



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 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

Monday 18th December

Advent Feria

10.00am

In thanksgiving

Tuesday 19th December

Advent Feria

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Wednesday 20th December

Advent Feria

12noon

Armando Rosales Pena

Thursday 21st December

Advent Feria

10.00am

The Holy Souls (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today.

Friday 22nd December

Advent Feria

10.00am

Tom & John Casey RIP and deceased family members

Saturday 23rd December

Advent Feria

10.00am

The Rupa, Park & Tangri Families

Sunday 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent - (B)

5.00pm (Saturday Evening)

The Holy Souls

9.30am

Missa Pro Populo

11.30am

Ena O'Sullivan RIP

Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm

For Peace

6.00pm

Alexander Raphael RIP

12midnight

Don Cocks RIP

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.30am

Donald D'Souza RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

NO EVEING MASS

St Raphael's Parish

Carol Service

In the presence of the Mayor of Kingston

This evening at 6.15pm

Followed by minced pies and
mulled wine

OUR 2023 CRIB APPEAL - This year our Crib collection will be donated to the 'The Catholic Children's Society' which supports disadvantaged children and families with funding for food and basic essentials to help them through this challenging time. This has only been possible thanks to the generosity of their supporters. By making a donation you can help them reach out to more families in urgent need. Please be as generous as you can.



We are all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas". To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829 were prohibited from any practice of their faith by law - private or public. It was a crime to be a Catholic. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned but executed.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following: 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace. 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

Most of our Parish Groups have now taken a break for the Christmas period

Sunday Tea and Coffee – There will be tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass today. This will resume on Sunday 7th January

The Wednesday Tea Group - will have a Christmas party after Mass on Wednesday 20th December. The group will also meet after Mass on Wednesday 27th December

The Little Cherubs – Our play group will meet again on Wednesday 10th January

Children's Liturgy – There will be Children's Liturgy during the 9.30am Mass today. This will resume on Sunday 7th January.

Sunday Rosary and Benediction- will resume on the 14th January

Thursday Exposition - will resume on the 11th January

The Faith Formation Group – will meet on the 14th January after the 9.30am Mass

First Holy Communion Classes – resume Saturday 13th January

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORIES

Copies of the 2024 Southwark Catholic Directory are available at the back of the Church. They cost £6.75.

Christmas Offerings

Your offerings made at the Masses on the evening of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are your personal gift to the Parish Priest. There are Christmas Offering envelopes available at the back of the church. However, if you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use weekly envelopes, please use the special Christmas Offering Envelope in your packet. Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2024

If you have any special dates for Mass intentions for 2024, please book them ASAP to avoid disappointment.

THE ROSARY

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

CONFESSIONS

Sundays 9.00am – 9.20am,

4.30pm – 4.50pm (Not Christmas Eve)

Saturdays 10.30am - 11.00am

NURSERY INTAKE AT ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

We are holding an open morning for our September 2024/January 2025 intake to our nursery on Wednesday 24th January 2024. Places can be reserved by contacting the school office at office@stjosephs.rbksch.org