



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Chaplaincy to Kingston University

Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell

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Parish Office - (Monday - Thursday. 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 19th December Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

9.30am Denis Curtin RIP

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Eddie Hillier RIP

6.15pm Parish Carol Service (No Rosary & Benediction today)

Monday 20th December Advent Feria

10.00am Pat Amanpour RIP

Tuesday 21st December Advent Feria

10.00am Margaret & Brian Townsend RIP

Wednesday 22nd December Advent Feria

12.00noon Alcuin Noronha - welfare

Thursday 23rd December Advent Feria

10.00am Jane Daley RIP

No exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today.

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve

(No 10.00am Mass)

4.00pm Children's Mass - James Brady RIP

6.00pm Vigil Mass - Ena O'Sullivan RIP

Midnight - Alexander Raphael RIP

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.30am - Denis Curtin RIP

11.30am Mass - Missa Pro Populo

Sunday 26th December - The Holy Family

9.30am - The Freeman family

11.30am Mass - Peggy Lovell RIP

5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

No Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Your offerings made at the Masses on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the 26th December are your personal gift to the Parish Priest. There are Christmas Offering envelopes available at the back of the church for these. However, if you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, please use the special Christmas Offering Envelope in your packet.

FACE MASKS

Please note the wearing of face masks is now compulsory inside churches - thank you for your co-operation.

If you have not yet had your Covid jab or booster jab - for the sake of everyone, please book it.



Today, we light the fourth candle on our Advent Wreath. "The Angel's Candle" symbolizing peace - reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Parking on Christmas Eve. Parking will be available on Christmas Eve from 3.00pm in the TA Centre Car Park. Our sincere thanks once again to Capt. Haresign for his generosity.

THE STORY OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

The representation of the scene of the nativity is a tradition that is almost a thousand years old. In the year 1223 St Francis decided to celebrate the feast of Christmas in a new way. His aim was to help people to better call to mind the poor surroundings in which Jesus was born and to make the wondrous event of the Incarnation more real to the people of the time. In the town of Greccio, with the help of a local landowner, a nativity scene was set up with a stable, animals and straw. People came at night from the town with candles and torches to attend Holy Mass by the crib and seeing the scene, be reminded of God's love for us in sending his only son to be born in the poverty of a manger.

St. Bonaventure, St. Francis's biographer, said of the scene, "Many brothers and good people came at Francis's bidding and during the night the weather also was beautiful. Many lights were kindled, songs and hymns were sung with great solemnity so that the whole wood echoed with the sound and the man of God stood by the manger, filled with the utmost joy, and shedding tears of devotion and compassion. By his order the manger had been so arranged that Mass was celebrated on it, and blessed Francis ... sang the gospel and preached to the people on the Nativity of Christ our King, and whenever he pronounced His name with infinite tenderness he called Him the 'little Babe of Bethlehem'".

This year our crib offerings here at St. Raphael's will be donated to the 'Friends of the Holy Land'



This is the last Sunday of our preparation for Christmas, the anniversary of Christ's birth. Like Joseph, we can all feel unworthy of the honour of welcoming him into our hearts and our homes. We are indeed unworthy, not because we have little of this world's goods, but because we have so little humility, so little charity, so little faith and trust in God's goodness. Let us try to imitate Joseph and Mary, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly, and the greatest-ever believers in God's goodness and mercy. We can never hope to equal them, but we can follow them humbly, from afar.

In the manger, the infinite love of God for us miserable sinners is dramatically and forcefully portrayed before our eyes. In that helpless Baby we know that the person and the power, of the omnipotent Creator and sustainer of the universe lie hidden. "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" for us. He became a creature, like ourselves, so that he would make us sharers in his divine nature. He came on earth to bring us to heaven. He hid his divine nature so that he could cover us with it.

Unsearchable indeed are the judgements of God, and inscrutable his ways." But though we are unworthy of his infinite love, it nevertheless stands out as clear as the noonday sun in the Incarnation. We realize that we can never make ourselves worthy of this infinite love, but let us imitate Joseph and accept the honour which God is giving us, as we trust that he will continue to make us daily less unworthy.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – There will be Children's Liturgy during the 9.30am Mass today. The next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday 9th January.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT –

Sunday Rosary and Benediction will resume on the 9th January at 4.00pm and Thursday exposition will resume on the 13th January following the 10.00am Mass concluding with Benediction at 12noon.

TEA AND COFFEE – There is no tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass today – we will resume on the 9th January.

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.

THE ROSARY – The Rosary is recited in the Church daily. Monday – Saturday before Mass and at 4.00pm on Sundays.

THE CATHOLIC POST – A new monthly Catholic Paper is available at the back of the Church. This first edition is free, please help yourselves.

CONFESSIONS –

Sundays - 9.00am – 9.20am & 4.30pm – 4.50pm
Saturdays -10.30am – 11.00am.
(Please note there will be no Confessions on Christmas Day or Sunday 26th December)

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Our Parish School, St Joseph's, are holding an open morning on Thursday 3rd February 2022 at 9.15a.m. for the September 2022 & January 2023 intake to Nursery. If you would like to reserve a place on the open morning, please contact the school office on 020 8546 7178 or my emailing office@stjosephs.rbksch.org "

FAITH FORMATION GROUP

We will be starting a new group of Faith Formation for children who have already received first communion. We will meet once a month after the 9:30 Mass on Sunday until 12pm. We will be following the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and from this group we will prepare our children for confirmation. If you would like your children to participate please see Dymphna after the 9:30am Mass on Sunday.

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of
Jane Daly.

Her funeral will be at Kingston Crematorium on the 30th December at 11.30am. There will be a memorial Mass for her celebrated on the 27th May next year – her birthday.

May She Rest in Peace



St. Raphael's Parish Carol Service

This afternoon at 6.15pm
Followed by mulled wine & mince pies
In the presence of Mayor of Kingston
Cllr Sushila Abraham
And her consort Dr. Mathew Abraham

All are welcome

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.

Rated Good by Ofsted