

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 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
SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2021 – SATURDAY 8TH JANUARY 2022**

**SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2021
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (C)**

Saturday 25th	The Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity
9am	Wellbeing of Eileen Caverly
10.30am	Thanksgiving Intentions for Onas & Laserna Families
6.30pm	NO MASS
Sunday 26th	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
Monday 27th	St John, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast
9.30am	Intentions for the Davidson Family
Tuesday 28th	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, Feast
9.30am	Intentions for Alana Smith
Wednesday 29th	St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop, Feast
9.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser
Thursday 30th	
9.30am	Intentions for The Murphy Family
Friday 31st	
9.30am	Intentions for Rev Fr Anthony Buckley

**SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY 2022
2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (C)**

Saturday 1st	Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Solemnity
12pm	Wellbeing of Betty & Maura
6.30pm	Marco Vincenzo Straccialano RIP
Sunday 2nd	2nd Sunday after Christmas
9am	Vera Dolan RIP
10.30am	Wellbeing of Keith Fraser Alan Fraser RIP
6.30pm	Wellbeing of Maura Hickey
Monday 3rd	The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese, Memorial
9.30am	Hannah Ruth Mennis RIP
Tuesday 4th	
9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 5th	
9.30am	John & Rose Pereira RIP
Thursday 6th	The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity
9.30am	Wellbeing & Recovery of Jose Camara
7.30pm	Collette Patten Birthday Intentions
Friday 7th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Imelda, Patrick & Sophia
Saturday 8th	
9.30am	Wellbeing of Christine Lysaght
6.30pm	Victoria Arrebola-Macho RIP John Davis RIP

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.



2022 CALENDARS AVAILABLE!

2022 calendars are available to purchase in the church porch, now reduced to just £1 Each!



SYNOD 2021 2023 ON COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION IN THE PARISH AND THE WIDER CHURCH

On **Wednesday 19th January**, there will be an open meeting in the hall at 7.30pm at which parishioners will have the opportunity to comment on the parish delegates' preliminary analysis of the responses submitted to the recent questionnaire. These comments will be taken into account before the final version is submitted to the diocese. This will be your last chance to influence what the parish will say. Don't miss it!



The Nativity of the Lord
Saturday, December 25, 2021

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18 John announces that in Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Gospel Reflection

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse. This expression (logos in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's action in the Creation story, for example, and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek thought, the logos was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

Family Reflection

At Christmas we celebrate the great mystery that God became flesh and dwelt among us. We call this mystery the Incarnation (the word means "to take on flesh"), and it changes everything. Today's Gospel reminds us that we can also look upon the Nativity from God's perspective to better appreciate the significance of the Incarnation. The mystery we proclaim at Christmas is that God, the very God who created all things from nothing and who is light itself, took on our humanity in order to transform us. Through his birth among us, we have seen the face of God and have become nothing less than God's own children. At this awesome mystery, we adore.

Gather as a family around your Nativity set. Keep this image before you and talk about how familiar we are with this scene. Invite members of the family to recall the details of Jesus' birth that we hear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Observe that the Gospel of John invites us to consider Jesus' birth from a different perspective. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:1-14.

John's Gospel reminds us that the image we see in our Nativity set is a most remarkable sight: God made himself at home with us by taking on flesh and becoming a human person. We call this mystery the Incarnation. What are some of the things that John's Gospel says happened for us because Jesus came to dwell among us? (Light overcame darkness; we see God's glory in Jesus; we became children of God.) Together thank God for this mystery of the Incarnation and the salvation that we received because Jesus was born among us. Sing together a Christmas hymn, such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "Silent Night."

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sunday, December 26, 2021

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52 The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

Gospel Reflection

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead, they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost.

Family Reflection

Today's Gospel describes a time of anxiety in the life of Jesus' family. We can imagine their panic and worry as they discovered that Jesus was not with the caravan returning to Nazareth. The Holy Family journeyed with family members and friends because traveling alone was dangerous. When they found Jesus at the Temple, Jesus spoke like a typical adolescent, unsympathetic to his parents' concern. Yet his words teach an important lesson about reducing anxiety in our family life. In essence, Jesus says, "If you had remembered who I am, you would have known where to find me." In their panic, Mary and Joseph had forgotten what had been told to them before Jesus' birth, that their son was the Son of God. Knowing a person well helps reduce our anxieties for them because we can better predict how they will behave, and we know their capacity to handle the challenges life might present to them.

