



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 25th February - 2nd Sunday of Lent - (B)

9.30am

Ray Joosab RIP RIP

11.30am

Placido & Calisto Mapfumo RIP

5.00pm

Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm Stations of the Cross

Monday 26th February

Lenten Feria

10.00am

Joseph Byres RIP

Tuesday 27th February

Lenten Feria

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Wednesday 28th February

Lenten Feria

12noon

In thanksgiving to St. Anthony for job security

Thursday 29th 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 1st March

St. David

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Followed by Stations of the Cross

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

Saturday 2nd March

Lenten Feria

10.00am

The Holy Souls

Sunday 3rd March - 3rd Sunday of Lent - (B)

9.30am

David Crane RIP

11.30am

Jenny Annett RIP

5.00pm

Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm Stations of the Cross



There are Stations of The Cross every Sunday during Lent at 4.00pm and on Friday mornings following the 10.00am Mass.

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.

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

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 17th March.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES - Saturday 10.30am in the Hall.

RCIA - The next RCIA session will be on this Saturday, 2nd March at 10.30am in the Hall.

LENTEN BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS.

As part of our Lenten preparation for Easter, parishioner Dr. Janet Croggon is running another Scripture course on Wednesday 6th, 13th & 20th March.

This year we will explore Jesus as prophet and King as a means of deepening our understanding of Him as 'The suffering Servant'. Drawing on the book of Amos, the gospel of St. Mark and the writings of St. Julian of Norwich, we will reflect on how to live justly in today's world. If you have a bible, please bring it along (however if not there will be bibles available for your use). The sessions start at 7.30pm. and tea and coffee will be available from 7.00pm.

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Thank you for £324.32 that was collected last Sunday for the Clergy Support Fund.

The vision of Christ glorified, given to the Apostles, that we heard about in today's gospel, was surely a very special privilege and it was one they did not forget. "We saw his glory," St. John says in his gospel, written over sixty years later. In his epistles John also refers to this privilege. St. Peter, writing from Rome to the churches in Asia Minor about thirty years later, mentions this outstanding experience: "For we were not following fictitious tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when from out the majestic glory a voice came down to him saying: 'this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.' And this voice we ourselves heard borne from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain".

Yes, the three Apostles were privileged and we too are sharers in their privilege. The Transfiguration of Christ is but one among many of the incontrovertible proofs of the divine Sonship of Christ which we have in the gospel narratives and in the twenty centuries-long history of the Church which he founded. Were he not divine, that Church would long since have crumbled and fallen under the many assaults from outside which it has undergone, as well as from the many human weaknesses which have beset it from within. But Christ is God and the Church has his divine protection and assistance. Therefore, it will go on to the end of time to continue his work of elevating and redeeming mankind.

This enlightening glimpse of Christ's future glory—a glory in which they would share—was given to these Apostles to strengthen and encourage them in the terrible test of their faith which the passion and death of Jesus would be for them very soon. It is for a similar reason that the Church has this story of the Transfiguration read to us during this season of Lent. We are or should be mortifying ourselves during this season. This mortification can earn for us a glorious and unending future life. To encourage us to continue it, we are reminded that the One we are following, the One whose voice we listen to, is none other than the Son of God. There are the voices of many false prophets shouting around us, telling us to enjoy ourselves in this life, to "eat, sleep, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die," but there is the rub—tomorrow we shall die, but where shall we go then?

Let us thank our Lord today, for giving this consoling and encouraging vision of his glory to his Apostles and through them to us. It was for them, and it is for us, a guarantee and a foretaste of the joys and the glory that will be ours for eternity, if we but persevere in our struggles against the world, the flesh and the devil. This struggle is not easy for our weak nature, but our loving Saviour is ever beside us to "raise us up and tell us not to fear" if we but rely on him. When we are tempted to give way to our human weaknesses, or to give way under the weight of the crosses that sometimes are about to crush us, let us think of Mount Tabor, and the glorified Jesus, who a few weeks later faced his own real passion and cross cheerfully for our sakes. This thought will help us to carry our crosses as the thought of the future glory which will be ours should make us thank God that we have been created and thank his beloved Son for setting us on the road to that future glory.

THREE LETTERS OF THANKS

PACT writes - *'I am writing to thank everyone at the parish for your very generous donation of £361.60 for Prisoners' Sunday in 2023! Your generosity will make a huge difference to the lives of the families we support, who continue to face enormous hardship & challenge. THANK YOU SO MUCH!'*

The Mayor of Kingston Cllr. Diane White writes - *'Dear Fr. Michael I wanted to write to you to thank you personally for the wonderful donation of £544.18 that you made on behalf of your parishioners to the Mayor's Charitable Trust. It was a pleasure to join you for the Carol Service at St. Raphael's and afterwards in the church hall. Please pass on my grateful thanks to your congregation and let them know the difference this money can make to Kingston residents in need.'*

HCPT writes - *'HCPT (Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust) are very grateful to the parish of St Raphael for their generosity following the parish appeal when so many parishioners expressed an interest in the Pilgrimage. We were delighted to receive £809.43, which will practically pay for a disabled or disadvantaged child to travel to Lourdes for a week with HCPT. You will all be remembered at the shrine in Lourdes in our prayers at Easter'*

YOUTH DAY - There will be a youth day (for 10-14 year olds) on Saturday 9th March at Richard Challoner School, New Malden. The cost is £5 including travel. See the poster in the Porch for more information.

LENTEN PROJECT 2024 - Each year our parish concentrates on a particular charity to support during Lent. This year the parish is supporting CAFOD. The funds we raise, we will ask to be specifically sent to help all those suffering as a result of the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine. We hope to arrange a speaker to come and explain more about their work one Sunday during Lent. If you would like to organise and run a specific event over Lent to raise money for this project, please speak to Fr. Michael or the Parish Office.

ANNUAL MARRIAGE MASS - The annual Marriage Mass will take place at 3.00pm on 13th July at St George's Cathedral. Couples celebrating a special anniversary – 1, 10, 25, 40, 50 or 60 or more – and wishing to receive an invitation from Archbishop John Wilson may email mflsw@rcaos.org.uk.

BOOK LAUNCH –

'PONDERING & PRAYING VATICAN II'

Many people have heard of The Second Vatican Council (1962-5) but few have actually read the documents. This new book by Archbishop John Wilson offers an introduction to the texts and their themes.

The book will be launched at Amigo Hall (St George's Cathedral) on Wednesday 6th March. At 6.00pm. There will be refreshments and short presentation, with copies for sale.

RESIST EXTREME ABORTION POLICY - An attempt is being made to change the law so that it would be legal to induce abortion at home - using pills or any other method - at any stage of pregnancy, including just before birth. Please pray for the protection of the unborn and for help and comfort for all expectant mothers. Ask your MP to oppose this dangerous, anti-life proposal. You can find out more by contacting your MP - using SPUC's webtool: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortionamendments>.

CARITAS SOUTHWARK – The Archbishop will celebrate an anniversary of Caritas Southwark on 16 March at St George's Cathedral at 12.30pm. This will be followed by a gathering in The Amigo Hall which will provide an opportunity to hear from Raymond Friel, the CEO of Caritas about their work.