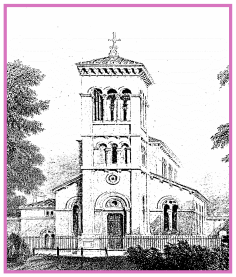

St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell
Chaplaincy to Kingston University
Tel 020 8616 9583 Email michaellovell@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Office -(Mon. - Fri. 9.00am - 4.00pm)
St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 - 2NA
Church Manager Tel 020 8541 – 4999
Email surbiton@rcaos.org.uk Web. www.straphaelsurbiton.org.uk

15th December 2019 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday (A)

9.30am Family Mass	Protection of unborn children and God's mercy for those advocating abortion
11.30am Mass with Hymns	Margaret Davany RIP
5.00pm Quiet Mass	Missa Pro Populo

6.15pm Parish Carol Service

(No Rosary & Benediction today)

Mon. 16th December	Advent Feria
10.00am	Frances Smith RIP
Tue. 17th December	Advent Feria
10.00am	The Holy Souls
Wed. 18th December	Advent Feria
12.00noon	The Holy Souls
Thu. 19th December	Advent Feria (Latin Mass Novus Ordo)
10.00am	Denis Curtin RIP

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today.

Fri. 20th December	Advent Feria
10.00am	The Sheridan family

(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)

Sat. 21st December	Advent Feria
10.00am	The Holy Souls

22nd December 2019 – 4th Sunday of Advent – (A)

9.30am Family Mass	**Francesca Poulter and the Berni & Martin Families**
11.30am Mass with Hymns	**Fr. Jim McCaffrey CSSP**
5.00pm Quiet Mass	**Missa Pro Populo**

No Rosary & Benediction today

The Third Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy, with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

Christmas Offerings

Your offerings made at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are your personal gift to the Parish Priest. There are Christmas Offering envelopes available at the back of the church. However, if you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, please use the special Christmas Offering Envelope in your packet. Thank you for your generosity.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY-
Today during the 9.30am Mass in Alexander House. (We then take a break until Sunday 12th January.)

1st HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES -
Resumes on Saturday 11th January at 10.30am in Alexander House.

RCIA –
Monday 8.00pm in the Library.

SUNDAY ROSARY & BENEDICTION -
Resumes on Sunday 5th January.

THURSDAY EXPOSITION -
Resumes on Thursday 9th January

TEA AND COFFEE -
There is tea and coffee in the hall after the morning Masses today and after the midday Mass on Wednesdays.
Please join us and say hello.

HOSPITAL -
If you, or a member of your family, are admitted to Kingston Hospital you need to inform ward staff that you are a Roman Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. If you are calling on behalf of someone in the hospital, please call the hospital main switchboard - 0208 546 7711. The Switchboard will contact the Roman Catholic Chaplain.
If you need the Sacrament of the Sick at home, please speak to Fr. Michael.

THE ROSARY –
is recited daily in the Church.
Monday – Saturday before Mass
& 4.00pm on Sundays.

CONFESSIONS -
Sun. 9.00am – 9.20am
& 4.30pm – 4.50pm
Sat. 10.30am – 11.00am

St. Joseph's Our Catholic Primary and Nursery School

The Fairfield, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2UP. Tel. 020 8546 7178
E.mail office@stjosephs.rbksch.org Web. www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk
Boys & Girls Aged 3-11. Breakfast Club & After School Club.
Head teacher – Mrs Sarah Keefe
Rated Good by Ofsted

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm, 6.00pm, Carols from 11.30pm, Mass at Midnight.

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am, 11.30am (no evening Mass).

For full details of all our Masses and other services during the Christmas period, please see the Parish Website. **Parking** will be available for the 4.00pm & 6.00pm Masses in the TA Centre. Once again we are extremely grateful to the staff there for allowing us to use their car park.

WEDNESDAY TEA & COFFEE

The tea and coffee gathering this Wednesday will be a special Christmas celebration – do join us!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We still have a selection of beautiful Christmas cards for sale in the card rack in the hall. All profits go towards church funds.

THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

£716.92 loose + £306.00 Gift Aid = £1,022.92

There will be a 2nd Collection today for Christmas Flowers.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

The next Parish Baptism Course for those living within the parish boundary and attending Sunday Mass here, will be held on Saturday 18th January from 10.00am – 12.00 noon in Alexander House. To attend the course please email the Parish Office to obtain an application form.

The lamp on St. Anthony's shrine is burning this week for the Solomon & North families.

Our 2019 Crib Appeal –
'The Catholic Children's Society'

This Christmas, our Crib Offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society. The Catholic Children's Society supports disadvantaged children and families across London, Hertfordshire and the South East. They work with individuals of all faiths and none. Their sole aim is to help those in greatest need.

They help vulnerable children overcome the challenges they face so they can achieve their full potential and have hope for a brighter future. Each year they support hundreds of children who experience issues such as abuse, neglect, domestic violence and family breakdown.

They operate a Crisis Fund, which provides immediate financial support for families who may be facing a crisis in their lives. This support makes a huge difference to families in desperate situations when they have nowhere else to turn. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be distributed to the needy, via these grants.

For more information go to https://www.cathchild.org.uk/

Please join us at 6.15pm this evening for our candlelit Parish Carol Service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin for "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4 -5 "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." We mark this Sunday by changing the colour of the vestments from deep purple to a lighter rose colour.

This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near. This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week, we heard John speak about his relationship to Jesus the coming Messiah. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Matthew's Gospel tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. However, in his next breath, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed, recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. Salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

POPE FRANCIS' LETTER ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

As approach the Christmas Season, Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter: "Admirabile signum", on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene. He signed the Letter during his visit to the Italian town of Greccio. This mountain village is where Saint Francis of Assisi created the first crib scene in 1223 to commemorate the birth of Jesus. To read the Apostolic Letter, go to http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html

Congratulations to Juan Martin who was baptised last Sunday at St. Raphael's.
May the Lord continue the good work he has started.