



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



Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

(No 10.00am Mass)

4.00pm - Missa Pro Populo

6.00pm - Liam Whelan RIP

Midnight - Alexander Raphael RIP

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.30am - Denis Curtin RIP

11.30am - Jacinto Do Rosario RIP

(Please note there is no evening Mass or confessions on Christmas Day)

Monday 26th December - St. Stephen

10.00am - Peggy Lovell RIP

Tuesday 27th December - St. John

10.00am - The Holy Souls

Wednesday 28th December - The Holy Innocents

12 noon - Victor Donaldson RIP

Thursday 29th December - St. Thomas of Canterbury

10.00am Ethel & William Larkin RIP

(No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today)

Friday 30th December - The Holy Family

10.00am - The Holy Souls

Saturday 31st December - 7th Day of Christmas

10.00am - The Holy Souls

Confessions 10.30am - 11.00am

Sunday 1st January - Mary Mother of God

9.30am - Frank Lynch RIP

11.30am - Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm - Maggie's Welfare

(No Rosary and Benediction today)

Confessions 9.00am -9.20am & 4.30pm - 4.50pm

Monday 2nd January - SS. Basil & Gregory

10.00am - The Holy Souls

Tuesday 3rd January - Christmas Feria

10.00am - The Holy Souls

Wednesday 4th January - Christmas Feria

10.00am - Fr. Michael Creech RIP

Thursday 5th January - Christmas Feria

10.00am - The Holy Souls

Friday 6th January - The Epiphany of The Lord

10.00am - Billy & Margaret Doyle RIP

7.30pm - Missa Pro Populo

Holy Day of
Obligation

Saturday 7th January - Weekday after the Epiphany

10.00am - In reparation for abortion

Confessions 10.30am - 11.00am

Sunday 8th January - The Baptism of The Lord

9.30am - Herta Erika Henning RIP

11.30am - Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm - Annie Currie-Burke RIP

4.00pm Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Confessions 9.00am -9.20am & 4.30pm - 4.50pm

In the darkness, a light shines. An angel appears, the glory of the Lord shines around the shepherds and finally the message awaited for centuries is heard: "To you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord". The angel goes on to say something surprising. He tells the shepherds how to find the God who has come down to earth: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger". That is the sign: a child, a baby lying in the dire poverty of a manger. No more bright lights or choirs of angels. Only a child.

The Gospel emphasizes this contrast. It relates the birth of Jesus beginning with Caesar Augustus, who orders the census of the whole world: it presents the first Emperor in all his grandeur. Yet immediately thereafter it brings us to Bethlehem, where there is no grandeur at all: just a poor child wrapped in swaddling clothes, with shepherds standing by. That is where God is, in littleness. This is the message: God does not rise up in grandeur, but lowers himself into littleness. Littleness is the path that he chose to draw near to us, to touch our hearts, to save us and to bring us back to what really matters.

Standing before the crib, we contemplate what is central - we contemplate the child - in his littleness, God is present. Let us acknowledge this: "Baby Jesus, you are God, the God who becomes a child". Let us be amazed by this scandalous truth. The One who embraces the universe needs to be held in another's arms. The One who created the sun needs to be warmed. Tenderness incarnate needs to be coddled. Infinite love has a miniscule heart that beats softly. The eternal Word is an "infant", a speechless child. The Bread of life needs to be nourished. The Creator of the world has no home. Today, all is turned upside down: God comes into the world in littleness. His grandeur appears in littleness. This is what we should ask Jesus for at Christmas: the grace of littleness. "Lord, teach us to love littleness. Help us to understand that littleness is the way to authentic greatness". What does it mean, concretely, to accept littleness? In the first place, it is to believe that God desires to come into the little things of our life; he wants to inhabit our daily lives, the things we do each day at home, in our families, at school and in the workplace. Amid our ordinary lived experience, he wants to do extraordinary things. His is a message of immense hope. Jesus asks us to rediscover and value the little things in life. If he is present there, what else do we need? Let us stop pining for a grandeur that is not ours to have. Let us put aside our complaints and our gloomy faces, and the greed that never satisfies! Littleness and the amazement of that little child: this is the message - *Pope Francis*

PARISH OFFICE AND NEWSLETTER

The Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday 3rd January. Our next Newsletter will be Sunday 8th January

1st HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

The 1st Holy Communion programme will resume on the 7th January

TEA AND COFFEE

Sunday tea and coffee resumes on Sunday 8th January

There will be tea and coffee after the Wednesday Mass throughout the Christmas period.

OUR 2022 CRIBB APPEAL

This year our Cribb collection will be donated to the 'The Catholic Children's Society' which supports disadvantaged children and families across London, Hertfordshire and the South East. They work with individuals of all faiths and none; their sole aim is to help those in greatest need.

Many families are facing desperate situations due to loss of work and social isolation. So far they have helped over 2,300 vulnerable children with funding for food and basic essentials to help them through this challenging time. This has only been possible thanks to the generosity of their supporters.

By making a donation you can help them reach out to more families in urgent need.

Their ConnectEd counselling and therapy services support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of thousands of children each year. These services are based on-site in over 70 primary, secondary and special schools. This specialist support ensures vulnerable children and young people can develop resilience, achieve their full potential and have better chances in life.

Please be as generous as you can.

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

Sunday Rosary and Benediction resumes on the 8th January. Thursday exposition resumes on the 5th January.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

During the 9.30am Mass resuming on Sunday 8th January.

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.