



CLERGY
 Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest
 Fr. Eugene Terngohol Lugh, 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
kingston@rcaos.org.uk

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 In case of an emergency or for a pressing enquiry *only*, please call on 020 8546 4633.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Saturday 13th

6.30pm Vladyslava Twarog RIP

Sunday 14th 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am Alan Fraser RIP

10.30am Alan Bulanadi – 40th Birthday

6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday 15th

Fanny Margaret Cook RIP

Tuesday 16th

9.30am Hannia Gajdecki RIP

Wednesday 17th Ash Wednesday

9.30am Alan Fraser RIP

7.30pm People of the Parish

Thursday 18th

9.30am Alfred & Edith Knight RIP

Friday 19th

Sheila McCormick RIP

Saturday 20th

6.30pm Rita Souter RIP

Morning Prayer & Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 09:00 AM

Weekend Mass Times:

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

Liturgical Dates for Diary

Ash Wednesday – 17th February

1st Sunday of Lent – 21st February

St Patrick – 17th March

St Joseph – 19th March

The Annunciation of the Lord – 25th March

Palm Sunday – 28th March

Maundy Thursday – 1st April

Good Friday – 2nd April

Easter Sunday – 4th April

“Lent is a good time for sacrificing. Let us deny ourselves something every day to help others.” ~ Pope Francis

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 17th February 2021

There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday at 9.30am and 7.30pm. **The 7.30pm will also be livestreamed for those who are unable to come in person.**

+++ LATELY DEAD +++

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alan Fraser who died on Saturday 6th February 2021. His requiem will take place here at St Agatha's Church. Further details to follow..... Our condolences to Alex, Joan & Keith and their families.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of James McKay who died recently. His requiem will also take place here. Further details to follow..... Our condolences to James' family.

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, 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

John Wall, Alfred Robert Frederick Brockwell, Michael Higgins, Patrick Howard, Susanna McMahon, Kathleen Brocking, Victoria Tanousis, Ernest James Priest, Fanny Margaret Cork, Morwen Short, Margaret Radley, Georgina Helen Petit, Selene Robinson, Peter Mulvaney, Alicia Coll, Anthony Scott, Edward Cook, Agnes Hope, Alison Weyers, Mary Connell, Charles Hope, Ethel Pyke, Edward Mitchell, Vincenza Marchese, Sheila McCormick, Edwin Reeves, Bridget Fenton, Mary Kathleen Dudley, William Lucas, Bruno Zuffo, Bernard McArdle, Mary West, George Alexander, Thomas McCormack, Charles Waddell, Mervyn Woolger, Ursula Nolan.

+++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.



PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEEP WELL!

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Our Church continues to be open for Public Masses.....

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a lockdown on 4th January 2021 places of worship may remain open as long as they follow the established guidance. Our church remains open and will maintain the highest standard of social distancing and sanitising.

However, due to these restrictions and the availability of our stewards, the decision has been made to reduce the opening of the church during the weekdays for the next few weeks. **Therefore, the church will only be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Adoration and Mass at 9am.**

We will continue our normal weekend Mass schedule: Saturday: 18:30 and Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30.

We will continue to livestream 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.
- Maintain strict social distancing at all times, both inside and outside the church building.
- You must not 'mingle' with anyone outside of your household or support bubble.
- Face coverings must be worn in the church at all times by those over the age of 11, unless they have a medical exemption.
- Please sit in designated seating, and be guided by our church stewards.
- All surfaces will be cleaned when the church is closed. Please try to avoid touching anything in church unnecessarily.

Please, kindly note that the dispensation from Sunday obligation, granted by the Bishops at the onset of the first lockdown, is still in place until further notice.



Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B Sunday, February 14, 2021

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:40-45 Jesus cures a person with leprosy, who reports his cure to everyone.

Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behaviour of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as

prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honour. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honours the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

Family Reflection

Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals and as a family. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion.

Gather with your family and talk about some of the choices you have made as a family. (where to go on vacation, what activities to do together, how to spend our evenings, and so on) How does your family go about making these decisions? What do your choices communicate to others about your family's values? In today's Gospel, Jesus was faced with a choice. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:40-45. In choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus chose to show God's compassion and mercy. All our choices reflect our faith, and others are watching. Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help your family show compassion to others in your family decisions. Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 32, or pray the Prayer for Vocations.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Lent Reading – 'My Day by Day'

There are copies of the Lent edition of 'My Day by Day' available at the back of the Church - they cost £1.00. Please put money in the box marked 'papers'. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter.

