

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 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

SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, (C)

Saturday 27th

9.30am Wellbeing of Rosemary Corroon

6.30pm Intentions for Emily Galligan & Family

Sunday 28th 1st Sunday of Advent

9am Antonio Francisco RIP

10.30am Maria McCarthy RIP

6.30pm Wellbeing of Emma Chester

Monday 29th

9.30am Marcella Family RIP

Tuesday 30th St Andrew, Apostle, Feast

9.30am David Rattray RIP

Wednesday 1st

9.30am Wellbeing of Keith Fraser,
Wellbeing of Mavis Hatchman
Wellbeing of Richard Beale

Thursday 2nd

9.30am Wellbeing of Pat Robins

Friday 3rd St Francis Xavier, Priest, Memorial

9.30am Giles Chisholm RIP

Saturday 4th

9.30am Special Intentions

6.30pm Marie-Anne & Edward Xiberras RIP

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.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

We are hoping all our usual Christmas Masses will be held in church, but please look out for more info, updates and our Advent and Christmas programme next week.

SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MUSIC AND SINGING AT MASSES

Congregational singing is now permitted and this weekend we are looking forward to having music *and* singing back during our masses.

However, please note that everyone who is singing **MUST wear a face mask.**

Choir and music groups are exempt from this rule and will therefore be seated together away from the main congregation.

We are also appealing for more musicians and singers! If you can play the piano, organ or any other instrument, or you would be happy to be part of a group and would like to play / sing at one of the Masses, please contact the parish secretary with your details. Thank you.

Honouring Sunday – please see the statement from the Bishops' Conference concerning the Sunday Obligation, released 19 November 2021, here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/>

Copies are also available in the church porch.



The Columban's Missionaries Appeal

On Sunday 14th November 2021 we were joined by Fr. John Boles, SSC, who did a mission appeal for the Columban's Missionaries at all masses; A total of £961.70 was raised.

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting them.

COLD!! SADLY, THE CHURCH BOILER HAS BROKEN-DOWN AND CANNOT BE REPAIRED UNTIL NEXT 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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS

A small selection of Christmas Cards are available to purchase in the Cloister after all Masses or alternatively contact the parish office during opening hours. More cards and 2022 calendars will be available very soon.

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASSES

Tea and coffee will be served in the Cloister after the Sunday 9am and 10.30am Masses **next Sunday, 5th December 2021**: do come along and join us to meet your fellow parishioners, especially if you are new to the parish, *and also to wish Fr Francis a very Happy Birthday!*

If you attend these Masses and 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.



Pre-Christmas 'Spruce Up' SAVE THE DATE!

This year our dedicated Pre-Christmas 'Spruce Up' morning will be on **Saturday 11th December**, after morning Mass. 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 is 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, it would really be appreciated!) Tea, coffee and soup and all the cleaning products will be provided.

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 5th December 2021**
Session 4 at 2.45pm.

Group 2

- ❖ **Sunday 5th December 2021**
Session 4 at 4.30pm.

We would like to remind parents that children need to arrive punctually for the start time of each session please!



Primary 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.

A priest will be available to sign Primary school application forms from **2-4pm on Thursday 9th December 2021**. 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, **especially Baptism Certificates**.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2022.

SYNOD 2021 2023

The Synod, launched by Pope Francis, is an unprecedented opportunity for every parishioner to submit their positive and constructive views on three issues. Answers will be totally anonymous, they will be collated and submitted to the Diocese, from where they will be passed on to Rome. This is your opportunity to express your views; we would urge you to take it!

As you leave, please pick up a questionnaire, if you haven't already. You can either complete this and post it in a box at the back of the church or, even better, visit the parish website Synod page at: <https://www.stagathaschurch.org.uk/synod-2021-2023> and click the link to the survey to complete it online, or scan the QR Code to open it on your mobile.

The deadline has been extended and you will now have until 17th December 2021 to complete the questionnaire.

Please don't lose your chance.



CONFIRMATION 2021/22



Apologies, the programme and schedule details are still not yet available. Full details will be provided via email as soon as we know more.

PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week at 10 am after Mass. Please stay after Mass for 10/15 mins to pray with fellow parishioners.



THE ROSARY



We pray the Rosary in the church every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning after Mass. Everyone is welcome to join in.

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!



MARRIAGES IN 2022

2022 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.



First Sunday of Advent, Cycle C
Sunday, November 28, 2021

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus teaches his disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in glory.

Gospel Reflection

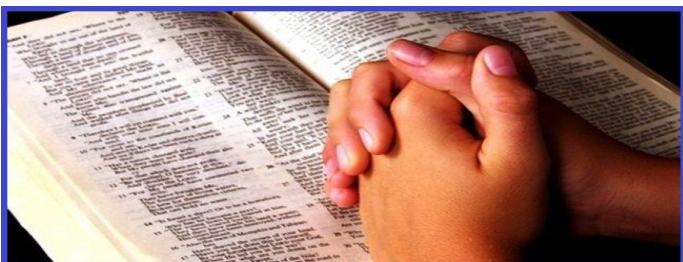
Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unflinching love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.



