



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell
Tel 020 8616 9583 Email michaellovell@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Office -(Mon. - Fri. 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 11th September - 24th Sunday in Ordinary time (C)

9.30am	Fr. Peter Sebastian
11.30am	Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm	The deceased members of the Pearce & Brennan families
4.00pm	Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 12 th September	The Most Holy name of Mary
10.00am	Anastasia and Andy

Tuesday 13 th September	St. John Chrysostom
10.00am	Fr. Graham Smith

Wednesday 14 th September	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
12.00noon	Mandy White RIP

Thursday 15 th September	Our Lady of Sorrows (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)
10.00am	John & Mary Savile RIP

Friday 16 th September	SS. Cornelius & Cyprian
10.00am	Jackie Woolliscroft RIP

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for vocations to the priesthood concluding with Benediction at 12.00noon.

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

Saturday 17 th September	Our Lady
10.00am	Trudie Archer - welfare

Sunday 18th September - 25th Sunday in Ordinary time (C)

9.30am	Teresa Donaldson RIP
11.30am	Sofia Rosales-King
5.00pm	Missa Pro Populo
4.00pm	Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

**Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament is
moved from Thursday
to Friday this week**

ST. TITUS BRANDSMA, MARTYR FOR A FREE PRESS - A SAINT FOR OUR TIMES



Tonight at 6.00pm in Alexander House Catholic journalist Amanda C Dickie will speak about this exceptional new saint, who was canonised by Pope Francis recently and is so relevant to our own time.

The Dutch Carmelite's opposition to Nazi propaganda cost him his life in Dachau concentration camp.

A journalist and broadcaster, pioneer ecumenist, university professor and Carmelite mystic his outreach to people of faith and

none is inspirational - even in the Nazi prison camps.

"To win the world for Christ, one must have the courage to come in conflict with it!"

His words resonate clearly for us today.

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 at 4.00pm on Sundays.

EXPOSTION OF THE BLESSED SACREMENT

Sundays - 4.00pm Rosary &
Bendiction

Thursdays - Expostion follwing
the 10.00am Mass, concluding
with Benediction at 12noon.

Today's Gospel reading offers us another golden opportunity to reflect on God's mercy and compassion. The thread that runs through all the readings today is the readiness of God to welcome and receive us back irrespective of how much we have fallen and gone away from him.

In the first reading we see how God is faithful to His vows. He also demonstrated that His love and mercy surpass His anger and judgement. As a merciful and compassionate father, God heard the prayers of Moses on behalf of his people. Hence, He fulfilled His promise that: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray...I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin...." (2 Chr 7:14).

A very important lesson we must learn from this reading is, the power of intercession for both ourselves and for others especially at the sacrifice of the Mass - we must not be tired of interceding for one another and for our world before our merciful and compassionate Lord. So, we must approach Him in prayers always, reminding him of his promises as Moses did.

In the second reading Paul reminds us that, like himself, we are all products of God's mercy. He recounts his salvation was made possible through the intercession and mercy of Christ. Hence, like Paul, let us take advantage of this same saving mercy of God for our eternal salvation. Let us also be grateful to Him, who shows us mercy through Christ.

In our gospel, Christ was accused of welcoming sinners. Through his action and parables, He demonstrated how merciful and compassionate he is towards us. In spite of our sins and stubbornness, Christ is willing to welcome us back to himself. Each day, He beckons us: "Come let us settle the matter, even though your sins are as red as crimson, you shall be as white as snow" (Is 1:18-19). Through his merciful and compassionate heart, He is ready to make all things new for us again. It does not matter what it will cost Him.

So, like the prodigal son, it is time to accept this invitation. It is time to return to the merciful and compassionate Lord whose mercy surpasses His judgment and wrath. God has made our return very easy through Jesus Christ. So, sincerely, and humbly we must make a very important decision like the prodigal son: "I will leave this place and go back to my father." We must not be ashamed to return to God our father because: "His steadfast love never ceases, and His mercy never comes to an end. They are new every morning, and great is His faithfulness" (Lam 3:22-23).

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE - Please note, the Parish Office will be closed from Friday 16th September. It will reopen on Monday 3rd October.

2ND COLLECTIONS - Today there will be a Second Collection for the **Catholic Education Service**. The CES acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. There are over 2,000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England educating over 800,000 students. The Catholic Church and the Church of England together provide one-third of all of the schools in the country. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

Next Sunday is **Home Mission Sunday** and there will a 2nd collection to support the work of the Catholic Agency for Evangelization in spreading the faith in this county.

1ST HOLY COMMUNION 2023 - **Today, 11th September is the final deadline for return of all application forms.** Please note if the course is oversubscribed, priority will be given to parishioners. If you have any queries, please speak to the catechists - Ginette Howell and Kate Freeman.

THOSE WHO KINDLY DONATE TO THE PARISH BY STANDING ORDERS - Unfortunately Natwest had a technical issue which affected all bank accounts in the diocese in July. This issue has now been solved but it may have affected some payments that go into our account. If you make a monthly payment to the Church by Standing Order could you please double check your statement for July to see if the payment went out. Thank you for generosity.

CONFIRMATION 2023 - If you are aged twelve or above and wish to be Confirmed next summer then you need to join the Faith Formation Group which will be meeting next on Sunday 25th September after the 9.30am Mass in the Hall. The meetings will be held roughly once a month and the Confirmation Mass will be celebrated some time in May or June next year.

Congratulations to Matilda who was baptised here at St. Raphael's recently.