



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 14th February – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

9.30am Bill & Mary Morrell
11.30am Irene McMahon RIP
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

Monday 15th February Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am John Conner RIP
Tuesday 16th February Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am Louisa Giles RIP
Wednesday 17th February Ash Wednesday
12.00noon Carlos Villena Quelopana RIP
7.30pm The Holy Souls
(A day of fasting and abstinence when Catholics should fast and abstain from eating meat)
Thursday 18th February Lenten FERIA
10.00am Denis Curtin RIP
Friday 19th February Lenten FERIA
10.00am Canon Bernard Grady RIP (*Parish Priest of St. Raphael's 1956-1986*)
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)
Saturday 20th February Lenten FERIA
10.00am Choo Ah Looi RIP

Sunday 21st February – The First Sunday in Lent (B)

9.30am Armando Rosales – Pena
11.30am Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm Alan Loh & Alice Soong 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 there is normally plenty of 'safe seating' available at all our Sunday Masses, particularly at the 11.30am and 5.00pm. There is also an overflow available in the Hall where Mass is live streamed.

The Church will open 15 minutes before Mass and close promptly afterwards for sanitation.

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

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

THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will open
Monday – Thursday this week

Of your Charity, please pray for the repose of the Soul of
Mary Devaney
who died recently
May She Rest in Peace

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 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

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.



In today's Gospel we see Christ's compassion for the suffering. It was out of compassion for the sad lot of mankind that he descended to our level, becoming man, equal to us in all things except sin, in order to suffer with us and for us. By his human sufferings he made an atonement, a satisfaction for all the sins of the world—a satisfaction which all mankind could never make—to his heavenly Father and so obtained for us God's pardon. At the same time, by joining our human nature to his divine nature, he brought us into the divine orbit and made us adopted sons of God and heirs of the eternal life of the Blessed Trinity. Thanks be to God, for his infinite compassion! Thanks be to God, for Christ his Son, who came and dwelt amongst us! He put heaven and a share in the life of God within our reach; he has shown us how to attain them, giving in his Church and the sacraments, all the necessary aids for this.

But we still need all of Christ's compassion if we are to get there. Because of our inclination to sin and because of the many times we unfortunately give in to that inclination, nothing but the mercy of God can save us from our own folly. However, that mercy is available, if only we ask for it. What we sinners need is the faith and confidence of the leper in today's gospel. He believed firmly in the power and the mercy of Jesus. "If you will, you can make me clean," was his approach to Jesus.

This should be our approach too, even if we have the misfortune to fall into serious sin Jesus does want to save us. His incarnation and death on the cross, proves that. The fact that he left the power to forgive sins to his Church is another proof of both his will and desire to help us. "All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth," he stated. Part of that power which he left to his Church is in the sacrament of penance where the leprosy of sin can be washed away and the sinner restored to new and perfect spiritual health - and the cure for his disease is so easily available to any who sincerely seek it.

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT

This coming Wednesday, we begin the Lenten season by receiving ash on our forehead. The ashes are made by burning the palm leaves used in the Palm Sunday Mass from the previous year. Ash is the oldest kind of soap, which was used to make things clean – therefore symbolic of purification. Also, in the Old Testament, the Israelite people used ashes in the rituals of purification. Ashes were a sign of grief, mourning, humiliation and penitence. When Job loses everything, he sits among the ashes.

Ash also reminds us of a common origin and also of our nothingness – that we are but merely dust and ashes. The Book of Genesis tells how man was created from the dust of the ground. We are reminded not only of our beginning but also of our end. On the First Day of Lent, ashes are imposed with the words - "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Those words apply to us all.

While ashes may signify and remind, they also invite. They invite us to repentance. So, it is with the spirit of repentance that we receive ashes on our foreheads. Ashes invite us to turn again to God and to receive a new life. Ashes are not the end but are just the beginning. They begin a season that moves through silence and longing into a season of joy and resurrection.

There will be two Masses in the Parish on Ash Wednesday – 12.noon, 7.30pm. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence - This means everyone over the age of 14 is bound to abstain from eating meat on this day. In addition everyone aged between 18 – 60 are bound to fast.

LENT READING – 'MY DAY BY DAY'

There are copies of the Lent 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 Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter.

ST JOSEPH'S OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, are taking applications for Nursery for September 2021 and January 2022. Children are able to start Nursery the term after they are 3. Application, Supplementary Forms and more information, can be found on our website: <https://st-josephs-surrey.secure-primariesite.net/admissions/> Forms should be returned to the school office by the closing date of 5th March 2021. Please do take a look at our Welcome video <https://st-josephs-surrey.primariesite.media/media/st-josephs>. If you have any queries please contact Mrs Julie Lynch on 020 8546 7178."

NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday there will be a the annual 2nd collection for poor parish's. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to poorer parish's around the Archdiocese.

ASK YOUR MP TO SUPPORT AN AMENDMENT TO HELP STOP FORCED ABORTION IN XINJIANG, CHINA

There is extensive evidence that many women in the Uyghur Muslim community in Xinjiang, China are being subjected to forced abortions. Lord Alton is currently championing an amendment to the Trade Bill which would give British courts a role in determining whether a country is committing genocide. This would help with putting international pressure on the Chinese Communist Party to stop the practice of forcing abortions on the Uyghur Muslim community along with the wider human rights abuses that evidence shows is being perpetuated against this community. If you would like to email your MP asking them to support the amendment, you can do this easily using a tool which has been set up on the Genocide Response campaign website which can be accessed by visiting <https://genocideresponse.org/>

"We pray for all unborn children diagnosed with disabilities, we pray for their protection and that of their mothers from the pressures of society to have an abortion, and that they would instead experience overwhelming love and support from all who surround them. Lord hear us"