

**Entrance Antiphon**

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

**Cf. Ps 42: 1-2****Gospel Acclamation****Jn11:25, 26**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will never die.

**Gospel****John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33-45**

Mary and Martha sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,  
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,  
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Hear us, almighty God,  
and, having instilled in your servants  
the teachings of the Christian faith,  
graciously purify them  
by the working of this sacrifice.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon**

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

We pray, almighty God,  
that we may always be counted among the members  
of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have  
communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Prayer over the People**

Bless, O Lord, your people,  
who long for the gift of your mercy,  
and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire  
they may receive by your generous gift.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Collect**

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,  
may we walk eagerly in that same charity  
with which, out of love for the world,  
your Son handed himself over to death.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**First reading****Ezekiel 37:12-14**

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 129(130)**

*With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading.

*With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

*With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

My soul is waiting for the Lord.  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.)

*With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity.

*With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

**Second reading****Romans 8:8-11**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.



website: [www.saintagathas.org.uk](http://www.saintagathas.org.uk)

## 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Service times :

### St Agatha Sundays at 11am

St Barnabas at 9am on Sundays  
22<sup>nd</sup> March - Mass

Asperges me, Domine, hyssopo et mundabor,  
Lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.  
Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula  
saeculorum. Amen (Return to Asperges me- all sing 2<sup>nd</sup> time)

Thou wilt sprinkle me, O Lord, with hyssop and I shall be cleansed  
Thou wilt wash me, and I shall be washed whiter than snow.  
Pity me, O God, according to Thy great mercy Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen

### Holy Week at St Agatha's 2026

Palm Sunday 29th March 11am

Wednesday 1st April Stations of the Cross 11am

Maundy Thursday 2nd April 7.30pm

Good Friday 3rd April 2pm

Easter Vigil Saturday 4th April 6.30pm

Easter Sunday Mass 11am

Our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is on **Sunday 26th April**  
after Mass. All church members should attend if possible.

### Oswestry Chrism Mass

Lichfield Cathedral

Monday 30th March 11am

followed by a hearty buffet

2.15pm Catechesis

3pm Benediction

Another date for your diaries:

Oswestry Festival

on Saturday 13th June at St Agatha's

Wednesday 1st April

Stations of the Cross

followed by church cleaning  
and preparation for Easter.

Everyone very welcome!

Dress: informal!

We pray for our parish, for all who live and work within our parish boundaries; holding them up for God's blessing. We pray for all pupils who attend the schools within our parish. We pray for St Agatha's Boxing Club, and St Barnabas' Nursery. We commend to you all who are sick or in any kind of need. We pray for the Fr Michael, Fr Sergei, Church Warden Martin and the congregation of the Russian Orthodox Parish of All Saints, who meet at St Agatha's on Saturdays.

We pray for our parish in interregnum. We ask your help for all in positions of responsibility in our churches and for priests who visit and minister to us. We pray for Bishop Paul.

We pray for each individual member of our congregations that we may be faithful to our vocations and worthy ambassadors of our Catholic faith.

### St Agatha's Prayer

Let your forgiveness be won for us by the pleading of Saint Agatha, who found favour with you by her chastity and by her courage in suffering death for the gospel.

### St Barnabas's Prayer

God our Father, You filled Saint Barnabas with faith and the Holy Spirit and sent him to convert the nations; help us to proclaim the gospel by word and deed.

We pray for those who are in need or ill:  
Janet Gregory, John Gregory, David Stokes, Elaine Stanley, Donnette Rigg, Phil Lee,, Esther Micklewright, Robert Smith, Fr. John Luff, Carole Luff, Becky Morton, Azra Parveen, Fr Michael Gogoleff.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Amelia Kolpa and for those with anniversaries at this time of year.

**Easter Raffle tickets available!**

*Our clock has broken- Gareth is in touch with the repairers...*

