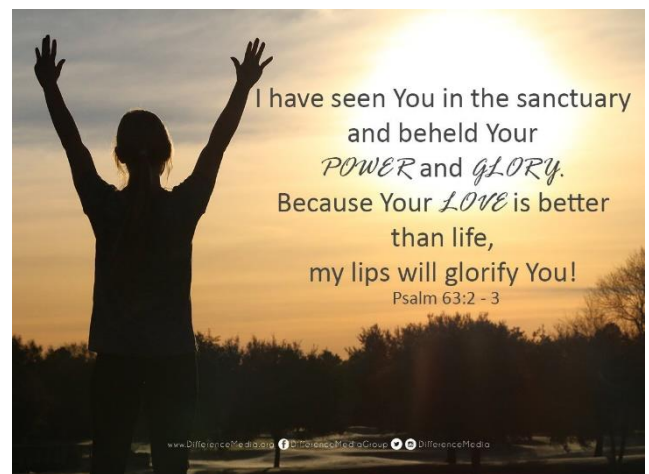
In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, 'Are we ready to receive Jesus?' Will we be prepared to receive him?

Family Reflection

In the daily activities of family life, we can easily find excuses for not attending to our spiritual lives. If not given top priority, prayer and reading Scripture risk becoming occasional activities rather than daily practices. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we fail to give our spiritual life priority, we will find ourselves unprepared to receive Jesus. Daily prayer and spiritual practice keeps us ready to receive Jesus.

Gather together as a family and talk about some of the things our faith calls us to do every day and every week to keep God first in our lives. Talk about what might happen if we don't do these things regularly. Explain to your family that Jesus taught us that it is important to keep ourselves ready to receive him when he comes again. Tell them to listen as you read the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel. Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13. Talk with your family about why Jesus says that it is so important to remain ready to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray together that your family will always keep God first in your lives so that you will all be prepared to receive Jesus when he comes. Pray together the Act of Hope.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



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

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/21

Our Gift Aid envelopes for 2020/21 which commenced in April, are 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 your gift aid number and we will endeavour to get them to you as soon as possible.

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)

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

8 December – Nearest Sunday to
International Human Rights Day (10 December)

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.

**CAFOD – Faith into action: Building
a better world after the pandemic**

CAFOD
Just one world

All our welcome to join CAFOD for a day of online discussion and workshops later this month as it focuses on Faith into Action: Building a better world after the pandemic. You can book a place for the event on Saturday 14 November, 11am to 4pm.

How can we build a better world after the pandemic - one where we respond to Pope Francis's call and ensure plans for recovering from the crisis tackle poverty, inequality and the climate emergency? Gather online to reflect on what changes we want to see after the coronavirus crisis in participatory sessions led by practical theologian Sam Ewell and climate campaigners from around the world. Look at how we can turn Pope Francis's most recent call to action into a reality, learning about his new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. And hear from CAFOD's Director of Advocacy Neil Thorns on the crucial global talks the UK is hosting next year and discuss the practical steps we need to take to rebuild our common home. Book your place at:

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Faith-into-action>

CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee (DEC) to help millions of people whose lives are at risk as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at <https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus> to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family.