



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 10th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

9.30am

Patricia Single RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

The Holy Souls

4.00pm

Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 11th December

Advent Feria

10.00am

Edward Black RIP

Tuesday 12th December

Our Lady of Guadalupe

10.00am

Michael O'Brien RIP

Wednesday 13th December

St. Lucy

12noon

The Bernie, Martin and Poulton Family, Francesca Poulton

Thursday 14th December

St. John of the Cross

10.00am

Fr. David Howell (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

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

Friday 15th December

Advent Feria

10.00am

Fr. John Moth RIP

A day of abstinence when we are asked to abstain from eating meat.

Saturday 16th December

Advent Feria

10.00am

The Rupa, Park & Tangri Families

Sunday 17th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday – (B)

9.30am

Missa Pro Populo

11.30am

The Holy Souls

5.00pm

Anne & Frank Carey, Dror Eshet

No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

6.15pm Parish Carol Service

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

St Raphael's Parish

Carol Service

In the presence of the Mayor of Kingston

Next Sunday at 6.15pm

Followed by minced pies and mulled wine

RCIA - The next RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) session is on this coming Saturday, 16th December, 10.30 - 12.00 in the library. Fr Michael will talk about the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Catholic Tradition. New members are always welcome. There is no obligation to remain on the course.

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM RICHARD BEVAN KHS

Dear Father Michael,

Thank you for your good wishes and prayers following my investiture as a knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem at St George's Cathedral. I feel very humbled by this honour, which is all about what I am called to do rather than what I deserve. Please pass on to the parish my thanks to them also, I am so fortunate to be part of such a supportive community as here at St Raphael's.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, also called the Order of the Holy Sepulchre or Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, is a Catholic order of knighthood under the protection of the Holy See, with the Pope as sovereign of the Order. It is an internationally recognized order of chivalry with a primary mission to "support the Christian presence in the Holy Land".

The Order today is estimated to have some 30,000 knights and dames in 60 lieutenancies around the world. The cardinal grand master has been Fernando Filoni since 2019, and the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem is grand prior. The England & Wales lieutenancy is divided into 8 sections – Archbishop John Wilson is Grand Prior of the England & Wales lieutenancy.

The historical development of the Order is somewhat obscure; foundation of the Order is thought to date to c1099. It is well known that following the First Crusade, for the purposes of protecting the Holy Places and pilgrims visiting them, a tradition (approved by Popes) of ceremonially appointing knights at the Holy Sepulchre developed. The robes that we wear, white cloaks for knights (black for dames) with a Jerusalem Cross on the left, reflect this ancient tradition. The Jerusalem cross, a large central cross surrounded by 4 smaller crosses, may symbolise either the five wounds of Christ, Christ and the four evangelists or Christ and the four corners of the world.

The Order has at its heart an individual commitment to personal spiritual development with the collective endeavour of supporting the Church and Christian people across the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (which includes Cyprus, Jordan and the Holy Land).

As well as through prayer and pilgrimage the Order seeks to provide financial assistance, the amount given each year by the Order internationally is in excess of €10 million. These funds are deployed in support of provision of Education, Social Care and the institutions of the Patriarchate, for the benefit of all in need in the region.

Members of the Order are encouraged to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land as soon as possible following their investiture, although sadly this is not possible at present. Those I have spoken with have found it a profound experience – not only in terms of personal spiritual development, but also through the affirmation of solidarity with Christians there who remain faithful whilst experiencing the difficult realities of life in a region troubled both politically and economically. We only need to listen to the news to know how difficult life has become for them over the years – in video messages from them to the Order we hear of their gratitude for all the support provided. It is truly humbling to witness their stoicism at life's difficulties and to see their joy in receiving small acts of kindness.

It is said that pilgrimage is the final act of investiture – one which I am very much looking forward to.

In the meantime, the following words from the small booklet of prayers given to me on my investiture seemed so appropriate.

Prayer to Our Lady Daughter and Queen of the Holy Land

"Our Heavenly Mother, Daughter and Queen of the Holy Land, we pray for your powerful intercession.

May grace rain in abundance on all hearts that are hardened and especially we pray for peace with justice in the Holy Land

May Jerusalem shine as a beacon of unity among Christians and be a place of friendship and understanding between Jews, Christians and Muslims.

May intolerance and suspicion be dispelled and may love drive out fear. May all who do not have faith in the one God come to the fullness of Faith, Hope and Love. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen"

With all my thanks once again.

Richard Bevan KHS

LITTLE CHERUBS - St. Raphael's baby and toddler group meet on Wednesday from 1:30 to 3pm. The Christmas party will be on the 13th. Then resuming on 10th January. Meeting every Wednesday in term time. All children welcome with their parent or carer. For further details email us at: straphaelslittlecherubs@outlook.com See our Facebook page, St. Raphael's Little Cherubs

FAITH FORMATION GROUP - The Faith Formation Group for both 9-12 old children and our post Confirmation group will meet after the 9.30am Mass today. The group will also meet on 14th January, 11th February and the 17th March.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES.

Because Christmas Day falls on a Monday this year, it makes the times of the Christmas Masses quite complicated as we are bound to hear Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent on the 24th December and then Christmas Mass either at one of the evening Masses on the 24th or on the 25th itself.

Saturday 23rd December - 5.00pm Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday 24th December – 9.30am and 11.30am Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday 24th December – 4.00pm, 6.00pm and Midnight Mass for Christmas

Monday 25th December – 9.30am and 11.30am Mass for Christmas.

(NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY)