



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 25th April – 4th Sunday of Easter (B)

9.30am

Leonardo Capili

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

Mary, Michael & Paul McLoughlin RIP

Monday 26th April

Feria in Eastertide

10.00am

Peter Sillem RIP

Tuesday 27th April

Feria in Eastertide

10.00am

Intentions of J Carpenter (on behalf of Angela, Claire Edward & John)

Wednesday 28th April

Feria in Eastertide

12.00noon

Linda Kirk RIP

Thursday 29th April

St. Catherine of Siena

10.00am

In thanksgiving

Friday 30th April

Feria in Eastertide

10.00am

George Stephens RIP

(A day of abstinence when the Church asks us to abstain from eating meat)

Saturday 1st May

St. Joseph the Worker

10.00am

Caroline Brady RIP

Sunday 2nd April – 5th Sunday of Easter (B)

9.30am

Rachel Ward RIP & Family

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

Kathleen Ireland 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 and there is also an overflow available in the Hall where Mass is live streamed

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.



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



Traditionally, this Fourth Sunday of Easter is called "Good Shepherd Sunday." This is because the readings for this Sunday come from the tenth chapter of St. John's Gospel in which Jesus teaches clearly and repeatedly about His role of being the Good Shepherd. What does it mean to be a shepherd? More specifically, how is it that Jesus most perfectly acts as the Good Shepherd of us all?

The image of Jesus being a shepherd is an endearing image. Many artists have shown Jesus as a gentle and kind man holding a sheep in His arms or on His shoulders. In part, it is this holy image that we put before our mind's eye to ponder today. This is an inviting image and one that helps us to turn to our Lord, as a child would turn to a parent in need. But though this gentle and endearing image of Jesus as a shepherd is quite inviting, there are other aspects of His role as Shepherd that should also be considered.

The Gospel quoted above gives us the heart of Jesus' definition of the most important quality of a good shepherd. He is one who "lays down his life for the sheep." He is one who is willing to suffer, out of love, for those entrusted to his care. He is one who chooses the life of the sheep over his own life. At the heart of this teaching is sacrifice. A shepherd is sacrificial and being sacrificial is the truest and most accurate definition of love.

Though Jesus is the "Good Shepherd" Who gave His life for us all, we must also daily strive to imitate His sacrificial love for others. We must be Christ, the Good Shepherd, to others every day and the way we do this is by looking for ways to lay our lives down for others, putting them first, overcoming every selfish tendency, and serving them with our lives. Love is not only experiencing endearing and heartwarming moments with others; first and foremost, love is about being sacrificial. Let us reflect, today, upon these two images of Jesus the Good Shepherd. First, ponder the tender and gentle Lord Who welcomes us and cares for us in a holy, compassionate, and endearing way. But then if we turn our eyes to the Crucifixion, Our Good Shepherd did, indeed, give His life for us all. His shepherding love led Him to suffer greatly and to lay His life down so that we could be saved. Jesus was not afraid to die for us, because His love was perfect. We are the ones who matter to Him, and He was willing to do anything necessary to love us, including sacrificing His life out of love. Let us ponder this most holy and pure sacrificial love and strive to more fully offer this same love to all those whom we are called to love.

This Tuesday marks 53 years since the 1967 Abortion Act came into effect. As we hope and pray for an end to abortion, we pray especially for our Government, that their commitment to support pregnant women and their families would increase, and that they would anchor themselves in the desire to protect all human life. Lord hear us

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, your new packet of envelopes is ready for collection at the back of the church. Please do not use the old envelopes. Please also note some of the envelope numbers may have changed from previous years. If you normally use weekly envelopes but have recently signed a standing order form and no longer need the envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you

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

Eric and May are new parishioners who have recently arrived from Hong Kong are looking for paid part time employment (gardening, cleaning, ironing etc) They are also looking for somewhere to live with their two young teenage sons with a rent below £1000 a month. Please contact them directly on 0774 525 6393 for more information.

TODAY IS THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The Priesthood has been essential to the life of the Church from the time of Jesus until today. In the Archdiocese of Southwark, we are blessed to have 7 men in formation to the Priesthood, choosing to dedicate their lives to Christ and His people throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. The Priest Training Fund, known as the Ecclesiastical Education Fund, pays for men studying for the Priesthood and Diaconate here in Southwark. It costs £30,000 a year, for six years, to sponsor each seminarian. The Fund also supports the work of the Vocations Team and the ongoing training of our current priests. Please be generous today in the second collection. You can also donate online via www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm or by telephone on 020 7960 2504 (office hours). Please pray for our priests and for vocations to the Priesthood. Your prayers and generosity is an investment in the future of our Church. Thank you.

ANNUAL MIGRANTS' MASS

In this the Year of St Joseph and in honour of St Joseph the Worker, the London dioceses of Southwark, Westminster and Brentwood will celebrate the 16th Annual Mass for Migrants on Saturday 1st May at 11.20am. This year the Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan and will be live-streamed from St William of York Church, Forest Hill. Although we cannot welcome the faithful in person this year, this lively online service will still celebrate the significant contribution made by migrants to the life of our dioceses. All are welcome. For more information please visit: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/migrants-mass>