

PLEASE NOTE: 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](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) In case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry only please call 020 8546 4633.

### FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

#### SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

##### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Marisa RIP

6.30pm James & Kathleen Boyle RIP

##### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

9am Alan Howe RIP

10.30am Wellbeing of Alan & Keith Fraser

6.30pm Wellbeing of José Camara

##### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> St John of the Cross, Priest, Memorial

9.30am Rosa Beresford RIP

##### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Right Rev. Peter Emmanuel Amigo RIP

##### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Francis Jarvis RIP

##### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Bernadette Yakubu

##### Friday 18<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Pauline Welham RIP

##### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

9.30am Patrick Sheehy RIP

6.30pm Harriet Alexander RIP

**Morning Prayer:** Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM

**Mass Times:** Saturday: 09:30, 18:30

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

### 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 Cogle 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

*Hannah Walsh, Katherine Trigg, Teresa Short, Bernadette Morrissey, Elisabeth Mahoney, Mary Anne Clarke, Edith Kate Letchworth, Dominic Fuouco, John Henry Isaac, Adelaide Clement, Julia Walsh, Elizabeth Milnes, Elizabeth Treffer, Bishop Brown, George William Smith, Thomas Easter, Charles Arday, James Flynn, Frances Jarvis, Ada Laing, Margaret Reagan, Manuelina Fernandes, Ronald Mills, Hermann Hartjes, John Lemmon, Dan Geaney, Julian Harrison, Karl Heinz Benkert, James McHugh, Maria Teresa Grassi, May Young.*

**++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.



### Christmas Decorations and Cleaning

A huge *Thank You* to our school parents who kindly organised the decorations and Christmas trees for the church, and to those who gave up their time to help put them up. Ours thanks also to everyone for your assistance with the Christmas cleaning day, we had a great turn out! We think you will agree that after the difficult year we have all had the church is looking glorious and very festive for this special time. There are dozens and dozens of people involved in making everything run smoothly at St. Agatha's during the festive periods; we thank you one and all!



### Christmas Eve Christingle Service

Christmas is coming... which means that we are getting closer to our Christingle Service. This is a very special way of celebrating the real meaning of Christmas with all our friends, family and the whole St Agatha's community. Sadly, this year we will not be able to have our traditional service, however, we are arranging a virtual service. Please join us for our online Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm. Full details will be available on the parish newsletter and website next weekend.

### Christingle-making kits

Sadly, this year we will not be able get together to prepare the Christingle oranges. So, this year we are doing something different and we are asking everyone to make their own Christingles before watching our livestreamed Christingle service. Included in the pack is everything you will need to make your Christingle, just add an orange! Minimum donation £2 per kit. Christingle-making kits will be available to purchase at:

ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL on the Astroturf at pick up on Wed 16th, Thurs 17th and Fri 18th December

ST AGATHA'S CHURCH after mass on Sat 19th and Sun 20th December

### Advent and Christmas Programme 2020

The times and details of all Masses and Services are listed in the Advent and Christmas 2020 Programme, copies are available in the church porch and details are on the parish website.

### Adoration & Reconciliation

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December the church will be open from 7-8pm for Adoration & Reconciliation.

### Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will be held at 11.30pm; the church will be open from 11-11.30pm for Private Prayer.



**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE.....

### Our Church is open for Public Masses

In line with the Government's latest announcement, our Church is open for Public Masses and we have resumed our normal Mass schedule. Please note: there may be last minute changes, depending on availability of stewards.

### Please continue to join us for live streaming of our Sunday 10.30am Mass

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>

- We ask that you do not enter the church if you have cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Social distancing should be maintained at all times, both inside and outside the church building.
- Face coverings must be worn in the church at all times by people over the age of 11, unless they have a medical exemption.
- All surfaces will be cleaned when the church is closed. Please try to avoid touching things in church unnecessarily.
- Please ensure you observe the rules regarding face masks, NHS Track and Trace, use sanitising gel on entering and leaving.
- Please sit in designated seating, and as guided by our church stewards.

**We are very grateful for all the volunteer stewards who continue to help, without our stewards we could not open the church!**

### School Application Form Signing

The time of year has come when many parents are thinking about places in a Catholic School. 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.

A priest will be available to sign school application forms on: **Thursday 17th December 2020 between 2.30pm and 4pm**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery.

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, if not baptised here at St Agatha's. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2020.

### Parish Office

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2020 until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, therefore the parish office will be closed. Please only call the presbytery in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry. For non-urgent enquiries please email [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)



## Crib Offerings

This year's crib offerings will go to the Catholic Children's Society's Crisis Fund. The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) supports disadvantaged children and families across London, Hertfordshire and the South East. They work with individuals of all faiths and none; their sole aim is to help those in greatest need. Many families are facing desperate situations due to loss of work and social isolation. Since March, they've helped over 2,300 vulnerable children with funding for food and basic essentials to help them through this challenging time. This has only been possible thanks to the generosity of their supporters. By making a donation you can help them reach out to more families in urgent need.

## Mass Intentions

It is a very busy time for Mass requests and sometimes Masses can be booked weeks in advance, so if you have a particular date or time on which you want the Mass said, it is imperative that you 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. 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 require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details.

## 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 for January) 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 were not permitted to go ahead. An email was 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 be available soon. 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.



Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace. ~ Pope Francis

**Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B**  
**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**Gospel Reading**

*John 1:6-8,19-28*

*John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.*

**Gospel Reflection**

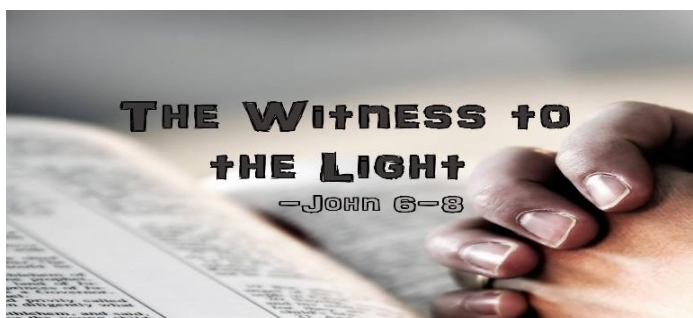
This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the saviour they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our saviour. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfil the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

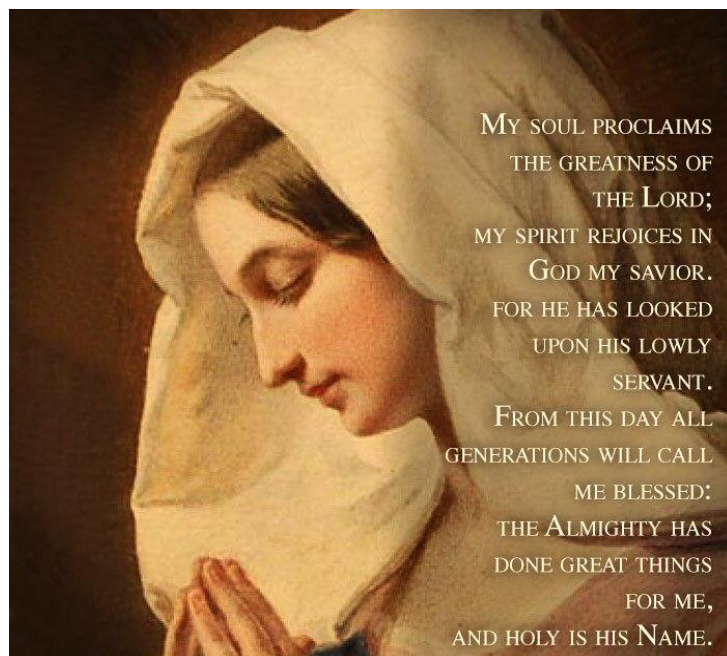


**Family Reflection**

In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.

As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus' presence in our world. Consider some of the signs of Jesus' presence that you have experienced. During Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:6-8,19-28. Discuss the signs of Jesus' presence in our world that you named and explain what these signs tell us about God and God's love for us. Pray together that your family will be led to recognize that Jesus is present among us. Read and pray together the psalm for today's Mass, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).

**Sunday Connection, Loyola Press**



**A PRAYER FOR THE  
Third Sunday of Advent**

Joy-filled Giver of Life,  
let the anticipation of your birth  
fill us with overflowing joy.  
May our excitement and anticipation  
be a sign to the world  
that you are always near.  
Amen.



**SCAM ALERT** – Please be aware that fraudulent messages are again circulating via e-mail allegedly coming from our Priests, Bishops, or others in the Catholic community, asking for ‘an urgent favour’ or ‘help’. 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 okay or busy and ask for a favour. 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 any Priests, either contact their offices directly to check whether they are authentic, or just ignore the message. **PLEASE Do NOT** reply to it.

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**CAFOD. SURVIVE - REBUILD - HEAL.**



CAFOD during lockdown; in common with all charities relying upon public donations, CAFOD have witnessed a not unexpected drop in income as regular mass attendance becomes problematic. They do however, cite an increase in "parishioners" donating via on-line, text or telephone. In acknowledging this continued commitment and solidarity with our global family throughout coronavirus, CAFOD remind us of Pope Francis' expression in his encyclical Fratelli Tutti of being a "neighbour without borders".

If you are so minded to support CAFOD's work during these trying times or require more information, simply go to [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) or phone 020 7733 7900. CAFOD's website is literally a smorgasbord of campaigns, news and fundraising ideas. Fundraising can be enjoyable, hence the first three letters.

Christmas is coming! But how can you find unusual charity presents for your friends and family that make a difference to people living in poverty? Buying a World Gift is the perfect solution. World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families living in poverty across the world. Gifts that change lives and bring happiness! Order by 16 December for free delivery in time for Christmas! For each gift you buy this Christmas, you'll receive a beautiful gift card to pass on to your loved one. More information can be found at: [www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk](http://www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk) or pick up a copy the catalogue in the church porch.

**CAFOD thank you for your continued support.**

## **OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS**

As we approach Christmastide, your offertory donations continue to be vital. A big thank you to all those who are still 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, our church still needs to be insured and maintained. We are doing our best to save money but, we still have to pay contributions to the diocese, salaries and other various expenses.

Without our usual weekly collections during the months of the lockdowns 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 a one-off bank transfer directly are:

**Please pay: National Westminster, Kingston Marketplace  
For the credit of: St Agatha's Roman Catholic Church  
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.**

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## **GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/21**

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)

The émigré Holy Family of Nazareth, fleeing into Egypt, is the archetype of every refugee family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, living in exile in Egypt to escape the fury of an evil king, are, for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, alien and refugee of whatever kind who, whether compelled by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave his native land, his beloved parents and relatives, his close friends, and to seek a foreign soil. ~ Pope Pius XII

13 Dec – Nearest Sunday to International Migrants Day, 18 Dec