

CLERGY

Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest
Fr. Ebuka Umekachikelu, MSP – Assistant Priest
Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

St. Agatha's Catholic Church
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Kingston upon Thames
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kingston@rcaos.org.uk

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 AUGUST 2020**

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, (A)

Saturday 22nd	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial
9.30am	Private Intention
6.30pm	Marco Vincenzo Straccialano RIP
Sunday 23rd	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am	People of the Parish
10.30am	Rev. Fr. Gerry O'Brien RIP
6.30pm	Tommy Burke RIP
Monday 24th	St Bartholomew, Apostle, Feast
9.30am	Protection, Peace, Health & Faith for Ivan
Tuesday 25th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 26th	
9.30am	Wellbeing or Merlyn & Keith Fraser
Thursday 27th	St Monica, Memorial
9.30am	Private Birthday Intentions
Friday 28th	St Augustine, Bishop, Memorial
9.30am	Jackie Regan RIP
Saturday 29th	The Passion of St John the Baptist, Memorial
9.30am	Wellbeing of Maureen Brough
6.30pm	Aideen Phillips RIP
Morning Prayer:	
Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM	
Mass Times:	
Saturday: 09:30, 18:30	
Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30	
Monday to Friday: 09:30	

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 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

Brendan Cornelius Lucy, Marco Vincenzo Straccialano, Rev. Fr. Gerry O'Brien, Rose Cusiack, Hilda Wells, Helen O'Leary, Marie Louise Fox, Christopher Doyle, Bridget Costello, Peggy Doreen Spong, Sabina Rocca, Charles Williams, Ada Maria Browne, James Shanahan, Edward Thomas Burton, Mabel Patrick, Matthew O'Connor, Maria Capaldi, Margaret Humberstone. Ronald Darnell, Laura Mary Gryspeerdt, William Robert Fewings, Rev. Fr. Denis Callan, Constance Mary Brewster, Mary Ellen O'Connor, Marguerite Guest, Mary Metochis, Ernest Woodhams, Thomas Turnbull, Zofia Jaroszynska.
++ **May they rest in Peace** ++

LET US REMEMBER

This weekend we remember our former Parish Priest Rev Fr. Gerry O'Brien whose 1st anniversary we commemorate on 22nd August 2020. Let us also 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.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE.....

FACE-COVERINGS/MASKS

Face coverings/masks are mandatory in Places of Worship

All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet. If you attend Mass from this date onwards, please ensure that you have a face-covering/mask with you and to put it on before you enter the Church. Priests in the sanctuary, providing they are sufficiently distant (2m or more) from the congregation, do not need to wear a face covering except when distributing Holy Communion (please see below).



There are some exceptions to this rule, and who needs to wear a covering, details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/facecoverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#when-you-do-not-need-to-wear-a-face-covering>

Communion must be given silently in the hand only, with the communicant standing, and avoiding any physical contact. People should wait in their pews until instructed to move forward to the priest for Holy Communion, always aware of the regulations on social distancing in an orderly queue. When they approach the priest, they should do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between the priest and the communicant. Their hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible. The communicant should unloop their face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace the face covering before moving back to their pews.

For readers: Readers should sanitise their hands before and after reading and should avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, apart from page turning. Readers may remove their face coverings at the lectern to read and should replace them before stepping away from it providing the lectern is sufficiently distant from the congregation.

PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



St Agatha's Church is open for Public Worship

We have resumed public worship, however, whilst many are excited about the prospects of returning to Mass, we must do everything possible to make the participation at Mass safe through the required hygiene and social distancing measures. Numbers for each Mass will be limited; we are maintaining a distance of 2 metres. We have 28 seating areas, which has 2 areas per pew, and each area can have no more than 4 persons each (adults and children). Therefore, a household of 5 (i.e. 2 adults and 3 children) or more will be asked to use a whole pew. Once all the allocated seats in the church are filled, there will be no further access into the church.

We have also been asked that we should comply with the Governments NHS Track and Trace requirements, which means that everyone coming to the church will be asked to provide their contact details upon entering. If you are able to complete the form before coming to the church to hand to the stewards this would be very helpful. It can be downloaded from the parish website.

Extra Masses are not permitted at the moment on Sundays and numbers will need to be restricted by our Stewards. Please, kindly note that the dispensation from Sunday obligation granted by the Bishops at the onset of the lockdown is still in place until further notice and we encourage you to come to the weekday Masses instead of Sundays as this will be helpful for numbers in church and may be more convenient for our elderly parishioners.

Livestreaming of a Sunday Mass, 10.30am, will continue, from our website and a Facebook page for those who may not consider it safe for them to attend Mass in person. <https://www.facebook.com/agatha.kingston.92>

Holy Communion, under 'one kind' must be received in the hand. Fr Anthony or Fr Ebuka will give clear instructions during Mass regarding Holy Communion – please follow them. Mass will be kept simple, and there can be no singing. Homilies will be brief and there will be no Prayer of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers).

The main doors, and windows, will be left open (weather permitting) during Masses.

There will be an opportunity to give to the parish through a static collection box at the entrance and exits. Mass Intentions can also be posted at this point.

The times of Masses will be as in normal time. Please note: there may also be last minute changes, depending on availability of stewards.

Morning Prayer:

Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM

Mass Times:

Saturday: 09:30, 18:30

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

Monday to Friday: 09:30

For your safety, and that of others, please see key instructions below:

- Please sanitise your hands well on entering and exiting – hand-sanitiser is provided.
- Please wear a face covering or mask whilst in the church. Please see further guidance above.
- At all times follow the directions of the stewards and the signs in church.
- Please note the stewards act in Fr. Anthony's name and with his authority.
- Once all the allocated seats in the church are filled, there will be no further access into the church.
- If you feel unwell, please do not put others in danger and stay at home. Please **do not** visit the Church if you have a high temperature or a new continuous cough or less of or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell.
- Please be prompt to leave when Mass is finished, but be guided by the stewards
- Physical veneration of relics, statues and shrines is not permitted.
- No person under 16 is allowed to enter a church building unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Please note that the toilets will not be available.

