



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)

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Church Manager Tel 020 8541 - 4999

Email surbiton@rcaos.org.uk Web. www.straphaelsurbiton.org.uk



Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve

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

Missa Pro Populo

Sunday 26th December

9.30am

The Holy Family

11.30am

The Freeman family

5.00pm

Peggy Lovell RIP

Missa Pro Populo

No Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 27th December

10.00am

St. John

Tony Roberts RIP

Tuesday 28th December

10.00am

The Holy Innocents

Victor Donaldson RIP

Wednesday 29th December

12.00noon

St. Thomas of Canterbury

Francesca Poulter, The Berni & Martin Families

Thursday 30th December

10.00am

Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

William & Ethel Larkin RIP (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today

Friday 31st December

10.00am

Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

Luke Parisi RIP

(As all days in the Octave of Christmas are Solemnities, the Church does not ask us to abstain from eating meat today)

Saturday 1st January

10.00am

Mary Mother of God

Pat Amanpour RIP

Sunday 2nd January - 2nd Sunday after Christmas (C)

9.30am

Patricia Single RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

Ignatius Downey RIP

No Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 3rd January

10.00am

Feria in Christmastide

The Holy Souls

Tuesday 4th January

10.00am

Feria in Christmastide

Hilton Tims RIP

Wednesday 5th January

12.00noon

Feria in Christmastide

Michael Donovan RIP

Thursday 6th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

10.00am

The Holy Souls

7.30pm

Missa Pro Populo

No exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 7th January

10.00am

Feria in Christmastide

In reparation for the sin of abortion

Saturday 8th January

10.00am

Feria in Christmastide

Billy & Margaret Doyle RIP

Sunday 9th January - The Baptism of The Lord (C)

9.30am

Sr. Aileen Mussarat RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

Edna Balinska RIP

4.00pm

Rosary and Benediction

CRIB OFFERINGS - This year our crib offerings will be donated to the 'Friends of the Holy Land' Friends of the Holy Land, is a non-political Christian Charity. Their mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the Holy Land. At the beginning of the 20th century, Christians made up roughly 29% of the overall population of the Holy Land. Today they account for less than 2%. Without support, the Holy places of the Bible, the birthplace of Christianity, could become cultural museums with no Christian presence at all. The focus of their work is providing practical help directly to the most needy and vulnerable of our Christian brothers and sisters through a balance of funding immediate relief of emergency needs and practical small projects to help create a sustainable future in the Holy Land – most importantly to give them hope. They work with a team of locally based lay and clerical professionals who identify and verify all the cases they support.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The Church purposely avoided using the term "Perfect Family" or "Ideal Family." This is in order for us to avoid the temptation to look at the Holy Family as an unreachable ideal, something that is too good to be true; and so that we may not hide behind alibis and excuses not to pursue growth and holiness for our families.

The truth of the matter is that the Holy Family was not exempt from the harsh realities of life, from troubles and problems that beset our families today. Many families now are in economic difficulties so were the Holy Family. Jesus was born in a stable, the place for animals. Imagine the crawling insects of various kinds and the foul odour. To protect him from the bitter cold, he was wrapped in swaddling clothes and they laid him in a manger. There was nothing romantic about it.

Many families now undergo voluntary exile and are away from loved ones and homeland in order to secure a better future. The Holy Family also experienced being away from home, for they had to flee from the cruel king who wanted to kill the Child. Are we worried about not having enough income to support the family? But Mary was just an ordinary housewife and Joseph was a carpenter. They also had their share of struggles for survival.

The Holy Family, therefore, is being presented to us, not as a romantic ideal but as an inspiration for our families. The Holy Family conquered their struggles through their strong faith. The real test of faith is obedience to God's will. This is very clear in the life of the Holy Family. Mary's faith enabled her to accept God's plan. Joseph's faith made him strong to protect and provide for the family. Jesus, having emptied himself, had faith in the Father's will and in his parents to care for him.

Whatever is the situation we are in now, the example of the Holy Family gives us hope and inspiration in the struggles our families face each day.

The readings for this Sunday give us very important lessons and reminders on to how to live as a Christian family. The Book of Ecclesiasticus exhorts children to respect and obey their parents and when they grow old, to take care of them. In many modern societies, where the emphasis is more on material success than on family values, I wonder how many old parents are taken care of by their children, instead of being sent to nursing homes.

Saint Paul in his letter to the Colossians reminds us to deal with each other out of kindness, to be patient with each other, to forgive and respect each other continually, and not to let our pride and selfishness erode our love for one another. In conclusion, the only sure formula for a happy and strong family is God: "Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord." We may encounter the worst trials and difficulties in life, but as Saint Paul said: "If God is with us, who can be against us?" Let us entrust our families to the protection and guidance of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Then we hope that God will also welcome us into His Eternal Family of God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – The next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday 9th January.

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 SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORY – Copies are available at the back of the church costing £4.00. Please put the money in the box marked Newspapers.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS –

Your offerings made at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and today are your personal gift 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.

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.

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.

PARISH OFFICE-

The Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday 4th January.