

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](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) or call on **020 8546 4633** \*\*The PARISH OFFICE is officially closed – please see below for ways to contact Fr Anthony and the Parish Secretary\*\*

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES**

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2020**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (A)**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Thomas Gerard Luson RIP

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Marco Vincenzo & Gino Straccialano RIP

John Davis RIP

Arthur & Robins O'Connor RIP

Thanksgiving to the Parish for Love & Prayers

for the Wellbeing of Philip Cockle

Mothers of the Parish

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Joan Heelan RIP

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

Mary Jo Davidson Birthday

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity**

Stephen Ross & Elaine Ross RIP

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**

Holy Souls

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Wellbeing of Emily Galligan

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>**

Caroline Baskell RIP

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Michael Boxall & John Hammond RIP

Angelo & Tina Piccirillo RIP

Wellbeing & 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Stella Browne

People of the Parish

St Agatha's Catholic Church will be open between 9am and 10am for Adoration, at all times social distancing must be observed while in the church, and on entering and leaving it.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be still be available but only on request, please contact Father by phone or email first.

**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**

Mary McGhee, Ann Rosemary Parker, Corina Gomes, Mary Jennings, John Fennell, Elisabeth Thyrsa Quinn, Ethel Myall, Joe Walsh, Joan Heelan, Oscar Verhoven, Walter Frederic Welch, Nora Cutbill, Joan Miles, Reiner Kasolowsky, Kathleen Hatcher, Frederic White, Thomas Walsh, Gary Bellamy, Desmond Duggan, William Irvin Reed, Joseph Cassidy, Theodore Schlatter, Christina Josephine Pilgrim, Sydney George Alexander, Johanna Lombard, Theresa Dilllway, Catherine Henry, Bridget Battersby, Margaret Brigham, Mary Carraig, Leon Lorek, Mafalda Dillieto, Alan White, Johanna Norton, Carlo Marchese, Ruby May Fenton,

**+++ 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.

**Archdiocese of Southwark**



**Coronavirus Update**

Dear Parishioners,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Catholic Church in England and Wales has announced that all public Masses and other Services are suspended from the evening of Friday 20 March 2020.

In line with the UK Government advice with respect to social distancing, all classes and activities within the parish are also cancelled until further notice.

Our website will continue to be updated to help parishioners with their personal and family worship during this difficult time - please check on a regular basis.

St Agatha's Catholic Church will be open between 9am and 10am for Adoration, at all times social distancing must be observed while in the church, and on entering and leaving it.

Masses will continue to be celebrated each day after Adoration, but **WITHOUT A PUBLIC CONGREGATION**, so you will still be able to book Mass Intentions. Please post any Mass Intention envelopes through the presbytery door, or email via the parish email address [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) Mass on Sunday will be celebrated at 12 noon. A leaflet has been provided by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales: When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly. Please see our website for the details. Further information and guidance, plus links to letters, a video and churches that are livestreaming their Masses can be found on our website. Regrettably, at this time we do not have the facilities to livestream our Masses here at St Agatha's.

The sacrament of reconciliation will be still be available but only on request, please contact Father by phone or email first.

The Parish office will not be staffed every day. The best way to contact us is by email. Fr Anthony will be available in case of an emergency or a pressing enquiry on [020 8546 4633](tel:02085464633). For non-urgent enquiries please email [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)

**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEPT WELL!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE A**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2020**

**Gospel Reading**

*John 9:1-41 (shorter form: John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38)*

*Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.*

**Reflection**

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

**Family Reflection**

When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows.

Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person's relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Then read together today's Gospel, John 9:1-41. Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

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Claire and Philip Cockle would like to thank everyone for their Love and Prayers for the Wellbeing of Philip and have offered a Thanksgiving Mass to everyone in the parish.

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**First Holy Communion**

All FHC Classes are cancelled.

**St Agatha's Confirmation 2020**

All Confirmation Classes and Masses are cancelled

**Baptism Preparation Class**

Our next Baptism preparation class is cancelled.

**British Summer Time**

Please remember that the clocks go forward one hour in the early hours of **next Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**



Change your **CLOCKS** and your



**SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES!**

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The Bishops of England and Wales have dedicated this year for all our parishes to focus on the Word of God and encourage people to read passages of the scriptures more frequently so that it is a greater guide and strength in their daily life. Perhaps we could all make this part of our Lenten resolution to read and reflect on a few sentences of the Gospel or one of the Epistles at times during the week. 'Reading Matthew in Lent' is a series of simple podcasts for the Lenten season offering a daily reading from St Matthew's Gospel from Ash Wednesday to Easter Monday.

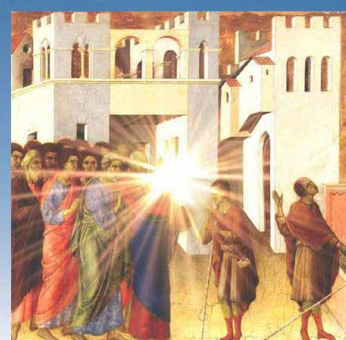
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/reading-matthew/>

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22 March 2020

We know that every effort to improve society, above all when society is so full of injustice and sin, is an effort that God blesses; that God wants; that God demands of us. ~ Saint Óscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr  
Nearest Sunday before the Feast of Saint Óscar Romero (24th March)

**Jesus Heals the Blind Man**  
**John 9:1-42**



- Born blind
- Jesus reveals the power of God
- A "Sabbath" healing
- The Pharisee's inquisition