

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 5TH DECEMBER 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, (C)

Saturday 4th

9.30am Special Intentions
6.30pm Marie-Anne & Edward Xiberras RIP

Sunday 5th 2nd Sunday of Advent

9am Loretta Jonassen RIP
10.30am Leao Jose Mendes RIP
Henriqieta Monteiro RIP
6.30pm Health & Wellbeing of ITU & AAU
Nurses at Kingston Hospital

Monday 6th

9.30am Cyril & Frances Jarvis RIP

Tuesday 7th St Ambrose, Bishop, Memorial

9.30am Michael Heelan RIP

Wednesday 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity

9.30am Wellbeing of Keith Fraser
Alan Fraser RIP

Thursday 9th

9.30am Holy Souls

Friday 10th

9.30am Wellbeing of Rev Fr Ray Brennan

Saturday 11th

9.30am Special Intentions
Thanksgiving for Good Health &
6.30pm Guidance & Blessings Received

Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM

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

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

Baptisms: By previous arrangement – Sunday at 12pm.

Marriages: Six months' notice required – Diocesan rule.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS

A small selection of Christmas Cards are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively contact the parish office during opening hours. More cards and 2022 calendars will be available very soon.

Honouring Sunday – please see the statement from the Bishops' Conference concerning the Sunday Obligation, released 19 November 2021, here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/>

Copies are also available in the church porch.

**SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Our Advent and Christmas programme is available in the church porch and online at: www.stagathaschurch.org.uk

MUSIC AND SINGING AT MASSES

Congregational singing is now permitted and we now have music and singing during our masses. However, please note that everyone who is singing **MUST** wear a face mask.

Choir and music groups are exempt from this rule and will therefore be seated together, away from the main congregation.

We are also appealing for more musicians and singers! If you can play the piano, organ or any other instrument, or you would be happy to be part of a group and would like to play / sing at one of the Masses, please contact the parish secretary with your details. Thank you.

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Tea and coffee will be served in the Cloister after the 9am and 10.30am Masses **this Sunday, 5th December 2021**: do come along and join us to meet your fellow parishioners, especially if you are new to the parish, *and also to wish Fr Francis a very Happy Birthday!*

If you attend these Masses and would like to help **once** a month from next year, please email the parish office with your details and which service you can help at. Thank you.

ALL SAINTS COLLEGE CHOIR VISIT

On **Thursday 9th December 2021** we will be joined at Mass by All Saints College Choir who will be singing a selection of hymns. Please do join us to hear their wonderful voices.

ILL AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are ill and housebound, our Priests would be happy to visit you, to pray with you, and to bring you Holy Communion in your home, please let us know; home visits are by request. If you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass but who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Priests.



**COLD!! THE CHURCH BOILER WILL BE REPAIRED THIS WEEK!
WE DO ALSO 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.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please note the following important dates and upcoming sessions.

Please remember that there are two groups this year completing their FHC, so please make sure you take note of the relevant dates for your child's group.

Group 1

❖ **Sunday 5th December 2021**

Session 4 at 2.45pm.

❖ **Sunday 9th January 2022**

Session 5 at 2.45pm.

Group 2

❖ **Sunday 5th December 2021**

Session 4 at 4.30pm.

❖ **Sunday 9th January 2022**

Session 5 at 4.30pm.

We would like to remind parents that children need to arrive punctually for the start time of each session please!



SCHOOL 2022 APPLICATION FORMS

The time of year has come when many parents are thinking about places in a Catholic Primary 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 **2-4pm on Thursday 9th December 2021**. 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**.

The closing date for primary school applications is 15th January 2022.



PRE-CHRISTMAS 'SPRUCE UP'

This year our dedicated Pre-Christmas 'Spruce Up' morning will be **next Saturday, 11th December**, after morning Mass. There are a variety of tasks that need to be taken care of and we hope that both male and female parishioners will be willing to give up a few hours of their time to help us. A sign-up sheet is in the church porch for volunteers to sign up or please email the parish office. (Even if you can only spare an hour or two, it would really be appreciated!) Tea, coffee and soup and all the cleaning products will be provided.

SYNOD 2021 2023

The Synod, launched by Pope Francis, is an unprecedented opportunity for every parishioner to submit their positive and constructive views on three issues. Answers will be totally anonymous, they will be collated and submitted to the Diocese, from where they will be passed on to Rome. This is your opportunity to express your views; we would urge you to take it!

As you leave, please pick up a questionnaire, if you haven't already. You can either complete this and post it in a box at the back of the church or, even better, visit the parish website Synod page at: <https://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk/synod-2021-2023> and click the link to the survey to complete it online, or scan the QR Code to open it on your mobile.

The deadline has been extended and you will now have until 17th December 2021 to complete the questionnaire. Please don't lose your chance.



CONFIRMATION 2021/22



Apologies, the programme and schedule details are still not yet available. Full details will be provided via email as soon as we know more.

PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week at 10 am after Mass. Please stay after Mass for 10/15 mins to pray with fellow parishioners.



THE ROSARY



We pray the Rosary in the church every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning after Mass. Everyone is welcome to join in.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS AND BAPTISMS

For those who wish to have their child baptised, please register for our next available class, on **Sunday 23rd January 2022**, by completing and returning the baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office. Parents need to attend a Baptism preparation class before a child's baptism.



Please note there is currently a waiting list for baptisms, whilst we catch up with those that were cancelled this past year, so the earlier you contact the parish office the better!

MARRIAGES IN 2022

2022 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.

Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle C
Sunday, December 5, 2021

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

Gospel Reflection

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.



