

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 16TH FEBRUARY 2020.
6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 15th	
9.30am	Mary Frances MacDonald RIP
6.30pm	Thanksgiving for Boneca & Gavin
Sunday 16th 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
9.00am	Arthur & Robin O'Connor RIP
10.30am	People of the Parish
6.30pm	Wellbeing of Loretta Jonassen
Monday 17th	
9.30am	Bridget Hegarty RIP
Tuesday 18th	
9.30am	Edith & Alfred Knight RIP
Wednesday 19th	
9.30am	John Pereira RIP
Thursday 20th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Friday 21st	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Norman, Karen & Family
Saturday 22nd The Chair of St Peter, Apostle, Feast	
9.30am	Private Intentions for Gerry White
6.30pm	Wellbeing of Nancy Boylan

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 (7th March 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 and Philip Cockle. *Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either you or your relatives want to be mentioned on our sick list.*

ANNIVERSARIES

Fanny Margaret Cook, Morwen Short, Margaret Radley, Georgina Helen Petit, Selene Robinson, Peter Mulvaney, Alicia Coll, Anthony Scott, Edward Cook, Agnes Hope, Alison Weyers, Mary Connell, Charles Hope, Ethel Pyke, Edward Mitchell, Vincenza Marchese, Sheila McCormick, Edwin Reeves, Bridget Fenton, Mary Kathleen Dudley, William Lucas, Bruno Zuffo, Bernard McArdle, Mary West, George Alexander, Thomas McCormack, Charles Waddell, Mervyn Woolger, Ursula Nolan, Julia Turner, Nestor Paralta, Maria Onorato, Michael Whelan, Giovanna Capaldi, Mary Ellen O'Donoghue. +++ 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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A
SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2020

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:17–37 I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfil them.

Reflection

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three-part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbour.

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Over the next 2 weeks we will have a Thanksgiving collection for Fr. Pius Duke, MSP, to thank him for his ministry here at St. Agatha's. Envelopes are available at the back of the church to make your gift, please hand in your envelopes by Sunday 1st March 2020.

Daily Adoration

Please note that there will be no Morning Adoration before Mass on Monday 17th and Monday 24th February 2020.

WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEKEND!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME CYCLE A
SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2020,**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:17–37 I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfil them.

Family Reflection

Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos. As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together. Think about rules for play time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on. Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of showing love and respect for one another. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law. Say: God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another.

Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17–37. Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family. Conclude by praying for the grace to overcome anger and to show respect for one another as a family by following God's Law of love.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Parish Men's Group

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be on **Thursday 20th February 2020** at the Wych Elm from 8.00pm.



St Agatha's Church Youth Club

This week is Half-term; Club resumes on Friday 28th February 2020.

Tea, Coffee and Cake

Tea, coffee and cake will be served in the Cloister after the Sunday 9am Mass on the **last Sunday of each month: 23rd February 2020**. Do come and join us to meet and greet others, and our clergy, especially if you are new to the parish. If you attend this Mass and would like to help, please email the parish office.

First Holy Communion

FHC Classes continue with children's session 5 on **Sunday 23rd February 2020**. Session 6 will be on Sunday 1st March 2020.



St Agatha's Confirmation 2020

The next candidate session will be on **Thursday 27th February 2020 at 7.15pm**.

Confirmation retreat day is on Saturday 29th February 2020. The following session will be on Thursday 5th March 2020.



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

Important Upcoming Dates:

Mon 17 th	School Half Term
Sun 23 rd Feb	FHC Session 5
Wed 26 th Feb	Ash Wednesday
Thurs 27 th Feb	Nursery Application Signing
Thurs 27 th Feb	Confirmation Session 5
Fri 28 th Feb	St Agatha's Church Youth Club
Sat 29 th Feb	Confirmation Retreat Day

Offerings

First collection	Gift Aid	£480.50	Loose	£492.54
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£3.00	Loose	£72.19

TOTAL £1048.23

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

Next weekend's retiring collection will be for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

Diocesan Directory 2020

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

Church Banners

If anyone would be interested in sponsoring the purchase of Seasonal Banners for Lent or Easter, please contact the Parish Office to discuss further.

"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 27th June. Please see leaflets and noticeboard for more details. If you would like to attend, please contact the Parish Secretary.

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.

Nursery 2020 Application Forms

A priest will be available to sign Nursery school application forms on **Thursday 27th February 2020 from 5-6pm**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery. 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. 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.**

Part 3 – SACRED SCRIPTURE

III. The Holy Spirit, Interpreter of Scripture

In Sacred Scripture, God speaks to man in a human way. To interpret Scripture correctly, the reader must be attentive to what the human authors truly wanted to affirm, and to what God wanted to reveal to us by their words.

In order to discover the sacred authors' intention, the reader must take into account the conditions of their time and culture, the literary genres in use at that time, and the modes of feeling, speaking and narrating then current. "For the fact is that truth is differently presented and expressed in the various types of historical writing, in prophetic and poetical texts, and in other forms of literary expression."

But since Sacred Scripture is inspired, there is another and no less important principle of correct interpretation, without which Scripture would remain a dead letter. "Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written."

The Second Vatican Council indicates three criteria for interpreting Scripture in accordance with the Spirit who inspired it.

Be especially attentive "to the content and unity of the whole Scripture". Different as the books which compose it may be, Scripture is a unity by reason of the unity of God's plan, of which Christ Jesus is the centre and heart, open since his Passover.

