



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 7th January - Epiphany of the Lord (B)

9.30am

Michael O'Brien RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

Jacinto & Francisca Rosario RIP

No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today



Monday 8th January

The Baptism of The Lord

10.00am

Ann Bennett RIP

(The end of the Christmas Season - The 1st Week in Ordinary Time - ferial cycle 2)

Tuesday 9th January

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

Anne Bennett RIP

Wednesday 10th January

Feria in Ordinary Time

12noon

Mabel Ezechiel RIP

Thursday 11th January

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

Anna Brown RIP (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)

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

Friday 12th January

St. Aelred of Rievaulx

10.00am

Louisa Giles RIP

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

Saturday 13th January

Our Lady

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Sunday 14th January - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - (B)

9.30am

Donald D'Souza RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

The Holy Souls

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

FR MICHAEL WRITES:

Once again, thank you for your Christmas Offerings, gifts, cards and generosity. As the new Year is upon us, my thanks go to so many of you, for all that you contribute to the life of the parish. Thanks to Fr Geoffrey for all that he brings to us. The work in the office, sacristy and for the liturgy are essential in being able to offer our programme of prayer. Catechetical instruction has taken on greater priority in the diocese and we have a very dedicated team, which has also produced a 'Parish Plan', now sent to the diocese. Those who clean and arrange flowers contribute in an unseen way to the beauty of our liturgy.

Some building problems arose this year with the construction of the floor of the downstairs flat on the house side of our site. This was difficult to detect, but having done so, sound repairs have remedied the issue. Complete redecoration is also taking place. Historic Churches building permissions were needed for our Pier and Boundary repairs which have caused delays and poor weather conditions have meant a later start than we expected.

Thanks go to our school Foundation Governors, who do much vital work for our local Catholic education. Thanks to those who have stepped down and to those preparing to take their place. Our Headteacher is in the second year of her appointment and has presided over an efficient and successful school which works with the parish in the spiritual side of school life.

Both the school and the parish have increased our links with the Borough. This year's Mayor attended the Carol Service and wrote a very generous letter of thanks to us. Links with our local Deanery and the Borough Faith and Belief group have connected us to other meetings and events.

Happy New Year
Fr Michael

Today we celebrate the great feast of the Epiphany which means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition sees in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles – the non-Jewish world; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation.

The Magi are the central personages in today's feast. They were pagans who did not know the true God of the Jews. Yet that true God revealed to them that the King he had promised to the Jews had come. The expected Prince was born. They came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning king—a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Among the religious leaders they found knowledge of their past history, but utter indifference as regards the present and the future. These leaders knew the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; they must have realized that the Magi were very sure of the truth revealed to them—they would not have come such a long journey on a "fool's errand." In spite of that, the thought of going to Bethlehem with the Magi never entered their minds. These were the leaders who some years later refused to listen to Christ and in spite of his miracles refused to admit his claim that he was not only the promised Messiah, but the true Son of God. These were men who rejected him because he had mercy on sinners, and spoke of a future life. What they wanted from their Messiah was political power and earthly freedom and prosperity. Like Herod they ended with murder—the crucifixion of the "King of the Jews." Let us resolve to make the Magi our models, to follow them to Bethlehem and offer Christ all that we have and are.

FR. GEOFFREY would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts and good wishes over the Christmas season and wishes everyone a happy new year.

THANK YOU for £544.18 that was collected for the Mayor's appeal on the 17th December.

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. If you would like to Gift Aid your donation, there are envelopes available by the crib.

Our Crib will be taken down during the week, so this weekend is your last chance to make a donation.

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!

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

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORIES - Copies of this year's directory are available at the back of the Church. They cost £6.75.

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

Sunday Tea and Coffee –Resumes today.

The Wednesday Tea Group - Meet after Mass on Wednesday.

The Little Cherubs – Resumes on Wednesday this week 1.30pm -3.00pm in the Hall.

Children's Liturgy – Resumes today during the 9.30am Mass.

Sunday Rosary and Benediction- will resume next Sunday.

Thursday Exposition - will resume this week.

The Faith Formation Group – Will meet next Sunday after the 9.30am Mass.

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

RCIA – Meets on the Saturday 13th January at 10.30am in the Hall

Confessions -

Sundays 9.00am – 9.20am & 4.30pm – 4.50pm

Saturdays 10.30am - 11.00am

The Rosary is recited in the Church Monday - Saturday before Mass

FREE FACILITIES IN SURBITON

Free Food at the Community Cafe

'Museum of the Futures' 115 Lower Brighton Road, KT6 5PR. Monday-Friday, 10.00am - 2.00pm. (This is not a food bank) , no

questions are asked food given here from supermarkets, to help reduce landfill. They

also offer a free two course meal on Tuesdays from 10.30am – 2.30pm and tea, toast and soup on Wednesdays from 11.00am -1.00pm

The Circulatory, Southsea Road, KT1 2EH.

Furniture, electrical, clothing for a small donation.

Please use these amazing facilities to prevent waste.