Family Reflection

During the season of Advent, we choose to add many activities to our family's schedule to prepare for our celebration of Christmas. John the Baptist reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out this sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Talk about how John the Baptist called upon the people to prepare the way of the Lord through repentance. Together as a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas. Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around the family Advent wreath. Read again from today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive his or her sins. Pray together the Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing the sign of peace with one another.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy is usually held every other Sunday during term time at the 10.30am Mass. The children are asked to come forward after the opening prayer of the Mass and then they proceed to the Old Sacristy or Cloister where the Liturgy takes place. They return to join the full congregation at the offertory. Any work they have done is brought up during the offertory as their gift to God and the Community.

Children's Liturgy is run by the parents/adults in the parish who are keen to pass on their faith to the children. They use a variety of resources and each session is based on the readings of the day.

We are URGENTLY looking for more people to help as either a session leader or helper to be able to return to our usual children's liturgy schedule in January 2022. Please contact the parish office for further information.



CAFOD World Gifts - Ethical Charity Gifts

Save lives not money this Black Friday - CAFOD World Gifts 2021. How successful was your Black Friday? CAFOD suggest that the pursuit of that special bargain can lead to purchases that we do not need... Really! Why not consider a different present this advent season. To quote CAFOD "Each one of CAFOD's World Gifts helps those living in poverty. And poverty does not do price cuts. So we do not do Black Friday". Browse CAFOD's World Gifts Catalogue <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Whilst you are surfing, why not take time to view CAFOD's Family Advent Calendar 2021. It is not too late to join this journey through the season of advent with our global family.

World Gifts are CAFOD's charity gift range of unusual, ethical presents that will delight your friends and family. They've got something for everyone, with gifts for gardeners, animal lovers, teachers, entrepreneurs - the list goes on! Buy a Christmas gift that makes a difference! Help provide emergency support to a family in urgent need this Advent. Whether you're buying for the eco-warrior in your life, or you want to go green yourself, World Gifts are the option for you.

Place your order online by midnight on 15th December 2021 to receive FREE DELIVERY on your gifts and they'll arrive in time for Christmas! Catalogues are available in the church porch or visit the link above. CAFOD a thank you for your continued support.

FIVE BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS

Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. As a result, you will experience Sunday Mass in a new way!

Five Wednesdays: 24 Nov | 1 Dec | 8 Dec | 15 Dec | 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time). Free of Charge | LIVE sessions on YouTube.

Info & Registration: <https://comeandsee.org/advent>

LONDON SW CATHOLIC SOCIAL GROUP

London SW Catholic Social Group is a group for Catholic adults to meet for regular social and networking events in a friendly and relaxed setting with the aim of making new friends, enjoy new experiences or just to socialise.

London SW Catholic Social Group is looking for people to help lead and organise events for 18 to 35s and over 60s. Please let them know if you are interested in participating or organising.

Find them on Facebook – 'London SW Catholic Social Group' or email: londonswcatholicsocial@gmail.com

AN INVITATION TO 'BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE'

A morning session online in which married couples can explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into their communication and the call of the Church to the married. Online course. Saturday 8th January, 2022. 9am till 1pm. £10 per couple (suggested donation). This is not marriage counselling but a chance to make average-to-good marriages a bit better. That applies whether you have been married five years or 50.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL! Contact: Mrs Carole Batty Tel: 07983524727 or Email: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

LATELY DEAD

++ Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Siese who died recently. His requiem will take place here at St Agatha's on Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 1.30pm.

++ Please also pray for the repose of the soul of James (Jim) Corcoran who died on Monday 8th November 2021, aged 88. His requiem will take place here at St Agatha's on Tuesday 21st December 2021 at 11.30am.

++ Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Loretta Jonassen, who died in New Zealand on Friday 12th November 2021. Loretta lived in the UK for 25 years, predominantly in Kingston and was very much part of life here in the community. Our condolences to her daughter, Elle, and husband, Gerard.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all their families.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Christina Ward, Keith Fraser, Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle, Melba De Silva and Michael Hodgkinson.

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

Joseph O'Connell, Barbara Croucher, Thomas Conway, Elizabeth Watson, Lugrece Chianta, Dino Rega, Michael Little, Margaret Patrick, Olive Burrett, Paddy Coughlin, Elizabeth Ann Moon, Mary Cockerell, Frederick Seymour, Hermine Gollob, Michael Murphy, Pauline Dubri, Darren Hickey, Ernest Joseph Mead, Frank Sewell-Knight, Nora Duffield, Hilda Duckett, John Smith, Vivien Braby, John Boyden, Arthur McLeod, James Wilson, Arthur O'Connor, Elisabeth Hall, Natalie Marie Williams, Margaret Dignum, Norah Owens.

+++May They Rest In Peace+++

A DAY WITH MARY

There will be a Day with Mary on Saturday 4th December 2021 at Our Lady & St Peter, SW19, starting at 9.30am.

A Day with Mary is an open day of prayer held in a Catholic Church or shrine. It emphasizes Worship of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Our Lady. You are welcome to join the event for a little while or for the whole day. It includes the Mass, Scripture, Rosary, Meditations on the Passion, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, Processions of the Blessed Sacrament and of Our Lady, Act of Consecration, Theological Instructions, Hymns and periods of rest with refreshments.

Further dates:

11th December 2021 – St Mary's Catholic Church, West Croydon

18th December 2021 – St George's Cathedral, Southwark

1st January 2022 – Sacred Heart, Wimbledon

For more details see the posters on the church notice board or visit: <https://www adaywithmary.org>

We must continue promoting human beings, defending their dignity and their rights, and proclaiming a Gospel that does not turn its back on the world but rather engages the world. ~ Saint Oscar Romero, 1977
(International Human Rights Day is observed on 10th December)