



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 11th February - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - (B)

9.30am

Antonio & Anna Abascal RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

Fr. Dominic O'Sullivan RIP (former Parish Priest)

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 12th February

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

Birgitta Ezechial RIP

Tuesday 13th February

Feria in Ordinary time

10.00am

Margaret Jennings - Welfare

Wednesday 14th February

Ash Wednesday

12noon

Charles Curtin RIP

7.30pm

Austin Neil RIP

Thursday 15th February

Lenten Feria

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 16th February

Lenten Feria

10.00am

Charles Curtin RIP

Followed by Stations of the Cross

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

Saturday 17th February

Lenten Feria

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Sunday 18th February - 1st Sunday of Lent - (B)

9.30am

Gerard Hope RIP

11.30am

Adelaide, Erin & Stella - Welfare

5.00pm

Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm Stations of the Cross

Wednesday is
Ash Wednesday. There will
be Mass with the
distribution of ashes at
12noon and 7.30pm. Ash
Wednesday is a day of
fasting and abstinence

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.

TEA AND COFFEE - After the 9.30am Mass today and after Mass on Wednesday.

THE LITTLE CHERUBS - Are not meeting this week - they return on the 21st February 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 today.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES - Resume on Saturday 24th February at 10.30am in the Hall.

RCIA - The next RCIA session will be on Saturday 2nd March

Today - We welcome Ciaran from HCPT to Mass who will make appeal on behalf of The Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust. The charity has been taking disabled and disadvantaged children and young people on trips to Lourdes since 1956. Volunteer helpers pay for themselves and fundraise to pay for the children's fares. Pilgrimages take place in Easter and over the summer and several thousand people travel from around the world to be part of the charity's life-changing pilgrimage holidays. For more information visit www.hcpt.org.uk/

OF YOUR CHARITY

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Gerard Hope
who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will be on Friday
23rd February at 12noon.

A leper approached Jesus. "If you wish", he said, "you can make me clean". This is not a request, but a statement. It's an act of faith, yes, but also a challenge: daring; we could even say cheeky.

This man, who according to St. Mark virtually hurls himself at Jesus, is not only suffering from a particularly horrible and infectious disease. According to the law of Moses, he is ritually unclean. So he symbolically represents in himself the consequences of sin. He must then be separated from the people, for they are consecrated to God, and he is unfit to join them in worship.

But then came this most wonderful gesture: Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. We can imagine the stunned silence, or the sudden intake of breath, of the onlookers. Jesus had just done what you mustn't do. He has deliberately touched a leper.

"It is my will", he said. "Be clean". And immediately the leprosy left him and he was clean. Once again, Jesus had confirmed that he could heal at a word, at a touch. He'd also accepted the deeper challenge offered him by the leper. Almost against his will, he'd allowed himself to be seen as the one who bears within himself the holiness of God. Unlike any other man there had ever been, Jesus was not himself made unclean by this touch. Instead, by it he conferred cleanness, that is, holiness, rightness with God.

So with the leper of today's Gospel, we rightly approach Jesus in faith and hope, asking for his help, in big things and small, knowing he has the power to help us. But always with the leper we add: if it is your will. And we accept that sometimes, or quite often, it is not his will that we gain what we ask for.

"Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him." The compassion of God for wounded, diseased, fallen, sinful humanity is expressed in the incarnation, and in the miracles, passion and death of Jesus. Through the humanity of Jesus, God has reached out his hand and touched us; all of us, in principle. Through the human heart of Jesus especially, that heart which was pierced by a lance, we have immediate access to God's infinite and eternal love.

The outstretched hand of Jesus continues to touch us in our daily lives. Above all, and most directly, we meet that touch in the sacraments of the Church: in sacramental absolution, and in holy communion. But we meet it in other ways too: in our prayer; in our holy reading; in the Saints; in other people. Sometimes we find ourselves being used as instruments of that divine touch for others.

166 years ago today the touch of God was expressed by an apparition of his Holy Mother. On the 11 February 1858 the 14-year-old Bernadette first saw our Lady in the grotto at Lourdes. On that occasion the Lady, or as Bernadette spoke of her, the girl, said nothing at all. What was utterly unforgettable about her was that she was so beautiful. She smiled at Bernadette and invited her by gesture to pray. Only in the sixteenth apparition did the young lady respond to Bernadette's repeated request for her name: I am the Immaculate Conception.

And from that day to this the crowds have flocked to Lourdes. Many healings of the sick, unexplained by medical science, have taken place there. But also: many sick people go to Lourdes who are not cured. Still they go, because Lourdes is a holy place. People are converted there; they find prayer flows easily; they experience the blessing of God and of Mary there somehow more directly. Lourdes points people firmly in the direction of heaven, and they come away consoled and refreshed.

"If you will, said the leper, you can make me clean". God does will. Touch and cleanse my heart, then, Lord, and make it like your heart. Touch and cleanse my mind, that it may be conformed to your mind. Touch and cleanse my whole life: that I may be ever more open to receive your love, and to give it back, now and for ever. Amen

YOUTH RETREAT - There is a Youth Day Retreat for 13-17 year olds at St. Georges Cathedral on Saturday 17th February from 11am to 4pm. Subash and Dymphna de Menezes will be helping and can accompany any young people who would like to go. Please email: dymphna.subash@gmail.com for more information.

KINGSTON CHURCHES ACTION ON HOMLESSNESS - KCAH are looking for skilled trustees and volunteers to help tackle the rising tide of homelessness in the Royal Borough of Kingston. To join the KCAH Board of Trustees you should have a passion to help the homeless and the drive and desire to help lead KCAH forward. [This is an unpaid role] For more information, please contact: david.l@kcah.org.uk or liz.s@kcah.org.uk. It would be helpful if you could include a one page summarised c.v. and a paragraph saying what you could bring to KCAH and why you might like to work with them.

KINGSTON STREET PASTORS - Kingston Street Pastors are recruiting for a new Deputy Coordinator. An exciting opportunity to play a major role in the leadership and development of Street Pastors in Kingston. This part time role is for up to 20hrs per week. The salary range is between to £15k - £16k. Closing date for applications: Sunday 3rd March 11.30pm

A full job specification and how to apply can be found on Charityjob.co.uk at:

Deputy Coordinator - CharityJob.co.uk

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - There will be Stations of the Cross every Sunday during Lent at 4.00pm and following the 10.00am Mass on Fridays.

LENT READING – 'MY DAY BY DAY' -

There are copies of the Lent edition of 'My Day by Day' available at the back of the Church - they cost £1.00. Please put money in the box marked Newspapers or pay via the card machine. This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Lent and is an excellent way to prepare for Easter.

NEXT SUNDAY there will be the annual collection for the 'Clergy Support Fund'. The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for parishes.