



**CLERGY**  
 Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest  
 Fr. Ebuka Umekachikelu, MSP — Assistant Priest  
 Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

St. Agatha's Catholic Church  
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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.

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES**  
**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020.**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ss Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs, Memorial</b>
9.30am	Wellbeing of Adele & Marco
6.30pm	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
9.00am	Wellbeing of Philip Cockle
10.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser
6.30pm	Rev Fr Gerry O'Brien RIP
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Thomas Naughton RIP
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Eno Rossetti RIP
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Rose Pereira RIP
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 4 School Mass</b>
9.30am	Thanksgiving for Needs Received
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Fanny Margaret Cook RIP
6.30pm	Sheila McCormick RIP

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 (4<sup>th</sup> April 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: John Sewter, Christina Ward, Clare Horgan, 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**

Louisa Margareta Marks, Patrick Bowen, Margaret Quaid, Daisy Cook, Christina Ross, John Dorsett, Dorothy Searle, Alice Leslie, Robert Thomas Kotei, Josie Alexander, Eileen Lumley, Margaret O'Sullivan, Mary Garrow-Fisher, Thomas Gerard Leslie Luson, John Conway, Cecil Cox, Christine Andrews, Elizabeth Clarke, J. P. McGowan, Renee Fox, Mr. H. Cockerhill, Mabel Rooke-Ley, Marie Monaghan, Arthur Tunesi, John Dignum, Helen Halden, Edna Morgan, Daniel Cremin, Richard de Kerckhove, Josephine May, Edith Anne Connellan, Forbes Stimson, Ann Elizabeth Harding, Agnes Hall, Winifred O'Connor, Timothy Malone, Alphonse Schembri, Gerry Byrne. +++ **May they rest in Peace** +++

**LET US REMEMBER ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY**

Let us remember those who have died, those whose anniversaries occur about this time and their families, with love and affection during this time of grief. May the Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE A**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

**Gospel Reading**  
*Matthew 17:1-9*

*Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.*

**Reflection**

For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

**THANKSGIVING / SEND FORTH MASS**

This weekend we will be joined by Fr. Pius Duke, MSP, at the 10.30am Mass, for a thanksgiving/send forth Mass. Please come along and join us.

**MY DAY BY DAY**

This Lenten booklet is available at the back of the church. There is one copy for each family. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter. A donation of £1.00 is encouraged, please put money in the box marked Papers

**CTS BOOKLETS FOR LENT**

Our CTS stand in the church porch has some suitable spiritual reading for Lent; do have a look at what is on offer today. Payments should be put in the wall box marked 'Papers'.

**LATELY DEAD**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Robert Joseph Cunningham, who died on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020, aged 89 Years. His requiem will take place at St Agatha's on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 12pm. followed by burial at Surbiton Cemetery at 1.30pm. 'Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.'

**WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEKEND!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE A  
SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

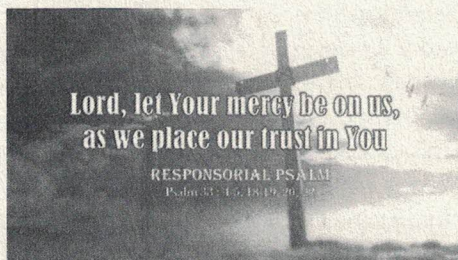
**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 17:1-9*

*Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.*

**Family Reflection**

As a family, talk about some of your times of highs and lows. How have you been able to use the good times and experiences to sustain you in the difficult ones? Jesus' Transfiguration may have been an event from which Peter, James, and John drew courage when they faced the difficult events of Jesus' Passion. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the good times and experiences that your family has had together. Pray that your family will use these experiences to sustain you during times of difficulty. Close by praying today's psalm, Psalm 33.



Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

**Church Banners**

Two parishioners of St Agatha's have kindly sponsored the purchase of new Lent and Easter Banners for the church; our thanks to them, we truly appreciate the donation. If anyone would be interested in sponsoring the purchase of Ordinary Seasonal Banners, please contact the Parish Office to discuss further.

**St Patrick's Night Dinner**

Our annual St Patrick's Night Dinner will be held on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020** in the Cloister at 7.30pm. The price is £10 per head, drinks extra. Please sign up on the notice in the church porch.



**First Holy Communion**

FHC Classes continue with children's Session 7 on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The following session 8 will be on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020.



**St Agatha's Confirmation 2020**

The next candidate session will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The following session will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.



A full programme of all the FHC and Confirmation sessions can be found on the parish website.

**Parish Men's Group**

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** at the Wych Elm from 8.00pm. Everyone is welcome, please come along and bring your friends.



**Important Upcoming Dates:**

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Thanksgiving Mass for Fr. Pius Duke
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Stations of the Cross
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Stations of the Cross
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 School Mass
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Confirmation Session 7
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Stations of the Cross
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> March	St Agatha's Church Youth Club
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> March	FHC Session 7
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Stations of the Cross

**Offerings**

<b>First collection</b>	Gift Aid	£ 474.00	Loose	£ 556.97
<b>Retiring Collection</b>	Gift Aid	£ 138.20	Loose	£ 55.99

**TOTAL £1225.16**

Thank you for your generosity to your parish. This Sunday the retiring collection is for CAFOD, or please use the CAFOD envelopes which are available in the church.



