



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

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

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

Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 4.00pm

Mon. 9th December The Immaculate Conception
10.00am Mrs Nora McDonnell RIP
Tue. 10th December Advent FERIA
10.00am Alfons Balinski RIP
Wed. 11th December Advent FERIA
12.00noon Edward Black RIP
Thu. 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe (Latin Mass Novus Ordo)
10.00am The Holy Souls
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today.
Fri. 13th December St. Lucy
10.00am Colin Foster RIP
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)
Sat. 14th December St. John of the Cross
10.00am Fr. John Moth

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)

On Wednesday morning at 10.00am we welcome the staff and children, with their parents from St. Joseph's School, to the Church for their annual carol service.

The Parish Carol Service will take place next Sunday Evening at 6.15pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine.



The second candle is the "Bethlehem Candle" which symbolises faith and reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

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. We will then take a break for Christmas and resume on Sunday 5th January.

THURSDAY EXPOSITION -

After Mass on Thursday concluding with Benediction at 12.00noon.
(Not this week)

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

ARCHBISHOP JOHN HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES IN RELATION TO THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTION.

In making judgments about how to vote, please consider carefully the following and ask your candidates how they would uphold:

- The innate dignity of every human being - defending both the child in the womb, the good of the mother and an understanding of the immeasurable good of a child not yet born?
- The dignified care for those who are terminally ill and dying while resisting the false compassion of assisted suicide or euthanasia?
- The needs of those who are frequently neglected or discarded by society such as people with disabilities, travellers, older people, those who are homeless, those in prison and those trapped in modern slavery?
- The process of integration of migrants and refugees who have made their homes here[4], challenging the global rise of xenophobia and racism that is so radically incompatible with our faith[5]?
- The rights of those in our own communities and overseas who "can see no end to the tunnel of extreme poverty,"[6] providing them with assistance and confronting the structural injustices that compound their suffering?
- Care for our common home and tackle the climate emergency which threatens the future of our entire human family and is already having a profound impact upon the world's poorest people[7]?
- Freedom of religion and belief, ensuring that everyone has the right to exercise their conscience and practise their creed freely without fear?
- The cherishing of marriage, recognising the essential place of the family in the service of life and of society?
- The right of parents to educate their children in accordance with their faith and support the work of Catholic schools in their contribution to society and their promotion of the common good?

Jesus tells us "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full." Informed by the work of our parishes, schools and charities, we should all approach this election as an opportunity to promote life, dignity and human flourishing for all.

We call on all Catholics to pray for the wellbeing of our society. May the Holy Spirit guide our choice as we seek together and for all - "life to the full."

Footnotes

[1] Pope Francis: Address to the Community of Christian Life – Missionary Students' League of Italy (30/4/15)

[2] Cf: "loving the truth means not only affirming it, but rather living it, bearing witness to it in your work." Pope Francis: Audience with National Council Order of Journalists (22/9/16)

[3] Pope Francis: Message for the 52nd World Day of Peace (1/1/19)

[4] Pope Francis: Message for the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (14/1/18)

[5] World Council of Churches and Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development: Message from the conference on Xenophobia, Racism and Populist Nationalism in the Context of Global Migration (20/9/18)

[6] Pope Francis: Message for the 3rd World Day of the Poor (17/11/19)

[7] Pope Francis: Address to meeting on the energy transition and care of our common home (14/6/19)

To read the statement in full go to
<http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/index.html>

JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARE THE WAY

In Gospel Readings for the next two Sundays, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In today's reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah is one of service and subservience - ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals". John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for the coming of Jesus we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ as John was and to announce by our lives, the coming of the Lord.

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 on Wednesday 18th December will be a special Christmas celebration – do join us!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

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

THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

£744.39 loose + £338.00 Gift Aid

= £1,082.39

there will be a 2nd Collection next Sunday for Christmas Flowers.



Congratulations to Teddy and Ezra who were baptised last Sunday at St. Raphael's. May the Lord continue the good work he has started.