



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Chaplaincy to Kingston University

Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell

Tel 020 8616 9583 michaellovell@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Office -(Mon. - Fri. 9.00am - 4.00pm)

St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 - 2NA

Church Manager Tel 020 8541 - 4999

Email surbiton@rcaos.org.uk Web. www.straphaelsurbiton.org.uk

22nd December 2018 - 4th Sunday of Advent (A)

9.30am Family Mass

Robbie Lynch RIP

11.30am Mass with Hymns

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Quiet Mass

Paul Marron & Christian Bes RIP

No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today

Monday 23rd December
10.00am

Advent Feria
Molly Holbright RIP

24th December Christmas Eve

(No 10.00am Mass)

4.00pm Children's Mass - Denis Jennings

6.00pm Vigil Mass with Carols - Missa Pro Populo

11.30pm Carols followed by Solemn Midnight Mass - Alexander Raphael RIP

25th December Christmas Day

9.30am Mass with Carols - Denis Curtin RIP

11.30am Mass with Carols - Jacinto do Rosario

Thursday 26th December

St. Stephen

12.00 noon

Peggy Lovell RIP (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)

(No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today)

Friday 27th December

St. John the Apostle and Evangelist

10.00am

William & Ethel Larkin RIP

(During the octave of Christmas, we are not asked to abstain from Meat on Fridays)

Saturday 28th December

The Holy Innocents

10.00am

Victor Donaldson

29th December 2018 - The Holy Family (A)

9.30am Sung Mass

Myra Kennedy RIP

11.30am Mass with Hymns

Vittoria German Morales Sommaruga

5.00pm Quiet Mass

Missa Pro Populo

No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today

Monday 30th December

Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Tuesday 31st January

Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

10.00am

Alan Plaistowe and the Sheridan family

Wednesday 1st January

Mary Mother of God

12.00noon

Alan Plaistowe and the Bromley family

Thursday 2nd January

SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

10.00am

Eileen Pearce RIP (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)

(No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today)

Friday 3rd January

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

10.00am

In reparation for the sin of abortion

Saturday 4th January

Feria in Christmastide

10.00am

Edna Balinska RIP

5th January 2020 - The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

9.30am Sung Mass

Teresa Phillips RIP

11.30am Mass with Hymns

Vittoria German Morales Sommaruga

5.00pm Quiet Mass

Missa Pro Populo

No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today



On the 4th Sunday of Advent, we light the 'Angel's Candle' symbolizing peace - reminding us of the message of the angels - "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward All Men."



FR. MICHAEL WRITES:

A Greeting for you all: Have a very happy Christmas, with many Blessings.

Thank you for the generous offerings already received, also the lovely Christmas cards and gifts. Thank you for your friendship and kindness.

There are many people to thank over the Christmas and New Year period:-

Michael Pearce for his co-ordination and expertise in our parish office. The Director of Music, our organists and members of the choir. Our Readers, Sacristans, Welcomers, Servers and Handmaids and those who lead the rosary during the week. Those who clean the church and hall and our flower arrangers. Those who care for our altar linen, vestments and brassware. All our Catechists and the team looking after Children's Liturgy. The teams providing refreshments after Masses and those who look after the Repository. Those who cater and arrange the hall for large celebrations.

THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAYS COLLECTION

£841.30 Loose + £305.01 Gift Aid
= £1,146.31

Plus £269.93 for Christmas Flowers

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The collection taken at all Masses on Christmas Day is your personal offering to Fr. Michael, our Parish Priest. This collection forms part of his income to support his personal needs and expenses during the year ahead. Christmas Offering envelopes are available for your use at the back of the Church. (If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme, please use the special envelope in your packet.) Thank you for your kind and generous support.

*The Sanctuary Lamps this week are burning for
Mary Hosie & Eileen Lane RIP*



Please note most of our Parish Groups and activities are taking a break for Christmas.

Sunday Tea and coffee

There is Tea and coffee on Sunday 22nd December it then resumes on the 12th January.

Wednesday Tea and coffee

Resumes on the 8th January.

RCIA

Resumes on Monday 13th January.

1st Holy Communion classes

Resumes on Saturday 11th January.

Thursday Exposition

Resumes on Thursday 9th January.

Sunday Rosary and Benediction

Resumes on Sunday 12th January.

Children's Liturgy

Resumes on Sunday 12th January.

Parish Newsletter

Our next Parish Newsletter will be on Sunday 5th January.

VOLUNTEERING OVER CHRISTMAS

Many people may wish to get involved in local plans to provide for those who might otherwise spend Christmas alone or in need. 'Londonist' offers some ideas for those who wish to consider giving their time and energy to help charities run their services in London on Christmas Day. Visit their website for more information.

<https://londonist.com/london/christmas-in-london/where-to-volunteer-in-london-at-christmas>

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>

2020 CATHOLIC DIRECTORIES

Unfortunately there has been a publishing delay. It is hoped that the directories will be available early in the new year.

'The image of the crib, so dear to people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. It shows God's tender love - the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realize that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins.

The crib invites us to "feel" and "touch" the poverty that God's Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need. The shepherds respond to God who comes to meet us in the Infant Jesus, by setting out to meet him with love, gratitude and awe. The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene reminds us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and the fleeting promises of happiness.

By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast - the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.

At Mary's side stands Saint Joseph. He plays an important role in the life of Jesus and Mary. He is the guardian who tirelessly protects his family. He was to be the first teacher of Jesus as a boy and then as a young man. Joseph treasured in his heart the great mystery surrounding Jesus and Mary his spouse. As a just man, he entrusted himself always to God's will, and put it into practice.

When, at Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger - the scene comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things. It seems impossible, yet it is true in Jesus. God was a child and in this way he wished to reveal the greatness of his love - by smiling and opening his arms to all.

The birth of a child awakens joy and wonder. It sets before us the great mystery of life. Seeing the bright eyes of a young couple gazing at their new-born child, we can understand the feelings of Mary and Joseph who, as they looked at the Infant Jesus, sensed God's presence in their lives. God's ways are astonishing, for it seems impossible that he should forsake his glory to become a man like us. To our astonishment, we see God acting exactly as we do - he sleeps, takes milk from his mother, cries and plays like every other child! As always, God baffles us. He is unpredictable, constantly doing what we least expect.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Christmas crib is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him - his children.

May we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that from our wonderment a humble prayer may arise. A prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all and thus never to leave us.'

Part of Pope Francis Letter: "Admirabile signum", on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene. To read the full text, go to

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/pap_a-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html

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.