



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 6th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

9.30am Stan Conley RIP
11.30am Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm The Holy Souls

Mon. 7th December St. Ambrose
10.00am Michael Cawley
Tue. 8th December The Immaculate Conception
10.00am Isabella Barreto
Wed. 9th December Advent FERIA
12.00noon Frank Flory RIP
Thu. 10th December Advent FERIA
10.00am Alfons Balinski RIP
Fri. 11th December Advent FERIA
10.00am Maria Jasiewicz RIP
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)
Sat. 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe
10.00am Paddy Corcoran

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

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.

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

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

ARCHBISHOP JOHN WRITES ABOUT ADVENT.

'We enter this time of more considered attentiveness to the Lord's coming among us. In different ways, we have probably all experienced something of the weariness, the sleepiness, the monotony and humdrum reality of lockdown. The Lord Jesus, however, calls us to 'awake,' to find a new beginning, a new appreciation of what is possible for those who, with Our Blessed Lady, say *'Let it be done to me according to your will.'* This is a powerful message for these days as we 'awaken' again to the public celebration of Mass on our Advent journey of hope.

The luminous and life-giving presence of God in Christ sits at the very heart of Advent. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI notes that even the word Advent, a translation of the Greek *parousia*, means 'presence,' or perhaps more accurately, *'the beginning of a presence,'* an 'arrival.' He recalls that in antiquity 'advent' was a technical term for the presence of a king or a ruler and also of the god being worshipped, who bestows upon his devotees the time of his *parousia*. 'Advent' then means the presence begun – the presence of God himself.'

As the nights darken, we look to the radiant light who dwells amongst us. Pope Benedict writes: *'The lamps we light on the dark nights of this winter season are both a comfort and a warning.'* First they *'...are a comforting assurance that the 'light of the world' has already begun to shine in the dark night of Bethlehem and that the unholy night of man's sin has been transformed into the holy night of God's forgiveness. But the lights of winter ... are also a warning: this Light [Christ himself] wants to keep shining and will do so only if it shines in those who as Christians carry on Christ's work through the ages. Christ seeks to illumine the night of the world with his light by having us be lights in our turn. His initial presence is to grow through us.'*

To live the presence of Christ, means allowing the light of divine love to banish the winter within us. Then, reborn and renewed, we are to radiate the presence of God. Christ must shine through us such that our light is always His light.

Advent is a time par excellence to practice the presence of God, a presence already within us, but *'not yet full and complete,'* a presence *'that is in a state of development, of becoming and maturing.'*

The start of a new liturgical year in Christ is a time for all of us to begin again, to find encouragement, to look forward with hope. We will soon celebrate the Lord's Nativity when God's comes close to us in the presence of a tiny infant. In Christ, God bridges the distance, breaks through our isolation, and draws near to us. Here is unchanging love in person. Here is hope for the world. "Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen."

BISHOP PATRICK LYNCH

It has been announced by Archbishop John that Pope Francis has accepted Bishop Patrick Lynch's request to retire early on health grounds.

Bishop Pat has served the Archdiocese with distinction and generosity as a true shepherd to clergy, religious and laity alike. His pastoral mission here for the past twenty-two years, the last fourteen of those as an Auxiliary Bishop, has been marked by passion for the Gospel, deep sensitivity, and a special care for migrants and ethnic chaplaincies and communities.

Bishop Pat's joy as a disciple and a pastor, always quick to encourage and affirm, has been such a blessing to so many people.

On hearing the news from Rome, Bishop Pat wrote: "For the last twenty-two years I have been privileged to have served the Lord here in the Archdiocese of Southwark, in the parishes of Nunhead and South Norwood, as Vicar for Religious and as Auxiliary Bishop. Unfortunately, however, the after effect of surgery nine years ago is now limiting my ability to carry out some pastoral responsibilities. I am, therefore, grateful to our Holy Father and to Archbishop John for their understanding and for accepting my wish to retire from active ministry as an Auxiliary Bishop. As I begin the transition to retirement I give thanks for the many ways the Lord has blessed me over those years: through the kindness and wisdom of Archbishops Michael, Kevin, Peter and John; through the support and dedication of the priests, deacons and religious of the Archdiocese and through the prayers and witness of so many lay people. Do remember me in your prayers in the weeks and months to come. I extend to you every good wish and blessing."

Bishop Pat's health is stable and he will be retiring in the Archdiocese.

ADVENT READING – 'MY DAY BY DAY'

There are copies of the Advent edition of 'My Day by Day' available at the back of the Church - they cost £1.00. Please put money in the box marked Newspapers or pay via the card machine. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Advent and is an excellent way to prepare for Christmas.

Tuesday is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculate Conception offers an explanation of how Mary came to be ready to say "yes" to God. Mary had been conceived without sin. She was conceived in the normal way, however, in anticipation of the role she would be asked to play - as the mother of Jesus - Mary was kept free from the effects of sin from the first moment of her conception. Mary could have said, "No" – she had a completely free choice - she trusted and said, "Yes". The Feast of the Immaculate Conception teaches us that God will never ask any of us to do anything without giving us the necessary grace to carry it out. We can say "No" to God, and God will always respect our free will. However God will always do what is necessary to help us when we say "Yes" just as he did with Mary. We can be sure that God never asks any of us to do anything without some preparation. Things may seem at first a big surprise, even overwhelming. As God prepared Mary for her unique place in human history God continues to prepare us and accompany us as we make our way through life – He is always with us.