



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell
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Parish Office -(Mon. - Thur. 9.00am - 4.00pm)
St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 - 2NA
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St. Joseph's Our Catholic Primary and Nursery School
The Fairfield, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2UP.
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Head Teacher Mrs Lorraine Flower

Sunday 22nd May - 6th Sunday of Eastertide (C)

9.30am Missa Pro Populo

11.30am Veda, Blaize and family

5.00pm The deceased friends and relations of the Woolliscroft and Roberts families

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 23rd May Feria in Eastertide

10.00am Bernie Brown RIP

Tuesday 24th May Feria in Eastertide

10.00am Ada Freeman RIP

Wednesday 25th May St. Bede

12.00noon The Freeman family

Thursday 26th May - The Ascension

10.00am The Dabliz family

7.30pm Missa Pro Populo

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today.

Friday 27th May St. Augustine of Canterbury

11.00am Jane Daley memorial Mass

A day of abstinence when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat

Saturday 28th May Feria in Eastertide

10.00am Annie Groves RIP

Sunday 29th May - 7th Sunday of Eastertide (C)

9.30am Ninette, Tony & Neil Pinto

11.30am The Vasanth family

5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday is the feast of the
Ascension and is a Holy Day
of Obligation

Mass at
11.00am today

A very special thank you to everyone who helped make last Sunday's First Holy Communion Mass such a wonderful occasion. A special thank you to our Parish Catechists who have worked so hard with the children to prepare them for last week. The children will return to the parish on the 19th June for the feast of Corpus Christi, when they will lead the parish Corpus Christi procession after the 11.30am Mass

MASS FOR ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1982 VISIT OF POPE ST JOHN PAUL II TO ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Next Saturday at 12.30pm Archbishop John will celebrate Mass to mark the fortieth anniversary of the visit of St John Paul II to St. George's Cathedral. During this celebration, the sacrament of anointing of the sick will be administered, as it was on the occasion of St John Paul II's visit. If you would like more information on this - either for yourself or on behalf of someone else, please speak to Fr. Michael. The Cathedral will be hosting an exhibition in the period 16 - 30 May about the visit of St John Paul II to St George's. Those who have photographs or other items relating to the visit which they might wish to loan are asked to write to admin@stgeorges.org.uk with details.

OF YOUR CHARITY,

please pray for the repose of the souls of
Margaret Wendy Ford
whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated
on 30th May at 10.00am.

JANE DALY RIP

Many of you will remember Jane who died last year. Sadly because of the Covid restrictions in place at the time, we were unable to have a Requiem Mass. A Memorial Mass for her will be offered this Friday at 11.00am followed by a reception in the Hall. All are welcome to attend.

May they Rest Peace

2nd COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is 'World Communications Day' and their will be 2nd Collection in aid of the Catholic Communications Network.

ANNUAL CATHEDRAL MARRIAGE MASS

Are you celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or any later wedding anniversary this year? Or did you last year? If so, Archbishop John Wilson invites you to join him in celebrating a Mass for married couples at 3.00pm on Saturday 9th July at St. George's Cathedral. You need to book in advance and by doing so you will then receive a personal written invitation from Archbishop John. Children (and grandchildren) are welcome to accompany you to the Mass. To book or for more details email mflsw@rcaos.org.uk

JAZZ IN THE PIAZZA BY THE RIVER, CHARTER QUAY KINGSTON 4th JUNE

If you are in Kingston on the Saturday of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations – come and enjoy an afternoon of Jazz between 1.00pm - 4.00pm. The Dave Jones Quartet will play a range of jazz styles featuring a saxophone, piano, double bass, drums and a vocalist. It should be fun!!!

VOCATIONS WEBINAR

Have you ever considered you may be called to the priesthood or the religious life? Southwark Vocations will be hosting a 60 minute webinar on Tuesday 24th May at 7pm entitled 'Here I am, send me' where different presenters will speak about discovering God's plan for each one of us. Please join us by registering for the event in advance by following the link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84384912807?pwd=UWJzSzVsY2VTaGl3c09Fa0tNbVZWZz09>

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

CONFESSIONS

**Sundays 9.00am - 9.20am,
4.30pm - 4.50pm
Saturdays 10.30am - 11.00am**



On Thursday we celebrate the feast of the Ascension

The death of a member of his family or of a loved friend, must be the saddest event imaginable in the life of an atheist. He is one who really is convinced that there is no God, no future life and therefore that the relative or friend is to turn into dust in the grave, never to be met with again. The thought that every day that passes is bringing him too nearer to that same sad fate, death, which will be the end of all his ambitions, all his enjoyments, the end of everything he thought he was or had, must be something hard to live with.

Thank God, we have the good fortune to know, and reason and faith convince us of this truth, that death is not the end of man. It is rather the real beginning. Today's feast—the Ascension of our Lord in his human nature—to his Father's and our Father's home, is the confirmation and the guarantee of this doctrine of our faith. We shall all rise from the grave with new, glorified bodies and ascend to heaven, as Christ did. There we'll begin our true life of eternal happiness.

While it is true that even for good Christians the death of a beloved one is a cause of sorrow and tears, this is natural as we are still earthly. Yet the certitude that our beloved one has gone to his true life and will be there to meet us when our turn comes, is always at the back of our minds to console and comfort us. What all human beings want is to live on forever with our dear ones. Death breaks that continuity but only for a little while. That break is necessary for the new life to begin.

It is only in heaven that this natural desire of an unending life with all those we love can be realized and death on earth is the door to that eternal life.

Look up to heaven today. See Christ ascending to his Father and our Father. Say : Thank you, God, for creating me, and for giving me, through the Incarnation of your beloved Son, the possibility and the assurance that if I do my part here, when death comes it will not be an enemy but a friend, to speed me on my way to the true, supernatural life which you have, in your love, planned and prepared for me.

It was written, and foretold, that Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory. The servant is not above the Master. I too must suffer. I too must accept the hardships and the trials of this life, if I want, and I do, to enter into the life of glory. Christ, who was sinless, suffered hardship and pain. I have earned many, if not all of my hardships, by my own sins. I should be glad of the opportunity to make some atonement for my past offenses, by willingly accepting the crosses he sends me. These crosses are signs of God's interest in my true welfare. Through him he is giving me a chance to prepare myself for the day of reckoning, for the moment of my death which will decide my eternal future. For every prayer I say for success in life, I should say three for a successful death, a death free from sin and at peace with God.

Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.