



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 24th September – 25th Sunday in ordinary Time – (A)

9.30am

Donald D'Souza RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

The Holy Souls

4.00pm

Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 25th September

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

Mr & Mrs Donnelly – Golden Wedding Anniversary

Tuesday 26th September

SS. Cosmas & Damian

10.00am

In Thanksgiving

Wednesday 27th September

St. Vincent de Paul

12noon

Hilda Barlow RIP

Thursday 28th September

Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church

10.00am

Rev. Peter Ryan (Parish Priest 1914- 30) (Latin Mass)

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for vocations to the priesthood concluding with Benediction at 11.45am.

Friday 29th September

SS. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

10.00am

Billy & Margaret Doyle RIP

As today is a solemnity, the Church does not ask us to abstain from eating meat.

Saturday 30th September

St. Jerome

10.00am

In Thanksgiving

Sunday 1st October - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – (A)

9.30am

Donald D'Souza RIP

11.30am

Michael, Mary & Paul McLoughlin RIP

5.00pm

Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm

Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

On Friday we celebrate the feast of our patron - St Raphael who shares his feast with the two other Archangels Michael and Gabriel. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, "The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition" (#328).

Angels are pure, created spirits. The name angel means servant or messenger of God. Angels are celestial or heavenly beings, on a higher order than human beings. Angels have no bodies and do not depend on matter for their existence or activity. They are distinct from saints, which men can become. Angels have intellect and will, and are immortal. They are a vast multitude, but each is an individual person. Archangels are one of the nine choirs of angels listed in the Bible. In ascending order, the choirs or classes are 1) Angels, 2) Archangels, 3) Principalities, 4) Powers, 5) Virtues, 6) Dominations, 7) Thrones, 8) Cherubim, and 9) Seraphim.

Our knowledge of the Archangel Raphael comes to us from the book of Tobit. His mission as wonderful healer and fellow traveller with the youthful Tobias has caused him to be invoked for journeys and at critical moments in life. Tradition also holds that Raphael is the angel that stirred the waters at the healing sheep pool in Bethesda. His name means "God has healed."

Our church was named in honour of St. Raphael by Alexander Raphael who built this church as his private chapel in 1850 and is buried in the crypt under the High Altar. Let us give thanks to God today for our Parish and pray for all who have worshipped here especially Alexander Raphael.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH

On Thursday we celebrate the Anniversary of the consecration of the church which took place in 2012

In today's Gospel from St. Matthew, the call to the vineyard which is the Church, through God's gift of faith and the sacrament of baptism, is a gift for which we can never sufficiently thank God. If we remain in the vineyard and labour honestly, that is, if we cooperate with the actual graces God is continually giving us, we are assured of reaching heaven when our earthly days are ended. The work we have to do in God's vineyard is the fulfilling of the duties of our state in life. By carrying out these duties faithfully and honestly we are doing the will of God and earning heaven. The greater part of our day and indeed of our life, will be taken up with tasks of themselves worldly, but these tasks when done in the state of grace and with the intention of honouring God, have a supernatural value. For this we have to thank God for His goodness and generosity.

He could have made the attainment of heaven so much more difficult. He could have demanded extraordinary mortifications and renunciations and the reward of heaven would still be exceedingly great. Instead He allows us to live our everyday life, to enjoy the love and friendship of our family and friends, to satisfy the natural desires of our bodies, within the commandments, and yet to merit a supernatural reward while so doing. As He tells us through St. Paul: "whether you eat or drink or whatever else you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10 : 31)."

Looking back on our past life, how many years have we really given to God since we came to the use of reason? Those school years, the time spent learning a trade or profession, the weeks, months, years working in an office or factory or farm, the hours among the pots and pans in the kitchen — have we earned some credit in heaven for all of this, or is it all crossed off our pay sheet through lack of right intention or through sin?

If so, those years are lost to us. We were "idle" all that time. Today's parable, however, should give us new hope and courage. It may be the sixth or the ninth or even the eleventh hour of our life but we can still earn heaven if we listen to God's call and set to work diligently in His vineyard. If we put our conscience right with God today and resolve to be loyal to Him from now on He will be as generous to us, as the parable promises.

THE ROSARY - The Rosary is recited in the Church Monday - Saturday before Mass
4.00pm on Sundays

TEA AND COFFEE – After the 9.30am Mass on Sundays and after Mass on Wednesday.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – during the 9.30am Mass

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Sundays at 4.00pm and after Mass on Thursdays concluding with Benediction at 11.45am

CONFESSIONS

Sundays 9.00am – 9.20am,
4.30pm – 4.50pm
Saturdays 10.30am - 11.00am

1ST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

There will be an introductory meeting for parents of children who have been accepted on the course on the 28th September at 7.00pm in Alexander House. If you have any queries, please speak to the catechists - Ginette Howell and Kate Freeman.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

The diocesan Marriage and family life team are organising the following two events.

GRIEF IN LOSS, HOPE IN CHRIST

If you are mourning the death of a loved one, this weekend may be for you. It's being held at Aylesford Priory from October 6-8; cost £230 single, £210 shared. For more details phone 01622 717272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

NEW BEGINNINGS

For those who have suffered a divorce or separation or the death of their spouse, this Beginning Experience residential weekend will help provide healing. It's on October 13-15 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. For details ring Maura on 07795 498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com.

LIFE SPONSORED WALK JUNE 2023

Thank you to all who sponsored the 10 Bridges of London walk. We raised £445.00 and this goes towards helping mothers in a crisis pregnancy and their unborn children. We are very grateful for your continued support.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT DRIVER

Marymount International School London is an independent day and boarding school for girls, with Catholic ethos.

We are seeking a School Transport driver for our new 9 seater vehicle to take over an existing route in the Kew/ Richmond area on a term-time only basis starting in September 2023.

For more details, please see:

<https://www.marymountlondon.com/employment-opportunities/>

Please note the parish office
is closed until
Monday 2nd October