



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell

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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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday (A)

9.30am Missa Pro Populo

11.30am Ena O'Sullivan RIP

5.00pm John Boyle RIP

Stations of the Cross 4.00pm

Confessions 9.00am – 9.20am, 4.00pm – 4.50pm

Monday 3rd April - Monday of Holy Week

10.00am Mass - Birgitta Ezechiel RIP

Tuesday 4th April- Tuesday of Holy Week

10.00am Mass - Nora Tierney RIP

Wednesday 5th April- Spy Wednesday

12noon Mass - The Holy Souls

(Chrism Mass at the Cathedral 11.30am)

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Thursday 6th April - Maundy Thursday

(No 10.00am Mass today)

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper – Vocations to the Priesthood

Followed by watching at the Altar of Repose

11.45pm – Compline

Friday 7th April – Good Friday

(No 10.00am Mass today)

10.00am Stations of The Cross for children

11.00am Walk of Witness from URC Kingston

3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of The Lord's Passion

7.00pm Stations of the Cross and veneration of the relic of the True Cross

(Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence)

Saturday 8th April - Holy Saturday

10.30am – 11.30am Confessions

8.00pm Solemn Easter Vigil – Alexander Raphael RIP

Sunday 9th April - Easter Sunday (A)

9.30am Nora Tierney RIP

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

(No 5.00pm Mass, Confessions or Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament Today)

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, just four short days before He would be arrested, He was received with great joy. As He entered, riding a donkey, the crowds spread their cloaks, strewed palm branches before Him and cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest" (Mt. 21:9). Jesus was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He was given a Kingly welcome.

Jerusalem itself was the place of the Temple where so many of the ancient kings of Israel offered sacrifice to God. Year after year, decade after decade and century after century, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies within the Temple to offer sacrifice to God. However, little did anyone know that as Jesus entered Jerusalem, the entire city became the new Temple and Jesus became the final and definitive Priest. He entered this new Holy of Holies as a King and Priest and He died as the Sacrificial Lamb. He was greeted with shouts of "Hosanna" only to soon hear "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

What a turn of emotions. What a contrast of experiences. What a shock to the minds and hearts of all His first followers. How could this be? How could something so glorious become so painful in such a short amount of time? From an earthly perspective, what would soon follow made no sense, but from a divine perspective, it was the beginning of the most glorious act ever known.

The evil one certainly watched in hatred and jealousy as Jesus, the Eternal Son of the Father, was given this glorious reception by these sons and daughters of God. The envy of the evil one was so great that it became alive and manifest in the souls of some of the religious leaders, in the betrayal of one of the Apostles, in the actions of the civil authorities and in the confused emotions of the crowds. The vile, frightful, forceful and definitive attack on our Lord would soon begin now that He was welcomed into the city of Jerusalem to begin the Feast of Passover. Who could have known that on that Passover, the Lamb of Sacrifice would be our Lord Himself.

In our own lives, we often do all we can to avoid even the slightest amount of sacrifice. But sacrifice is capable of the greatest good when united to the one Sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus entered Jerusalem with perfect determination to begin the Sacrifice that would conquer sin and death and defeat the evil one - and that is exactly what He did.

Let us reflect, today, upon how willing we are to embrace sacrifice in our own lives. No, our sacrifices are not able to save the world by their own merit, but if we face our crosses in life, be they big or small and if we intentionally and wholeheartedly unite them to the actions of Jesus in that first Holy Week, then we can be certain that we will suffer with our Lord. But we can also be certain that our suffering will be transformed by the power of this Holy Week and lead us to a glorious sharing in His triumph over all sin and suffering. Let us sacrifice ourselves with our Lord this Holy Week so that we, too, will rise victorious with our Lord.

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 *today* in aid of the project.

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

CONGRAULATIONS - to Anthony who was baptised recently at St. Raphael's

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - SUNDAY

16TH APRIL - Afternoon devotions here at St. Raphael's. 3.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Prayers, followed by Confessions & Rosary concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3.45pm.

GIFT AID – If you are a member of the Gift Aid scheme and use weekly envelopes, please collect your new set from the back of the Church today. If you currently have, but no longer wish to use envelopes please advise the Parish Office.

THANK YOU – To David Kennedy for his much appreciated talk last Sunday on the early Parish Priests of St. Raphael's. £134.00 was raised for our Lenten Project on the night.

THANK YOU – To Janett Croggan for leading our well prepared and delivered Lenten course 'A Biblical Journey Through Lent' which concluded last week.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS - We are invited to join the 'Walk of Witness' on Good Friday. Christians gather at the United Reform Church near the Kingston Market from 10.00am. for refreshments before setting off at 11.00am. with various stops in the town for prayers and hymn singing. A cross is carried with the group throughout the walk. It is not a great distance. The atmosphere is good natured and sometimes people will join the group as it travels along. The really significant point of all this is that we are witnesses, in the secular world, of Jesus' sacrifice for us and for salvation. Fr Michael and other Ministers from the churches in Kingston usually take part and bring some of their people with them. Fr Michael hopes that some of you will join him, even though you may also be attending the 3.00pm. Liturgy in the afternoon at St Raphael's. God blesses all our efforts in Lent and Holy Week.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES – The collection taken at the Easter Vigil and the Masses on Easter Sunday, are by tradition, your personal gift to the Parish Priest. There are Easter Offering Envelopes available at the back of the Church. *If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use envelopes, please use the special envelope in your packet of envelopes.*