



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 31st January 2021 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

9.30am Armando Rosales-Peña
11.30am Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm Jeff McCormack RIP

Monday 1 st February	Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am	Jose Ramon Betancourt RIP
12.45pm	Requiem Mass for Adriano Orindi RIP
Tuesday 2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas
10.00am	Luke McLure and Family
Wednesday 3 rd February	St. Blaise
12noon	Ena O'Sullivan (followed by the Blessing of Throats)
Thursday 4 th February	Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am	Anne Bennett RIP
Friday 5 th February	St. Agatha
10.00am	In reparation for the sin of abortion
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)	
Saturday 6 th February	St. Paul Miki and Companions
10.00am	Monica, Mary, Christina and Peter Sewell

Sunday 7th February - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

9.30am Maggie and Tony Morrell
11.30am Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm June O'Connor RIP

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

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.

THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will open
Monday – Thursday this week

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.



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



On Tuesday we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas. This feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in France with solemn blessings and processions of candles – from where we get the name "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord

concludes the celebration of the Nativity and now events point toward Easter.

In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess.

Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people dedicated to prayer and fasting and their strong religious spirit rendered them able to recognize the Messiah. In this sense we can see in the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple an extension of the 'Pro Orantibus Day' (For those who pray) that is celebrated on the 21st November, the feast of the Presentation of Mary. On this day, the Church demonstrates its gratitude to all those in the community that dedicate themselves in a privileged way to prayer, to those who have a particular religious vocation to the contemplative life. In the figure of the venerable Simeon, Jesus' presentation in the temple also reminds us that prayer and contemplation are not just a waste of time or an obstacle to charity. On the contrary, time could not be better spent than in prayer as true Christian charity is a consequence of a solid interior life. Only those who pray and offer penance, like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an ample interior vision, and they have learned how to love with the heart of the One whose very name is Charity.

At the end of the Gospel Simeon's prophecy of Mary's sufferings is emphasized. Pope St. John Paul II taught that, 'Simeon's words seem like a second Annunciation to Mary, for they tell her how Jesus is to accomplish his mission, namely, in misunderstanding and sorrow.' This is in contrast to the archangel's announcement which was a fount of incredible joy.

Simeon's prophecy also announces that Christ will be 'a sign of contradiction'. St. Cyril of Alexandria interpreted the words 'sign of contradiction' as the cross. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that the cross is 'a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles'. It is a sign of contradiction in the sense that to those without faith it appears as foolish while to those who recognize its power, the cross reveals salvation and life.

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.

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
michaellovel@rcaos.org.uk

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE – BLESSING OF THROATS

On Wednesday we keep the feast of St. Blaise. Each year on this feast day, after Mass, the priest blesses the throats of those present with the following prayer. "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

Due to current covid restrictions The Priest will say the blessing aloud once before people come up to the Altar and will not physically place the candles around people's throats.



TODAY IS RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

There will be a 2nd collection to support the work of the Church in promoting racial Justice in our parishes, schools and wider society.

'BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE'

An online event on the 19th March between 10.00am and 1.00pm which will give you a chance to explore and improve your relationship and hopefully provide you with valuable insights into your communication skills and the call of the Church to the married. Please note that there is no group sharing. This is not marriage counselling but a chance to make average-to-good marriages a bit better. That applies whether you have been married five years or 50. Booking is essential: telephone 07983 524 727 or email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

We pray for all going through difficult pregnancies, 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. Lord hear us