



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 28th January – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – (B)

9.30am

Janet Wilson RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

The Holy Souls

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 29th January

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Tuesday 30th January

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Wednesday 31st January

St. John Bosco

12noon

The Holy Souls

Thursday 1st February

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

The Holy Souls (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

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

Friday 2nd February

The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Saturday 3rd February

St. Blaise

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Followed by the Blessing of Throats

Sunday 4th February – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – (B)

9.30am

Kirsty Bryant RIP

11.30am

Ena O'Sullivan RIP

5.00pm

Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday Tea and Coffee –After the 9.30am Mass today.

The Wednesday Tea Group - Meet after Mass on Wednesday.

The Little Cherubs – Our Parish play group, meets on Wednesday from 1.30pm -3.00pm in the Hall.

Children's Liturgy – Sundays during the 9.30am Mass.

Sunday Rosary and Benediction- Sundays 4.00pm

Thursday Exposition – From after the 10.00am Mass concluding with Benediction at 11.45am.

The Faith Formation Group – Will meet after the 9.30am Mass on the 11th February.

First Holy Communion Classes –Saturday 10.30am in the Hall.

RCIA – The next RCIA session will be on Saturday 10th February at 10.30am in the Hall.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE – BLESSING OF THROATS



On Saturday we celebrate the feast of St. Blaise. He was a bishop and martyr who lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. For a time, Blaise lived in a cave to escape persecution. On his feast the church recalls a miracle cure associated with him and celebrates the blessing of the throats. Blaise saved the life of a boy who was choking on a fish bone.

The saint said that anyone who lit a candle in his memory would be free of infection, thus candles are used in the traditional throat blessing that are offered today. Two candles are crossed against the throat, and the priest offers the following blessing:
“Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”



On Saturday we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in the liturgy on that day.

The Readings give us an important insight into understanding the profound mystery of the Lord's Presentation in the Temple. The reading from the Prophet Malachi says, *'I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek'*. This messenger, sent to prepare the way, was St. John the Baptist. He was born six months before Jesus, after him the Lord himself will come. Jesus's presentation signifies God's entrance into His temple - God made man presenting Himself to those who were already searching for Him.

The Gospel introduces us to different people and events that in themselves provide numerous lessons and themes for further reflection. First of all, Mary and Joseph respected the law by offering the sacrifice prescribed for the poor, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people dedicated to prayer and fasting and so their strong religious spirit rendered them able to recognize the Messiah.

In this sense we can see in the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple an extension of the 'Pro Orantibus Day' (For those who pray) that is celebrated on the feast of the Presentation of Mary (21st November). On this day, the Church demonstrates its gratitude to all those in the community that dedicate themselves in a privileged way to prayer, to those who have a particular religious vocation and to the contemplative life. In the figure of the venerable Simeon, Jesus's presentation in the temple, also reminds us that prayer and contemplation are not a waste of time or an obstacle to charity. On the contrary, time could not be better spent than in prayer. Only those who pray and offer penance, like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an ample interior vision, and they have learned how to love with a heart full of charity.

Pope St. John Paul II explains that Simeon's prophecy of Mary's sufferings is like a second Annunciation to her, for they tell of how He is to accomplish his mission, in misunderstanding and sorrow.' (Redemptoris Mater, n16) The archangel's announcement was a fount of incredible joy because it pertained to Jesus's messianic royalty and the supernatural character. Simeon's announcement instead spoke of the Lord's work of redemption that He would complete associating Himself through suffering to His Mother.

Simeon's prophecy also announces that Christ will be 'a sign of contradiction'. St. Cyril of Alexandria interpreted the words 'sign of contradiction' as the cross. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that the cross is 'a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles'. It is a sign of contradiction in the sense that to those without faith it appears as foolish while to those who recognize its power, the cross reveals salvation and life.

CHARITY FILM NIGHT

The 'Life' charity is hosting a Film Show on Friday 9th February 2024 at 7.30 pm in Alexander House. It is a variety show presented on film (not digital) using Super 8 and 16mm projectors. The content is nostalgic and may feature rare items that will probably never be seen elsewhere. Tickets are £7.50 per person with family concessions and can be purchased on the night. There will be an interval with refreshments, a bring and buy sale and a raffle. A date for your diaries!

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE

As part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a Building a Better Marriage Course throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriage better and to improve their communication skills.

There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting. For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark website:

<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>

STREET PASTORS KINGSTON

Are you interested in joining Kingston Street Pastors and serving on the streets once a month in the night time? Watch the video below to find out more:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_XAQThIrv

2024 Street Pastor training courses begin in February, June and September. For more information contact Charles Bamford kingston@streetpastors.org.uk

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 and at 4.00pm on Sundays.

OF YOUR CHARITY

Please pray for the repose of the soul
of

Gerard Hope

who died recently. Details of her
Requiem Mass to follow.
May She Rest in Peace