



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell
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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 2nd October - The Transferred Feast of SS. Michael Raphael & Gabriel (C)

9.30am Subash & Dymphna - 30th Wedding anniversary
11.30am Alexander Raphael RIP- Builder of our Church
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo
4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

(27th Week in Ordinary Time)

Monday 3rd October Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am Fr. Peter Sebastian

Tuesday 4th October St. Francis of Assisi
10.00am Agnes Barrett RIP

Wednesday 5th October St. Faustina
12.00noon Cesare Orindi RIP

Thursday 6th October St. Bruno (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)
10.00am Tessy Sunny RIP

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

Friday 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary
10.00am In reparation for the sin of abortion
A day of abstinence when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat

Saturday 8th October Our Lady
10.00am Robert Collinson RIP

Sunday 9th October - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

9.30am Neil Townsend RIP
11.30am Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm Gerald Patrick Brennan RIP
4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Our beautiful church was designed by Charles Parker in an Italianate style, with early Christian, Armenian and Renaissance influences and was completed in 1850. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the famous writer on the history of art and architecture, described St Raphael's as 'The most interesting church in Kingston'.

It was commissioned by Alexander Raphael, who was born in India of Armenian heritage, a great philanthropist and entrepreneur, in 1775. He was the son of Edward Raphael, an Armenian Uniat Catholic merchant of Persian origin. In 1791, Edward decided to take his children to England to complete their education. He set sail on the Prince William Henry, but sadly died aboard ship during the voyage.

Tradition says that in the mid 1840s, during a serious illness, Alexander made a vow to Our Lady that if he recovered, he would build a church. He did recover and true to his word, he built the church. He died shortly afterwards on 17th November 1850, aged 75. He was buried in the family vault beneath the high altar of the Church. We will offer Mass for the repose of his soul today and give thanks for his generosity to us.

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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sundays - 4.00pm Rosary & Benediction
Thursdays - Exposition following the 10.00am Mass, concluding with Benediction at 12noon.

TEA AND COFFEE

There is tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass on Sundays and after Mass on Wednesdays

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

During the 9.30am Mass on Sundays

Today we celebrate the transferred feast of our Patron St. Raphael. St. Raphael is one of the seven Archangels who stands before the throne of God. He is also one of only three angels whose names have been revealed through Sacred Scripture. His name in various translations means "God heals," "Divine Healer," or "Medicine of God," for he has received his healing mission from the Lord. He is the patron saint of travellers, blindness, all bodily ills, doctors, nurses, medical caregivers and joyful meetings.

St. Raphael is generally believed to be the "Angel of Healing" mentioned in St. John's Gospel 5:4 who came to the pool of Bethesda. St. John explains that an angel of the Lord descended at certain times, stirring the waters, so that those who washed in them were healed. He is also mentioned in the Old Testament Book of Tobit where we read the story of his healing power after which Raphael revealed himself as the "Angel of the Lord," explaining that he was one of the seven angels who stand before the throne of God.

This beautiful account assures us that God sends his angelic messengers to lead, guide, and guard us as we undertake earthly journeys and aspire to heavenly ones.

Cultivating a relationship with a healing saint like the Archangel Raphael is a wonderful way for us to grow in our faith. When we seek the intercession of the saints, we exercise great trust in God and in them by binding ourselves more closely to heaven and the Church. It opens another door for Our Lord to work even more powerfully in our lives. After all, we are inviting God to work through our heavenly friends, which gives glory to Him in a very particular way. It shows faith and hope in what He has done in and through their lives. It shows the confident expectation of what He can and will do in ours.

God has given St. Raphael the angelic mission to heal minds, bodies, and situations. This is his role in the Heavenly Court and before the throne of God. We can have recourse to this powerful archangel in our own brokenness, illness, and suffering. Who better to turn to when we need healing than the one God Himself has chosen for us?

St. Raphael, like any saint, exists to serve the will of God. Of course, as we invite the Archangel to come to our aid, we must be mindful that our own definition of healing may not be exactly what our good God intends. Healing comes in many forms and perhaps that which we suffer is necessary for our sanctification. Perhaps it can be used by God on behalf of souls. Since St. Raphael's name means "God Heals," he will bring healing to your situation, even if it is not done as you expect. He may gain for you or your loved one the virtues and graces needed to suffer well. His healing may come in the form of helping you peacefully embrace God's will. If complete physical healing does not come through your prayers, or if your healing comes in another form, do not despair.

At this time, when our world is undergoing great suffering and purification, St. Raphael is a powerful "Divine Healer" for the world and for us. Together, let us lift our prayers to him. Let us ask his intercession before the throne of God, that we might have faith that the Lord will hear and respond to the prayers of our hearts.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PRESENTERS

Job vacancy:

A married couple, both being practising Catholics, to present 6 courses a year in various locations in South London and Kent, as well as providing cover in case of colleagues' illness. Salary: £30,000 pro rata (£7,000) for the couple.

Mileage paid in addition. All training given.

For full job description and further details, please contact liamgallagher@rcaos.org.uk

Closing date for applications: October 14.

PRIVATE TUITION

I am a Catholic teacher with many years of experience in primary education and living in the local area. I am offering private tuition (Ages 4-11 years) which includes 7+ and 11+ exam preparation. I also teach Spanish and can travel to your home. Please contact me on 07961 764186 or via email: mariaann.education@gmail.com

THE FAITH FORMATION GROUP

The Faith Formation group for our young people will meet next Sunday at 10:30am in the library.

1st HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

The 1st Holy Communion programme continues next Saturday morning at 10.30am

TALK BY LUCY UNDERWOOD-HEALY

At 6pm in Alexander House on 16th October, we are pleased to welcome Lucy Underwood-Healy to give a talk on her novel, *The Guest of Night*, and how she came to write it. Lucy is a Catholic historian and novelist. She will have books available on the night for purchase at a small event discount. Alternatively, it can be purchased online through Amazon.