Consider Bringing Your Sunday Missal To Mass

As part of the safety measures as we resume Mass with a congregation, Mass Books will not be provided till further notice and, for environmental reasons, we will not supply single-use Mass Sheets. If you would like to consider purchasing your own Sunday Missal, there are a couple of options at: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk> – the Redemptorists Sunday Missal "Your Sunday Missal" or <https://www.ctsbooks.org/returning-to-mass/> – CTS Sunday Missal. Both priced at around £20.

Mass Intentions

Fr Anthony and Fr Ebuka continue to offer daily Masses. We have plenty of available slots for upcoming Masses. 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 have a particular date or time on which you want the Mass, it is very important that you let the parish office know as soon as possible and 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. If you require confirmation of a Mass date and time, please ensure you provide your contact details or call the parish office during office hours.

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

Simon Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Christ and is given the key to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Gospel Reflection

It is important to read today's Gospel and next week's Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke of Peter in next week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do.

The use of the term church in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Family Reflection

Today's Gospel reminds us that the Church is built on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. Peter announces the core of our faith, that Jesus is God's only Son. The family, as the domestic church, has this same faith as its foundation.

As you gather together as a family, talk about people whose faith has helped you to be a member of the Church and talk about what you have learned from leaders in our Church today. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 16:13-20. Talk about what you know about Peter and his importance to the early Christian community. Talk about what we can learn from Peter and his profession of faith about Jesus. Conclude in prayer together by praying today's Psalm or an Act of Faith.

First Holy Communion 2020

Two very important emails have been sent to all FHC parents this week, please check your inboxes. If you have not received them, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.



St Agatha's Confirmation 2020

We have not yet been able to make arrangements for our Confirmation Mass. We will email all parents as soon as we have any details.



Baptism Preparation Class and Baptisms



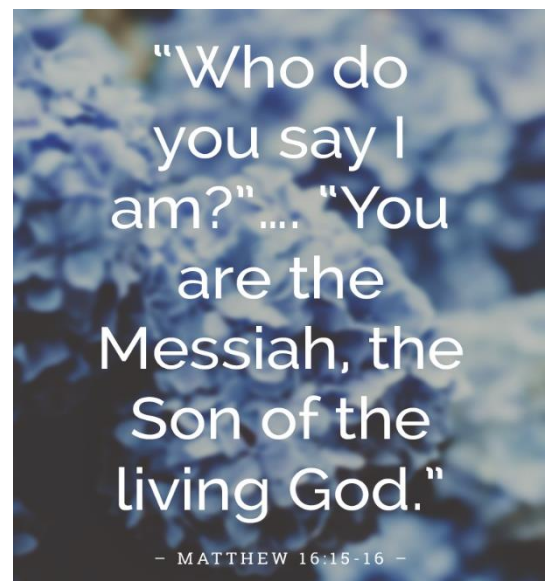
We hope to hold a baptism preparation class in early September, further details will be available soon. If you have already attended a class earlier this year please call the parish office to discuss and arrange a date for your child's baptism.

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 your preferred wedding date.



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.



More Church Stewards Needed for September PLEASE

Our thanks to our current stewards for their continuing assistance, without their help we would not be able to open, and thanks also to all who have come into the church, for adhering to the new way of doing things.

One of the diocese requirements is that we must have at least two stewards in the church at the times the church is open, for all Public Worship services. For our Sunday Masses we require at least 3 Stewards. Stewards will assist with showing people what to do, where they can sit and how to keep themselves and others safe and to complete the track and trace information cards. Our current opening times have been arranged around the availability of our stewards. If we can get more volunteers to offer their time on different days then we will be able to open for more of our Public Worship Masses in the coming weeks.

In order to enable this, we are asking for more volunteers to join the rota; if you are in good health, with no underlying health issues, are under 70 and not shielding anyone vulnerable at home (NB not those classed as "vulnerable" to Covid-19), please consider doing this for one a week.

If you are able to help, please email the parish office kingston@rcaos.org.uk with the following information:

- Your contact details (name, email address and phone number).
- What day Monday – Sunday and time (Saturdays and Sundays only) morning or evening you can help.
- Any particular day of the week you can commit to. It would be easier if people could generally commit to the same slot each week (but not essential).

Please do get in touch as soon as possible. Instructions and PPE equipment will be provided. This is a serious task, and all the measures being put in place will need to be adhered to at all times, but it will also be a joyful time, welcoming people back to the real presence of Our Lord.

Whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. ~ Gaudium et Spes

23 August – International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/21

We have had a few enquiries regarding the new Gift Aid envelopes for 2020/21 which commenced in April. The envelopes have been received from the diocese, unfortunately we are unable to issue them until we have instructions from the diocese to do so in a safe way. Could all of those parishioners who are in touch and are keeping those members of our community who do not have access to the internet with news, please convey this message to them. Also, for those of you who have been putting their weekly offering aside at home, we now have a donations box in the church porch where you can post your envelopes when you visit.

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)

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

A big thanks to all those who are 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 using new technology, our church still needs to be insured and maintained. We are doing our best to save money but, although our heating expenses may have been reduced, we still have to pay contributions to the diocese, salaries and other various expenses.

Without our usual weekly collections during the months of lockdown 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 regular standing orders or one-off bank transfers directly are:

Our account details are as follows:

Please pay:

National Westminster, Kingston Marketplace

For the credit of:

St Agatha's Roman Catholic Church

Bank details: 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

