

PLEASE NOTE: The best way to contact us is by email. All enquiries and non-urgent matters, including mass intentions, please email Karin Rattray, the Parish Secretary, at kingston@rcaos.org.uk Fr Anthony or Fr Ebuka will be available in case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry only on 020 8546 4633.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2020 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Saturday 28th

Holy Souls

Sunday 29th

1st Sunday of Advent

Wellbeing of Merlyn & Keith Fraser

Wellbeing of Simon Clew

John Davis RIP

Patricia Corcoran RIP

John & Rose Pereira RIP

Monday 30th

St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland, Feast

David Rattray RIP

Andres Francisco RIP

Tuesday 1st

Robert McGrough RIP

Wednesday 2nd

9.30am

Wellbeing of Merlyn & Keith Fraser

Wellbeing of Alan Fraser

Thursday 3rd

St Francis Xavier, Priest, Memorial

9.30am

Mary & Michael Doyle RIP

Thomas Joseph Galligan RIP

Friday 4th

9.30am

Thanksgiving for the Makala Family

Saturday 5th

9.30am

Scott Kitchener RIP

6.30pm

Edmond Meaney RIP

Marie-Anne & Edward Xiberras RIP

Tuesday 1st Dec – Private Prayer only: 09:00 – 10.00 AM
From Wednesday 2nd Dec:

Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM

Mass Times: Saturday: 09:30, 18:30

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

TAKE SOME TIME TO REFLECT THIS ADVENT

Advent is a very special season of the year—and yet it can sometimes pass us by, because we are so busy preparing for Christmas. For the past couple of years, our Diocesan Spiritual Commission has produced a series of short daily emails, to help us focus on the true meaning of Advent. These have been very well received, so we would like to make more people aware of them. To sign up, please visit www.southwarkdsc.org.uk

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

We are hoping all our usual Christmas Masses will be held in church, but please watch out for more info, updates and our Advent and Christmas programme next week.



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE.....

**Public Masses will resume on
Wednesday 2nd December 2020**

In line with the Government's latest announcement, our Church will reopen for Public Masses on Wednesday 2nd December. The Church will still be open for private prayer on Tuesday 1st December. Please note: there may be last minute changes, depending on availability of stewards.

**Please continue to join us for live streaming of our
Sunday 10.30am Mass**

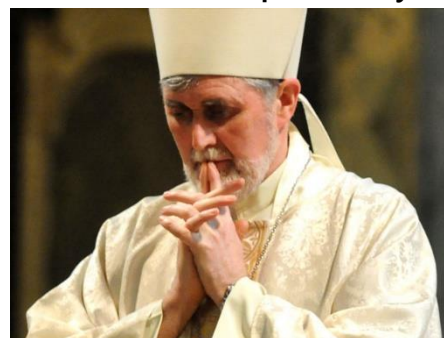
Live Streaming of the 10.30am Sunday Mass, will continue from our website home page and Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/agatha.kingston.92>

- We ask that you do not enter the church if you have cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Social distancing should be maintained at all times, both inside and outside the church building.
- Face coverings must be worn in the church at all times by people over the age of 10, unless they have a medical exemption.
- All surfaces will be cleaned when the church is closed. Please try to avoid touching things in church unnecessarily.
- Please ensure you observe the rules regarding face masks, NHS Track and Trace, use sanitising gel on entering and leaving.
- Please sit in designated seating, and as guided by our church stewards.

We are very grateful for all the volunteer stewards who continue to help, without our stewards we could not open the church!

Retirement of Bishop Patrick Lynch



Pope Francis has accepted a request from Bishop Patrick Lynch (Auxiliary in Southwark) to retire slightly early on health grounds. Thankfully, Bishop Pat's health is stable and he will be retiring in the Archdiocese. We thank Bishop Pat for his service and wish him well in his retirement. Please see the website for Archbishop John's message.

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

Fr. Eugene O'Sullivan, Fr. Donagh O'Brien, Josephine Heaney, Edgar Thomas, Cynthia Marsh, Elizabeth Ryan, Mary Sheehy, Walter Joseph O'Sullivan, Bridget Ryan, Anita Galiano, Anne Slaughter, Brian Talbot, Marco Saiz, Sister Ambrosine, Honora Browne, Robert Dean, Margaret Prosser, Alice Bays, John Curtin, Baby Felix James Olney, Vincent Thomas McCall, Daniel Liddy, Annie Conway, Elizabeth Dorsett, Francis Mahony, Mary Anne Hubble, Frances Farr, Edna Johnson, James Jones, Anne Teresa Carbury, Ernestine Hannah Emerson, Vanda Cocco, Charles Selwood, Nellie Scaplehorn, General Jaeme Arrospide, John Fabriek, Philippa Armstrong, John Whelan, Isabel White, George Terence Dove, Mary Vivian, Lenord McIlbalton, Hugh McFaul, Joseph O'Connell, Barbara Croucher, Thomas Conway, Elizabeth Watson, Lugrece Chianta, Dino Rega. ++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.

