



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Chaplaincy to Kingston University

Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell

Tel 020 8616 9583 michaellovell@rcaos.org.uk

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 20th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent (C)

9.30am Hannah & Joel Collins – Wedding anniversary

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Fr. Peter Sebastian

4.00pm Stations of the Cross

Monday 21st March Lenten Feria
10.00am The Holy Souls

Tuesday 22nd March Lenten Feria
10.00am Fr. Timothy Fitzpatrick RIP

Wednesday 23rd March Lenten Feria
12.00noon Eddie Hillier RIP

Thursday 24th March Lenten Feria
10.00am Cafie Kellman (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)
Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying
for vocations to the priesthood concluding with Benediction at 12.00noon.

Friday 25th March The Annunciation of the Lord
10.00am Joan Stevenson RIP
Followed by Stations of The Cross

Saturday 26th March Lenten Feria
10.00am Dennis Spalding

Sunday 27th March – 4th Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday (C)

9.30am Patricia Single RIP

11.30am Joachim Yhombi – Opango

5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm Stations of the Cross

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays

10.30am – 11.00am.

Sundays

9.00am – 9.20am &

4.30pm – 4.50pm

THE ROSARY

The Rosary is recited in the Church daily. Monday – Saturday before Mass

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Takes place on Sundays during the 9.30am Mass.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursdays following the 10.00am Mass concluding with Benediction at 12noon.

TEA AND COFFEE

There is tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday mornings. There is also tea & coffee after the midday Mass on Wednesdays.

HELP FOR THE UKRAINE

During Lent the Parish is going to collect money in aid of the people of the Ukraine. We will send this to 'Aid To The Church in Need' who have launched an appeal for this to support the work of the Church in Ukraine providing aid and comfort to their fearful people, to refugees displaced by violence, to vulnerable children in orphanages, single mothers and the elderly. All are facing the challenge of surviving as costs spiral as a result of the war. Your kind donation, of whatever you can afford, will help get aid to where it is needed most at this distressing time. For the rest of Lent, the black iron collection box at the back of the church will be used to collect money. You can also put donations in envelopes marked 'Ukraine' in the normal Sunday collection bags, or hand them into the sacristy or Parish Office. For more details of Aid to the Church in Need's appeal go to acnuk.org/our-campaigns/emergency-appeal-for-ukraine/

St. Mark's Church, on St. Mark's Hill in Surbiton are collecting items of aid with the local Ukrainian community to be sent via a lorry to the Ukraine. They need the following items.

Medical: bandages, first aid kits and non prescription drugs (neurofen/ ibuprofen).

Toiletries: toothpaste, women's sanitary items and bodywash.

Baby stuff: baby dried formula milk and nappies.

Please no clothes, blankets or duvets.

For more information, please call St. Mark's Parish Office on 020 8390 9129

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.

'Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

The Gospel of this Third Sunday of Lent speaks to us of God's mercy and of our conversion. A man had a fig tree and every summer, he went with much confidence seeking fruit on it and found none, because that tree was barren. He decides to cut down the tree and replace it with another. The gardener asks him to spare the tree and give him another year to care for it and hopefully produce fruit.

What does this parable represent? Who do the personalities of this parable represent? The master represents God the Father and the gardener is an image of Jesus, while the fig tree is the symbol of indifferent and arid humanity. Jesus intercedes with the Father in favour of humanity — and He does so always — and asks Him to wait and to grant Him more time so that in it the fruits of love and justice can sprout. The fig tree represents a barren existence incapable of giving, of doing good. It's the symbol of one who lives for himself, satiated and tranquil, couched in his own comfort, incapable of turning his heart to those around him who are in suffering, poverty and hardship. Opposed to this attitude of egoism and spiritual sterility, is the great love of the gardener for the fig tree: he makes the master wait, he has patience; he knows how to wait and he dedicates his time and work to it. He promises the master to take particular care of that unhappy tree. This allows for the mercy of God, who gives us time for conversion. We all need to convert, to take a step forward and God's patience and mercy accompany us in this. Despite the sterility that sometimes marks our existence, God has patience and He offers us the possibility to change and to progress on the path of goodness.

However, the delay implored and granted in the expectation that the tree will finally bear fruit indicates also the urgency of conversion. The gardener says to the master: *"Let it alone this year also"*. The possibility of conversion isn't unlimited, hence, it's necessary to seize it immediately; otherwise, it will be lost forever. In this Lent, we can think: what must I do to get closer to the Lord, to convert, to "cut" those things that aren't right? "No, no, I'll wait for next Lent." However, will you be alive next Lent? Let each of us think today: what must I do in face of this mercy of God, who waits for me and always forgives? What must I do? We can have great trust in God's mercy, but without abusing it. We must not justify spiritual sloth but increase our commitment to correspond promptly to this mercy with sincerity of heart.

In the time of Lent, the Lord invites us to conversion. Each of us must feel questioned by this call, correcting something in our life, in our way of thinking, of acting and of living our relations with our neighbour. At the same time, we must imitate the patience of God, who trusts in everyone's capacity to "rise again" and take up the path. God is Father, and He does not extinguish the weak flame but accompanies and cares for one who is weak so that he is strengthened and brings his contribution of love to the community. May the Virgin Mary help us to live these days of preparation for Easter, as a time of spiritual renewal and confident openness to God's grace and mercy.'

Pope Francis

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE – Our Baptism

Preparation Courses are restarting. All parents wishing their children to be Baptised need to attend a course prior to the Baptism. The next course will be on Saturday 30th April from 10.00am in Alexander House – the Parish Hall. Please apply for a place via Fr. Michael or the Parish Office.

2ND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY - There will be a 2nd collection next Sunday for flowers to decorate the church for Easter.

STRICTLY MINUETS - Tuesdays in the hall at -6.30pm. For more information Call Kate on 07747 465046

VOLUNTEER – 'Bread of Life Global' a sponsoring scheme run by The Sons of Divine Providence are looking for a volunteer with fundraising experience to help them to sustain their present responsibilities in 15 countries and further their expansion for children and emergencies.

For more information, please contact Father John Perrotta on 23 Lower Teddington Road, Hampton Wick, Kingston Upon Thames KT1 4 EU Tel.07921125283

GIFT AID BOXES

If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly collection envelopes, your new box of envelopes are available at the back of the Church. If you previously used envelopes but no longer require them, could you please advise the Parish Office. – Many thanks

KINGSTON MOBILE MOP UP PROJECT -

The Mayor's Charitable Trust is running a campaign this year to reuse old or unused mobile phones, laptops, tablets, cables and mobile accessories. These will be cleaned and recycled and used again, or stripped for parts depending on the condition. All phones will be wiped free of any data at the start of the process.

There is a crate at the back of the church should you wish to donate any items. This will remain for the next few weeks.

Please ensure you remove any Sim cards from phones before you donate them.

New in our repository

We have a selection of cards for Mother's Day and Easter available in the card stand in the hall near the repository.



Stations of the cross

Every Sunday during Lent at 4.00pm and on Friday mornings following the 10.00am Mass