

CLERGY

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

St. Agatha's Catholic Church
1 Wyndham Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey, KT2 5JR
Tel: 020 8546 4633
www.stagathaschurch.org.uk
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 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, (A)**

Saturday 26 th	
9.30am	Special Intentions for all Students, Teachers & Lecturers
6.30pm	Special Intentions for The Cenacle Sisters
Sunday 27 th 26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
9am	Angelo & Tina Piccirillo RIP
10.30am	Patsy Byrne RIP
6.30pm	Mary Byrne
Monday 28 th	
9.30am	Protection, Peace, Health & Faith for Rebecca & Filipe
Tuesday 29 th Ss Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels, Feast	
9.30am	Special Intentions for Unborn Babies
Wednesday 30 th St Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church, Memorial	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser
Thursday 1 st St Therese of the Child Jesus, Memorial	
9.30am	Hugh McLoughlin RIP
Friday 2 nd The Holy Guardian Angels, Memorial	
9.30am	Thanksgiving for the Makala Family
Saturday 3 rd	
9.30am	Private Intention/Wellbeing of Elizabeth Galligan
6.30pm	Wellbeing & Recovery of Stephen Cooper

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

Gordon Williams, Joseph Behan, Tom Kavanagh, Dorothy Maurice, Edith Stimson, Cyril Dyer, Robert Laurent, Edith Mary Crowley, Blanche Sinteff, Eileen Mckenzie, Henry Rooke-Ley, John Mahoney, Eliza Burrell, Francis William Hardy, Albert Fell, Charles Cullen, Jack Davis, Nora Leek, William Francis Cahill, Josephine Tompsett, Isabel Rodrigues, Gelardo Rossi, Mildred Bull, Dennis Short, Nellie Cannon, Right Rev. Peter Emmanuel Amigo, Michael Cleary, Eileen Sotiriades, Shirley Priest, Patrick Gallagher, Kathleen McCabe, Ethel Skinner, Simon Morrow, Norah Halloran, Timothy Hales, Catherine McCall, Jim McKay, James Coughlan. ++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.

First Holy Communion 2020

We would like to offer our congratulations to our 64 young people who received their First Holy Communion here at St Agatha's over the last couple of weekends. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and inspire them as they make their way through life as active members of the Church.



Baptism Preparation Class and Baptisms

We will be holding a virtual baptism preparation class on **Sunday 27th September 2020**. For those who wish to have their child baptised in the upcoming months, please register for this class by completing and returning the baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office by **12pm Sunday**. 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.



Secondary School Application Forms

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 secondary school application forms on **Friday 2nd October 2020 between 3 and 5pm. 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.

Special Thanks

We would like to say a very special thank you to the parishioners who have very kindly given a generous donation to the parish funds over the past few months. Without our usual weekly collections during the months of lockdown there was a significant impact on the parish finances and we greatly appreciate any donations received.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the priests and parishioners of The Church of Sant'agata al Collegio in the Sicilian town of Caltanissetta.



PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



More Church Stewards URGENTLY Needed PLEASE

*Our thanks to our current stewards for their ongoing assistance, without their help we would not be able to open for every mass. However, we urgently need more volunteers to join our steward's rota, **especially for our Sunday Masses**. We currently have approximately 20 stewards to cover 24 slots every week, which means a number of stewards cover 2 or even 3 masses a week and we really do not want to continually burden the same people. As the rota stands at the moment for September, we are at a high risk of not being able to open for some of our Sunday masses. Please get in touch with the Parish secretary as soon as possible if you can help, even if it just once a month. Thank you.*

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 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 continue opening for all 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 Mass 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. .

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.

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 that 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 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

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE A
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:28-32 Jesus poses a question to the chief priests and elders on the meaning of obedience.

Gospel Reflection

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will.

Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.

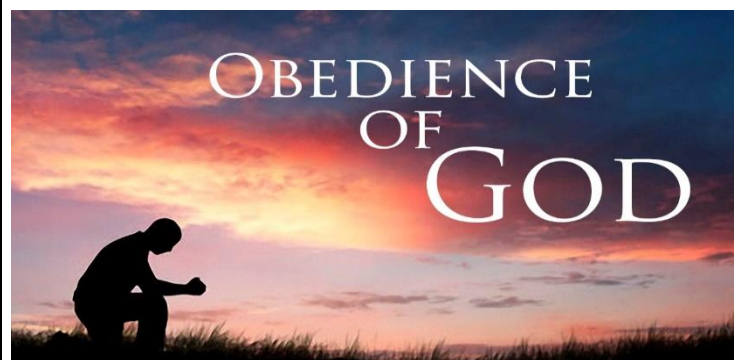
Family Reflection

The example Jesus poses in today's Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus' story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God.

As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of heart. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist's message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for this change of heart is conversion. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be transformed by his word.

Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words. Pray together today's second reading, Philippians 2:1-5.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



First Holy Communion 2020/2021



Applications and details for our next year's FHC will be available in early October. Please check the website and newsletter for updates.

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.



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.



Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, Philippians 2:1-5

FACE-COVERINGS/MASKS

Face coverings/masks are mandatory in all 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-yourown/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-makeyour-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



GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/21

Our Gift Aid envelopes for 2020/21 which commenced in April, are now available to collect from the church entrance. However, if you would prefer to have your envelopes posted/hand delivered, please email the parish office quoting you gift aid number and we will endeavour to get them to you as soon as possible.

Could all of those parishioners who are in touch with 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.

Therefore, as we fix our gaze on the Holy Family of Nazareth as they were forced to become refugees, let us think of the tragedy of those migrants and refugees who are victims of rejection and exploitation, who are victims of human trafficking and of slave labour.

~ Pope Francis

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

27 September

