



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

Sunday 16th August The Assumption of Our Lady

9.30am Antonio de Menezes and the deceased members of the de Menezes and Adamsom families

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Angela Woolliscroft RIP

Monday 17th August Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am Erlis Freeman RIP

Tuesday 18th August Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am Bill Woolliscroft RIP

Wednesday 19th August St. John Eudes

12.noon Denis Curtin RIP

Thursday 20th August St. Bernard

10.00am Angela Woolliscroft RIP

Friday 21st August Pope St. Pius X

10.00am Una Annett RIP

Saturday 22nd August The Queenship of Mary

10.00am The Holy Souls

Sunday 23rd August 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

9.30am Jannett Hamerton Fraser & Family RIP

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Bill Woolliscroft RIP

Please note for the present

- There will be no Sunday or Thursday exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- To avoid handing out booklets, Mass on Thursday will be celebrated in English.

Confessions - Confessions can be heard on request but will normally take place in the church grounds.

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals – Please email

Fr. Michael for details
michaellovell@rcaos.org.uk

The Parish Office – Please note, that for the time being, the Parish Office is only open two days a week – usually Mondays and Thursdays. Please email any inquiries to surbiton@rcaos.org.uk and someone will respond in due course. (For any urgent matters, please telephone Fr. Michael on 0208 541 4999).

Of your Charity, please pray for the Repose of the Soul of
George Hayes
who died recently.
May He Rest in Peace

CHURCH OPEN FOR MASS

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN WHEN IN THE CHURCH

Supervision and Sanitising will need to remain in place social distancing will be **2 metres**.

Extra Masses are not permitted at the moment on Sundays and numbers will need to be restricted by stewards. We have a total of 40 individual places available in the Church, hall and Private Pew. (This can be increased with households sitting together.) Mass will be streamed into the Hall.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is removed at this time and if possible please come to a weekday or Saturday Mass, instead of a Sunday Mass.

- Everyone attending Mass must give their names and telephone number to the stewards on arrival. (These will be kept for 21 days as part of the government's 'Track and Trace' system).
- Everyone must sanitise their hands on arrival and follow the instructions of the stewards, who will show them to a seat.
- Seating will be allocated strictly on a 'first come first served basis'. Please note the stewards act in Fr. Michael's name and with his authority.
- Once all the allocated seats in the church and hall are filled, **there will be no further access to the church.**
- Holy Communion must be received in the hand.
- There will be no choir or singing (but a Cantor is permitted.)
- Readers must wear gloves or sanitise their hands before and after reading (gel will be available by the pulpit.)
- **There will an opportunity to give to the parish through a static collection box or as you leave stewards will be holding open buckets.**
- The toilets and kitchen are out of use to all.
- There are no votive candles available to light at present.
- At the end of Mass everyone must remain seated until asked to leave by the stewards – at this point please leave the building promptly and please make sure you sanitise your hands before leaving.

Please do not visit the Church if you have a high temperature or a new continuous cough or a change in your normal sense of taste or smell.

Fr Michael



On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption. Thus, he solemnly proclaimed that the belief whereby the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the close of her earthly life - was taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, definitively forms part of the deposit of faith, received from the Apostles. To avoid all that is uncertain the Pope did not state either the manner or the circumstances of time and place in which the Assumption took place — only the fact of the Assumption of Mary, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, is the matter of the definition.

The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, Its origin is lost in those days when Jerusalem was restored as a sacred city, at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine. By then it had been a pagan city for two centuries, ever since Emperor Hadrian had levelled it around the year 135 and rebuilt it as Aelia Capitolina in honor of Jupiter. For 200 years, every memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city and the sites made holy by His life, death and Resurrection became pagan temples. After the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated by the people of Jerusalem. One of the memories about his mother centred around the "Tomb of Mary," close to Mount Zion, where the early Christian community had lived.

On the hill itself was the "Place of Dormition," the spot of Mary's "falling asleep," where she had died. The "Tomb of Mary" was where she was buried. At this time, the feast was known as the "Memory of Mary" later it was to become our feast of the Assumption - since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven.

That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of her death. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. Today, the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of Mary stands on the spot.

All the feast days of Mary mark the great mysteries of her life and her part in the work of redemption. The central mystery of her life and person is her divine motherhood, celebrated both at Christmas and a week later on the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Immaculate Conception marks the preparation for that motherhood, so that she had the fullness of grace from the first moment of her existence, completely untouched by sin. Her whole being throbbled with divine life from the very beginning, readying her for the exalted role of mother of the Saviour.

The Assumption completes God's work in her since it was not fitting that the flesh that had given life to God himself should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.

The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events - they do not look only to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution Munificentissimus Deus, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church in these words: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven."

With that, an ancient belief became Catholic doctrine and the Assumption was declared a truth revealed by God.



Congratulations and best wishes to Bethan, Charlie, Raymi, Rayel and Ethan who made their 1st Holy Communion recently here at St. Raphael's.

Offertory Collection - Please be as generous as you can with the offertory collection. The parish has had no income for three months and bills still need to be paid.

For the present, after all Masses – Sundays and Weekdays - the stewards will be holding buckets at the end of Mass as people leave. There is also an iron collection box at the back of the church – Thank you for your generosity.

The easiest way to help the church is to set up a standing order to the Parish Bank account. (Forms are available to email from the Parish Office) or can be downloaded from the Parish Website <https://straphaelsurbiton.org.uk/support-us/gift-aid-scheme/>

Fr. Peter's Presentation - If you would like to contribute, please place your offering in an envelope with "Fr. Peter's presentation" written on it. These can be put in the collection buckets after Mass, or be handed in to the Sacristy or Parish Office. In addition you can make a donation online directly to our bank account - A/C Name St Raphael's Catholic Church A/C number 36110469 Sort Code 60-50-01

NatWest, Croydon, Whitgift Centre Branch. Please mark the payment 'Fr. Peter's presentation.'

Catholic History Walks - Come and enjoy an August walk, and discover our Catholic history on the way! Two special Walks to celebrate the life and message of St John Henry Newman:

Wed Aug 19th meet at 6.00pm at the Church of the Most Precious Blood, O'Meara Street, London SE1 1TD (nearest tube/overground London Bridge). We will walk across London Bridge - with its story of St Olaf and Viking battles - to the birthplace of St John Henry Newman in the City.

Wed Aug 26th meet at 6.00 pm at St Elizabeth's Church, The Vineyard, Richmond TW10 6AQ. (Nearest tube/overground: Richmond). We will visit Richmond Palace and its links with Henry VIII etc. - and walk along the river to St John Henry Newman's childhood home at Ham.

We will be socially-distanced as we walk. All are welcome - no need to book, just turn up! A donation of £5.00p is suggested. More information: www.catholichistorywalks.com