

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. In case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry only please call 020 8546 4633.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

**SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

Saturday 19th	
9.30am	Patrick Sheehy RIP
6.30pm	Harriet Alexander RIP
Sunday 20th	
4th Sunday of Advent Sea Sunday	
9am	Millicent Mary Laing RIP
10.30am	Margaret Kathleen Jennings RIP
6.30pm	Tony & Josephine Kelly
Monday 21st	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Noel Roycroft
Tuesday 22nd	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 23rd	
9.30am	Special Intentions
Thursday 24th	
9.30am	The Murphy Family
4pm	Christingle Service
6.30pm	Natalino Evangelista RIP
11.30pm	Eileen Caverly
Friday 25th	
The Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity	
9am	Private Intention
10.30am	Rev. Fr. Gerry O'Brien RIP

**SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2020
HOLY FAMILY (B)**

Saturday 26th	
St Stephen, the first Martyr, Feast	
9.30am	Wellbeing of James Perrin
6.30pm	Mrs Anne Lynch RIP
Sunday 27th	
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Feast	
9am	Angelo & Tina Piccirillo RIP
10.30am	Ellen Metcalf RIP
6.30pm	Julia & Michael Nally
Monday 28th	
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs feast	
9.30am	Fred, Mary Jo & Family
Tuesday 29th	
St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop, Feast	
9.30am	Wellbeing & Christmas Blessings for Una Smith
Wednesday 30th	
12pm	Holy souls
Thursday 31st	
9.30am	Staff on Maternity & NNU Wards of Kingston Hospital
Friday 1st	
Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Solemnity	
12pm	David Rattray RIP
Saturday 2nd	
Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Memorial	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Christine Lysaght
6.30pm	John Davis RIP
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM	
Mass Times: Saturday: 09:30, 18:30	
Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30	

Attending Mass over Christmastide

Due to the current capacity restrictions in our churches, our Bishops have reminded us that we can attend any Mass to celebrate Christmas during the Christmas Octave (25th December 2020 – 1st January 2021). The obligation to attend Mass is still lifted so, if you prefer you, can also join in with Mass via our livestreamed services.



Our Church is open for Public Masses

Our Church is open for Public Masses throughout Christmas and the new year; we will continue 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>

The following Masses will also be live streamed:

CHRISTMAS EVE:

4PM VIRTUAL CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

11.30PM MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY:

10.30AM FAMILY MASS

- 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 those 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 sit in designated seating, and as guided by our church stewards.

We are evermore grateful for all the volunteer stewards who are helping, without our stewards we could not open the church!

Peppe is supporting our local families, this Christmas. He has decided to cook a free Christmas lunch on Christmas Day for ANY families who are struggling, isolating or in need! He will provide Christmas Lunch for the whole family, and presents for children. If this would help YOU please contact Peppe directly by Monday 21st December with your details, number in family, and to find out how to collect on Christmas Morning: email pepperrestaurant@gmail.com or call 020 8546 3885



Everyone, please do share with anyone you may know who might benefit and help make Christmas even more special. If anybody would like to help out or donate ingredients, or toys for the children, please let Peppe know as soon as possible

Farewell to Fr. Ebuka

Father Ebuka has been appointed as Parish Priest of the Church of The Most Holy Family, Llandudno Junction, North Wales from the New Year. We thank him immensely for his ministry over the past months. He joined us as interim assistant priest at an extraordinary time, just before lockdown. Please take an opportunity to say thank you and wish him well this week. We will have a thanksgiving collection for him in the New Year.

WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR! PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Sea Sunday 2020

Today is Sea Sunday when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Seafarers and fishers are among the heroes of this pandemic, ensuring that food, medicine and other vital equipment continues to be delivered to us. Envelopes are available to support our parish's collection for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. Please note that due to Covid-19 this appeal is later than usual.



For an appeal from Bishop Paul Mason, and for a video showing some of the work Stella Maris does, please visit www.Stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important mission.

If you are unable to donate in church, you can give via www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations.

