

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 23RD FEBRUARY 2020.
7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 22nd	The Chair of St Peter, Apostle, Feast
9.30am	Private Intentions for Gerry White
6.30pm	Wellbeing of Nancy Boylan
Sunday 23rd	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am	Angelo & Tina Piccirillo RIP
10.30am	People of the Parish
6.30pm	Wellbeing of Philip Cockle
Monday 24th	
9.30am	Enzo Rossetti RIP
Tuesday 25th	
9.30am	Marie & Reginald Boxall RIP
Wednesday 26th	Ash Wednesday
9.30am	Dorothy Hall RIP
7.30pm	Thomas Joseph Byrne RIP
Thursday 27th	
9.30am	Patricia Cotmore RIP & Anthony Cotmore
Friday 28th	
9.30am	Margaret Quigley & Family RIP
Saturday 29th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Anne Miles
6.30pm	Louis Briffa RIP

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

Giovanna Capaldi, Mary Ellen O'Donoghue, John Mclaughlin Sim, Josephine Flynn, Kathleen Law, James Brooks, John Connell, Susan Thomas, Rose Pullen, Jorge Potier, Frederic Whelan, Ronald Macdonald, Charles Crawley, Edit Brown, John McSweeney, Elizabeth Heppel, Mary Ellen White, Bernard Mackey, Kate Goddard, Eugenie Connolly, Mario Porlanti, Sr. Declan Carroll, Eileen Murphy, Tom Costello, Vlas Dankis, William Wiseman, George Bruce, Annie Ashworth, Elfrida Medhurst, John Neilan, Robert Eurell, Angelo Pacitti, Rita Andrew, Joseph Alfred Smith. +++ 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.

Daily Adoration

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A
SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2020

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:38–48 My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.

Reflection

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at "an eye for an eye" as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

We are having 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.

Tea, Coffee and Cake

Tea, coffee and cake will be served in the Cloister after the 9am Mass today. 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 occasionally, please email the parish office.

WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEKEND!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME CYCLE A
SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2020,**

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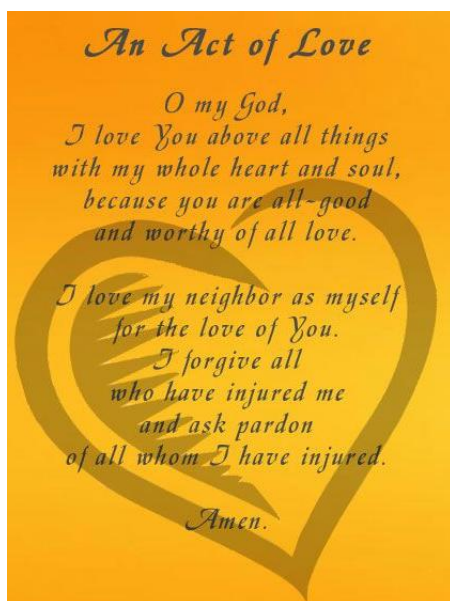
Family Reflection

Family life teaches us many things. It is often at home that we learn practical skills such as cooking, riding a bike, and making repairs. Talk about some of the things that the members of your family have learned to do at home. We also learn about caring at home. Talk about times when you have learned a lesson about sharing, forgiving, or loving through an experience that happened at home.

Talk about how love is the most important thing a family can share with one another. Explain that it is the same in God's family. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:38–48. Talk about how Jesus tried to teach his disciples how to love others beyond those who are closest to them. Jesus tells them to love even their enemies. As members of God's family, we are called to do the same thing. Talk about some concrete ways you can "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

Remind your children that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect. Jesus knows that we are human and will not always do everything correctly. Explain that what Jesus wants us to do is to love others as if they were Jesus himself. If we reach out in love to others, we are doing exactly what Jesus did. That is what perfection looks like. End this time together by praying the Act of Love.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



"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.

Important Upcoming Dates:

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	£458.41	Loose	£622.03
Retiring Collection	Gift Aid	£2.50	Loose	£55.25

TOTAL £1138.19

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

This 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 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 Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary

From Friday 21st February 2020 all Catholics are invited by the Archbishop to begin a personal 33-day consecration to Jesus through Mary. This includes an invitation to go to the Sacrament of Confession during Lent. A copy of the Novena pamphlet is available at the back of the church for your use in the church.

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.



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.

Part 3 – SACRED SCRIPTURE

IV. The Canon of Scripture

It was by the apostolic Tradition that the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books.

This complete list is called the canon of Scripture. It includes books for the Old Testament (if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) and for the New.

The Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs, the Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah and Malachi.

