

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
Church Manager Tel 020 8541 - 4999

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

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
Head Teacher Mrs Lorraine Flower

Sunday 19th June - Corpus Christi (C)

9.30am Denis Curtin RIP

11.30am Rajendrababu RIP

(Followed by a Procession in Honour of the Blessed Sacrament)

5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

No 4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today

(Twelfth week Ordinary Time after Easter, ferial cycle 2)

Monday 20th June St. Alban
10.00am Alison Nary RIP

Tuesday 21st June St. Aloysius Gonzaga
10.00am Bryn Ubald

Wednesday 22nd June SS. John Fisher and Thomas More
12.00noon Betty Jacobs RIP

Thursday 23rd June The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
10.00am Jane Daly RIP
(No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today)

Friday 24th June The Sacred Heart of Jesus
10.00am Margaret Ford RIP

As today is a solemnity the church does not ask us to abstain from eating meat today.

Saturday 25th June The Immaculate Heart of Mary
10.00am The Holy Souls

Sunday 26th June - 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

9.30am Missa Pro Populo

11.30am Nicolas Goddard RIP

5.00pm The deceased friends and relations of the Woolliscroft & Roberts family

No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today

2nd COLLECTION

There will be 2nd collection today in support of 'A Day for Life' The collection will be used to support pro-life organisations who raise awareness of pro-life issues.

SUNDAY & THURSDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There will be Benediction at the conclusion of our Corpus Christi Procession today. We will then as usual take a break for the summer and resume Benediction in September

FLOWER ARRANGING

Our small team of flower arrangers desperately needs some more volunteers to help. If you would like to help, please contact Janet on 07910 802773 for more information. Help can be given if needed

Congratulations to Teddy and Emily who were baptised here at St. Raphael's recently.

OF YOUR CHARITY,

Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Patricia Lang.

Her Requiem Mass will be here at St. Raphael's on the 30th June at 12noon.
May She Rest In Peace

**The Rosary is recited in the Church
Monday - Saturday before Mass**

CONFESSIONS

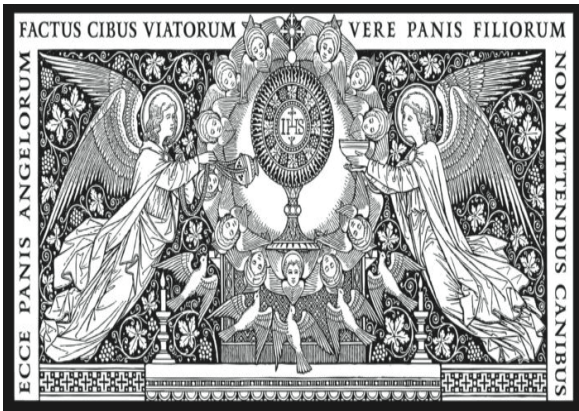
Sundays 9.00am - 9.20am, 4.30pm - 4.50pm

Saturdays 10.30am - 11.00am

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE - Our next Baptism Preparation Course will be on Saturday 16th July in Alexander House from 10.00am – 12noon. All parents wishing their children to be Baptised need to attend a course prior to the Baptism. Please apply for a place via Fr. Michael.

MUSICAL EVENING - There will be another piano recital by Michael Bevan on Saturday 25th June at 7.00 pm in Alexander House. Michael will be playing Beethoven, Schumann, Liszt and Schubert. 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.

CORPUS CHRISTI



"Do this in remembrance of me."

There you have it - six words that changed the world. They come to us from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians – and they are the first known account that we have of the Last Supper. This description pre-dates even the gospels by a couple of decades and presents our mandate and mission as Christians. "Do this in remembrance of me." - and we do. Today at this altar, once again, we do. This lies at the heart of our lives as Catholics – this act of remembrance.

Recalling and reliving this sacred moment and cherishing what it means. What Christ offered us at the Last Supper – his body and blood – is his greatest tangible gift to the

world. That is what we celebrate on this feast, Corpus Christi, the body and blood of Jesus Christ. A gift so overwhelming and humbling. Here, the creator of everything becomes almost nothing, a slice of bread as thin as paper.

This feast is the last great Sunday celebration until November, when we mark the feast of Christ the King and prepare to begin Advent. This feast is meant to nourish us through Ordinary Time – it is a kind of liturgical viaticum, food for the journey.

Like the miracle of the loaves and fishes that we read about in St. Luke's Gospel, it is a miracle that extends beyond our wildest imaginings – feeding multitudes, even today. It satisfies every yearning, every hunger – the hunger for grace, for holiness, for God Himself - with the Eucharist, we get all that.

What began at the Last Supper in the hands of Christ continues today, at the altar, in the hands of the priest.

Fr. Walter Cizek was a priest in the former Soviet Union. In 1941, he was arrested and charged, falsely, with working as a spy for the Vatican. He spent the next 23 years in prison – sometimes in solitary confinement, sometimes in a gulag, at times doing hard labour. Despite that, he found ways to celebrate mass – often at tremendous risk. Years later, Fr. Cizek wrote about it. He described in painstaking detail how the prisoners would observe the Eucharistic fast, often going without breakfast, working all morning on an empty stomach, so they could receive communion. He would gather them in an assigned spot – everybody, even himself, wearing rumpled work clothes. There he would take a small piece of bread and a few drops of wine and transform them into the body and blood of Christ. Later he wrote: "In these primitive conditions, the Mass brought you closer to God than anyone might conceivably imagine. The realization of what was happening on the board, box, or stone used in the place of an altar penetrated deep into the soul. Many a time, as I folded up the handkerchief on which the body of our Lord had lain and dried the glass or tin cup used as a chalice, the feeling of having performed something tremendously valuable for the people of this Godless country was overpowering. I was occasionally overcome with emotion for a moment as I thought of how God had found a way to follow and to feed these lost and straying sheep in this most desolate land...I would go to any length, suffer any inconvenience, run any risk to make the bread of life available to these men."

"Do this in remembrance of me." So those words live on. In a Gulag in Siberia, or a chapel in Nigeria, a cathedral in Italy, here in St. Raphael's Church. The words live on and the miracle continues, the multitudes continue to be fed and grace abounds.

But do we understand what we have been given? Do we approach this sacrament with the humility and wonder of Fr. Cizek? When we gaze at the bread of life, do we realize we are gazing at God? Here is God in a form for which men like Fr. Cizek and so many others suffered and sacrificed and even died. This feast of Corpus Christi - this feast of remembrance, let us remember that.

Every Sunday, we come and kneel at the altar rail for communion but let us not take this miracle for granted. Let us realize not only the tremendous gift we have been given, but also the generosity of the one who gave it. The words we pray just before communion, the words of the Centurion before Christ, speak for us all: "Lord I am not worthy." We aren't. None of us is and yet we pray to be made worthy, drawn to this sacrament by love and by hunger - a hunger for the bread of life - a hunger for God's grace in our lives and hearts. Finally, we are drawn as well by the desire to live out those six words that have changed the world – and that will change each of us, if only we let them.

"Do this in remembrance of me."

Today at the conclusion of the 11.30am Mass, we shall have our annual procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Our First Holy Communion children will return in their finery to the Church and lead us in the procession and then receive their First Holy Communion Certificates. This will be followed by a celebration in the hall and gardens to which all are invited.