

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

1st December 2019 - 1st Sunday of Advent (A)

9.30am Family Mass Elizabeth Garry RIP
11.30am Mass with Hymns Kelly Dagleish RIP
5.00pm Quiet Mass Missa Pro Populo

Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 4.00pm

Mon. 2nd December Advent FERIA
10.00am The Glynn Family
Tue. 3rd December St. Francis Xavier
10.00am Mike Barlow
Wed. 4th December St. John Damascene
12.00noon The Ramos & Mitchell families
Thu. 5th December Advent FERIA (Latin Mass Novus Ordo)
10.00am The Glynn & Sheridan families
Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for vocations to the priesthood. Concludes with Benediction at 12.00noon.
Fri. 6th December St. Nicholas
10.00am In reparation for the sin of abortion
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)
Sat. 7th December St. Ambrose
10.00am Michael Cawley

8th December 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

9.30am Family Mass Elizabeth Garry RIP
11.30am Mass with Hymns Kelly Dagleish RIP
5.00pm Quiet Mass Missa Pro Populo

Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 4.00pm

Today we light the first Candle on our Advent wreath. As part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas, the use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding tradition. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, a circle, has no beginning or end and symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice.

The first candle, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the 'Prophecy Candle' in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, represents faith. It is called the 'Bethlehem Candle' as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the 'Shepherd's Candle' and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This candle is called the 'Angel's Candle' and symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels - "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

On Christmas Eve we light the white candle. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY-

Sundays during the 9.30am Mass in Alexander House.

1st HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES -

Saturday at 10.30am in Alexander House.

RCIA -

Monday 8.00pm in the Library.

SUNDAY ROSARY & BENEDICTION -

4.00pm.

THURSDAY EXPOSITION -

After Mass on Thursday concluding with Benediction at 12.00noon.

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 -

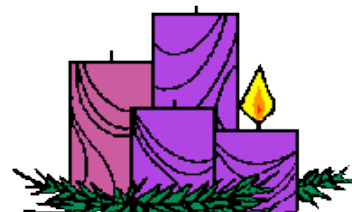
If you, or a member of your family, are admitted to Kingston Hospital you need to inform ward staff that you are a Roman Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. If you are calling on behalf of someone in the hospital, please call the hospital main switchboard - 0208 546 7711. The Switchboard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



*The first candle is the
'Prophecy's Candle' - Hope*

ADVENT CALENDARS

There are still some Advent Calendars for sale in the hall after Mass today, along with Christmas Cards and other Christmas gifts.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS

The Post Office have issued this year's Christmas Stamps. Remember, when you buy your stamps for your Christmas Cards – ask for the religious ones. Otherwise, you will only get snow scenes and the Post Office will say there is no call for religious stamps!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH ON JESUS FESTIVE HAMPERS TO FAMILIES IN NEED

Last December, Doxa Deo Community Church ran the 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus' project which funded, packed and distributed 850 full Christmas hampers to families in need across South West London. Once again this year the project will run on the 20th and 21st December at Tolworth United Reformed Church. If you would like to be involved in donating towards hampers or packing and distributing hampers, please go to www.christmaslunchonjesus.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

All children aged 6 to 11 are invited to design a Christmas card and submit an entry to The Centre for Catholic Formation by Monday 9th December. Six winners will be chosen to receive a 'Jesse Box'. Please visit our website www.ccftootingbec.org.uk for more information.

ELECTION HUSTINGS

Churches and charities from across the Royal Borough will be hosting an Election Hustings this coming Tuesday, 3rd December at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church from 7.30pm - 9.30pm. This will be an opportunity for you to meet and ask questions of your prospective parliamentary candidates. There will be a roaming microphone on the night or, if you would prefer, you can submit your question to be read by the chair for the evening - email anna@expresscic.org.uk or paul.pickhaver@ddcc.org.uk. Join us for a lively evening!

There will also be an Election Hustings, at All Saints Kingston this coming Thursday, 5th December, 1:00pm to 2:00 pm in the Church. Meet, hear and question all the candidates to be Kingston and Surbiton's next MP. If you have a question to suggest, please email it to lgpacker123@gmail.com or ring 020 8549 1960, by Friday 29 November, giving a phone contact number.

THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION'S

£504.08 loose + £423.71 Gift Aid
= £927.79

Plus £207.52 for the Catholic Youth Service

ADVENT READING – 'MY DAY BY DAY'

There are copies of the Advent edition of 'My Day by Day' available at the back of the Church - they cost £1.00 (Please put money in the box marked Newspapers.) This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during advent and is an excellent way to prepare for Christmas.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It 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 Matthew will be the primary Gospel we hear. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

St. Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that St. Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centred on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation - Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory. The passage from St. Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory - so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs - there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man."

Pope Francis

LAUGHTER CLUB

The Laughter Club will meet this coming Wednesday in the upper room of Alexander House from 7:00pm-8:00pm. Please join us and finish with a cup of tea or coffee. Everyone is welcome to come along. The charge will be £10, which will cover costs and provide a donation to the church.

WEDNESDAY TEA & COFFEE

The tea and coffee gathering on Wednesday 18th December will be a special Christmas celebration – do join us!

*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