



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 March - The Fourth Sunday in Lent Laetare Sunday (B)

9.30am Gill Taylor
11.30am Bridie McCahill RIP
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

Monday 15 th March	Lenten Feria
10.00am	The Sheridan, Horrocks and Bromley families
Tuesday 16 th March	Lenten Feria
10.00am	Steve Barlow
Wednesday 17 th March	St. Patrick
12.00noon	Bob Gilmour RIP
Thursday 18 th March	Lenten Feria (St. Cyril of Jerusalem)
10.00am	Sr. Aileen Mussarat RIP
Friday 19 th March	St. Joseph
10.00am	Denis Curtin RIP
Followed by Stations of the Cross	
(A day of abstinence when Catholics should abstain from eating meat)	
Saturday 20 th March	Lenten Feria
10.00am	The deceased members of the Glynn family

Sunday 21st March - The Fifth Sunday in Lent (B)

9.30am Denis Spalding RIP
11.30am Mabel Ezichael RIP
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

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.

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 - 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 is open Monday - Thursday.

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



YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH
December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021

This Friday is the feast of St. Joseph. Pope Francis has declared 2021 a year in honour of St. Joseph who is not only the foster father of Our Lord but also the guardian and protector of the whole Church. The Pope has asked that we say the following prayer frequently during this year, particularly after the recitation of the rosary.

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.



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

In today's Gospel we hear of Nicodemus. He has had a half-open mind as regards Jesus. He was moved by his teaching and miracles. He defended him when his companions were out to have Jesus arrested. He helped to have him properly buried when his enemies had him put to death, but that was as far as he went, apparently. There is no mention of him in the first Christian community of Jerusalem. What held him back? What kept him from giving himself fully to Jesus who spoke so kindly and told him so clearly that He himself was indeed a teacher who had come from God, that He had been offered by God as the sacrificial victim who would save the world? All Nicodemus had to do was to accept His word, "believe in Him" and be baptized and he too would have eternal life.

Why did he not do this? The answer is given in the beginning of his story "He came to Jesus by night." He was one of the leading Pharisees and evidently was afraid of what they would think of him had they seen him associating with Jesus. How much more so did he dread what their reactions would be had he become a follower of Him whom they called "this impostor." Nicodemus had only half of his mind open to the truth, the other half was closed and barred by his fear of what his own class—the leaders of the Jews—would think of him. He risked his own future happiness in order not to lose the present respect of his sinful associates.

What a foolish man we would all say! Yet, are not many of us often like Nicodemus, when it comes to living up to our following of Christ? How many Christians do not defend or stand up for their religion when it is insulted and attacked. How many of us stand idly by and give at least tacit approval, when grave injustices are being carried out by individuals or by local or national groups. When we act like this we are Nicodemus, who through fear of losing the approval, the worthless esteem, of their sinful associates, are prepared to forfeit the esteem of God and our own eternal welfare. Nicodemus may have thought he had made reparation for his lack of openness to Jesus when he assisted at his burial. There are many in the world today who make assisting their neighbour, while excluding Christ and God, the essence of religion. While the assistance the neighbour receives will benefit him materially, what spiritual value can it have for the humanist who excluded God and our Saviour Jesus Christ? Humanism or concentrating on our neighbour to the exclusion of God, is an imitation of religion and a very false imitation at that. Helping our neighbour because he is a son or daughter of God is part of our true religion, and the second of the two great commandments of love; but helping a neighbour from whom we have effaced the image of God has not and cannot have any religious value or significance whatever. It is as meaningless as lighting a candle before the photograph of a spouse one has deliberately deserted. Thank God, we have accepted Christ with our whole heart and our whole mind. It is through Him that we have been made children of God. It is through Him that we have learned to love God and learned of God's infinite love for us. Because we are all God's children and brothers and sisters in Christ, we will gladly help each other whenever and wherever we can because God has commanded us to do so. This is true humanism which sees in the neighbour the workmanship of the almighty Creator and what is more important still, the elevating effects of the divine Saviour, as well.

THANK YOU FROM SPUC

The Parish has had a thank you from SPUC for the £110.12 that was raised from our recent 2nd Collection.

ARE YOU A FORMER PUPIL OF ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL?

If you were a pupil at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School and are interested in contributing your memories of school life to a school history booklet to mark the 85th Anniversary of the school, please email the school office office@stjosephs.rbksch.org. Please mark your message "School History Booklet", and include your name and the dates you were a pupil. The school will reply to you, with some information on how you can take part.

Today is Mother's Day. Let us all remember our mothers today and say a special prayer for them – thanking God for all they have done for us.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we pray for all mothers who are expecting. 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, as they journey through this life-changing experience. Lord hear us



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

There will be a 2nd collection today for Easter Flowers



LENTEN PROJECT

For obvious reasons we are unable to run a Lenten Project this year – however we would like to raise some money for The Manna Society. If you would like to donate to this cause you can donate online to our parish bank account

A/C Name St Raphael's Catholic Church

A/C number 36110469

Sort Code 60-50-01

Bank Natwest, Croydon, Whitgift Centre Branch.

Please mark your payment 'Lent'

Tom and Catherine Morrell are holding fun, family online bingo sessions from 7.30pm - 8.30pm each Sunday during Lent in aid of this. You can make a donation online to the parish bank account marking your payment 'Bingo'. Please join in, we'd love to see you. Bingo is easy, great fun and will give you a chance to meet up with other parishioners. We will take you step-by-step in how to play online. It is very straightforward and your support would be appreciated. To join please register here: lenten.bingo@gmail.com. A Zoom link will be sent to you before we start - you do not need a Zoom account to join in.

If anyone else would like to organise a safe event, please speak to Fr. Michael or the Parish Office.

The Manna Society is a Catholic charity, which has run the Manna Day Centre since 1982, supporting homeless people in the heart of London. On average, they cater for around 120-150 people per day. What they all share in common is poverty and loneliness. The Manna Centre is open from 8.30am to 1.30pm, seven days a week, for 51 weeks in the year. Services are available every day. For more information, please visit <https://www.mannasociety.org.uk/>. Please be as generous as you can.