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

James McHugh, Maria Teresa Grassi, May Young, Henry Edward Clarke, Patrick Nash, Una Conway, Mollie Flynn, Margaret Kennedy, Bridget McCleane, Curtis Conrad Oesterreicher, John King, Martin Coughlan, Ernest William Evans, Evelyn Golding, Lilian Mary Duckett, Dominico Ferritto, Mary Anne Mullen, David McDonald, William Christopher Game, Natalino Evangelista, Bernard McArdle, Barbara McArdle, Margaret Brennan, William Albert Robinson, John Cullinane, Maud Adams, Percy Smith, Alice Rigby, Richard Browne, Henry Talbot, Catherine Boulter, Ellen McDonnell, Annie Jardine, Joseph Rankin, Millicent Prince, Ellen Jarvis, Keith Perkins, Georgina Darnell, Mary Absalom, Arthur Norris, William Dorsett, Monica Brennan, Rose Mary Irgolith, Elizabeth McKenna, Astor Charles Henchy, Antonietta Ambruso, Lionel Jones, Bertram Woodhouse Currie, John McDonnell, Alfred North, Nora Cremin, Henry Desmond, Kathleen Anderson, Kevin Smith, John McCormack, Marguerite Hards, Moyra McCullagh, Lilian Teresa Cullen, Violet Palmeri, Francis Cardinal Bourne, Michael Cooney, Mary Angela Gilbert, John Williamson, Patricia Crump, John Pereira, Olga Paine, Peter Kelly, Jeremiah O'Dowd, Rose Wilson.

++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.

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.

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, we have not been able to 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 **after all Masses this weekend.**

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.

Midnight Mass

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

Parish Office

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from Monday 28th December 2020 until Monday 11th 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



Christmas reveals the immense love of God for humanity. From that flows also the enthusiasm, the hope of us Christians, that in our poverty we know that we are loved, we are visited, accompanied by God ~ Pope Francis

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: **Tuesday 12th January 2021 between 3pm 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.

Please note: The Parish office will be closed from – Monday 28th December 2020 to Friday 8th January 2021.

Baptism Preparation Class and Baptisms

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the new year, please register for our next class, which will be held virtually on Sunday 10th January 2021, 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.

Another email update will be sent shortly.

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.



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)

CAFOD. SURVIVE - REBUILD - HEAL.



CAFOD at Christmas.

Just like the COVID-19 Crisis, CAFOD does not stop over the festive period. To follow, or indeed support this work, simply go to cafod.org.uk for the latest news of these activities. Whilst there you can see what all the RC Diocese across England and Wales are doing to support the works of CAFOD and her sister agencies throughout the world.

Looking for an 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 or pick up a copy of the catalogue in the church porch.

CAFOD have collected their favourite carols for you to use while carol singing, or at a carol service. <https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/47340/573862/version/6/file/CAFOD%20Christmas%20Carol%20sheet.pdf>

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle B
Sunday, December 20, 2020

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

Gospel Reflection

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Saviour was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary; a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her fiat, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus, Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.



Family Reflection

One of the challenges of faith is to recognize God's plan for us and to remain open to God's will and God's actions in our world. Filled with God's grace, Mary models for us the kind of faith that is needed to cooperate in God's plan of salvation. Like Mary, we are given the awesome opportunity to cooperate in God's saving plan. On this final Sunday of Advent, our Gospel invites us to consider how our preparations for Christmas have made us more aware of God's grace working in our lives.

Gather together your family and talk about what you have been doing as a family to prepare for Christmas. How have these preparations helped you to better celebrate the central mystery of Christmas, the Incarnation? Our Gospel today talks about how Mary was prepared for her role in Christ's birth. Read today's Gospel, Luke 1:26-38. Consider the question: What enabled Mary to say yes to God? Which of your Advent activities have made you more aware of God's grace in your life? Conclude in prayer together that God's grace will enable your family to be more faithful and obedient to God. Pray together the Magnificat.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

*I will make him my firstborn
son, the mightiest king on earth.*

Psalm 89:27

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

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people,
even when we fail to see you.

In each and every moment that we are blessed
to recognize you here and now,
give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming.

Amen.