The New Testament: the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of St. Paul to the Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, the Letter to the Hebrews, the Letters of James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John, and Jude, and Revelation (the Apocalypse).

The Old Testament

The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked.

Indeed, "the economy of the Old Testament was deliberately SO oriented that it should prepare for and declare in prophecy the coming of Christ, redeemer of all men." "Even though they contain matters imperfect and provisional, The books of the Old Testament bear witness to the whole divine pedagogy of God's saving love: these writings "are a storehouse of sublime teaching on God and of sound wisdom on human life, as well as a wonderful treasury of prayers; in them, too, the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way."

Christians venerate the Old Testament as true Word of God. the Church has always vigorously opposed the idea of rejecting the Old Testament under the pretext that the New has rendered it void (Marcionism).

The New Testament

"The Word of God, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, is set forth and displays its power in a most wonderful way in the writings of the New Testament"96 which hand on the ultimate truth of God's Revelation. Their central object is Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son: his acts, teachings, Passion and glorification, and his Church's beginnings under the Spirit's guidance.

The Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures "because they are our principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Saviour".

We can distinguish three stages in the formation of the Gospels:

1. The life and teaching of Jesus. the Church holds firmly that the four Gospels, "whose historicity she unhesitatingly affirms, faithfully hand on what Jesus, the Son of God, while he lived among men, really did and taught for their eternal salvation, until the day when he was taken up."

2. The oral tradition. "For, after the ascension of the Lord, the apostles handed on to their hearers what he had said and done, but with that fuller understanding which they, instructed by the glorious events of Christ and enlightened by the Spirit of truth, now enjoyed."

3. The written Gospels. "The sacred authors, in writing the four Gospels, selected certain of the many elements which had been handed on, either orally or already in written form; others they synthesized or explained with an eye to the situation of the churches, the while sustaining the form of preaching, but always in such a fashion that they have told us the honest truth about Jesus."

The fourfold Gospel holds a unique place in the Church, as is evident both in the veneration which the liturgy accords it and in the surpassing attraction it has exercised on the saints at all times:

There is no doctrine which could be better, more precious and more splendid than the text of the Gospel. Behold and retain what our Lord and Master, Christ, has taught by his words and accomplished by his deeds.

But above all it's the gospels that occupy my mind when I'm at prayer; my poor soul has so many needs, and yet this is the one thing needful. I'm always finding fresh lights there; hidden meanings which had meant nothing to me hitherto.

The unity of the Old and New Testaments

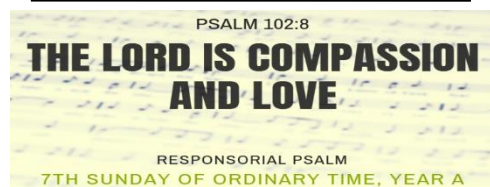
The Church, as early as apostolic times,104 and then constantly in her Tradition, has illuminated the unity of the divine plan in the two Testaments through typology, which discerns in God's works of the Old Covenant prefiguration's of what he accomplished in the fullness of time in the person of his incarnate Son.

Christians therefore read the Old Testament in the light of Christ crucified and risen. Such typological reading discloses the inexhaustible content of the Old Testament; but it must not make us forget that the Old Testament retains its own intrinsic value as Revelation reaffirmed by our Lord himself. Besides, the New Testament has to be read in the light of the Old. Early Christian catechesis made constant use of the Old Testament. As an old saying put it, the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.

Typology indicates the dynamic movement toward the fulfilment of the divine plan when "God [will] be everything to everyone. "Nor do the calling of the patriarchs and the exodus from Egypt, for example, lose their own value in God's plan, from the mere fact that they were intermediate stages.

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

Libreria Editrice Vaticana



CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday 6 March 2020.

Once again CAFOD invite us to “eat a simple meal this Family Fast Day”. This is an opportunity to reach out to some of the poorest, and most marginalised of our sisters and brothers. So, will we eat a simple meal during Friday 6 March, and give what we save to those that do not have the luxury of anything but a simple meal. The retiring collection across all masses of Sunday 8th March will be for CAFOD. If you are a UK tax payer you can maximise your donation by completing the Gift Aid declaration on the Fast Day Envelopes, that will be strategically placed around the church. By signing the Gift Aid Declaration, CAFOD will be able to claim an additional 25% (the basic tax paid) on your donation. 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.



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.***

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
- Volunteer Roles at Southwark Archdiocese
- London SW Catholic Social Group
- Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine
- The Mustard Seed
- Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
- Morning Lenten Services at St Thomas Aquinas

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. James 1:27