

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 23rd May - Pentecost Sunday (B)

9.30am Charmaine Lee & Family

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Bernie Browne RIP

(8th Week of Ordinary Time)

Monday 24th May Mary Mother of the Church
10.00am Ada Freeman RIP

Tuesday 25th May The Venerable Bede
10.00am Michelle Anne Marie Collyer

Wednesday 26th May St. Philip Neri
12.00noon John Coelho

Thursday 27th May Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest
10.00am Ruby Coelho

Friday 28th May Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am The Holy Souls
(A day of abstinence when the Church asks us to abstain from eating meat)

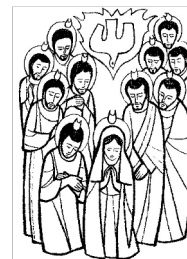
Saturday 29th May Pope St. Paul VI
10.00am The Holy Souls

Sunday 30th May - Trinity Sunday (B)

9.30am Carmel Walsh RIP

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Derick Jacobs RIP



IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

As you will all no doubt remember, Peter Sebastian our former Parish Deacon was ordained a Priest last summer. Due to the covid pandemic we were unable to celebrate this wonderful occasion in a suitable manner. Fr. Peter's 1st anniversary will be on Sunday the 25th of July. On this day he will return to the Parish and celebrate the 11.30am Mass and this will be followed by a Parish Garden Party. More details to follow nearer the time but please put the date in your diary now. (Obviously this will be dependent on the Covid situation)

2ND COLLECTION TODAY

There will be a 2nd Collection for the Catholic Trust for England and Wales - which supports the legal, financial and charitable activities of the Bishops' Conference

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.

NEW HEADTEACHER FOR ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

St Joseph's School are seeking an exceptional Headteacher to make our Good school Outstanding from September 2021
Full details available from the school's website
www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk/vacancies/
Visits to the school can be arranged by contacting Mrs. Julie Lynch on 020 8546 7178



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

UPDATE ON COVID RESTRICTIONS FOR THOSE ATTENDING MASS

As national restrictions are gradually lifted, the Bishops of England and Wales have revised the restrictions in place for those attending Mass

- Following changes in government guidelines we have been able to increase the number of individual places in the church to 57. However, please be aware that if a 'bubble' or family sit together in a bench this has an impact on distancing with other benches. In this case it may be necessary to leave some benches empty or with less people in order to maintain one metre distancing.
- Holy Communion can once again be received on the tongue for those who wish to do so. However, they need to come up at the end to receive. When the steward invites you to come forward, please advise them you are receiving on the tongue and go and wait at the back of the church until called forward. If you are receiving on the tongue, please make sure you tip your head slightly backwards and put out your tongue fully.
- For the present we are still unable to use the Altar Rails, however you are free to kneel in the centre if you wish to do so.
- Bidding prayers are once more permitted.
- The Offertory Procession can be reinstated.
- Votive Candles may again be lit. However please do not linger by the stands if there are other people around.
- The Saturday and weekday Rosary will resume before Mass and to accommodate this the Church will open twenty minutes before Mass. Please do not congregate in front of Our Lady's Altar for this but stay in your usual place for Mass.

Mask, hand sanitation and track and trace details still need to be taken.

Confessions will still be heard on request in the Private Pew or garden.

For the moment we will not be restarting Sunday or Thursday Benediction, hopefully after the next relaxation of restrictions in June we will be able to restart these devotions.

MICHAEL PEARSON RIP

Many will know that Michael Pearson sadly passed away on 21st April last year. Due to the pandemic he did not have a requiem Mass at the time. There will be Mass for him on Thursday 24th June at 10.00am here at St Raphael's followed by the interment of Michael's ashes at 11:30am at Kingston Cemetery.

SOME DEFINITE SERVICE

Archbishop John is calling the Archdiocese of Southwark to be an 'evangelising and missionary archdiocese.' As part of an answer to this call the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (AEC) is developing a missionary volunteer network consisting of prayer, people and parish plans – Some Definite Service. What might be your particular part to play in this, some definite service? For more information, visit: aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Today's feast brings us to the joyful conclusion of the Easter season. The gift of the Spirit is the final act of the paschal mystery. Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'. As at the Resurrection the world is recreated by his breath, so at Pentecost the disciples are recreated and filled with the Holy Spirit by that same breath.

The first creation accounts in Genesis depict the life force of the Creator as 'ruah', meaning 'breath' or 'wind,' which swept over the face of the primordial waters. In the second account of creation, the first human creature becomes a living being only when the Creator breathes the breath of life into Adam's nostrils (Gn 2:7). At Pentecost, it is this same divine life-force that recreates a frightened group of disciples into bold proclaimers of the Gospel.

The symbols of divine presence described in our first reading are familiar from the Old Testament - thundering noise, as God's manifestation at Sinai - a whirlwind, like that from which God spoke to Job (Jb 38:1) - flames of fire, such as Moses saw at Mount Horeb (Ex 3:2). As in previous times of critical need, God's presence is visible and audible, profoundly transforming those who experience it.

The disciples, like anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one, would have felt that something of their own spirit and zest for life had also been snuffed out with Jesus' death. Huddled together, trying to comfort one another, they were unable to muster any energy for carrying on his mission. Grief and fear had deflated any impetus to continue the movement into which he had drawn them.

In the Gospel today, we have a glimpse of some concrete ways in which the Spirit brings them and us back to life, so as to go forth again in mission. The risen Christ breathes on the disciples and infuses them with the Spirit. He unleashes in them the power of the Spirit, who alone can bring peace and joy.

He directs them to open themselves to the gift of the Spirit that allows them to receive and give forgiveness. For it is only through the power of forgiveness that the air can be cleared and all can breathe in the peace for which we so long and that the Risen One desires to give.

Perhaps it is breath that best signals this intimacy. God, in the person of Jesus and the power of the Spirit, is as close to each and every believer as is our very breath, taken deeply into our lungs thousands of times every day, a constant vivifying force.

However, just as breath must be exhaled and cannot be kept within, so too, does the Spirit's power direct us outward to mission, to renew the face of the earth. Yes, the air we breathe, this Spirit-filled breath, makes all the difference. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice that he gives the Spirit so generously to us.