

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

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

Mon. 21st December Advent FERIA
10.00am Ivan Ivanov
Tue. 22nd December Advent FERIA
10.00am Katya Ivanova
Wed. 23rd December Advent FERIA
12.00noon The Baudonne Family

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm Ena O'Sullivan RIP
6.00pm Tom Brosnan RIP
9.00pm Lynn Russell - welfare
Midnight Alexander Raphael RIP

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

8.00am Gloria Nna RIP
9.30am Denis Curtin RIP
11.30am Missa Pro Populo



Sat. 26th December St. Stephen
10.00am Peggy Lovell RIP

Sunday 27th December - The Holy Family (B)

9.30am Peter Russell
11.30am Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm The O'Sullivan & McHugh's Family

Mon. 28th December The Holy Innocents
10.00am Victor Donaldson RIP
Tue. 29th December St. Thomas of Canterbury
10.00am Remigio & Fatima Mendes
Wed. 30th December Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas
12.00noon Jim & K Mulloy
Thu. 31st December Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
10.00am Pat Wessale
Fri. 1st January Mary Mother of God
10.00am Frank & Mary Kate Lynch RIP
Sat. 2nd January SS. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
10.00am The Whitear Family

Sunday 3rd January - 2nd Sunday after Christmas (B)

9.30am Francesca Poulter and the Berni & Martin Family
11.30am Martin Paes & Family
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

(Please note that as Christmas Day and New Years Day are both solemnities, the Church does not ask us to abstain from eating meat on these days)

Christmas Masses

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.

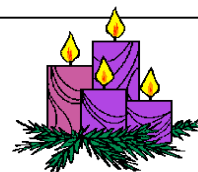
Stewards

We are short of Stewards for the 11.30am Mass on Christmas Morning if anyone can help with this please email the Parish Office ASAP Thank you.

Congratulations and best wishes to -
Ann & Adrian who were recently married here at St. Raphael's
and to Ava and Emily who were baptised.

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.



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

2021 SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC 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.



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

THE PARISH OFFICE

The parish will be open until midday on Christmas Eve and then closed until Monday 4th January.

CONFESSIONS

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



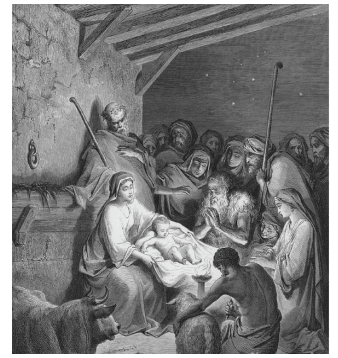
ST. RAPHAEL'S 2020 CRIB COLLECTION – THE MANNA SOCIETY

This year, the St. Raphael's Lenten Project which was in aid of the Manna Society was interrupted by the covid crises and most of the events sadly had to be cancelled. To try and make up for this we are donating our Crib Offerings this year to them.

The Manna Society is a Catholic charity, which has run the Manna Day Centre since 1982, supporting homeless people in the heart of London. On average, they cater for around 120-150 people per day – Approximately 50% of these sleep rough, 25% are in socially rented accommodation and the other 25% are in hostel or stay with friends.

What they all share in common is poverty and loneliness. The Manna Centre is open from 8.30am to 1.30pm, seven days a week, for 51 weeks in the year. Services are available every day. For more information, please visit <https://www.mannasociety.org.uk/>

Please be as generous as you can.



As we approach Christmas, let us pray for all expectant mothers. We pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities, as they journey through this life changing experience. Lord hear us.

FR. MICHAEL WRITES:

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

This year, all aspects of our life have been affected by Corona Virus and the parish is no exception. Since the first lockdown, we have not been able to meet socially at all. Perhaps we have called or waved to one another and managed a brief chat. Catechists haven't taught, Servers and Handmaids haven't supported Sunday Mass, the Choir has not been able to sing together in full force. Rotas for Readers haven't operated because we didn't know who would be available at any given Mass.

On the other hand, we have had periods for Personal Prayer and now all Masses are being celebrated. The Prayer life of our community has continued both inside and outside the church. The Lord is our constant companion. Our prayer life in church has been made possible by hard working Stewards who certainly deserve a round of applause. Their unselfish reliability and good humour have helped enormously, as well as the attention of everyone to following the restrictions which have accompanied us at every turn. The end is not yet in sight but the prospect of widespread vaccination promises relief as we enter the New Year.

It was not an easy task to attempt the Stewardship Drive, but I wanted us to attempt it. I thank those who spoke during Mass and supported the organisation of the Drive in any way. The responses to volunteering in the parish showed real enthusiasm and in the new year we will seek to make the most of this generosity. Thanks go to those who offered to take up Standing Orders and to join Gift Aid. This generosity will help us as we enter another difficult financial year.

After much lobbying and civil challenges to our proposals, the new Car Park on the southern extremity of our site will be built. It has been a long time coming but good things come to those who are prepared to wait. A generous donor will also be helping us with costs. Everyone has been very patient and thoughtful about the way the current small car park is used but now we need this extra facility to make access easier in a site that has been tastefully designed and in keeping with our Grade II* listed building.

Although curtailed to a large extent this year, our Sacramental life has been quietly continuing. Several adults have been received into the Church with the Initiation Sacraments following the Adult courses provided over 2019 -2020. The entire First Communion contingent came to Mass individually or in small groups for the Sacrament. Most of our Baptisms have taken place within Masses, not least because of the possibility of larger numbers. It was not planned to run a Confirmation group, so we will see what next year brings. We rejoice greatly in the Ordination to Priesthood of the greatly loved Fr Peter Sebastian by Archbishop John. An Ordination photograph appears in the new Directory. We have given Fr Peter a chasuble as a gift and we hope to celebrate with him in the usual way next year when Covid has left the scene. Several Marriages have been celebrated in spite of restrictions and reduced numbers. In a way, they have been even more prayerful and special to those involved.

There are so many of you to thank as the year comes to an end: Michael Pearce in the office, often assisted by Kate Freeman. Our vital sacristans and launderers. Our Choir and Organists, led by Marguerite - and thanks for the solo voice in our Sunday Mass, post lockdown! To those who read at the pulpit in the Liturgy of the Word and those who welcome and assist. To flower arrangers and cleaners. To Authorised Persons looking after Registers at Weddings. To those who helped with Collections and Counting. To all our Catechists, and we have missed Childrens' Liturgy at 9.30 Sunday Mass. The Stewards have been a tower of strength. Inevitably I will have missed someone out, please accept apologies and of course, thanks.

We pray for those who have been lonely and also those who have died this year and whose faces we keep now in our memory. We thank those who have thought of others and helped them in so many unseen ways. May next year bring health and a strengthening of our life together in this parish community. Go forth with courage and love.

