



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
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St. Joseph's Our Catholic Primary and Nursery School
The Fairfield, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2UP.
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Head Teacher Mrs Lorraine Flower

Sunday 8th January - The Baptism of The Lord - (A)

9.30am Herta Erika Henning RIP
11.30am Pope Benedict XVI RIP
5.00pm Annie Currie-Burke RIP
4.00pm Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
(1st week of Ordinary time)

Monday 9th January Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am Missa Pro Populo

Tuesday 10th January Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am Maria Gibney RIP

Wednesday 11th January Feria in Ordinary Time
12.00noon Adriano Orindi RIP

Thursday 12th January Feria in Ordinary Time (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)
10.00am Fr. David Howell
Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for vocations to the priesthood concluding with Benediction at 12.00noon.

Friday 13th January Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am Louisa Giles RIP
A day of abstinence when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat

Saturday 14th January Our Lady
10.00am The Holy Souls

Sunday 15th January - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary time (A)

9.30am Agnes Rodrick RIP
11.30am Una Annett RIP
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo
4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

CRIB APPEAL – Today marks the end of the Christmas season and our Christmas crib will be taken down during the week. Therefore today is your last chance to leave an offering at the crib for the Catholic Children's Society.

FR MICHAEL WRITES:

'A Happy New Year to everyone as the Christmas Season draws to a close. The Christmas celebrations went very well, in no small part due to the conscientious efforts of those involved in the Liturgy, preparation of the church and fine attendance levels. Thank you to all those who have contributed in any way over the last year to our life of prayer, and our life together. In the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, much has returned to normal, including our extensive Catechetical programmes. The new car park is now in use and helps us, particularly on Sundays.

We are grateful for the legacy of Pope Benedict and some of his moving writing is included in this newsletter. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

I would like to let you know that the Archbishop has asked me to continue as Dean of Kingston for the next three years. As ever, I am grateful for your support and prayers.'

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.

HOST NEEDED - Host Needed for Ukrainian Refugee Family. A mother and daughter urgently need a local host to provide a room under the government Homes for Ukraine scheme. One room with either a double or two single beds. The mother speaks English. For more information contact Linda Davis 07787339243

CHRISTMAS HAMPER - A parishioner has kindly donated a beautiful Christmas hamper which we will raffle next Sunday in the Hall during tea and coffee – tickets are on sale in the Hall today during tea and coffee.

MASS INTENTIONS - If you have any Mass Intentions for specific dates for 2023, please book them as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

VACANCY - ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL - St Joseph's School, are looking to appoint a Deputy Headteacher/Sendco for Easter 2023 or earlier. Further details can be found on: <https://www.eteach.com/job/deputy-headteachersendco-1294383>

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL – Next Sunday we will hold the annual White Flower appeal in support of 'The Society for the Protection of Children' - (SPUC)

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

Pope Benedict died peacefully on New Year's Eve at 9.30am. His long-time secretary, Archbishop Georg Gaenswein said that Pope Benedict's last words were, "Lord, I love you".

Archbishop John Wilson writes -

"It is with great sadness that we received the news that the Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has finished his earthly pilgrimage and returned to the Father, to the place prepared for him by Christ, the Lord he served faithfully through this life and ministry.

We are profoundly grateful for his remarkable example of faith and discipleship, and his witness of service to the Church, both in his home country and to the Church Universal. He was gifted uniquely as a preacher and teacher of the Catholic faith. His intellectual legacy of writing is part of the Church's treasury for the future. We thank God for his gentleness as a humble worker in the Lord's vineyard; and for his willingness to address pressing issues in the Church. We now accompany him with our prayers that he may know eternal joy and peace."

The Spiritual Testament of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

'When, at this late hour of my life, I look back on the decades I have wandered through, I see first of all how much reason I have to give thanks. Above all, I thank God Himself, the giver of all good gifts, who has given me life and guided me through all kinds of confusion; who has always picked me up when I began to slip, who has always given me anew the light of his countenance. In retrospect, I see and understand that even the dark and arduous stretches of this path were for my salvation and that He guided me well in those very stretches.

I thank my parents, who gave me life in difficult times and prepared a wonderful home for me with their love, which shines through all my days as a bright light until today. My father's clear-sighted faith taught us brothers and sisters to believe and stood firm as a guide in the midst of all my scientific knowledge; my mother's heartfelt piety and great kindness remain a legacy for which I cannot thank her enough. My sister has served me selflessly and full of kind concern for decades; my brother has always paved the way for me with the clear-sightedness of his judgements, with his powerful determination, and with the cheerfulness of his heart; without this ever-new going ahead and going along, I would not have been able to find the right path.

I thank God from the bottom of my heart for the many friends, men and women, whom He has always placed at my side; for the co-workers at all stages of my path; for the teachers and students He has given me. I gratefully entrust them all to His goodness. And I would like to thank the Lord for my beautiful home in the Bavarian foothills of the Alps, in which I was able to see the splendour of the Creator Himself shining through time and again. I thank the people of my homeland for allowing me to experience the beauty of faith time and again. I pray that our country will remain a country of faith and I ask you, dear compatriots, not to let your faith be distracted. Finally, I thank God for all the beauty I was able to experience during the various stages of my journey, but especially in Rome and in Italy, which has become my second home.

I ask for forgiveness from the bottom of my heart from all those whom I have wronged in some way.

What I said earlier of my compatriots, I now say to all who were entrusted to my service in the Church: Stand firm in the faith! Do not be confused! Often it seems as if science - on the one hand, the natural sciences; on the other, historical research (especially the exegesis of the Holy Scriptures) - has irrefutable insights to offer that are contrary to the Catholic faith. I have witnessed from times long past the changes in natural science and have seen how apparent certainties against the faith vanished, proving themselves not to be science but philosophical interpretations only apparently belonging to science - just as, moreover, it is in dialogue with the natural sciences that faith has learned to understand the limits of the scope of its affirmations and thus its own specificity. For 60 years now, I have accompanied the path of theology, especially biblical studies, and have seen seemingly unshakeable theses collapse with the changing generations, which turned out to be mere hypotheses: the liberal generation (Harnack, Jülicher, etc.), the existentialist generation (Bultmann, etc.), the Marxist generation. I have seen, and see, how, out of the tangle of hypotheses, the reasonableness of faith has emerged and is emerging anew. Jesus Christ is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life - and the Church, in all her shortcomings, is truly His Body.

Finally, I humbly ask: pray for me, so that the Lord may admit me to the eternal dwellings, despite all my sins and shortcomings. For all those entrusted to me, my heartfelt prayer goes out day after day.'

Benedictus PP XVI.