

The parish office should be your first port of call for all 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 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. Thank You.

FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Saturday 20th

6.30pm Vincenzo Straccialano RIP

Sunday 21st 4th Sunday of Easter

9am Intentions of Teresa Pearl

10.30am Keith & Alan Fraser RIP

6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday 22nd

9.30am Intentions for Teresa Dooley

Tuesday 23rd St George, Martyr, Patron of England, Solemnity

9.30am John Devaiah & Leela Rosamund RIP

Wednesday 24th

9.30am Intentions of Teresa Pearl

Thursday 25th St Mark, Evangelist, Feast

9.30am Leonette Camara RIP

Friday 26th

9.30am Holy Souls

Saturday 27th

9.30am Harriet Alexander RIP

Exposition: Monday to Saturday 8.30 – 9.20am.
Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9am.
Mass Times: Monday to Friday: 09:30
Saturday: 09:30, 18:30 (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 09:00, 10:30, 18:30
Confessions: Saturday 10-10.30am or at call.
Baptisms: Sundays 12pm, By previous arrangement.
Marriages: Six months' notice required, Diocesan rule

PRIEST TRAINING FUND COLLECTION
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

This Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Christ until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese.

After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 5 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers.

- Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF
- Scan QR Code → →
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: **020 7960 2504**
- Cash / Cheque – please use the Priest Training Fund envelopes at the back of church or the red bucket



Please support our priests of the future with a gift today.
Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!!
ST AGATHA'S INTERNATIONAL DAY – SATURDAY 6TH JULY 2024
MANY NATIONS, ONE FAMILY

Everyone is invited to join us for our new **International Day** with lunch from many nations! The day will provide you with the fun and flavours of over a dozen countries without needing to step outside KT2. Kingston might just be a small suburb of Greater London, but we have at least 20 different countries represented in our congregation each week! Save the date: Saturday 6th July 2024, further details will follow soon.....



PARISH OFFERINGS

SUNDAY COLLECTION: 14/04/2024

Gift Aid £210.50 Loose £463.34 **TOTAL £673.84**

Thank you for your continued generosity to your parish.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DONATE TO YOUR PARISH

MAKE A DONATION ONLINE:

Donate to St Agatha's Church online via Bank Transfer using the following details:

Account Name: RCAS Kingston

Account number: 10317821 Sort code: 60-60-02

(NB. The details may come up as RCAOS or Southwark – these are also correct)



VIA OUR QR CODE:

The QR code above will take you to our parish's 'Give A Little' web donation page.



GIFT AID ENVELOPES

If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use the weekly envelopes, your new packet of envelopes has now arrived! They started on the 7th April. Please collect them from the church porch. If you are not part of the Parish Gift Aid scheme and would like to join, please contact the Parish Office. *Thank you to everyone for your continued support*

SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS 2024 - IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Join at St George's Cathedral, at a "hub" venue in the Diocese or on Zoom to explore how to live more fully in the power of the Spirit.

The Archdiocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis and the Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal team are again organising Life in the Spirit Seminars for the Archdiocese during Eastertide. The Seminars will run on five Tuesday evenings at St George's Cathedral and at local hubs across the Archdiocese as well as on Zoom, with a Pentecost Saturday retreat day for all participants at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 18th May. Everyone would be most welcome. Inspiring talks and music, small group sharing and daily reflections

Local Hub: NEW MALDEN St Joseph's Catholic Church, Montem Road, New Malden KT3 3QW.

For further details, see the leaflets in the church porch or visit:

www.bit.ly/LISS2024 or email newmaldenple@rcaos.org.uk.

Or simply come along to the first seminar on Tuesday 23rd April from 7.30pm at St Joseph's Parish centre, New Malden, KT3 3QW.

DAY OF PRAYER AND RENEWAL FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND READERS

A Day Of Prayer And Renewal for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers for South West Area will take place on Saturday 27th April 2024 at St Catherine of Siena Church Chessington. Holy Mass at 10.30 – Ends at 3pm. Lunch provided. Please see the flyer with the day's programme in the church porch.

PLEASE NOTIFY NUMBERS – A sandwich lunch and refreshments will be provided, but we need to know likely numbers. Family members and friends are welcome too, but please notify St Catherine's in advance of likely numbers for catering arrangements by e-mailing Fr Peter Sebastian: petersebastian@rcaos.org.uk

DONS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

We are now planning our next delivery to the Dons. The final few days of April are provisionally pencilled in for the delivery. So please try and support this by contributing any tinned and non-perishable foods into the box provided in the church porch. Thanking you in anticipation.

We thank you all for your continued generosity and support.



A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle.

Please let the Parish Office know, in writing, if either you or your relatives would like to be mentioned on our sick list.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are sick and/or housebound, our Priests would be happy to visit you, to pray with you, and to bring you Holy Communion in your home, please do 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 or the Parish Secretary.

