

**CLERGY**

Fr. Eugene Terngohol Lugh, MSP — Parish Administrator  
Fr Francis Ayogu, MSP — Assistant Parish Priest  
Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

St. Agatha's Catholic Church  
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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 Ratray, 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.

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES  
SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, (C)**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Clare Davidson – Birthday Intentions

6.30pm Wladyslaw Twardg RIP

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9am Breda Madden RIP

10.30am Wellbeing of Keith Fraser  
Alan Fraser RIP

6.30pm Anna Veronica RIP

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Marie Casey RIP

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

9.30am Thanksgiving Intentions

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9.30am Patrick O'Neill

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

9.30am Jose & Rosalina Camara

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Private Intentions

6.30pm Natalino Evangelista RIP

11pm Jim Corcoran RIP

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> The Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity**

9am Wellbeing of Eileen Caverly

10.30am Thanksgiving Intentions for Onas &  
Laserna Families

6.30pm NO MASS

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &  
Joseph, Feast**

9am Angelo & Tina Piccirillo RIP

10.30am Charles & Ellen Jarvis RIP  
Frances & Cyril Jarvis RIP

6.30pm Noel Roycroft – Birthday Intentions

**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.

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**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.

**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!! 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.*

### 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 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 this time 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 this session.

### 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!

### MESSAGE FROM FATHER FRANCIS:

Fr Francis is very grateful to the Parish for all the Prayers and Blessings on his birthday. He would like to thank everyone for all the messages, cards, gifts and cakes! A special thanks to those who helped arrange everything.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS, GIFTS AND CALENDARS

**2022 CALENDARS AVAILABLE! £1.50 each**

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.

### 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)

### Reconciliation

Reconciliation is available after every Mass during advent.

### Midnight Mass

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

*"He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty." ~ The Canticle of Mary, Luke 1:51-53*

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C  
Sunday, December 19, 2021

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 1:39-45

*Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.*

**Gospel Reflection**

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.



**Family Reflection**

In the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth described in today's Gospel, we learn that other people can help us recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Mary travelled to see Elizabeth because Elizabeth's pregnancy was a sign that everything the angel told Mary would truly happen. Elizabeth recognized Mary as the mother of her Lord because her unborn child, John the Baptist, leapt at the sound of Mary's greeting. Elizabeth and Mary rejoiced together at the wonderful things God was doing in their lives. We too are blessed when we have people who help us recognize God's action in our lives. We pray that our family can be this for one another.

As you gather as a family, work together on a word search or hidden-picture puzzle. Help one another until everyone has found each of the words or pictures in the puzzle. Talk about this experience, noticing how some people found words or pictures more easily than others and how easy it was to see the word or picture once someone else pointed it out. Observe that sometimes we need the help of others to recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:39-45. Ask: What did Elizabeth recognize about Mary? (that she was to be the mother of Jesus, the Lord) How did Elizabeth know this? (Her baby, John the Baptist, leapt with joy at Mary's greeting) Pray together that as we share our faith together as a family, we may help one another recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Pray together the Hail Mary.

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

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/>

Express delivery for £5 is available until midday 20 December. Catalogues are available in the church porch or visit the link above.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: [www.cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](http://www.cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.



Birthday Greetings – In 2022 CAFOD reaches its 60th 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 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – St George's Cathedral, Southwark, 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: 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 **12pm**.

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

Ronald Mills, Hermann Hartjes, John Lemmon, Dan Geaney, Julian Harrison, Karl Heinz Benkert, James McHugh, Maria Teresa Grassi, May Young, Henry Edward Clarke, Patrick Nash, Una Conway, Mollie Flynn, Margaret Kennedy, Bridget McCleane, Curtis Conrad Oesterreicher, John King, Martin Coughlan, Ernest William Evans, Evelyn Golding, Lilian Mary Duckett, Dominico Ferritto, Mary Anne Mullen, David McDonald, William Christopher Game, Natalino Evangelista, Bernard McArdle, Barbara McArdle, Margaret Brennan, William Albert Robinson, John Cullinane, Maud Adams, Percy Smith, Alice Rigby, Richard Browne, Henry Talbot, Catherine Boulter. **+++May They Rest In Peace+++**

### 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 for 2022 and any other enquiries are submitted before midday on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021, otherwise they will be not be attended to until the office reopens on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Thank You.

