



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 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

Monday 22nd February The Chair of St. Peter
10.00am Linda Shepherd RIP
Tuesday 23rd February Lenten Feria
10.00am Eileen Tull RIP
Wednesday 24th February Lenten Feria
12.00noon John Soong & Yap Kam RIP
Thursday 25th February Lenten Feria
10.00am Leo Goh Kok Heng RIP
Friday 26th February Lenten Feria
10.00am Rosemary Mackett RIP
Followed by Stations of the Cross
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)
Saturday 27th February Lenten Feria
10.00am John Gibney RIP

Sunday 28th February - The Second Sunday in Lent (B)

9.30am The deceased members of the Morrell and Van der Linden family
11.30am Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm Peggy Cromey 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.

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

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

A prayer in this time of covid

God of all hope we call on you today. We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.

May your spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.

For those people who are worried about attending worship.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that nothing will separate us from your love - demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ. Help us to turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Almighty Father, we remember all those who have died during the course of the pandemic.

+ May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

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.

On this first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading is about Jesus' temptation in the desert.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our on going struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

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.

2ND COLLECTION TODAY

Today there will be the annual 2nd collection for poor parishes. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to poorer parishes around the Archdiocese.

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.primarysite.media/media/st-josephs>. If you have any queries please contact Mrs Julie Lynch on 020 8546 7178."

*As we begin this season of Lent,
we offer up the merits of our daily sacrifices to the needs of the most
vulnerable in society. We offer them especially for the poor, the
lonely and the unborn. That the Lord would see their needs and pour
out his love and blessing upon them.
Lord hear us*

A SHORT LENTEN MEDIATION FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Last Wednesday we began the Season of Lent. During Lent we enter the wilderness with the Lord Jesus in order to understand more about Him and about ourselves as the person He loves, the person He calls, the person He invites to die and rise with Him. Perhaps, the past few months have already felt like an experience of Lent, and even more so of the desert. I think we all have a sense of this. This particular Lent, however, year, maybe we can focus more clearly and simply on our inner attentiveness to the Lord, our relationship of friendship with Christ, desiring to place Him more centrally in our heart so that we might deepen the love we have for the Lord our God and for loving our neighbour as ourselves.

Depending which Sunday morning Masses I celebrated in my first parish, I sometimes used to sit with the housekeeper to watch a religious magazine programme called 'First Light.' It was a mixture of interviews and reflections, music and prayer. Of particular interest was the feature called 'The Spiritual Survivor.' Someone relatively famous was invited to make a spiritual survival kit, which if they were cast off into a lonely place, would help maintain their life of faith. They were allowed three things: an object, some words, and a memory, and were invited to explain their choices. An object, some words, a memory to sustain our faith. I wonder what you would choose?

By accepting the call to repentance and conversion on Ash Wednesday we choose to meet our temptations in the wilderness, to be castaways with our imperfections - the satisfaction of the material, the compromise of truth, the refusal to trust. In practice, how we cope will depend to some extent on how well we are equipped, what we carry in our spiritual survival kit. Let me share with you what's going in mine:

For the object - I take a book of Stations of the Cross. Being a disciple means sharing Christ's lot; it involves sacrifice, denying myself to pick up my cross, walking the way He walked, dying to myself that I might rise to new life with Him.

For the words - I take the simple phrase I saw on a plaque on a presbytery wall: 'Have you prayed about it?' There are things, temptations, and struggles, we don't pray about. Maybe because we're uncomfortable before God, possibly because we've prayed before and nothing has happened.

Can I face the challenge of honestly bringing my temptations and struggles to the foot of the cross in prayer?

For the Memory - I take the last time I heard the words of absolution, of sacramental forgiveness. These are words I need to hear often; forgiveness for when I have failed through sin. The memory of confession, of reconciliation with the Father of Mercies in the past, is my incentive to seek it often again in the future.

These are my Lenten weapons, my survival kit for the wilderness. I wonder what yours might be?

Archbishop John Wilson

Archbishop John and the Diocesan Spirituality Commission are offering a Retreat for Lent, which you can follow in your own home. Using the link below, you can watch a short video reflection each week, download prayer materials and other resources which can help you make the best use of whatever time and opportunity you may have during your week. There are also additional materials for use by parish and other groups, either in person or via Zoom/Teams or similar. If you are looking for a way to deepen your life of prayer this Lent, click on <<http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme>> where you can also sign up to receive materials directly to your email.

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross every Friday morning following the 10.00am Mass