Knowing Jesus:

Jesuit Lent Online Retreat 2021

Walk with the Jesuits through Lent and Easter and really come to understand and love Jesus. They will ponder Gospel stories, reflect on their meaning and see how startlingly relevant Jesus is to living a truly human life in the 21st Century. Follow the retreat online, and sign up to an online group (places limited): <https://www.onlineprayer.net/> Sign up to receive daily emails during Lent and additional resources:

<http://eepurl.com/hnlXAn>

Six Bible Studies on the Lenten Sunday Gospels

Six Wednesday evening Bible Study sessions, to break-open each Lenten Sunday Gospel. Experience Sunday Mass in a new way! Mauro Iannicelli will walk you through the forthcoming Sunday Gospel with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. The sessions are delivered with 'Expository Preaching' teaching method & with 'Life-Application' questions.

Wed 17th Feb - Wed 24 Mar, 2021 | 7pm - 8:30pm
(Free and Live sessions)

Further Information and Registration at:

<https://comeandsee.org/lent>

'Building a Better Marriage'

An online event on the 19th March 2021, between 10.00am and 1.00pm, which will give you a chance to explore and improve your relationship and hopefully provide you with valuable insights into your communication skills and the call of the Church to the married. Please note that there is no group sharing. 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 is essential: telephone 07983 524 727 or email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk



Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Gospel Reading

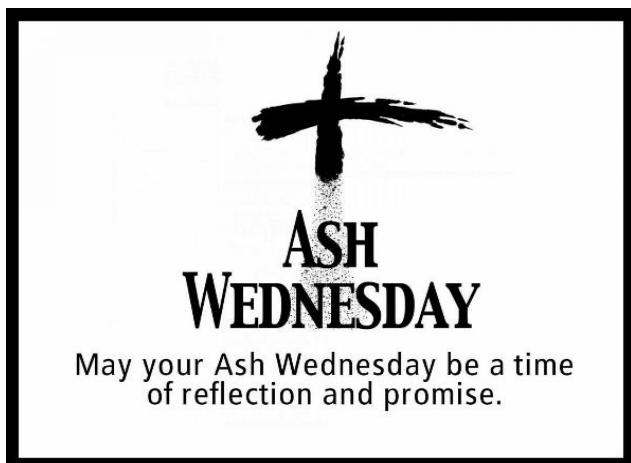
Matthew 6:1-6,16-18 Jesus teaches that almsgiving, prayer, and fasting should be done in secret.

Gospel Reflection

Today we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. In this season, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the high point of our Christian life, Easter. Each year, the readings for Ash Wednesday are the same. They call us to a change of heart and teach us about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines are to be part of the Christian life during every season, but during the season of Lent, we renew our commitment to them.

The meaning behind tracing a cross on our foreheads with ashes (the liturgical sign of Ash Wednesday) is a summary of our Christian life. On one level, the ashes remind us of our origin and our death. (In the words of the prayer said when we receive ashes: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.") The ashes are also the sign of our victory: the cross of Christ. In his death and resurrection, Christ conquered death. Our destiny as Christians is to receive the victory over death that Christ won for us. We acknowledge that victory when we "[t]urn away from sin and [are] faithful to the gospel," words from the alternative prayer when we are signed with ashes.

Today's reading is part of the Sermon on the Mount. In the sermon, Jesus warns his followers against acting for the sake of appearance. When Jesus' disciples give alms, pray, and fast, they are to do so in such a way that only God, who sees the heart and knows what is hidden, will know. Although our Lectionary reading omits the Lord's Prayer, we can recall that Matthew presents that prayer as a model for the disciples' prayer (Matthew 6:9-15).



Family Reflection

The season of Lent presents families with an opportunity to examine our family life and to re-commit ourselves to the Christian practices of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Each of us is invited to do these things as individuals, but we can also do one or more actions as a family. Ash Wednesday is a good time for families to pray together and to plan the family's Lenten practices.

Gather as a family and read today's Gospel, Matthew 6:1-6,16-18. Remind yourselves that Jesus expected that his disciples would give alms, pray, and fast and that he gave instructions that when we do those things, they should not be done for show. Determine one way that your family will give alms during Lent to share what you have with people in need. Decide upon one way that your family will pray together during Lent and choose one thing that your family will give up during Lent as a reminder of your love for God. Agree to encourage one another in whatever Lenten promises each has made individually. Pray together that God will bless your family's Lenten promises by praying together today's psalm, Psalm 51, and/or praying the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Baptism Preparation Class and Baptisms

For those who wish to have their child baptised this year, please register for our next class, (date to be confirmed for March) by completing and returning the baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.



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 were not permitted to go ahead and we are not yet able to start our programme.



St Agatha's Confirmation 2021

Please check the website and newsletter for updates regarding our next confirmation course. We will update these details as soon as possible.

Live-in Carer Needed

A long-time parishioner is looking for a live-in carer. If you might be interested, or can make a recommendation, please would you be kind enough to contact 07956409903 for further information and to discuss.