

PLEASE NOTE: The best way to contact us is by email. All enquiries and non-urgent matters, including mass intentions, please email the Parish Office, at kingston@rcaos.org.uk. In case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry *only*, please call Fr. Anthony or Fr. Eugene on 020 8546 4633.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

SUNDAY 9TH MAY 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Saturday 8th

9.30am Mary Murphy, RIP

6.30pm James Clark

Sunday 9th

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9am Olga & Rosa Cordero & Mariano & Eduardo RIP

10.30am Thanksgiving for Liam Calapini's 2nd Year of Chemotherapy

6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday 10th

9.30am Mrs Jackie Regan RIP

Tuesday 11th

9.30am Wellbeing of Alana

Wednesday 12th

9.30am Holy Sould

Thursday 13th The Ascension of the Lord, Solemnity

9.30am Alan Fraser RIP

7.30pm People of the Parish

Friday 14th St Matthias, Apostle, Feast

9.30am Thanksgiving for the Clergy of our Parish

Saturday 15th

9.30am Montague Laing RIP

6.30pm Wellbeing of Marie Terzian & Muna Arzouni

Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM

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

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday 13 May 2021

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated on Thursday; there will be two Masses, at 9.30am and 7.30pm. No booking will be required for the Ascension Masses.

+++ LATELY DEAD +++

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Clare Horgan who died on Monday 26th April 2021. Our condolences to her family. Her requiem will take place here at St Agatha's on Thursday 3rd June 2021 at 12pm. If you would like to attend, due to the 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.'



MORE VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We still need more volunteers to act as stewards, to welcome, meet and greet, and help people keep safe during mass. We appeal today to all of you to consider helping us. If you can help, please send an email to the parish office or John DeQuidt. A big thank you to all our continuing volunteers—you are doing a great job and without you we could not open our beautiful church.

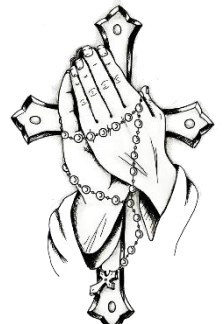
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10)

The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis and the Southwark Archdiocese Catholic Charismatic Team are delighted to offer a wonderful opportunity for personal and diocesan renewal. Through the Life in the Spirit Seminars, you will be invited to grow in your love of the Lord, welcome the Spirit into your life afresh and pray for the renewal of our diocese. Each seminar will feature a talk from a gifted speaker and small group sharing. Book a place on this Spirit-filled course in preparation for Pentecost. It is a life changing experience releasing more of the Holy Spirit within you. This seminar is highly recommended and comes with the complete approval of Archbishop John Wilson, who is also one of the speakers. Click on the link below to book a place and for dates and info re speakers, topics, etc: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/liss>

MAY DEVOTIONS

It is a centuries-old custom of Catholics to dedicate the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month of May is always part of the Easter season, the fifty days we celebrate in the liturgy the Resurrection of Our Lord, a time also of awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The celebration of May as a Marian month fits well with the liturgical celebrations of Easter and Pentecost as we recall Mary's great joy in her Son's victory over death as well as her presence with the apostles in the upper room prayerfully awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. During May it has long been the tradition of the Catholic Church to highlight our devotion to Mary and seek her intercession in our lives.



Sadly, this year we will be unable to come together as we would usually to Pray the Rosary and have Adoration and Benediction. We therefore encourage you to Pray the Rosary individually and also as families. Prayer life is essential in these changing times.

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B
Sunday, May 9, 2021

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

Jesus commands his disciples to love one another

Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to

the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.



Family Reflection

In family life, we have many opportunities to show love in action. Each time we postpone a task to tend to the needs of another, we show ourselves to be on the path to following the example of love shown to us by Jesus. Sometimes the sacrifices we are called upon to make for others are small. But these small choices to love and to serve others prepare us for the larger choices and sacrifices that we may be called upon to make. If we are people who have practiced showing our love for others with generosity, we will also be people who are willing to lay down our lives for those we love.

