



## St. Raphael's Church

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### Sunday 24th April – Low Sunday – Divine Mercy Sunday (C)

**9.30am** Tommie Kelleher & family RIP

**11.30am** Vincent Mario Rapa

**5.00pm** Missa Pro Populo

**3.00pm** Divine Mercy Devotions

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April St. Mark  
10.00am Leonardo Capili  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April St. George (Transferred from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April)  
10.00am Margaret Dorey RIP  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April Feria in Eastertide  
12.00noon John Coelho RIP  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April Feria in Eastertide (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)  
10.00am Caroline Brady RIP  
Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying  
for vocations to the priesthood concluding with Benediction at 12.00noon.  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April St. Catherine of Siena  
10.00am Ruby Coelho RIP  
A day of abstinence when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April Pope St. Pius V  
10.00am The Holy Souls

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Eastertide (C)

**9.30am** Cameron, Sonia & family

**11.30am** Missa Pro Populo

**5.00pm** Anne Piddock RIP

**4.00pm** Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed

### THANK YOU

During Lent the Parish collected money in aid of the people of Ukraine. £1'754.38 was raised which we have sent to Aid to the Church in Need. Thank you for your generosity. They have launched an appeal for this to support the People of 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. For more details of Aid to the Church in Need's appeal go to [acnuk.org/our-campaigns/emergency-appeal-for-ukraine/](http://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/emergency-appeal-for-ukraine/)

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Next Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May we will welcome the Mayor of Kingston Cllr. Sushila Abraham to the 9.30am Mass. During this Mass a presentation will be made to Mrs Sarah Keefe, the former Head Teacher of St. Joseph's, our parish primary school.

### ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

Today we hold the annual second collection in aid of the upkeep of St. George's Cathedral.

Following the Catholic Relief Act of 1778 which brought limited freedom to Catholics, a large chapel dedicated to St. George was opened in the London Road Southwark in 1793 and according to tradition it was here that the first High Mass was celebrated in London, outside the chapels of ambassadors, since the time of King James II. On the 2nd June 1780, Lord George Gordon, gathered a large crowd to march on Westminster, to protest against Catholic rights. They became violent and so began a week of burning, plundering and killing in which many Catholic chapels and houses were destroyed. There is a tradition that the high altar of the cathedral stands on the spot where this march began.

In 1820 a remarkable priest called Fr. Thomas Doyle came to St. George's and by 1829 his congregation numbered 15,000 and the idea grew in his mind of a new great church, with the dimensions of a long and lofty cathedral. By 1839, enough money had been collected to make a start and a site was purchased for £3,200.

A.W.N. Pugin, the noted Gothic revival architect, was commissioned to design the new church and work began in 1840. The foundation stone was laid on 8th September. The church was solemnly opened by Bishop Wiseman on 4th July 1848. To mark the occasion Blessed Pope Pius IX sent a golden chalice and paten as a gift.

Two years later the pope restored the English hierarchy and St. George's was chosen as the Cathedral Church of the new Diocese of Southwark, which was to cover the whole of Southern England. For the next half-century, until the opening of Westminster Cathedral, St. George's was the centre of Catholic life in London. Thomas Grant was made the first Bishop of Southwark.

Disaster came during the 2nd World War - on 16th April 1941 a bomb set the roof alight and by the following day the Cathedral lay in ruins and was not rebuilt until 1958.

On the 28th May 1982 Pope St. John-Paul II visited the Cathedral and during a service anointed the sick. A large beautiful stained glass window near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel was commissioned to record this historic event. The cathedral is a short walk from Waterloo Station and is open daily from early morning to dusk.



Today is Divine Mercy Sunday and we shall have the Divine Mercy Devotions this afternoon. The afternoon will begin at 3.00pm with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Prayers, Confessions, Rosary and concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3.45pm.

In 1931, the world was in the midst of the Great Depression and the memories of World War I were still very much alive in the minds of Europeans - when in Poland a sister of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, Sr. Faustina Kowalska received a series of visions of Our Lord.

According to her diary an image was revealed to her of the risen Lord, from whose heart shone two rays - one red (representing blood) and the other "pale" (symbolizing water), with the words "Jesus, I trust in you" at the bottom. Sr. Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus told her, "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish."

When she was canonized in 2000 by fellow countryman Pope St. John Paul II, he proclaimed that the Second Sunday of Easter would

henceforth be known as 'Divine Mercy Sunday' - thereby widely promoting the devotional practices associated with Sr. Faustina's visions, already popular in many communities.

St. Faustina, kept a 600-page diary of the apparitions which continued for years. Her entries focus on God's mercy, the call to accept God's mercy and to be merciful - the need for conversion and the call to trust in Jesus. It had been Jesus' own wish, she wrote, to establish a feast day - "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls. . . . I am giving them the last hope of salvation - that is, the Feast of My Mercy."

The celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on the theme of how God's mercy can overcome sin and as the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments states, "a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come."

A 'Time' magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a black turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white trainers. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, they spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation. The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope's attempted assassin - the other man was St. John Paul II, his intended victim. The pope held the hand that had held the gun, whose bullet tore into his own body. In the cell, unseen in the picture, were the pope's secretary and two security agents, along with a still photographer and videographer. St. John Paul wanted this scene to be shown around a world filled with nuclear arsenals and unforgiving hatreds. The Church has always used paintings, sculpture and architecture to communicate spiritual meanings. This was a living icon of mercy. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words, his forgiveness was deeply Christian. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the pope's hand to his forehead as a sign of respect. St. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly.

When the pope left the cell he said, "What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust." This is an example of God's divine mercy, the same divine mercy whose message St. Faustina witnessed.

### **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 this Saturday - 30<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00am in Alexander House - the Parish Hall. Please apply for a place via Fr. Michael.

### **MUSICAL EVENING**

Saturday 7th May at 7 pm at St Raphael's Church Hall. Piano recital by Michael Bevan playing Rachmaninoff, Schumann, Moszkowski and Bach. Entrance free, light refreshments served, doors open from 6.30 pm. Retiring collection in aid of Kingston Friends of Life -the charity supporting the unborn.

### **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.

### **CONFESSIONS**

Sundays - 9.00am - 9.20am.

4.30pm - 4.50pm

Saturdays - 10.30am - 11.00am

**The rosary** is recited daily in the Church Monday - Saturday before Mass and on Sundays at 4.00pm