

**CLERGY**

Fr. Eugene Terngohol Lugh, MSP — Parish Administrator  
Fr Francis Ayogu, MSP — Assistant Parish 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](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)  
[kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES  
SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, (C)**

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Special Intentions
6.30pm	Thanksgiving for Good Health & Guidance & Blessings Received
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	
9am	Health & Wellbeing of ITU & AAU Nurses at Kingston Hospital
10.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser Alan Fraser RIP
6.30pm	Thanksgiving Intentions
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> St Lucy, Memorial</b>	
9.30am	Private Intentions
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> St John of the Cross, Priest, Memorial</b>	
9.30am	Rosa Beresford RIP
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Wellbeing & Recovery of Patrick Collins
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Frances Jarvis RIP
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Arthur Lawrence RIP Kathleen & James Boyle RIP
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	
9.30am	Clare Davidson – Birthday Intentions
6.30pm	Wladyslaw Twardg RIP
<b>Morning Prayer:</b> Monday to Saturday 09:00 AM	
<b>Mass Times:</b> 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.	

**FACE-COVERINGS/MASKS**

Face coverings/masks are now mandatory in Places of Worship from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

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. Copies of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Guidance for Churches – December 2021 are available in the church porch or can be read on our website.

**MUSIC AND SINGING AT MASSES**

Congregational singing is still permitted and we will still 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.

**CONTACTLESS GIVING**

*We are excited to start "Contactless Giving" at St Agatha's!*  
We are pleased to announce that we can now accept cashless donations for the Parish by debit or credit cards from all major cards. You will find our new contactless handsets at the back of the church (on each side, beside the votive candles). Just use your contactless debit or credit card or you can insert your card into the keypad where you can authorise your donation using your card's PIN. You can also use your smartphone to donate. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card/phone onto the reader.

You will be able to register for Gift-Aid from next week, and you will only have to do this the first time you donate. NB. You will need register even if you are already registered as a Gift-Aider with the parish.

If you would still like to give your donation to the Parish Collection as cash or cheque, boxes are available at the back of Church. If you would like to give regularly by standing order, please contact the Parish Office.

*We thank you for your continued generosity.*

*COLD!! SADLY, THE NEW PART FOR THE CHURCH BOILER DID NOT ARRIVE! WE HOPE THE 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.*

### CHRISTMAS CARDS, GIFTS AND CALENDARS

A selection of Christmas Cards, gifts and calendars are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively contact the parish office during opening hours.

### 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.

Fathers Eugen and/or Francis will be available to sign school application forms from **2.30-4pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 or Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. 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, **particularly Baptism Certificates**. The closing date for primary school applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Please note – Fathers Eugene and/or Francis will only be available at these times and will not be available to sign at other times or after Sunday Masses. The parish office will be **CLOSED** after Christmas for 3 weeks, so please ensure you attend one of these sessions.

### SYNOD 2021 2023

if you haven't already, please pick up a questionnaire as you leave. 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 is 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to complete the questionnaire. Please don't lose your chance**



### 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 OFFERINGS

Christmas offering envelopes are available at the back of the church for those who wish to use them for a Christmas Offering for our Clergy.

### CRIB OFFERINGS

At the request of Archbishop John Wilson, this year's crib offerings will go to a local homeless charity; The Joel Stabilisation Centre has been set up by the charity Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH), assisted by key partners. It is a residential home and stabilisation centre in Kingston for up to 7 adults who have experienced rough sleeping. It provides a safe, supportive community where they can focus on their journey to recovery. Residents can stay between 6 months and 2 years. Joel offers an alternative to a treatment centre or rehab. Residents arrive at Joel with a commitment to reducing their alcohol or drug use while working towards their personal goals. Joel gives people the chance to learn the tools to live a healthier life and break the cycle drugs, alcohol and homelessness have kept them in.



### Advent and Christmas Programme 2021

The times and details of all Masses and Services are listed in the Advent and Christmas 2021 Programme, copies are available in the church porch and details are on the parish website: [www.stagathaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk)

### Adoration & Reconciliation

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 the church will be open from 7-8pm for Adoration and Reconciliation. Everyone is welcome. Reconciliation is also available after every Mass during the advent period.

### Midnight Mass

The Christmas Eve Midnight Mass is at the normal time of 11.00pm. It will be preceded by carols from 10.30pm.

### PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021 until Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022, therefore the parish office will be 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](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) and Karin will respond upon her return.

Please ensure all Mass Requests for this period, Baptism Applications and any other enquiries are submitted before Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 otherwise they will be not be attended to until the office reopens.



Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle C  
Sunday, December 12, 2021

**Gospel Reading**

*Luke 3:10-18 John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.*

**Gospel Reflection**

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.



**Family Reflection**

The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.

As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent. Sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or pray together today's second reading, Philippians 4:4-7, as you light the third candle on your Advent wreath.

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.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Session 5 at 2.45pm.

### Group 2

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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!*

## BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS AND BAPTISMS



For those who wish to have their child baptised, please register for our next available class, on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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!



### CAFOD World Gifts - Ethical Charity Gifts

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. Browse CAFOD's World Gifts Catalogue <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Place your order online by midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

Birthday Greetings – In 2022 CAFOD reaches its 69th Anniversary. A programme of events across the diocese, both face to face and online, are planned to celebrate the achievement. Details to follow.... CAFOD a thank you for your continued support.

### A DAY WITH MARY

There will be a Day with Mary on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at St Mary's Catholic Church, West Croydon, 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:

18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – St George's Cathedral, Southwark

1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 – Sacred Heart, Wimbledon

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

## LATELY DEAD

++ Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Siese who died recently. His requiem has been postponed and will now take place here at St Agatha's on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 1pm.

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

++ Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Loretta Jonassen, who died in New Zealand on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### 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.

### 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

*Elisabeth Hall, Natalie Marie Williams, Margaret Dignum, Norah Owens, Hannah Walsh, Katherine Trigg, Teresa Short, Bernadette Morrissey, Elisabeth Mahoney, Mary Anne Clarke, Edith Kate Letchworth, Dominic Fuouco, John Henry Isaac, Adelaide Clement, Julia Walsh, Elizabeth Milnes, Elizabeth Trefler, Bishop Brown, George William Smith, Thomas Easter, Charles Arday, James Flynn, Frances Jarvis, Ada Laing, Margaret Reagan, Manuelina Fernandes, Ronald Mills, Hermann Hartjes, John Lemmon, Dan Geaney, Julian Harrison, Karl Heinz Benkert.*

**+++May They Rest In Peace +++**

*"The exercise of solidarity within each society is valid when its members recognize one another as persons.*

*Those who are more influential, because they have a greater share of goods and common services, should feel responsible for the weaker and be ready to share with them all they possess." ~ Pope Saint John Paul II,*

*Sollicitudo rei Socialis, para 39*