

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 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, (A)**

Saturday 12th	
9.30am	Canon John McNamara RIP
6.30pm	Thomas Turnbull RIP
Sunday 13th 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
9am	Birthday Intentions for Dina Francisco (14 th Sept)
10.30am	People of the Parish
6.30pm	Mary T Collins
Monday 14th The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast	
9.30am	Edith Knight RIP
Tuesday 15th Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 16th Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Memorial	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Eileen Caverley
Thursday 17th	
9.30am	Michael Strong RIP
Friday 18th	
9.30am	Louisa Giles RIP
Saturday 19th	
9.30am	Seamus Dooley RIP
6.30pm	Protection, Peace, Health & Faith for Nathanael

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

Nancy Casey, Herminea Lintern, Roseanna Stimson, Henry Stimson, Anne Collopy, Roy Browne, Oswald Garrow-Fisher, William Parker, Edward Heaton Harris, Kathleen Edwards, Ellie Mary Cahill, Michael Henry, Marie Dolan, Thomas Murray, Carlo Fiorellino, Kate Glasbey, Percival Rowland McCormack, Francis Steward, Norma Verhoven, Arnold Brenninkmeyer, William Brady, Daniel Cullinane, Eric Wilson, Eric Ross, Peter Jones, Stella Teresa Solly, Alice Goodchild, Michael Harrison, Mary Josephine Thomas, John Elliot, Julia Forde, Reginald Jackson, Kathleen O'Connell, Cathleen Seymour, Colman Tierney, Nora Gugen, Seamus Dooley, Caroline Battye, Kathleen Isabel Shanahan. ++ **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.....

More Church Stewards URGENTLY Needed PLEASE

Our thanks to our current stewards for their ongoing assistance, without their help we would not be able to open for every mass. However, we urgently need more volunteers to join our steward's rota, especially for our Sunday Masses. We currently have approximately 20 stewards to cover 24 slots every week, which means a number of stewards cover 2 or even 3 masses a week and we really do not want to continually burden the same people. As the rota stands at the moment for September, we are at a high risk of not being able to open for some of our Sunday masses. Please get in touch with the Parish secretary as soon as possible if you can help, even if it just once a month. Thank you.

One of the diocese requirements is that we must have at least two stewards in the church at the times the church is open, for all Public Worship services. For our Sunday Masses we require at least 3 Stewards. Stewards 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 continue opening for all 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 Mass 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. .



St Agatha's Church is open for Public Worship

We have resumed public worship, however, whilst many are excited about the prospects of returning to Mass, 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. 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 asked that we should comply with the Governments NHS Track and Trace requirements, which means that everyone coming to the church will be asked to 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 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, and windows, will be left open (weather permitting) during Masses.

There will be 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.

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

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.
- Please wear a face covering or mask whilst in the church. Please see further guidance above.
- 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.

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35 Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

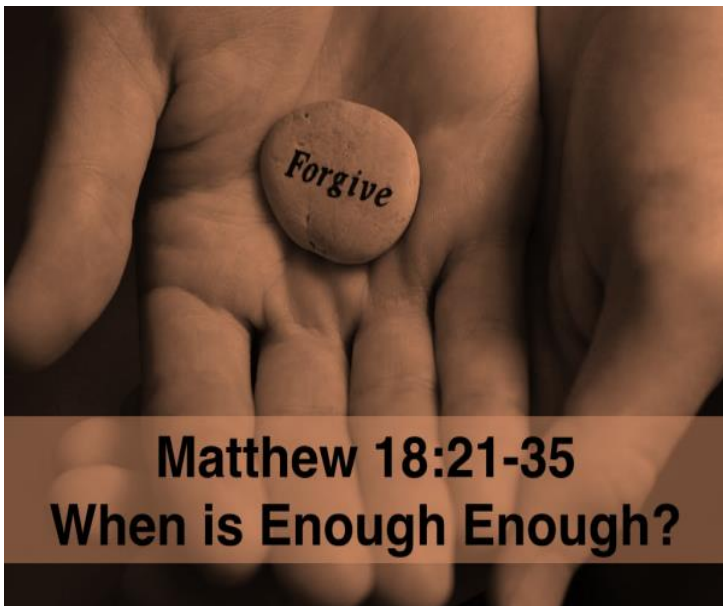
Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.



Family Reflection

Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as "I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks" or "I will accept your apology after you clean up your room." Do we sometimes "keep count" or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart.

Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

First Holy Communion 2020/2021



Applications and details for next year's FHC will be available in early October. Please check the website and newsletter for updates.

St Agatha's Confirmation 2020

We have not yet been able to make arrangements for our Confirmation Mass. We will email all parents as soon as we have any details.



Baptism Preparation Class and Baptisms



We hope to hold a baptism preparation class in early September, further details will be available soon. If you have already attended a class earlier this year please call the parish office to discuss and arrange a date for your child's baptism.

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 your preferred wedding date.



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.

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

Communion must be given silently in the hand only, with the communicant standing, and avoiding any physical contact. People should wait in their pews until instructed to move forward to the priest for Holy Communion, always aware of the regulations on social distancing in an orderly queue. When they approach the priest, they should do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between the priest and the communicant. Their hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible. The communicant should unloop their face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace the face covering before moving back to their pews.

For readers: Readers should sanitise their hands before and after reading and should avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, apart from page turning. Readers may remove their face coverings at the lectern to read and should replace them before stepping away from it providing the lectern is sufficiently distant from the congregation

Thus, in the spirit of the Book of Leviticus (25:8-12), Christians will have to raise their voice on behalf of all the poor of the world, proposing the jubilee as an appropriate time to give thought, among other things, to reducing substantially, if not cancelling outright, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations" ~ Pope Saint John Paul II, Tertio Millennio Adveniente, para. 51

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/21

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

Could all of those parishioners who are in touch with 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)

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.

