

St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell

Tel 020 8616 9583 Email michaellovell@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Office -(Monday - Thursday 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 12th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent (A)

9.30am Neil Townsend RIP

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Robert Brook RIP

4.00pm Stations of the Cross

Monday 13th March

10.00am Lenten Feria
The Holy Souls

Tuesday 14th March

10.00am Lenten Feria
Gill Taylor

Wednesday 15th March

12noon Lenten Feria
David Kaimal's intentions

Thursday 16th March

10.00am Lenten Feria (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

The Holy Souls

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for

vocations to the priesthood concluding with Benediction at 11.45am.

Friday 17th March

10.00am St. Patrick
Michael Dwyer RIP

Followed by Stations of The Cross.

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

Saturday 18th March

10.00am Lenten Feria
Denis Curtin RIP

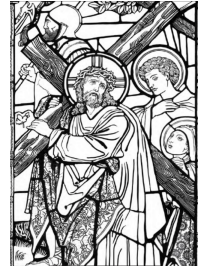
Sunday 19th March – 4th Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday (A)

9.30am Edie Hillier RIP

11.30am Maureen Hough and the deceased members of her family

5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm Stations of the Cross



There are Stations of
The Cross every
Sunday during Lent at
4.00pm and on Friday
mornings following the
10.00am Mass.

CONFESSIONS

Sundays 9.00am - 9.20am.
& 4.30pm - 4.50pm

Saturdays 10.30am - 11.00am

THE ROSARY - The Rosary is recited in the Church Monday - Saturday before Mass.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACREMENT – Thursdays after Mass concluding with Benediction at 11.45am

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - The First Holy Communion programme continues Saturday mornings at 10.30am

TEA AND COFFEE - There is tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass on Sundays and after Mass on Wednesdays

A BIBLICAL JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

Our pilgrimage continues in Alexander House on Wednesday evenings during March. We will reflect on the Lenten themes of evangelisation, justice and our commitment to living our faith in community. As pilgrims, we will draw on the wisdom of the books of Psalms, Proverbs and Ruth and reflect on Jesus' example of sacrifice and his role as King. The pilgrim's way, "The Augustine Camino" (Ramsgate to Canterbury) will link our biblical studies to the saintly men and women who lived the gospel and shared their faith with this country and the world.

The talks start at 7.30pm, there is tea and coffee available from 7.00pm.

In this Sunday's gospel we hear the story of the encounter and conversation of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

Jesus was naturally thirsty. He had been on a long journey on foot and He sat down beside Jacob's well in the midday heat. He asks the woman for a drink of water. It was quite unusual for a Jewish man to speak to a Samaritan and a woman. But our Lord does so with a deeper motive. He is thirsty for water, yes, but He is also thirsty for the salvation of the Samaritan woman. St. Augustine wrote: Although Jesus asked for a drink, His real thirst was for this woman's faith.

We see this thirst of Jesus again when He is hanging on the cross. Some of His last words at the crucifixion were: I thirst. Yes, Jesus was physically thirsty, but these words have deeper meaning. He is thirsty for our salvation, thirsty for our faith and our love.

God is thirsty for souls. Jesus was thirsty for the soul of the Samaritan woman and brought her to faith. She, in the end, went forth to bring the Good News to her people.

She went every day to the well to draw water. Yes, this was a physical necessity. But again, there is something deeper here. The woman had many disappointments in her life. Like all of us, she was thirsty for meaning in her life. She was thirsty for love. Jesus pointed out to her that she had been married five times and now was living with a sixth man. Her life-thirst was not being satisfied. She was unhappy. She wasn't finding authentic love. She didn't find anyone or anything to satisfy the deep longing of her heart until she met Jesus. Lent is a time for us to quench our thirst, to rediscover the meaning of our life in Christ. This is a special time to encounter Jesus like the Samaritan woman at the well, and to be transformed by our encounter with Jesus, like she was. The Lord wants to give us living water. This is why He came to earth, that we might have life and have it abundantly. Sin is an obstacle to that full life in Christ, so we have this time of Lent for our deeper conversion to the Lord.

The Church invites us to drink from the living waters of the Holy Spirit. Then, like the Samaritan woman, we are no longer thirsty. In fact, we are transformed into missionary disciples, who go forth to bring the Good News to others – spreading the love of Christ and the knowledge of His thirst for the salvation of souls.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

Our next Baptism Preparation Course will be on Saturday 1st April Alexander House from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. All parents wishing their children to be Baptised need to attend a course prior to the Baptism. Please apply for a place via Fr. Michael.

THANK YOU

The parish has received two letters of thanks for recent appeals we have had at the Church.

The Society for the Protection Unborn Children wrote and thanked the Parish for the £320.04 that was raised at The White Flower Appeal that was held on the 15th January. The Catholic Children's Society wrote and thanked us for the £616.86 that was collected at last year's Christmas Cribb.

ST. PATRICK'S AND MOTHERS DAY CARDS

Friday is St. Patrick's Day and Sunday is Mother's Day, There is a selection of cards for St. Patrick's Day and Mother's Day in the card rack in the hall.

CARITAS SOUTHWARK

Archbishop John Wilson cordially invites everyone to a Mass inaugurating Caritas Southwark on Saturday 18th March at St. George's Cathedral. This occasion will begin at 12.30pm with the Mass and continues in Amigo Hall afterwards with light refreshment and a Roadshow of the numerous social and religious activities operating within the diocese.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

On Friday we celebrate the feast of St. Patrick. Following the 10.00am Mass, between 11.00am - 1.00pm there will be a celebration in the Hall. Irish coffee, sodabread and other treats will be on offer. A donation of £5.00 is suggested. All proceeds will go towards our Parish Lenten Project.

CAKE SALE - NEXT SUNDAY

There will be a cake sale in the hall next Sunday in aid of our Parish Lenten Project. If you could bake something, please bring it along to the Hall before either of the morning Masses. Please call in and buy a cake – perhaps, as it is Mother's Day you could buy one for your mother!

MASS INTENTIONS

We have some free slots for Mass intentions in the Parish Diary. If you would like to have a Mass offered for an intention, please complete one of the Mass Intention Envelopes at the back of the Church and hand it in to either the Sacristy or Parish Office. If you have any specific dates for Masses later in the year, please book them in ASAP to avoid disappointment.

LENTEN TALK – THE EARLY PARISH PRIESTS AND CHAPLAINS OF ST. RAPHAEL'S

As you go into the Church, on the right-hand side of the vestibule is a white marble tablet which lists the Chaplains and Parish Priests of St. Raphael's. Have you ever wondered about these men? For example, what is known about the first six who are listed, Fathers Donovan, Clark, Doyle, Ainsworth, Morley and du Plerny? On Sunday 26th March at 6.00 pm, parishioner David Kennedy will be giving an illustrated talk on them as part of our Lenten fundraising project in support of our Lenten appeal. The suggested donation is £10 to include a glass of wine.

2nd COLLECTION - NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday there will be the annual 2nd Collection in aid of Poor Parishes, this collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the Archdiocese.