**Let's eat simply so others can simply eat!  
Have a simple meal and give to save lives.**

CAFOD, the official Relief Agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, are part of one of the largest aid networks in the world. Because of their global reach and local presence through their sister agencies within the CARITAS Organisation, they have the potential to reach everyone in need. This support cannot be delivered without your help. The retiring collection at all masses of this weekend will be for CAFOD's Lenten Appeal. Please try and support the work of CAFOD and her sister agencies within CARITAS. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation, you will find Fast Day Envelopes at the back of the church with a tear-off slip to register your gift. Please go to [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) for more details of how your support can and does help those in need. CAFOD thank you for your continued support. **Thank you to everyone who joined us for the CAFOD Soup Lunch on Friday, we raised £28.50. The next Lenten Soup lunch will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, between 12.30 and 1.30pm. A bowl of soup and bread roll will cost just £1.50. All proceeds will be going towards the work of CAFOD.**

**The Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary**

The Archbishop invited all Catholics to begin a personal 33-day consecration to Jesus through Mary, from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 all. This included an invitation to go to the Sacrament of Confession during Lent. A copy of the Novena pamphlet is available at the back of the church for your use in the church.

**Diocesan Directory 2020**

Copies of the Diocesan Directory for 2020 are now available from the Parish Office. They cost £3.00 each.

To pray is to stand before God's eyes – it is God looking at me when I pray – without illusions, excuses or justifications. ~ Pope Francis



By his Revelation, "the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them into his own company." The adequate response to this invitation is faith.

By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God. With his whole being man gives his assent to God the revealer. Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, "the obedience of faith".

Part 1 – I BELIEVE

I. The Obedience of Faith

To obey (from the Latin ob-audire, to "hear or listen to") in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself. Abraham is the model of such obedience offered us by Sacred Scripture. the Virgin Mary is its most perfect embodiment.

Abraham - "father of all who believe"

The Letter to the Hebrews, in its great eulogy of the faith of Israel's ancestors, lays special emphasis on Abraham's faith: "By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go." By faith, he lived as a stranger and pilgrim in the promised land. By faith, Sarah was given to conceive the son of the promise. and by faith Abraham offered his only son in sacrifice.

Abraham thus fulfils the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen": "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Because he was "strong in his faith", Abraham became the "father of all who believe".

The Old Testament is rich in witnesses to this faith. the Letter to the Hebrews proclaims its eulogy of the exemplary faith of the ancestors who "received divine approval".<sup>10</sup> Yet "God had foreseen something better for us": the grace of believing in his Son Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith".

Mary – "Blessed is she who believed"

The Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. By faith Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that "with God nothing will be impossible" and so giving her assent: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word." Elizabeth greeted her: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." It is for this faith that all generations have called Mary blessed.

Throughout her life and until her last ordeal when Jesus her son died on the cross, Mary's faith never wavered. She never ceased to believe in the fulfilment of God's word. and so, the Church venerates in Mary the purest realization of faith.

"The God Who Speaks" – Year of the Word 2020

To mark the special Year of the Word Archbishop John Wilson is inviting all Parishes in the diocese to join him for a special diocesan gathering in Aylesford on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Please see leaflets and noticeboard for more details. If you would like to attend, please contact the Parish Secretary.

**Baptism Preparation Class**

Our next Baptism preparation class is on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 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 arranging 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.



**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Course**

The Programme for Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) course is intended for adults who wish to receive any of the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation and for Christians baptised in another denomination who would like to become Catholic. If you fall into either of these categories please speak with Fr. Anthony. The course is expected to start in October 2020.

**Missio Red Boxes**

**Volunteer required for this parish**

We are seeking a parish representative or 'secretary' for this worthy Catholic charity. You will not be alone! All volunteers have the full support of the Missio team who will support you at every stage and answer all queries. Missio also runs a day-long training course for local secretaries when they take over, which is a useful opportunity to ask questions direct and to meet others who are doing the same thing in their own parishes. By supporting Missio, you play a vital part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future. If you are interested, please contact Karin in the parish office to discuss further.



