

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. Thank You.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES
SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2022
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Saturday 24th	Christmas Eve
9.30am	Patricia Corcoran RIP
4pm	<i>Christingle Service</i>
6.30pm	Natalino Evangelista RIP
11pm	Vincent Arendse RIP
Sunday 25th	Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity
9am	Mary Walsh RIP
10.30am	Keith & Alan Fraser RIP
6.30pm	NO MASS
Monday 26th	St Stephen, the first Martyr, Feast
12pm	Anna Serm
Tuesday 27th	St John, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast
9.30am	Louis Martin Cronin RIP
Wednesday 28th	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, Feast
9.30am	Elpidina Francisco RIP
Thursday 29th	
9.30am	Delia Galligan RIP
Friday 30th	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Feast
9.30am	James Corcoran RIP
Saturday 31st	
9.30am	Teresa Fitzmaurice RIP
6.30pm	Salwa Matti RIP
Exposition:	Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 9am.
Confessions:	Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.
Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM
Mass Times:	Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30
Baptisms:	Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.
Marriages:	Six months' notice required, Diocesan rule



SUPPORTING DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

The second delivery of donations was successfully delivered to the Dons in time for Christmas, and they were genuinely grateful for your generosity.

Our intention is to leave the donations box in the church porch and see what the new year brings. As donations accumulate, they will then be delivered. Thank you for your support and generosity.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND CLEANING

A huge Thank You to everyone who kindly gave up their time to help decorate the church. Ours thanks also to everyone for your assistance with the Christmas cleaning day. A special thank you to those who helped organise these events. The church is looking magnificent again and very festive for this special time of the year. There are dozens and dozens of people involved in making everything run smoothly at St. Agatha's, especially during the festive periods; we thank you one and all!

CHRISTMAS CARDS, GIFTS AND CALENDARS

A selection of Christmas Cards, gifts and 2023 calendars are still available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses.

PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, is on annual leave until Monday 9th January 2023, therefore the parish office is closed. Please only call the Presbytery in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry during this time.

For non-urgent enquiries please email: kingston@rcaos.org.uk and Karin will respond upon her return.



CRIB OFFERINGS

At the request of Archbishop John Wilson, this year's Crib Offerings will go to The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL). The Friends of the Holy Land have been giving hope and providing practical help to the most vulnerable Christians in and around Bethlehem since 2009. For further details please visit: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to make a Christmas Offering to our Clergy at this special time of the year. please leave the envelopes in the box in the porch. Thank you.

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass During the Day
Sunday, December 25, 2022**

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18 (or shorter form, John 1:1-5, 9-14) John announces that in Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us

Gospel Reflection

There are four Masses that are celebrated for the Feast of Christmas, and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse. This expression (logos in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's action in the Creation story, for example, and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek thought, the logos was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

Family Reflection

At Christmas we celebrate the great mystery that God became flesh and dwelt among us. We call this mystery the Incarnation (the word means "to take on flesh"), and it changes everything. Today's Gospel reminds us that we can also look upon the Nativity from God's perspective to better appreciate the significance of the Incarnation. The mystery we proclaim at Christmas is that God, the very God who created all things from

nothing and who is light itself, took on our humanity in order to transform us. Through his birth among us, we have seen the face of God and have become nothing less than God's own children. At this awesome mystery, we adore.

Gather as a family around your Nativity set. Keep this image before you and talk about how familiar we are with this scene. Invite members of the family to recall the details of Jesus' birth that we hear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Observe that the Gospel of John invites us to consider Jesus' birth from a different perspective. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:1-14.

John's Gospel reminds us that the image we see in our Nativity set is a most remarkable sight: God made himself at home with us by taking on flesh and becoming a human person. We call this mystery the Incarnation. What are some of the things that John's Gospel says happened for us because Jesus came to dwell among us? (Light overcame darkness; we see God's glory in Jesus; we became children of God.) Together thank God for this mystery of the Incarnation and the salvation that we received because Jesus was born among us. Sing together a Christmas hymn, such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "Silent Night."

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle, Melba De Silva and Marie Chlebeckova.

Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

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 Palmer. +++May They Rest In Peace+++

