



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 10th January - The Baptism of The Lord (B)

9.30am Mary Cooke
11.30am Christine Bou-Saleh and family
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

- The end of the Christmas Season -

Mon. 11th January Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am Mena Higgins
Tue. 12th January St. Aelred of Rievaulx
10.00am In reparation for the sin of abortion
Wed. 13th January Feria in Ordinary Time
12noon Peter Berry RIP
Thu. 14th January Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am Nuala Gaffney
Fri. 15th January Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am The Altar Society
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)
Sat. 16th January Our Lady
10.00am Una Annett RIP

Sunday 17th January - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

9.30am Ann Cross RIP
11.30am Kristiaan Corner-Munroe RIP
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL OPEN 15 MINUTES BEFORE MASS

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.



Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of The Lord. This feast is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated and it brings to a close the Christmas season.

At Christmas we contemplated the human birth of Christ, the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the mystery of the Epiphany that we celebrated on Wednesday, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all nations that was represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East, who came to adore the Child.

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the creation of the world and Christ's baptism is a new creation. He is the new Adam that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins.

'Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners'
Pope Benedict XVI

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



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 Holy Father has issued an Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), recalling the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church and proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph"

In the letter the Pope describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, tender and loving, obedient and accepting.

The Holy Father writes the letter against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation." A beloved, tender, obedient father. At the same time, Joseph is an accepting Father, because he accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted the Lord and accepting the events that he does not understand.

Joseph's spiritual path is not one that explains, but accepts which does not mean that he is resigned. Instead, he is courageously and firmly proactive, because with Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude and full of hope, he is able to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments. Joseph did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it. For this reason, he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak. He was a creatively courageous father, an example of love.

Patris corde highlights the creative courage of St. Joseph, which emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties. The carpenter of Nazareth was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence. He had to deal with the concrete problems his family faced, problems faced by other families in the world and especially those of migrants.

In this sense, St. Joseph is the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty. As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot be other than the guardian of the Church. Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is the child whom Joseph continues to protect. From St Joseph, we must learn to love the Church and the poor.

At the conclusion of his Letter, the pope prays -

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

The full text of Patris corde can be found at http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

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

Our Christmas crib will be taken down during the week. This year we will be donating our crib offerings to the Manna Society

The Manna Society is a Catholic charity, which has run the Manna Day Centre since 1982, supporting homeless people in the heart of London.

For more information, please visit <https://www.mannasociety.org.uk/>

Please be as generous as you can.

COMMUNAL WORSHIP, DURING LOCKDOWN

The following instructions have been received regarding church services during lockdown.

Mass and other acts of worship can continue as normal following the covid-security guidance that has been published by the Bishops' Conference after consultation with officials from Public Health England and MHCLG.

Marriages

As national lockdown is essentially Tier 5, only 6 people can attend a marriage (apart from anyone working as part of the ceremony) and these should only occur in exceptional circumstances. Weddings planned for the next 6 weeks should be deferred.

Funerals

There must be no more than 30 people attending. Anyone working is not included as part of the 30 person limit. Attendees should socially distance from anyone they do not live with (unless they are in their support bubble). As national lockdown is essentially Tier 5, only 6 people can attend a commemorative event which would include the interment of ashes after a cremation. The immediate burial of a coffin after a church or crematorium-based service would be subject to 30 people or the restrictions imposed locally by the graveyard or crematorium authorities.

Significant life cycle events, outside of marriage ceremonies and funerals

Baptisms, confirmations and other significant sacramental celebrations

No more than six people may attend (unless this takes place during a scheduled Mass).

Face Coverings

Face coverings must be worn in places of worship, unless you are exempt.

This is now law.

As we celebrate the baptism of our Lord, we recall our own baptism and the promise of life we have gained through it. We pray that all would be given the opportunity to experience life in its fullness, both in this world and the next. Lord hear us.