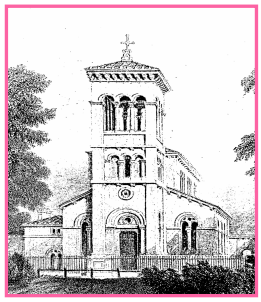

St. Raphael's Church

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 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

Monday 20th March — St. Joseph
10.00am — Steve Barlow
(Mass also at 9.15am at St. Joseph's School)

Tuesday 21st March — Lenten Feria
10.00am — David Kaimal's intentions

Wednesday 22nd March — Lenten Feria
12noon — Frank Commerford RIP

Thursday 23rd March — Lenten Feria (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)
10.00am — Sydney Cudmer RIP
Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for vocations to the priesthood concluding with Benediction at 11.45am.

Friday 24th March — Lenten Feria
10.00am — David Kaimal's intentions
Followed by Stations of The Cross.
(A day of abstinence when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat)

Saturday 25th March — The Annunciation of The Lord
10.00am — The Holy Souls

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

Sunday 26th March – 5th Sunday of Lent (A)
9.30am Patricia Single RIP
11.30am James Lee RIP
5.00pm Missa Pro Populo
4.00pm Stations of the Cross

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.

EXPOSTION 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 concludes this week in Alexander House on Wednesday evening with our final reflection 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 talk start sat 7.30pm, there is tea and coffee available from 7.00pm.

Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as Laetare Sunday for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon laetare (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy. The celebrant wears rose-coloured vestments. The Church's liturgy, on this the Fourth Sunday of Lent, invites us to retrace one of the fundamental dynamics of our baptismal re-birth through the Gospel account of the healing of the 'man born blind'. It is the passage from the darkness of sin and error to the Light of God, who is the Risen Christ.
This week we also celebrate two very important solemnities.
On Monday we celebrate the transferred Solemnity of St. Joseph. St. Joseph was an ordinary manual labourer although descended from the royal house of David. In the designs of Providence, he was destined to become the spouse of the Mother of God. His high privilege is expressed in a single phrase, "Foster-father of Jesus." About him Sacred Scripture has little more to say than that he was a just man, an expression which indicates how faithfully he fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God's greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus and Mary.
On Saturday we celebrate Annunciation. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human.
Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is, only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is, she owes to the Trinity.
Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.
Sometimes spiritual writers are accused of putting Mary on a pedestal and thereby, discouraging ordinary humans from imitating her. Perhaps such an observation is misguided. God did put Mary on a pedestal and has put all human beings on a pedestal. We have scarcely begun to realize the magnificence of divine grace, the wonder of God's freely given love. The marvel of Mary - even in the midst of her very ordinary life - is God's shout to us to wake up to the marvellous creatures that we all are by divine design.

DONATIONS FOR OUR LENTEN PROJECT - If you wish to donate to our Parish Lenten Project, you can do so via the black iron collection box at the back of the church.
There will also be a 2nd Collection on Palm Sunday – 2nd April in aid of the project

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.

EASTER CARDS - There is a selection of Easter Cards in the card rack in the hall.

THE FAITH FORMATION GROUP - Our Confirmation group will be meeting next Sunday after the 9.30 Mass.

THE CATENIANS - There will be a speaker from the Catenians making an appeal for members at all Masses next Sunday.

CAKE SALE – TODAY - There will be a cake sale in the hall this morning in aid of our Parish Lenten Project.
Please call in and buy a cake – perhaps, as it is Mother's Day you could buy one for your mother!

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? Next 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 – TODAY - Today there will be the annual 2nd Collection in aid of Poor Parishes,

2nd COLLECTION – NEXT SUNDAY - Next Sunday there will be the annual 2nd Collection to pay for Easter flowers for the Church.

LOCAL CHARITY HOME-START - If you have some free time after Easter and you are a parent or grandparent, you could help other families with pre-school children. Local charity Home-Start is offering a free course to train you : home-visiting volunteers, supporting families with difficulties such as post-natal illness, bereavement or disability. The course will run in Kingston Borough 9.45am-2.30pm, on Thursdays from 4 May to 22 June (not half-term 1 June). After the course, you would visit a family for 2-3 hours a week. For more information, please contact Angie Ahmed angie@homestart-rkh.org.uk or 07884 536161. Registered charity no: 1108975.