



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, Surrey, KT1 - 2NA

Church Manager Tel 020 8541 - 4999

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

22nd March 2020 -

This week Fr. Michael and Fr. Geoffrey will offer Masses for the following

Sunday 22 nd March	The Fourth Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday (A)
Mandy White	
John Drainey's Intention	
Monday 23 rd March	Lenten Feria
Liam Curran RIP	
Tuesday 24 th March	Lenten Feria
Cafie Kellman	
Wednesday 25 th March	The Annunciation of the Lord
Joan Stevenson RIP	
Thursday 26 th March	Lenten Feria
Mr Enzo Collini RIP	
Friday 27 th March	Lenten Feria
Anne Sheridan & family	
Saturday 28 th March	Lenten Feria
Gerald Sheridan	
Sunday 29 th March	The Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)
Subramaniam Punniyalingham	
Ena O'Sullivan RIP	

DAILY MASS ON LINE can be viewed
www.churchservices.tv/whats-on-now/

KINGSTON AND SURBITON LAUGHTER CLUB Due to current situation the session on Wednesday 1st April has been cancelled.

ST. RAPHAEL'S LENTEN PROJECT - THE MANNA SOCIETY
TOTAL RAISED TO DATE £ 641.32

Sadly, due to current situation, all future events have had to be cancelled or postponed to later in the year.

For those who have booked tickets for the parish dinner dance, ticket money will be refunded, or you may wish to donate the money directly to our Lenten project.

THE LOCKDOWN LIFELINE is here to help, if you need it, as the current Covid-19 crisis worsens. We are a group of local volunteers that want to make sure no one is left behind with what's coming - if you need urgent support, are short of essential supplies or are alone and struggling then we will try our best to help.

Dedicated contact details:

Phone/text/WhatsApp - 07535906953

Email - MyLockdownLifeline@gmail.com

We're not professionals, just regular people like you who will do their best to help, and together we'll get through this.

The Sanctuary Lamps this week are burning for
- Mandy White, Ray Nightingale
The Lamp on Our Lady's Altar is burning for
- Archbishop Peter RIP
The Lamp at St. Anthony's Shrine is burning for
- Paddy

Due the terrible circumstances we current find ourselves in, the Bishops of England and Wales have had to take the unprecedented step of cancelling all public Masses and services from the evening of Friday 20th March until further notice.

Please note Mass will still be offered daily by our priests for the intentions that were booked for that week. The church will be open daily. Please see the noticeboard and our website for times on Sundays. On Saturdays it will be open between 10.00am - 11.00am and as usual during the week from 9.00am- 1.00pm. For the present the Parish Office will be open as normal
In addition the following are suspended until further notice

- The First Holy Communion Programme and the First Holy Communion Mass.
 - The RCIA Program.
 - Baptisms - except in the case of emergency.
- For details about the Sacrament of the Sick, Confessions funerals and marriages, please contact Fr. Michael or Michael in the Parish Office.

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time - that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, instead he gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks him out and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Him -: Those who are blind will now see and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.