

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 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday (A)

9.30am Patricia Single RIP
11.30am Missa Pro Populo
5.00pm Maria Taylor RIP
4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 12th December Advent FERIA
10.00am Mary Cockeron RIP

Tuesday 13th December St. Lucy
10.00am Colin Foster RIP

Wednesday 14th December St. John of the Cross
12.00noon John O'Sullivan

Thursday 15th December Advent FERIA (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)
10.00am Fr. John Moth RIP

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

1.30pm St. Joseph's School Carol Service

Friday 16th December Advent FERIA
10.00am Terry Price RIP

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

Saturday 17th December Advent FERIA
10.00am The Holy Souls

Sunday 18th December – 4th Sunday of Advent (A)

9.30am The Barlow Family
11.30am Ena O'Sullivan RIP
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo
(No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)
6.15 Parish Carol Service

CONFESSIONS - Sundays 9.00am - 9.20am. 4.30pm - 4.50pm
Saturdays 10.30am - 11.00am

THE ROSARY - The Rosary is recited daily in the Church Monday - Saturday before Mass and at 4.00pm on Sundays.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT –

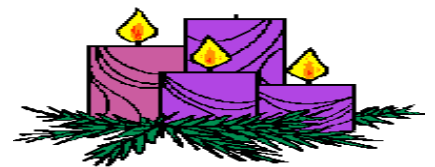
Sundays - 4.00pm Rosary & Benediction

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

1st HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES - The 1st Holy Communion programme will resume on the 7th January.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - During the 9.30am Mass on Sundays



Today, we light the Third Advent Candle. This Sunday of Advent is a day of Joy, with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday" from the first word of the entrance chant, or Introit: Rejoice! Today we relax slightly our penitential focus during Advent. Advent is joyous, but also penitential. Remember: we fast before our feasts.

At the beginning of Advent we begged God for the grace of a strong will as we prepare for Christ's coming. In the second week, we asked God for help and protection to overcome the obstacles we encounter in the world. Today we glimpse the joy that will soon be ours at Christmas. To symbolise this our Mass vestments warm up from deep purple to a rosy hue and the opening prayer of the mass reflects our expectant joy "O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing."

In the gospel we see John the Baptist, the man who prepared the people for Christ's public mission, before our minds today, as an example that we should follow, even if only from afar. John prepared himself for the test of welcoming and introducing Christ to others, by a life of self-mortification and penance. He told the people that the first essential for getting Christ, and profiting by his coming, was that they should turn away from sin and give up any evil ways, which hitherto they had followed. He himself practiced what he preached and his preaching, therefore, bore fruit among many of his hearers. John is calling on us too today, to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming this Christmas, by turning away from sin, and by the mortification of ourselves in many ways.

OF YOUR CHARITY,

Please pray for the repose of the Soul of
Honora O'Shea

whose Requiem Mass will be here
on the 19th December at 11.30am

**MAY SHE REST IN PEACE
AND RISE IN GLORY**

Christmas Offerings

Your offerings made at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are your personal gift to the Parish Priest. There are Christmas Offering envelopes available at the back of the church. However, if you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, please use the special Christmas Offering Envelope in your packet. Thank you for your generosity.

St Raphael's Parish Carol Service



Next Sunday evening at 6.15pm

Followed by mulled wine & mince pies

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

4.00pm, 6.00pm and Midnight

Christmas Day

9.30am and 11.30am

CHRISTMAS SALE

There are Christmas Cards, Cribbs and other Christmas gifts for sale in the hall. All proceeds will go to Church funds.

MARY'S MEALS –

'BIG FAMILY CHRISTMAS'

Mary's meals have launched their 'Big Family Christmas' appeal to help feed hungry children. For just £15.90 you can set a place for yourself or a loved one at their virtual Christmas dinner table. Your name will appear online and you'll receive a beautiful PDF place mat to pass on as a gift.

In addition, with 'Double The Love' donations to Mary's Meals until 31 January 2023 are being matched by a group of generous supporters – up to £1.5 million.

This means each place set will feed two children with life-changing school meals for a whole year! For more information, please go to <https://bigfamilychristmas.marysmeals.org.uk/big-family-christmas-table/>

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

The children and staff from St. Joseph's, our parish primary school will hold their annual carol service here at the Church on Thursday 15th December at 1.30pm. All are welcome to come and enjoy the service.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to those who came along last Saturday morning to help clean the church brass for Christmas.

Congratulations

to Isabelle who was baptised last Sunday here at St. Raphael's.