As you gather as a family, talk about the meaning of the word generosity. Ask each family member to describe an action that shows generosity. To be generous is to give freely to others without counting the cost. Recall that generosity is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Introduce today's Gospel reading by saying that Jesus taught us to be generous in showing our love for one another. Read together today's Gospel, John 15:9-17. What examples did Jesus give to us that show this kind of love? (washing his disciples' feet; accepting death on the cross) Jesus helps us to show this kind of love to others. In today's Gospel, Jesus promised that God will give us whatever we ask for. One of the things we can ask for from God is a generous spirit so that we can love others as Jesus did. Conclude in prayer together by praying Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous;
teach me to **serve** you as you **deserve**,
to **give** and **not** to count the **cost**,
to **fight** and **not** to heed the **wounds**,
to **toil** and **not** to seek for **rest**,
to **labor** and **not** to seek **reward**,
except that of knowing that
I do your will. Amen.

Prayer for Generosity by St. Ignatius Loyola



ASCENSION DAY

The Feast of the Ascension commemorates Jesus' ascension into heaven 40 days after his resurrection. Thus, Ascension Day falls 40 days after Easter, on the 6th Thursday of Easter.

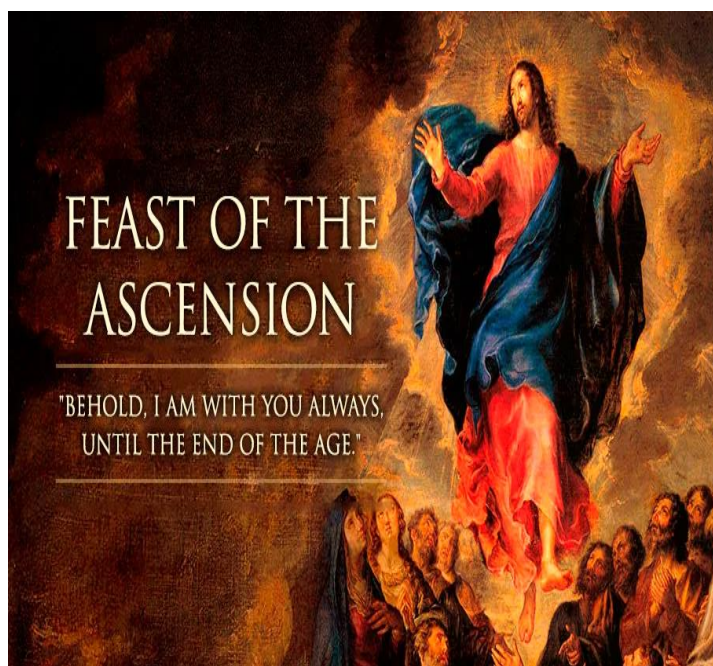
Forty Days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Acts of the Apostles records Jesus' Ascension into heaven. The Ascension is an important Christian feast attesting and celebrating the reality of the God-Man Jesus Christ's returning to the Father, and promise to return again in the future Parousia. The Ascension is the final component of the paschal mystery, which consists also of Jesus' Passion, Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Descent Among the Dead, and Resurrection. Along with the resurrection, the Ascension functioned as a proof of Jesus' claim that he was the Messiah. Finally, the Ascension was also the "final blow", so-to-speak, against Satan's power, and thus the lion (Jesus) conquering the dragon (Satan) is a symbol of the Ascension. Early Christian art and iconography portrayed the Ascension frequently, showing its importance to the early Church.

The Catholic Catechism summarizes three important theological aspects (with which most Christian churches agree) of the Ascension concisely:

...Christ's Ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain, whence he will come again (cf. Acts 1:11)

...Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, precedes us into the Father's glorious kingdom so that we, the members of his Body, may live in the hope of one day being with him for ever.

...Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit



VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS AT KINGSTON HOSPITAL

Are you able to give some time on a Sunday or mid-week to help spread the love of Jesus? There are patients in hospital who are often lonely and to whom receiving Holy Communion would make a huge impact to their life. As a volunteer chaplain at Kingston Hospital, you can really make a difference and each exchange with each patient is rewarding and special. If you are interested, please email the Parish Office or speak with Fr's Anthony or Eugene.

HOLY COMMUNION 2021

All usual arrangements for First Holy Communion had to be suspended in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions put in place.



FHC will recommence when we are permitted by the Archdiocese to hold classes in the church again. Please keep an eye on the newsletters for news of when we hope to resume.

MARRIAGES IN 2021/22

2021/22 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.



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 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

James Young, Geoffrey Allen, Mary Finley, Mary Postins, Oscar George Friend, Mary Jordan, John O'Leary, Emily Jones, Margaret Little, Brian McCarthy, Mrs. Mcquillan, Mary Sinteff, Mary Smith, Kathleen Wiseman, Francis Bruce, Mary Murphy, Patrick Dunne, John McMahon, John Paterson, Mabel Heck, Joyce Huntingford, Nora Conlon, David Walsh, Mary Oldknow, Rita Allen, Florence Busby, Maria Persechino, Salvatore Menale.
+++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.

COVID VACCINE CONFIDENCE WEBINAR

A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar has been organised for the faithful of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will take place on Saturday 15th May 2021 from 10–11.30am and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccines. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

Vaccination Confidence Webinar

Chaired by **Bishop Paul McAleenan**, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster

May 15th
10AM - 11.30AM

546617

Confirmed speakers:

- Professor Kevin Fenton**
Regional Director PHE London and
Regional Director Public Health NHS London
- Dr Nicola Lang**
Director of Public Health,
Hammersmith and Fulham
- Dr Donald Palmer**
Associate Professor of Immunology
at the University of London
- Dr Beata Szymczyk-Halas**
Paediatrician and specialist in
infectious diseases

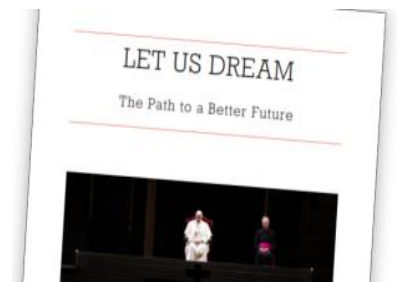
Encouraging confidence in the COVID19 vaccination among all our communities



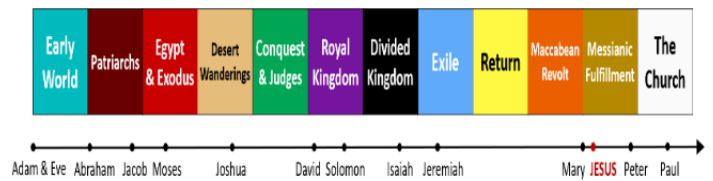
LET US DREAM

The Path to a Better Future

Inspired by Pope Francis' Let us dream: The path to a better future, the Bishops Conference Spirituality Committee invites us to follow the Church on her journey as she emerges from the empty tomb in the light of the resurrection and from the upper room prompted by the Holy Spirit. [More details here.](#)



The Bible Timeline Course



THE BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE

Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this **FREE OF CHARGE**, worldwide-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Iannicelli. Continues on 19th May 2021 at 7pm.

Further information and Registration at: www.comeandsee.org

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR MAY 2021

Pope Francis invites Catholics around the world to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world. It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).

Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6pm Rome time (5pm UK) from the various Shines taking part: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

The Pope will also close the initiative on 31 May with another specially broadcast Rosary.

POPE FRANCIS AND THE ROSARY

"I invite everyone to rediscover the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries. I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Saviour with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations especially in the face of the threats looming over the world. Even today, in this time of pandemic, it is necessary to hold the rosary in our hands, praying for us, for our loved ones and for all people."