



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell

Chaplaincy to Kingston University

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

9.30am

Ann Cross RIP

11.30am

Kristiaan Corner-Munroe RIP

5.00pm

Missa Pro Populo

Mon. 18 th January	Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am	Mary Bak RIP
Tue. 19 th January	Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am	Denis Curtin RIP
Wed. 20 th January	Feria in Ordinary Time
12noon	Adela Balinska RIP
Thu. 21 st January	St. Agnes
10.00am	Daniel and Thomas
12noon	Requiem Mass - Maureen Heyter RIP
Fri. 22 nd January	Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am	Veronica Peters RIP
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)	
Sat. 23 rd January	Our Lady
10.00am	Pat McCarthy RIP

Sunday 23rd January - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

9.30am

Missa Pro Populo

11.30am

Peter Freeman

5.00pm

Krysia Dabrowka RIP

COVID 19 VACCINES

There have been some concerns expressed about the processes involved in creating of the vaccine. The Bishops' Conference has shared information issued by the Vatican, which states that "all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines may have derived." The full text of the Bishops' Conference statement is online: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/vatican-cdf-says-use-of-anti-covid-vaccines-morally-acceptable/> The Bishops' Conference message goes on to explain that the we have a duty to protect our own health and especially to protect the weakest and most exposed. In the absence of other means to stop or prevent the epidemic, the vaccination is recommended.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL OPEN
15 MINUTES BEFORE MASS**

**FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN IN PLACES OF WORSHIP,
UNLESS YOU ARE EXEMPT. THIS IS NOW LAW.**

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

On Monday we begin the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is only through prayer and the grace of the Holy Spirit that Christians will be united. This is something we must all pray for.

During his visit to The United Kingdom Pope Benedict met the Archbishop of Canterbury, here is part of his address.

"It is not my intention today to speak of the difficulties that the ecumenical path has encountered and continues to encounter. Those difficulties are well known to everyone here. Rather, I wish to join you in giving thanks for the deep friendship that has grown between us and for the remarkable progress that has been made in so many areas of dialogue during the forty years that have elapsed since the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission began its work. Let us entrust the fruits of that work to the Lord of the harvest, confident that he will bless our friendship with further significant growth.

The context in which dialogue takes place between the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church has evolved in dramatic ways since the private meeting between Pope John XXIII and Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher in 1960. On the one hand, the surrounding culture is growing ever more distant from its Christian roots, despite a deep and widespread hunger for spiritual nourishment. On the other hand, the increasingly multicultural dimension of society, particularly marked in this country, brings with it the opportunity to encounter other religions. For us Christians this opens up the possibility of exploring, together with members of other religious traditions, ways of bearing witness to the transcendent dimension of the human person and the universal call to holiness, leading to the practice of virtue in our personal and social lives. Ecumenical cooperation in this task remains essential, and will surely bear fruit in promoting peace and harmony in a world that so often seems at risk of fragmentation.

At the same time, we Christians must never hesitate to proclaim our faith in the uniqueness of the salvation won for us by Christ, and to explore together a deeper understanding of the means he has placed at our disposal for attaining that salvation. God "wants all to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4), and that truth is nothing other than Jesus Christ, eternal Son of the Father, who has reconciled all things in himself by the power of his Cross. In fidelity to the Lord's will, as expressed in that passage from Saint Paul's First Letter to Timothy, we recognize that the Church is called to be inclusive, yet never at the expense of Christian truth. Herein lies the dilemma facing all who are genuinely committed to the ecumenical journey.

In the figure of John Henry Newman, who is to be beatified on Sunday, we celebrate a churchman whose ecclesial vision was nurtured by his Anglican background and matured during his many years of ordained ministry in the Church of England. He can teach us the virtues that ecumenism demands: on the one hand, he was moved to follow his conscience, even at great personal cost; and on the other hand, the warmth of his continued friendship with his former colleagues, led him to explore with them, in a truly eirenic spirit, the questions on which they differed, driven by a deep longing for unity in faith. Your Grace, in that same spirit of friendship, let us renew our determination to pursue the goal of unity in faith, hope, and love, in accordance with the will of our one Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Today's Gospel gives an account of the vocation of the first four Apostles who followed Jesus. It was a momentous event in the history of salvation. It was the beginning of a stream of vocations that would grow and spread down through the ages until the end of the world.

Christ, who had come to open heaven for all men and women and who could find means of bringing them all to that eternal home without help from anyone, decided instead to let us co-operate with him in this divine task. He decreed to set up a kingdom in this world—his Church—which would be run by mere mortals for their fellow-mortals, but which would be under his protection and assisted by his divine aid until the end of time. Christ chose this very human way, in order to make his Church more acceptable to our limited, human understanding and more approachable for sinful, human nature.

Christ, as God, could deal directly with every human being on earth. He could teach the infallible truth; he could pardon sins; he could give all the graces needed to travel successfully to heaven. There would then be no need for a Church with its teaching magisterium, no need for the sacrament of Baptism, or of Penance, nor of the Holy Eucharist itself or of any other such aids. Christ could do all that his Church does for the salvation of mankind, and more successfully, of course, but yet he chose the way which divine wisdom saw was best.

Another momentous fact in Christ's choice of the Apostles on whom he was to build his Church, is that he "chose the lowly and the humble to confound the wise." The first four Apostles, as well as the other eight, were simple, lowly fishermen from Galilee. They may possibly have been able to read and write a little, but they were certainly not men of education or any social standing in their communities. He could have converted and chosen some of the more highly educated scribes of Jerusalem, or some of the Roman centurions then in Palestine, or some of the many philosophers in Greece, or even Roman senators whose influence as Christian teachers would carry such weight with the educated elite of the empire. But he did not. The instrument he chose to carry his message to all men was not dependent on human ingenuity or on the educational or social standing of his witnesses. Rather it was to stand on the power of God, of which it was the expression and proof.

We can see clearly the divine wisdom governing Christ's choice of Apostles! Had his message of salvation been spread and promulgated by men of learning and social standing, the cry would soon go up on all sides: "This religion is the invention of philosophers; it is a clever plan of the upper classes to keep the poor and humble workers in subjection." But it was the poor and working classes who spread Christ's message, and who suffered imprisonment and death itself at the hands of the educated and upper classes for so doing.

Today, let us thank our blessed Lord who provided so humanly—and yet so divinely for our eternal welfare. In the Church, which he founded on the lowly but solid foundation of simple fishermen of Galilee, he erected an institution against which the gates of hell, the power of all the enemies of our salvation, cannot prevail, for his divine guidance and help will be with it forever. It has had enemies and opposition from the beginning; they may be more numerous and more destructive than ever today. But the promise of Christ still holds good, his word cannot fail. Therefore, neither the opposition of materialistic enemies from without, nor the even more insidious attacks from faint-hearted and worldly-minded members from within, can affect the safety and permanence of the building which Christ built on the Rock. "If God is with us," it matters not "who is against us."

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 Private Pew or the church grounds.

MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS

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

AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM SPUC

The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation> The consultation ends on 26 February 2021.

*As we open the week of prayer for Christian Unity, we pray especially for our shared calling to protect and preserve all life. We pray that our unity and ecumenical efforts on all life issues would inspire the world to join us in defending the lives and rights of all vulnerable in society.
Lord hear us"*



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Boys & Girls Aged 3-11. Breakfast Club & After School Club.

Head teacher – Mrs Sarah Keefe

Rated Good by Ofsted