



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 29th January – 4th Sunday in Ordinary time (A)

9.30am Dymphna de Menezes

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Doreen Law RIP

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 30th January Feria in Ordinary time
10.00am Anna Brown RIP

Tuesday 31st January St. John Bosco
10.00am Mabel Ezechial RIP

Wednesday 1st February Feria in Ordinary Time
12noon Dora Mary Weller RIP

Thursday 2nd February The Presentation of The Lord – Candlemas (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)
10.00am Birgitta Ezechial RIP

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

Friday 3rd February St. Blaise
10.00am Bill and Ethel Larkin RIP

Followed by the blessing of throats
(A day of abstinence when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat)

Saturday 4th February Our Lady
10.00am Anna Bennett RIP

Sunday 5th February – 5th Sunday in Ordinary time (A)

9.30am Kirsty Bryant RIP

11.30am Ena O'Sullivan RIP

5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

FIRST CONFESSION - Please pray for the children making their 1st Confession on the 4th February as part of their preparation to receive Jesus in the best possible way at their 1st Holy Communion later this year.

LIFE CONCERT - To be held on Saturday 4th February at 7 pm, with doors opening at 6.30 pm. Our pianist, Michael Bevan, will play Beethoven – sonata in D major, Schumann - Kinderscenen, Rachmaninov - Liebesleid and more... It will be a delightful evening of beautiful music, and refreshments will be served before and after the concert. Admission is free, with a retiring collection.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE – BLESSING OF THROATS

On Friday we keep the feast of St. Blaise. Each year on this feast day, during Mass, the priest blesses the throats of those present. He holds two candles under the throat and recites the following prayer.

"Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - CANDLEMAS



On Thursday, we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which is also known as Candlemas day - since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

The Readings give us an important insight into understanding the profound mystery of the Lord's Presentation in the Temple. The reading from the Prophet Malachi says, *'I am sending my messenger to prepare*

the way before me and suddenly there will come to the temple, the Lord whom you seek'. This messenger, sent to prepare the way, was St. John the Baptist. He was born six months before Jesus, after him the Lord himself will come. Jesus's presentation signifies God's entrance into His temple - God made man presenting Himself to those who were already searching for Him.

The Gospel introduces us to different people and events that in themselves provide numerous lessons and themes for further reflection. First of all, Mary and Joseph respected the law by offering the sacrifice prescribed for the poor, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people dedicated to prayer and fasting and so their strong religious spirit rendered them able to recognize the Messiah.

In this sense, we can see in the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple an extension of the 'Pro Orantibus Day' (For those who pray) that is celebrated on the feast of the Presentation of Mary (21st November). On this day, the Church demonstrates its gratitude to all those in the community that dedicate themselves in a privileged way to prayer, to those who have a particular religious vocation and to the contemplative life. In the figure of the venerable Simeon, Jesus's presentation in the temple, also reminds us that prayer and contemplation are not a waste of time or an obstacle to charity. On the contrary, time could not be better spent than in prayer. Only those who pray and offer penance, like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an ample interior vision and they have learned how to love with a heart full of charity.

Pope St. John Paul II explains that, Simeon's prophecy of Mary's sufferings is like a second Annunciation to her, for they tell of how He is to accomplish his mission, in misunderstanding and sorrow.' (Redemptoris Mater, n16) The archangel's announcement was a fount of incredible joy because it pertained to Jesus's messianic royalty and the supernatural character. Simeon's announcement instead, spoke of the Lord's work of redemption, that He would complete associating Himself through suffering to His Mother.

Simeon's prophecy also announces that Christ will be 'a sign of contradiction'. St. Cyril of Alexandria interpreted the words 'sign of contradiction' as the cross. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that the cross is 'a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles' It is a sign of contradiction in the sense that to those without faith it appears as foolish while to those who recognize its power, the cross reveals salvation and life.

SCRIPTURE STUDY AND REFLECTION THROUGH LENT

Save the dates – 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March in Alexander House at 7.30pm. More details to follow.

INDUCTION OF FR. PETER SEBASTIAN AS PARISH PRIEST OF CHESSINGTON

Fr Peter, who many of you will know, is beining inducted as Parish Priest of Chessington at St. Catherine's Chruch, Chessington on Saturday 18th February at 12noon, followed by refreshments. Fr. Peter has exteaded an invitation to all parishioners who know him and would like to attend.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The First Holy Communion programme continues on Saturday mornings at 10.30am

MASS INTENTIONS

Please be aware that Mass bookings get booked up very quickly – particularly for Sundays. If you have any Mass Intentions for specific dates for 2023, please book them as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

READERS FOR MASS

We are very short of readers for the Sunday Mass, especially the 5.00pm - having lost two volunteers in the last couple of months and trying to recruit some new ones. If you would be interested in this very important role and would like to volunteer, please speak to Michael in the Parish Office or email surbiton@rcaos.org.uk

THE PARISH OFFICE

Please note that the Parish Office is closed until Monday 30th January

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 7TH 16TH MARCH

Led by Revd William Allberry and Revd Michael Johns – Perring. Cost £2'375.00 per person based on two people sharing. For more information please speak to Fr. Michael or email wallberry49@gmail.com or tel 020 8 390 2019