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia Corcoran who died on Sunday 8th November 2020. Her requiem will take place here at St Agatha's on Tuesday 1st December at 12pm. If you would like to attend, due to the current restrictions on numbers attending, please contact the family directly.

++ 'Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.' ++

MASS INTENTIONS

It is again a very busy time for requests and sometimes Masses can be booked several weeks in advance, so if you have a particular date or time on which you want the Mass said, it is imperative that you give the parish office plenty of notice to avoid disappointment; 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. Mass intention 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.

COLD!! We have to keep open the windows and doors to allow as much ventilation as possible to keep you safe – so please bear with us and find those winter jumpers and coats so that you can keep yourself warm when visiting the church. Thank you for your understanding.

"The season of Advent, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty." ~ Pope Francis

School Application Form Signing

The time of year has come when 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 school application forms from **2.30 – 4pm on Friday 11th December 2020**. No appointment is necessary, please call at the Presbytery. Please ensure that you complete as much of the forms as possible before coming 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**. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2020.

Baptism Preparation Class and Baptisms

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the new year, please register for our next class (date to be confirmed) by completing and returning the baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office. If you have already attended a class earlier this year please email the parish office to advise and arrange a date for your child's baptism.



First Holy Communion 2021

Thank you to all parents/carers for returning the FHC application forms for 2021. Sadly, due to the current government restrictions the parents meeting and inscription Mass are not permitted to go ahead. An email has been sent to everyone who submitted an application advising of this and we will continue to update you as we have more details.



St Agatha's Confirmation 2021

Applications and details for our next year's Confirmation will now be available in December. Please check the website and newsletter for updates.

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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, CYCLE B
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:33-37 Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

Gospel Reflection

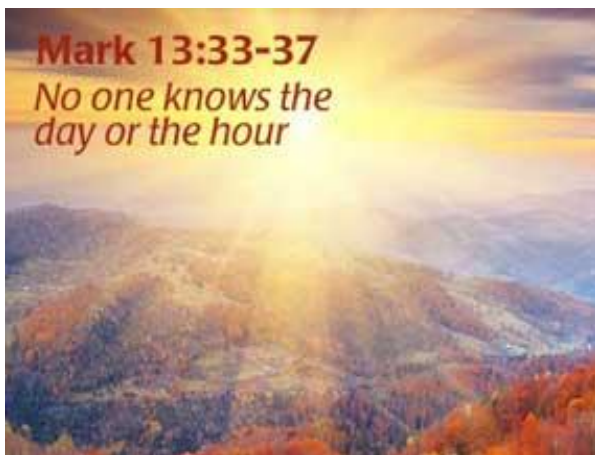
Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.



Family Reflection

In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children's education, our retirement. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man so that it will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters.

As you gather as a family, talk about a time when you received surprise visitors at your house, perhaps a neighbour who stopped by or a relative who arrived unannounced. Was your household prepared to receive this unannounced guest? What might your family have done differently if you knew ahead of time that this visitor was going to arrive? Jesus told his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, except the Father. Read with your family what Jesus told his disciples in today's Gospel, Mark 13:33-37.

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also check to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk about how your family can recommit to daily prayer, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again. Read as a concluding prayer Paul's words to the Corinthians found in today's second reading, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, or pray the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



FACE-COVERINGS/MASKS

Face coverings/masks are still 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>

CAFOD. SURVIVE - REBUILD - HEAL.



October's Harvest Festival was just one of many activities lost to the impact of COVID-19. CAFOD's Family Fast Day call of "Survive-Rebuild-Heal" is still relevant some six weeks on to so many communities around the world. In the face of this pandemic, the work of CAFOD and her sister agencies continue. Details of this work can be viewed at www.cafod.org.uk where under the heading of 'campaign' we learn how to send 'messages to the brave', 'climate and energy' and 'cancelling the debt'. Further to the above we see how the Philippines, already struggling with the impact of Coronavirus, has just been hit by two massive typhoons in as many weeks. The second, Typhoon Vanco, is thought to be one of the strongest storms in the world this year. CAFOD through her sister agencies are already reacting to this emergency but they need our help. If you are able to support any of CAFOD's activities, or just wish for more information, please go to cafod.org.uk in the first instance.

Christmas is coming! But how can you find unusual charity presents for your friends and family that make a difference to people living in poverty? Buying a World Gift is the perfect solution. World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families living in poverty across the world. Gifts that change lives and bring happiness! Order by 16 December for free delivery in time for Christmas! For each gift you buy this Christmas, you'll receive a beautiful gift card to pass on to your loved one. More information can be found at: www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

CAFOD thank you for your continued support.

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

As we now come to the end of our second period of lockdown, your offertory donations are even more vital. A big thanks to all those who are still 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, 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.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020/21

Our Gift Aid envelopes for 2020/21 which commenced in April, are 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 your gift aid number and we will endeavour to get them to you as soon as possible.

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)

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." ~ Pope Benedict XVI