

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 21ST MARCH 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Saturday 20th

6.30pm Marie, Reginald & Michael Boxall RIP
Bridie Crehan RIP

Sunday 21st 5th Sunday of Lent

9am Private Intentions

10.30am Alan Fraser RIP

6.30pm Maria Isorna RIP

Monday 22nd

Thomas Gerard Luson RIP

Tuesday 23rd

9.30am Shirley Roymundo RIP
Mrs Kathleen Forkin RIP

Wednesday 24th

Special Intentions for Dominic Raab
MP & Family
Special Intentions for Gavin Pais

Thursday 25th The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity

9.30am Anna D'Angelo & Antonio Vitolo
Barbara Bess RIP

Friday 26th

Special Intentions for Mr Boris
Johnson PM & Family

Saturday 27th

6.30pm John Davis RIP

Morning Prayer & Mass:

Tuesday & Thursday 09:00 AM

Sunday Mass Times:

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

We Need Your Help



MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – HELP PLEASE!!!

We urgently need volunteers to act as stewards to welcome, meet and greet, and help people keep safe during mass. Without more volunteers we cannot return to our full Mass schedule from Palm Sunday. 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.

Easter Spring Clean

This year our dedicated Easter Spring Cleaning morning will be next Saturday, 27th March 2021, from 10am. 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 will be 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, Fathers would really appreciate!) Tea, coffee and soup, PPE equipment and all cleaning products will be provided and comply with COVID-19 requirements.

Holy Week and Easter Programme

Please pick up a copy of our Holy Week and Easter Programme available in the church porch or on our website. Please note that we plan to return to our full Mass schedule from Palm Sunday, plus additional masses on Easter Sunday.

PALM SUNDAY, TRIDUUM & EASTER 2021

Last year all these services, Masses & Celebrations had to take place in an empty church, with the first lockdown in full force.

This year we are blessed to be able to hold all these services in an open church, with the current restrictions and safety measures still in place.

A full timetable of Holy Week will be available in the Bumper Easter Newsletter next week.

Changes to the celebration of the Mass and services during Holy Week; next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week. Because of the pandemic – to keep people safe, the Bishops have made the following changes to the liturgies during Holy Week:

On Palm Sunday there will be no procession at the start of the Mass. At all Masses palms will be blessed but not distributed until the end of Mass as people leave the Church. The short form of the Passion is to be read and the congregation should not join in with their usual parts. Details of the changes effecting Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday will be given in next week's newsletter.

Lenten Reconciliation

A Lenten Reconciliation service will be held on Tuesday 30th March at 7.30pm here in the Parish of St Agatha, for everyone. It is an opportunity for those who would like to go to confession before the Easter Triduum, which begins on Maundy Thursday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the healing sacraments and a powerful help on our Journey of Faith.

Diocesan Retreat for Lent

Archbishop John and the Diocesan Spirituality Commission are offering a Retreat for Lent, which you can follow in your own home. Using the link below, you can watch a short video reflection each week, download prayer materials and other resources which can help you make the best use of whatever time and opportunity you may have during your week. There are also additional materials for use by parish and other groups, either in person or via Zoom/Teams or similar. If you are looking for a way to deepen your life of prayer this Lent, click on where you can also sign up to receive materials directly to your email.

<http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme>

Marriage

Our congratulations and best wishes to ***Sarah and Shane*** who were married here on Saturday 20th March 2021.



May the Lord bless them as they begin their married lives together.

Baptism Preparation Class and Baptisms

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, please register for our next class, which will be held virtually on Sunday 11th April 2021 at 2pm, 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 arranging a date for a baptism.* Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend the class.



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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B
Sunday, March 21, 2021

Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

Jesus teaches his disciples about the way in which he will be glorified by God, and a voice from heaven is heard to affirm this teaching.

Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

Family Reflection

Family life is often a balancing act in which we prioritize and attend to a variety of competing needs. We learn the value of putting others' needs ahead of our own. In family life we also learn that when we make personal sacrifices to serve others, we gain so much more than we may have lost.

As you gather as a family, talk about how important it is to your family life to gladly serve one another. Ask each person to consider the last time that another family member asked for help. What was your response? Did you cheerfully try to honour the request, or did you ask "Why me?" Read today's Gospel, John 12:20-33. How do you think Jesus would want us to respond when someone in our family asks for help? Invite each family member to make a commitment for the next week to try to respond cheerfully to requests for help. Pray together, asking God's help with this commitment.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



Knowing Jesus:

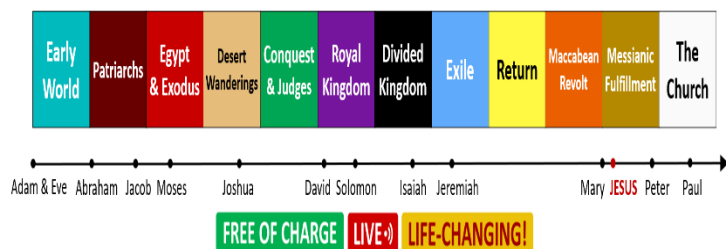
Jesuit Lent Online Retreat 2021

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/hnIXAn>

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>

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. Starts on **7th April 2021** at 7pm (Eight Wednesday evening sessions). Further information and Registration at: www.comeandsee.org

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy." ~ Pope Francis

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Christina Ward, Clare Horgan, 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

Edith Conlon, Stantey Cook, Peggy McManus, Norman Owen, Bridget (Bridie) Crehan, Mary McGhee, Ann Rosemary Parker, Corina Gomes, Mary Jennings, John Fennell, Elisabeth Thyrsa Quinn, Ethel Myall, Joe Walsh, Joan Heelan, Oscar Verhoven, Walter Frederic Welch, Nora Cutbill, Joan Miles, Reiner Kasolowsky, Kathleen Hatcher, Frederic White, Thomas Walsh, Gary Bellamy, Desmond Duggan, William Irvin Reed, Joseph Cassidy, Theodore Schlatter, Christina Josephine Pilgrim, Sydney George Alexander, Johanna Lombard, Theresa Dilliway, Catherine Henry, Bridget Battersby.

+++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.



CAFOD – Daily Walk

Something positive this Lent.

Could you walk 10000 steps either on one day or everyday this Lent? The walk could be a sign of your solidarity with all those who do not have access to a safe water source and who have to walk for water each day. Find out more or sign up online at cafod.org.uk/walk and go the distance this Lent and help to end water poverty.

Unite Against Unjust Debt.

CAFOD along with other agencies are lobbying world leaders to address the burden of debt felt by the world's poorest countries. For more information, please search or google 'CAFOD cancel the debt'.

CAFOD thank you for your continued support.