



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

Sunday 13th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday (B)

9.30am	Patricia Single RIP
11.30am	Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm	Colin Foster RIP

Mon. 14th December	St. John of the Cross
10.00am	Edna & Ron Barwood RIP
Tue. 15th December	Advent FERIA
10.00am	Redmond & Nora McDonnell RIP
Wed. 16th December	Advent FERIA
12.00noon	Oonagh Lynch RIP
Thu. 17th December	Advent FERIA
10.00am	Mark Dutton RIP
Fri. 18th December	Advent FERIA
10.00am	Royd Mendes & family
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)	
Sat. 19th December	Advent FERIA
10.00am	Denis Curtin RIP

Sunday 20th December - 4th Sunday of Advent (B)

9.30am	Mrs Lina Cairolì
11.30am	Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm	Margaret O'Malley

For the present there is no Sunday or Thursday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Mass on Thursday mornings will be celebrated in English

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 PARISH OFFICE

The parish office is open Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 5.00pm

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

There is a 2nd Collection today in aid of Peter's Pence

Christmas Mass Times

24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm, 6.00pm, 9.00pm and 12 midnight

25th December - Christmas Day

8.00am, 9.30am and 11.30am

26th December - St. Stephen's Day (Boxing Day)

10.00am

Sunday 27th December - The Holy Family

9.30am, 11.30am and 5.00pm

28th December - 2nd January 10.00am

(except Wednesday 30th 12.00noon)

Sunday 3rd January - 2nd Sunday of Christmas

9.30am, 11.30am and 5.00pm

Please note due to the covid restrictions that will be in place, we have added two extra Masses over Christmas (9.00pm on Christmas Eve and 8.00am on Christmas Day.)

Seating and numbers at all Masses are restricted. 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. Seats will be allocated by the Stewards on arrival on a strictly first come first served basis. Once the Church is full people will be directed to the Hall and once this is full no one else will be admitted.

The obligation to attend Mass at this time is removed.

In addition please remember the Church celebrates the feast of Christmas for a full octave - eight days, so please also perhaps consider coming to Christmas Mass later in the week when it may be less crowded. Sadly we are unable to have our Carol Service this year.

Stewards

We are going to need at least two - ideally more - stewards for all the Christmas Masses. Could all existing Stewards and anyone else who would like to help with this please email the Parish Office ASAP with details of which Masses they can help with. Thank you



St. Joseph's Our Parish 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



The Third of Advent Candle symbolizes Joy, with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

What will bring you joy and happiness? There are various types of joy and happiness; some are superficial and come and go but there is also deeper and lasting joy and happiness that abides and remains. The pandemic with all the pain it brings to some, reminds us where we are to find our joy, only in God. Advent reminds us that the joyful answer to our problems lies in God. True joy and happiness is to be found only in God.

The readings today remind us that God is our joy. In the first reading we heard Isaiah reminding us that God is the source of our joy,

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation.'

During this Advent time of looking to God as the answer to our deepest needs, we could ask the question - is God the joy of our soul? Are we centred on God? Let us place God first because that is the only way to have joy.

Mary's Magnificat, her song of praise when she visited Elizabeth, which we heard as our Psalm today, also reminds us that God is our joy,

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.'

Sinless Mary was saved from sin in advance from the first moment of her existence through her immaculate conception, a special grace which was the fruit of Jesus' Passion, death and resurrection. All the rest of us are saved from the sin, after we fall into it, through Jesus' Passion, death and resurrection. What a joy for us to be saved by Jesus! But how unfortunate it is that we may live much of our day without realizing even how precious we are to God, that we are worth the price of Jesus' precious blood and his life. We can indeed rejoice in God our Saviour.

Our second reading, taken from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, urges us,

'Be happy at all times, pray constantly and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do.'

It is really our vocation to "rejoice always." How can we rejoice always? When we put our trust and hope in God, then even in difficult times when there is a storm at the surface, we can "rejoice always" deep within.

These beautiful texts we heard proclaimed from the Word of God today remind us that true joy and happiness is to be found only in God. If we are not finding our joy and happiness in God we are under an illusion - Advent reminds us that the joyful answer to our problems lies in God.

ONLINE CHRISTMAS MARKET BY THE SISTERS FROM THE ST. ELISABETH CONVENT, BELARUS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The joyous Christmas season is approaching! The season is filled with love, family and most importantly, God.

As you may be aware, we are unable to participate in annual Christmas markets in our region due to travel restrictions. Nevertheless we have found a great way to spread the Christmas joy, love and deeds of mercy.

We are launching the very first Online Christmas Market this year, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer. Please click here to participate: <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market>

Through purchasing beautiful Christmas gifts each one of us will be able to serve the poor, sick, homeless and lonely people. Because every item purchased at the Online Market is a donation towards one of our Convent's ministries.

The Online Christmas Market offers a range of unique handmade items that will make memorable Christmas gifts, including: Traditional hand painted Christmas ornaments, Wooden toys and souvenirs, Santa Claus and Father Frost figures, Handcrafted Christmas tree baubles, Nativity scenes and sets, Christmas themes ceramics and glass products

Orthodox Nativity icons, Russian matryoshka dolls and much more.

The Sisters send their prayers and blessings from Minsk. Throughout the pandemic and shutdowns, the Sisters were able to continue running and supporting their multiple social ministries that care for the vulnerable and sick nearby the Convent. Their biggest inspiration has been St. Elisabeth who helped the sick and those in need during her lifetime.

Please remember that you are always more than welcome at our Convent.

With love in Christ,
Sister Olga

2021 SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORIES

Copies of the 2021 Southwark Directories are available at the back of the Church. They cost £3.50. Please put money in the box marked Newspapers or pay via the card machine.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Your offerings made at Christmas are your personal gift to the Parish Priest. There are Christmas Offering envelopes available at the back of the church. However, if you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, please use the special Christmas Offering Envelope in your packet. This year because of the covid restrictions, His Grace the Archbishop has decided that all collections taken between Christmas Eve and up to and including the Epiphany will be taken as your offering.

Thank you for your generosity.

LAUGHTER FOR WELLBEING

Laughter for Wellbeing courses continued to be provided by Catherine and Tom Morrell. They are newly formatted and available online. Each session introduces participants to an understanding of the body chemistry involved in laughter and the self-awareness required to help regulate emotions; an opportunity to engage with simulated laughter activities; an introduction to the benefits of humming; and a guided meditation. Each session lasts 1-hour and costs £12. 10% of the proceeds are donated to the church. For more information and to read the testimonials please see the website: <https://laughing-aloud-allowed.com/> "Peace begins with a smile" Saint Teresa of Calcutta.'

Yesterday we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the unborn. We ask for her guidance and inspiration as we the church seek to support all pregnant mothers through their pregnancies, and that we would become models of support to all in society. Lord hear us