The phrase "heart of Christ" can refer to Sacred Scripture, which makes known his heart, closed before the Passion, as the Scripture was obscure. But the Scripture has been opened since the Passion; since those who from then on have understood it, consider and discern in what way the prophecies must be interpreted.

Read the Scripture within "the living Tradition of the whole Church". According to a saying of the Fathers, Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records, for the Church carries in her Tradition the living memorial of God's Word, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives her the spiritual interpretation of the Scripture ("... according to the spiritual meaning which the Spirit grants to the Church").

Be attentive to the analogy of faith. By "analogy of faith" we mean the coherence of the truths of faith among themselves and within the whole plan of Revelation.

The senses of Scripture

According to an ancient tradition, one can distinguish between two senses of Scripture: the literal and the spiritual, the latter being subdivided into the allegorical, moral and anagogical senses. The profound concordance of the four senses guarantees all its richness to the living reading of Scripture in the Church.

The literal sense is the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture and discovered by exegesis, following the rules of sound interpretation: "All other senses of Sacred Scripture are based on the literal."⁸³

The spiritual sense. Thanks to the unity of God's plan, not only the text of Scripture but also the realities and events about which it speaks can be signs.

1. the allegorical sense. We can acquire a more profound understanding of events by recognizing their significance in Christ; thus, the crossing of the Red Sea is a sign or type of Christ's victory and also of Christian Baptism.

2. the moral sense. The events reported in Scripture ought to lead us to act justly. As St. Paul says, they were written "for our instruction".

3. the anagogical sense (Greek: anagoge, "leading"). We can view realities and events in terms of their eternal significance, leading us toward our true homeland: thus, the Church on earth is a sign of the heavenly Jerusalem.

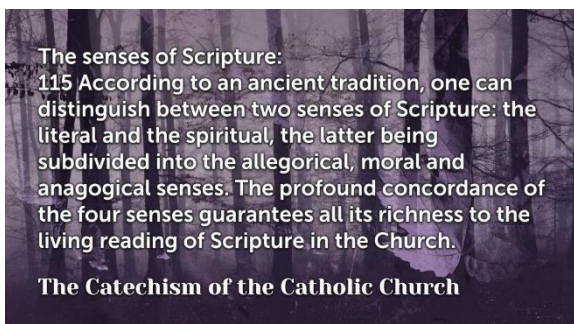
A medieval couplet summarizes the significance of the four senses:

The Letter speaks of deeds; Allegory to faith;
The Moral how to act; Anagogy our destiny.

"It is the task of exegetes to work, according to these rules, towards a better understanding and explanation of the meaning of Sacred Scripture in order that their research may help the Church to form a firmer judgement. For, of course, all that has been said about the manner of interpreting Scripture is ultimately subject to the judgement of the Church which exercises the divinely conferred commission and ministry of watching over and interpreting the Word of God."

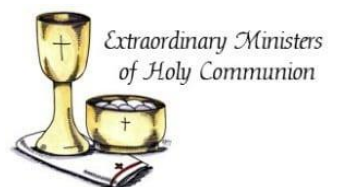
But I would not believe in the Gospel, had not the authority of the Catholic Church already moved me.

Libreria Editrice Vaticana



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

We congratulate 9 of our parishioners who were commissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday 1st February 2020 at St Georges Cathedral by Bishop Paul Hendricks. We thank you for your service and dedication.



CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday 6 March 2020.

It is worth remembering that CAFOD are part of the Catholic Church's helping hand Caritas. One of 160 'members' working at the grassroots in almost every country in the world. To paraphrase their remit, it is to reach-out to the poor, vulnerable and excluded, regardless of race or religion, to build a world based on justice and fraternal love. It follows that our support for CAFOD is in effect supporting those working within the Caritas network. Sister Consilis in Zimbabwe is one of CAFOD's local experts. She is a trained pharmacist, part of a team, that treats people with malaria, typhoid and other preventable diseases. This is one of many examples of the amazing highly trained, local experts that you help around the world through CAFOD. Your donations to CAFOD are like an outstretched arm offering support. CAFOD cite the examples of Ebola doctors in DR Congo, peace activists in Columbia or disability rights campaigners in Bangladesh. For more information on CAFOD's activities, please go to cafod.org.uk, or if you are so minded, please make the time to view the evolving information in the church porch. CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

You are invited to join us on Friday 6th March 2020, between 12.30 and 1.30pm for a simple soup lunch to help our family, wherever they live. A bowl of soup and bread roll will cost just £1.50. All proceeds will be going towards the work of CAFOD.



Baptism Preparation Class

Our next Baptism preparation class is on **Sunday 5th 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.



The righteous know the rights of the poor;
the wicked have no such understanding.

Proverbs 29:7

16 February – Nearest Sunday before World Day
of Social Justice (20 Feb)

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.



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.

St Agatha's Catholic Primary School Nursery Admissions September 2020

If your child is born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, they are entitled to start Nursery in September 2020. Closing date for all applications is 6th March 2020. Find further information, visit their website: www.stagathas.school or telephone: 020 8546 3879 [ask for Sharon Parsons] or e-mail: office@stagathas.school



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

- A Day with Mary
- Fundraising Volunteer Role at Southwark Archdiocese
- London SW Catholic Social Group
- Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine
- The Mustard Seed
- Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend