

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.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES
SUNDAY 12TH JULY 2020
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, (A)

Saturday 11th

9am John & Margaret Finn RIP
6.30pm People of the Parish

Sunday 12th 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am Alfred Knight RIP
10.30am Zoe Wilson RIP
6.30pm David Rattray RIP

Monday 13th

9.30am Canon Christopher Tuckwell RIP

Tuesday 14th

9.30am Holy Souls

Wednesday 15th

9.30am

Thursday 16th

9.30am Holy Souls

Friday 17th

9.30am

Saturday 18th

9.30am Private Intention for Gerry White
6.30pm People of the Parish

Morning Prayer:

Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM

Mass Times:

Saturday: 09:30, 18:30

Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30

Monday to Friday: 09:30

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

Jane Agnes Dillon, Elisabeth Coveney, Rose Pereira, Rosanna Healy, Louisa Crosbie, Sarah Birch, Kathleen Godfrey, George Staunton, James Reed, Ann Deuvall, Horace Cave, Sean & Joan O'Connor, Georgina Perez, Margaret Johnson, Eve Pearce, Anne Brown, Antonio Tomassi, Harriet Johnson, David Crew, Frances Trout, Annie Evenden, Patricia Green, Peter Henry Bowden, Antony Cox, Eileen Flynn, William Miles. ++ May they rest in Peace ++

LET US REMEMBER

Let us remember those who have died recently, 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.

St Agatha's Church is open for Public Worship

We have resumed public worship from Sunday 5th July 2020. However, whilst many are excited about the prospects of returning to Mass after three months, we must do everything possible to make the participation at Mass safe through the required hygiene and social distancing measures. Numbers for each Mass will be limited; we are maintaining a distance of 2 metres, which means the wearing of face masks is a personal choice. We have 28 seating areas, which has 2 areas per pew, and each area can have no more than 4 persons each (adults and children). Therefore, a household of 5 (i.e. 2 adults and 3 children) or more will be asked to use a whole pew. Once all the allocated seats in the church are filled, there will be no further access into the church.

We have also been instructed that we MUST comply with the Governments NHS Track and Trace requirements, which means that everyone coming to the church must provide their contact details upon entering. If you are able to complete the form before coming to the church to hand to the stewards this would be very helpful. It can be downloaded from the parish website.

Extra Masses are not permitted at the moment on Sundays and numbers will need to be restricted by our Stewards. Please, kindly note that the dispensation from Sunday obligation granted by the Bishops at the onset of the lockdown is still in place until further notice and we encourage you to come to the weekday Masses instead of Sundays as this will be helpful for numbers in church and may be more convenient for our elderly parishioners.

Livestreaming of a Sunday Mass, 10.30am, will continue, from our website and a Facebook page for that those who may not consider it safe for them to attend Mass in person.

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

Holy Communion, under 'one kind' must be received in the hand. Fr Anthony or Fr Ebuka will give clear instructions during Mass regarding Holy Communion – please follow them. Mass will be kept simple, and there can be no singing. Homilies will be brief and there will be no Prayer of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers).

The main doors will be left open (weather permitting) during Masses.

There will an opportunity to give to the parish through a static collection box at the entrance and exits. Mass Intentions can also be posted at this point.

The times of Masses will be as in normal time. Please note: there may also be last minute changes, depending on availability of stewards.



PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



For your safety, and that of others, please see key instructions below:

- Please sanitise your hands well on entering and exiting – hand-sanitiser is provided.
- At all times follow the directions of the stewards and the signs in church.
- Please note the stewards act in Fr. Anthony's name and with his authority.
- Once all the allocated seats in the church are filled, there will be no further access into the church.
- If you feel unwell, please do not put others in danger and stay at home. Please **do not** visit the Church if you have a high temperature or a new continuous cough or less of or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell.
- Please be prompt to leave when Mass is finished, but be guided by the stewards
- Physical veneration of relics, statues and shrines is not permitted.
- No person under 16 is allowed to enter a church building unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Please note that the toilets will not be available.

Consider Bringing Your Sunday Missal To Mass

As part of the safety measures as we resume Mass with a congregation, Mass Books will not be provided till further notice and, for environmental reasons, we will not supply single-use Mass Sheets. If you would like to consider purchasing your own Sunday Missal, there are a couple of options at: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk> – the Redemptorists Sunday Missal "Your Sunday Missal" or <https://www.ctsbooks.org/returning-to-mass/> – CTS Sunday Missal. Both priced at around £20.

Mass Intentions

Fr Anthony and Fr Ebuka continue to offer daily Masses. We have plenty of available slots for upcoming 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, it is very important that you let the parish office know as soon as possible and 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 or call the parish office during office hours.

Psalm 65:10-14

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

More Church Stewards STILL Urgently Needed:
IF WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH STEWARDS ON ROTA
OUR CHURCH WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OPEN.

Our thanks to our current stewards, without their help we would not be able to open, and thanks also to all who have called into the church, for adhering to the new way of doing things.

One of the diocese requirements is that we must have at least two stewards in the church at the times the church is open, this is for both private prayer this week and also for Public Worship services from Sunday 5th July 2020. For our Sunday Masses we require at least 4 Stewards. Stewards will assist with showing people what to do, where they can sit and how to keep themselves and others safe and to complete the track and trace information cards. Our current opening times have been arranged around the availability of our stewards. If we can get more volunteers to offer their time on different days then we will be able to open for more of our Public Worship Masses in the coming weeks.

In order to enable this, we are asking for more volunteers to join the rota; if you are in good health, with no underlying health issues, are under 70 and not shielding anyone vulnerable at home (NB not those classed as "vulnerable" to Covid-19), please consider doing this for one a week.

If you are able to help, please email the parish office kingston@rcaos.org.uk with the following information:

- Your contact details (name, email address and phone number).
- What day Monday – Sunday and time (Saturdays and Sundays only) morning or evening you can help.
- Any particular day of the week you can commit to. It would be easier if people could generally commit to the same slot each week (but not essential).

Please do get in touch as soon as possible. Instructions and PPE equipment will be provided. This is a serious task, and all the measures being put in place will need to be adhered to at all times, but it will also be a joyful time, welcoming people back to the real presence of Our Lord.

The Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast.

~ *Evangelii Gaudium*, para. 24

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A
SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-23 (shorter form: Matthew 13:1-9)

Jesus teaches that the kingdom of heaven is like seed that has been sown on good soil.

Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward—of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

Family Reflection

Today's Gospel reminds us that in order for God's Word to take root in us and produce abundant fruit, we must endeavour to be like good soil. Families, in particular, hold the responsibility for "preparing the soil" so that the seeds of God's Word can grow strong. There are many ways in which families do this—family traditions in which faith is celebrated, prayer and reading of Scripture, and instruction on the faith. In these ways, parents fulfil the promises they made at their child's Baptism.

Gather together as a family and reflect together on the Sacrament of Baptism. Tell the story of the Baptism of each child, showing any pictures that were taken. If you have your child's Baptism candle or gown, share these as well. Recall together that one of the promises that parents make at their child's Baptism is to bring them up in the practice of our faith. Talk together about the importance of this promise to your family. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 13:1-23. Reflect together on the ways in which your family practices your faith (daily prayer, Mass attendance, religious instruction, etc.). Remind one another that we do these things as a family so that God's Word can take root in our lives and produce abundant fruit. Conclude in prayer together by praying today's Psalm, Psalm 65.

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".

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/21

We have had a few enquiries regarding the new Gift Aid envelopes for 2020/21 which commenced in April. The envelopes have been received from the diocese, unfortunately we are unable to issue them until we have instructions from the diocese to do so in a safe way. Could all of those parishioners who are in touch and are keeping those members of our community who do not have access to the internet with news, please convey this message to them. Also, for those of you who have been putting their weekly offering aside at home, we now have a donations box in the church porch where you can post your envelopes when you visit.

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)

We thank you for your continued generosity.