**THE IMPORTANCE OF
WATCHING AND PRAYING**
Luke 21:34-36

Family Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. Many families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to here. We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education, or any number of other concerns. All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him, remaining vigilant for his return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations. Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives.

As you gather as a family, recall the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Observe that today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year. During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth and at the end of time. Read today's Gospel, Luke 21:25-28,34-36. Jesus describes signs that may disturb many people, but he says that these should not disturb his disciples. Why? (Because these signs indicate that redemption is near) What does Jesus say that his disciples should do? (Be vigilant and pray for strength.) At this start of the new Church year, consider as a family what "Advent resolutions" your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming. Pray together for God's help in following through on these resolutions. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 25.

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

Save lives not money this Black Friday - CAFOD World Gifts 2021. How successful was your Black Friday? CAFOD suggest that the pursuit of that special bargain can lead to purchases that we do not need... Really! Why not consider a different present this advent season. To quote CAFOD "Each one of CAFOD's World Gifts helps those living in poverty. And poverty does not do price cuts. So we do not do Black Friday". Browse CAFOD's World Gifts Catalogue <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> Whilst you are surfing, why not take time to view CAFOD's Family Advent Calendar 2021. It is not too late to join this journey through the season of advent with our global family. 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. Place your order online by midnight on 15th December 2021 to receive FREE DELIVERY on your gifts and they'll arrive in time for Christmas! Catalogues are available in the church porch or visit the link above. CAFOD a thank you for your continued support.

FIVE BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS

Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. As a result, you will experience Sunday Mass in a new way!

Five Wednesdays: 24 Nov | 1 Dec | 8 Dec | 15 Dec | 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time). Free of Charge | LIVE sessions on YouTube.

Info & Registration: <https://comeandsee.org/advent>

LONDON SW CATHOLIC SOCIAL GROUP

London SW Catholic Social Group is a group for Catholic adults to meet for regular social and networking events in a friendly and relaxed setting with the aim of making new friends, enjoy new experiences or just to socialise.

London SW Catholic Social Group is looking for people to help lead and organise events for 18 to 35s and over 60s. Please let them know if you are interested in participating or organising.

Find them on Facebook – 'London SW Catholic Social Group' or email: londonswcatholicsocial@gmail.com

AN INVITATION TO 'BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE'

A morning session online in which married couples can explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into their communication and the call of the Church to the married. Online course. Saturday 8th January, 2022. 9am till 1pm. £10 per couple (suggested donation). 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 ESSENTIAL! Contact: Mrs Carole Batty Tel: 07983524727 or Email: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

LATELY DEAD

++ Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Siese who died recently. His requiem will take place here at St Agatha's on Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 1.30pm.

++ Please also pray for the repose of the soul of James (Jim) Corcoran who died on Monday 8th November 2021, aged 88. His requiem will take place here at St Agatha's on Tuesday 21st December 2021 at 11.30am.

++ Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Loretta Jonassen, who died in New Zealand on Friday 12th November 2021. Loretta lived in the UK for 25 years, predominantly in Kingston and was very much part of life here in the community. Our condolences to her daughter, Elle, and husband, Gerard.

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.

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

Edith Stimson, Ellen Metcalf, Mary Braby, William Howson, William McBride, Derrick Wright, Kitty Shier, Fr. Eugene O'Sullivan, Fr. Donagh O'Brien, Josephine Heaney, Edgar Thomas, Cynthia Marsh, Elizabeth Ryan, Mary Sheehy, Walter Joseph O'Sullivan, Bridget Ryan, Anita Galiano, Anne Slaughter, Brian Talbot, Marco Saiz, Sister Ambrosine, Honora Browne, Robert Dean, Margaret Prosser, Alice Bays, John Curtin, Baby Felix James Olney, Vincent Thomas McCall, Daniel Liddy, Annie Conway, Elizabeth Dorsett, Francis Mahony, Mary Anne Hubble, Frances Farr, Edna Johnson, James Jones, Anne Teresa Carbury, Ernestine Hannah Emerson, Vanda Cocco, Charles Selwood, Nellie Scaplehorn, General Jaeme Arrospide, John Fabriek, Philippa Armstrong, John Whelan, Isabel White, George Terence Dove, Mary Vivian, Lenord McIlbalton, Hugh McFaul, Joseph O'Connell, Barbara Croucher, Thomas Conway.

+++May They Rest In Peace +++

This world in which we live needs beauty in order not to fall into despair.' What kind of beauty? Not the false one made up of appearance and earthly wealth, which is empty and generates emptiness. No. But that [beauty] of a God who became flesh, that of faces, of stories; that of the creatures who form our common home and who – as St. Francis teaches us – participate in the praise of the Most High". ~ Pope Francis, 22nd November 2021.