**Please see the Parish noticeboard for more details of the following:**

- A Day with Mary
- Volunteer Roles at Southwark Archdiocese
- London SW Catholic Social Group
- Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine
- The Mustard Seed
- Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
- Morning Lenten Services at St Thomas Aquinas

She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. ~ Proverbs 31:20  
8 March (International Women's Day)



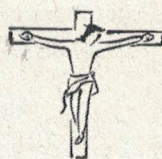
## LENT AND EASTER 2020 AT ST AGATHA'S

The Bishops of England and Wales have dedicated this year for all our parishes to focus on the Word of God and encourage people to read passages of the scriptures more frequently so that it is a greater guide and strength in their daily life. Perhaps we could all make this part of our Lenten resolution to read and reflect on a few sentences of the Gospel or one of the Epistles at times during the week. 'Reading Matthew in Lent' is a series of simple podcasts for the Lenten season offering a daily reading from St Matthew's Gospel from Ash Wednesday to Easter Monday. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/reading-matthew/>

The times and details of all Masses and services are listed in the Lent and Holy Week 2020 Programme that is available at the back of the church. Please note that, on Maundy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper is at 7.30pm, the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday is at 3pm and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday is at 8pm. There are no morning masses these days, though there are children's celebrations at 12pm on both Thursday and Friday, and stations of the cross at 10am on Good Friday.

### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesdays, Friday mornings after Mass and at 5.30pm on Sundays during Lent. This devotion provides an opportunity for us to walk the road to Calvary with Our Blessed Lord.



### Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Children's Celebrations

All children are welcome to join us at 12pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we observe both days with child-friendly services. During these hands-on services, children of all ages will walk together through the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross, learning as they go. On Good Friday we will need children from year 5 and above, for readings, and actors from year 3 and above to take part in the performance; sign up forms will be available at the back of the church soon.

### Lenten Reconciliation

A Lenten Reconciliation service will be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm here in the Parish of St Agatha for everyone. It is an opportunity



for those who would like to go to confession before the Easter Triduum, which begins on Maundy Thursday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the healing sacraments and a powerful help on our Journey of Faith.

### Friday Penance

'The Bishops [of England and Wales] wish to remind us that every Friday is set aside as a special day of penitence, as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. They believe that it is important that all the faithful again be united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance because they recognise that the virtue of penitence is best acquired as part of a common resolve and common witness. The law of the Church requires Catholics on Fridays to abstain from meat, or some other form of food, or to observe some other form of penance laid down by the Bishops' Conference (Canon 1251). The Bishops decided to re-establish the practice that this penance should be fulfilled simply by abstaining from meat and by uniting this to prayer. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake'. The form of penance we chose to adopt each Friday is a matter of personal choice and does not have to take the same form every Friday. Failure to undertake this penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE A SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### "THE TRANSFIGURATION"

"Reality or vision, this we have seen.

If it had lasted but another moment

It might have held for ever! But the world  
Rolled back into its place, and we are here,  
And all that radiant kingdom lies forlorn,  
As if it had never stirred; no human voice  
Is heard among its meadows, but it speaks  
To itself alone, alone it flowers and shines  
And blossoms for itself while time runs on"

Thus, writes the Scottish poet Edwin Muir (1887-1959) in the concluding verses of his poem "The Transfiguration". His words reflect the spontaneous outburst of the Apostle Peter, who said: "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Which one of us would not wish to hold on to the moment of ecstasy, the moment of beauty, the moment of revelation, when all is clear and we are removed from the turmoil of everyday living?

"And we are here". On this Second Sunday of Lent. In this church. At this unique moment in our precious lives. Preparing to enter once more into the life-giving death of Jesus which we celebrate in the Paschal Mystery.

Most Rev George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff.

### 'What can I do for Lent?'

'Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving' is the Lenten tradition. We are required to fast by reducing food intake on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but giving up something (e.g. chocolate or alcohol) is also fasting. Extra prayer during Lent is very important.

Other suggestions also include:

- \*say some additional prayers each day
- \*visit the Blessed Sacrament
- \*go to weekday Mass if you can
- \*buy a booklet to guide your reflections.
- \*make the special effort involved in family prayer.
- \*choose one of the Gospels and read it during Lent.
- \*study the Sunday readings before coming to Mass
- \*come to the Stations of the Cross
- \*receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- \*Make a special effort to help someone who is poor, sick, old or lonely.
- \*Giving to those less fortunate than yourself.

### St Agatha's Church Easter Spring Clean

In previous years, when asked, we have been blessed with a great turnout of parishioners to help clear, tidy up and plant in the church grounds. This year we are having a day dedicated to 'Spring Cleaning and Tidying up our Church and Grounds' and we again call on our kind volunteers to help prepare our beautiful church inside and outside for Easter. If you can spare a couple of hours on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020**, please come along and join us in the Cloister after the morning Mass. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to assist. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, it will be greatly appreciated! All teenagers will be especially welcome, together with those aged 11 – 13 (accompanied by an adult please) but for safety purposes, sadly, no smaller children. Volunteers who would like to help spruce up the gardens – please kindly bring gardening tools and gloves with you. Refreshments will be available and a soup lunch will be provided after. There will be a sheet in the church porch for volunteers to sign up so that we can have refreshments arranged according to numbers expected. Many thanks.

### Church Flowers during Lent

One of the ways we have decided to observe Lent is by not having flowers in the church during this season of austerity and simple reflection.

We hope this absence of flowers during Lent will amplify the resurrection message of the Easter flowers when they arrive!