As you gather as a family, have fun playing the game "How well do you know me?" Take turns trying to stump one another by asking family members questions about yourself, such as "What is my favourite memory of a family vacation?" "Given a choice, what dinner menu would I pick?" "If I could travel anywhere in the world, where would I go?" One member of the family might prepare and read the questions aloud as each person writes down the answers. Family members then take turns guessing the answers, playing this game as a quiz show. Observe that one thing about families is that we learn to know each other well.

PARISH OFFICE

Karin, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from Monday 27th December 2021 until Monday 17th 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 and Karin will respond upon her return.

Mass Requests, Baptism Applications for 2022 and any other enquiries that have been submitted after Thursday 23rd December 2021, will be not be attended to until the office reopens on Monday 17th January 2022. Thank You.



FACE-COVERINGS/MASKS

Face coverings/masks are now mandatory in Places of Worship from Friday 10th 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.

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Tea and coffee will be served in the Cloister after the Sunday 9am and 10.30am Masses **on Sunday, 9th January 2021**: do come along and join us to meet your fellow parishioners, especially if you are new to the parish.

Tea, coffee and cake will also be served after the 9.30am Mass on Tuesday 4th January 2022 as it is Fr Eugene's Birthday, please do come along and wish him a very Happy Birthday!

If would like to help **once** a month from next year, please email the parish office with your details and which service you can help at. Thank you.

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 7th 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 15th 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 9th January 2022

Session 5 at 2.45pm.

Group 2

Sunday 9th 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 23rd 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!

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.

John 1:1-18

In the beginning...



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 and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.



Birthdays 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 thank you for your continued support.

A DAY WITH MARY

There will be a Day with Mary on Saturday 1st January 2022 – Sacred Heart, Wimbledon, 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.

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

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 can also register for Gift-Aid 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.

LATELY DEAD

++ Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Siese. His requiem will take place here at St Agatha's on Thursday 6th January 2022 at 1pm.

++ 'Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he 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

Henry Talbot, Catherine Boulter, Ellen McDonnell, Annie Jardine, Joseph Rankin, Millicent Prince, Ellen Jarvis, Keith Perkins, Georgina Darnell, Mary Absalom, Arthur Norris, William Dorsett, Monica Brennan, Rose Mary Irgolith, Elizabeth McKenna, Astor Charles Henchy, Antonietta Ambruso, Lionel Jones, Bertram Woodhouse Currie, John McDonnell, Alfred North, Nora Cremin, Henry Desmond, Kathleen Anderson, Kevin Smith, John McCormack, Marguerite Hards, Moyra McCullagh, Lilian Teresa Cullen, Violet Palmeri, Francis Cardinal Bourne, Michael Cooney, Mary Angela Gilbert, John Williamson, Patricia Crump, John Pereira, Olga Paine, Peter Kelly, Jeremiah O'Dowd, Rose Wilson, Mary Westhead, Anna Hanson, John Stevenson, Stanley Bays, Jack Allen, Hannah Mennis, Edgar Duckett, Fredrick Thomas. Dorothy Eley, Vincent Raymond, Olive Bryden, Tony Green, Mary Josephine Edwards, Sarah Kelly, Helena Collins, Michael Frain, Ellen Merritt, Patrick Connolly, John Crehan, Michael Jordan, Teresa Buller, Clara Cunningham, Joan Culme, Daniel Quaid, Maurice Woolger, Azzopardi Twins. Joseph Kiernan, Mary Johnston, Sr. Lucy Proctor, William Finn, Nicholas Power, Constance Neve, Joan Marie Jackson.

+++May They Rest In Peace +++

World Day of Prayer for Peace is observed on 1st January

We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace. ~ Pope Francis, Dialogue with Eugenio

Scafari, La Repubblica