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 Christ grant eternal rest to all who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES

Catherine Cusiack, Mary Squires, Bridget Kielely, Michael Cooke, Linda Hull, Tom Kelleher, Ellen Smith, Hannah McCarthy, Caroline Sidaway, Stella Collins, Kenneth Rose, Daniel Paterson, Edward Arthur Kavanagh, Julia Whelan, Ethel Herbert, Anne Overy, George Sargent, Gretta Conway, Charles Edwards, Leonette Camara, Annie Laing, Percy Wright, Deidre Broadhurst, Michael Geary, Juan Ortiz, Patrick Rice, Margaret Clare Horgan, Walter Rolls Pearce, Bernard Brennan, Patrick Walsh, Guglielmo Dnorato. **+++May They Rest In Peace+++**

COLLECTION FOR MAINTENANCE OF ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL:

Next Sunday there is a collection for the maintenance of St. Georges Cathedral, Southwark; this collection helps meet the cost of the upkeep of the cathedral.

St George's Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship.

Please use your gift aid envelopes or the red bucket that will be available in the church porch. Thank you.

HOW BEAUTY DRAWS US CLOSER TO GOD

Fr Patrick van der Vorst

Friday, 17th May 2024, 7pm

St Patrick's Church, Soho Square, London

Fr. Patrick van der Vorst is a priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster, a former Director of Sotheby's Europe, and the founder of the evangelistic initiative www.Christian.Art. Fr. Patrick will explore how beauty elevates us to encounter the Divine, how the Church has historically sought to create art that facilitates this meeting, and how this can happen in our visually overstimulated world. The lecture will be followed by a Q&A and then refreshments will be available.



SCAN TO SIGN UP

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B
Sunday, April 21, 2024

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,28,29

A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his kindness

GOSPEL READING

John 10:11-18

Jesus says that he is the good shepherd who knows his sheep.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

FAMILY REFLECTION

The Good Shepherd makes sacrifices for the sheep not because it is required, but because it is a choice. That sounds a lot like parenting and the dynamics of a healthy family life. Parents choose to make sacrifices for their children out of love, not obligation. Christian parents' model and invite their children to choose to make sacrifices for other family members and for other people, acting out of love rather than obligation.

When you gather as a family, invite each family member to consider the attitude that permeates their participation in family life. Read a common examen, such as any of the following: Do we do family chores cheerfully and without having to be asked multiple times? Do we gladly share with others? Do we willingly contribute to the family good when asked? Read aloud today's Gospel, John 10:11-18. Discuss together how the example of the Good Shepherd might inspire your family life. Invite each family member to make a renewed commitment to one action/attitude to focus on in the upcoming week that show that we will choose to follow the example of the Good Shepherd. Pray together that we will be able to honour our commitment. Pray together Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



Do you know who I am?



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024

RESPONSE: THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT

NEW TO THE PARISH?

A very warm welcome to our Parish; we hope that you are settling down in your new home and will soon feel part of our community. If you are new to the parish, please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy, and please complete a family registration form which can be found in the church porch and is also on the parish website. If you have any questions or enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.



SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

Please note the following remaining and important dates for the FHC Programme. 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.

- Sunday 21st April: Session 6 – Rescheduled Session (11.45-1pm)
- Saturday 11th May: Reconciliation for Children & Parents 11am
- Sunday 12th May: Session 7 (11.45-1pm)
- Thursday 16th May: Final Preparation & Rehearsal 4pm – Group 1
- Friday 17th May: FHC Parents Church Decorating 10.30am
- Friday 17th May: Final Preparation & Rehearsal 4pm – Group 2
- Saturday 18th May: FHC Mass 12pm – Group 1
- Sunday 19th May: FHC Mass 12pm – Group 2



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

For those who wish to have their child baptised in the coming months, please attend our next class which is being held this Sunday 21st April 2024. The class is held in the church hall from 2-4pm.

Please complete and return a baptism application form, available on our website, to the parish office.

Our subsequent class will be held in June 2024.

Parents must attend a Baptism preparation class before a child's baptism, and it is recommended that Godparents also attend.



CONFIRMATION 2024

Please note the following remaining and important dates for the Confirmation Programme.

- Monday 22nd April 2024: Session 7
- Friday 26th April 2024: Final Preparation/Rehearsal for Candidates & Parents
- Sunday 28th April 2024, 12.30pm: Mass of Confirmation
- Monday 29th April 2024, Evaluation, Reflection & Celebration



MARRIAGES IN 2024/25

2024 or 2025 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 the intended date.

If you plan to celebrate your wedding at another church all preparations for our parishioners must Parish Office and we will happily guide you.



CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS

A selection of Confirmation and First Holy Communion cards are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses. Cards are just £1 each! Please leave money in box available. Thank you.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS COURSE

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or wanting to explore your Catholic faith further? Our Evangelium course starts in October. The programme consists of weekly sessions running until Easter, including vital dates during Lent.

Evangelium is for adults who have not been Baptised (or have not received Confirmation or Holy Communion) and for Christians of other denominations who want to be Received into the Catholic Church.

Please email the Parish Office for more details and to register for our next programme:

kingston@rcaos.org.uk



“May we learn to cultivate the virtue of temperance. By controlling our words and actions we can avoid useless conflicts and promote Peace in our society.”

~ Pope Francis