



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 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

Monday 4th March

Lenten Feria

10.00am

Michele & Rob's welfare

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

Tuesday 5th March

Lenten Feria

10.00am

Maria Gibney RIP

Wednesday 6th March

Lenten Feria

12noon

In thanksgiving to St. Charbel for a healing.

Thursday 7th March

Lenten Feria

10.00am

Ethel & Bill Larkin RIP (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

11.30am

Requiem Mass for Frank Ford RIP

(No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today)

Friday 8th March

Lenten Feria

10.00am

Annie Keaney & Michael O'Toole RIP

Followed by Stations of the Cross

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

Saturday 9th March

Lenten Feria

10.00am

Dora Mary Weller RIP

Sunday 10th March – 4th Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday - (B)

9.30am

Patricia Single RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

Terri, John & Bernadette

4.00pm

Stations of the Cross

Please note because of a funeral, there will be no Exposition on Thursday – for this week it has been moved to Monday.



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. (see note above re this week)

THE FAITH FORMATION GROUP – Will meet on the 17th March.

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

RCIA – The next RCIA session will be on 9th 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.

In today's Gospel we see our Lord cleansing the temple. At first look, Jesus' behaviour might seem rash or out of character but this was not a case of simply losing His temper - it was Him taking a firm stand for righteousness. From the earliest days of the Israelite nation, God wanted His people to have a place to worship Him. It would be holy, made with the finest materials that could be found. While they were traveling in the desert, He led them to build a moveable tabernacle. *'Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you'* (Exodus 25:8-9). The first permanent temple in Jerusalem was constructed by King Solomon. The building was the centre of religious activity, including teaching, the offering of sacrifices and meetings of the Sanhedrin and it was considered the most sacred of places.

St. John's account in today's gospel gives us a clear picture of what had become of this holy place and why the Lord was so distressed. What was created to be a house of worship had been turned into a sort of shopping centre with merchants and money changers preying upon travellers and pilgrims. This corrupt use of the temple grounds offended Jesus. Furthermore, Jesus saw the religious rulers being willing to allow all this to happen.

Jesus' cleansings of the temple came out of a desire to protect the sanctity of both the building itself and of the hearts of those who entered inside and He would soon make a way for believers to become temples themselves. Jesus' death on the cross opened up a way for us to not only be reconciled to God, but to be made pure and righteous. When we ask Christ to come into our hearts as our Lord, our bodies become a temple for God's Spirit. St. Paul puts it this way: *'Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies'* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

As Jesus guarded the holiness of the temple, we are to treat these temples, our bodies, with great respect. *'What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people...Therefore, come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you'* (2 Corinthians 6:16,17).

Jesus clearing the temple of merchants was an act of tremendous love. He was showing reverence for the things of God, as well as protecting those who truly desired to worship. We need to follow His example by protecting the holiness of our houses of worship and protecting the health of our own bodies.

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. Below are some forth-coming events in aid of the project.

CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte - All are welcome to celebrate St Patrick's Day at Margaret's home, 40 Fassett Road, for Irish coffee & homemade Irish treats on Sunday 17th March from 11.00am till 2.00pm. All proceeds to the Lenten Project.

PARISH FAMILY QUIZ AFTERNOON - SUNDAY 17TH MARCH - Sophia and Leela Seaton will be hosting a fun quiz for all ages with support from the youth of the Parish. Join us for Lunch from 12:30pm -1:15pm Quiz will start promptly at 1:30pm. Tickets cost £10 for Adults, £5 for children or £20 for a family ticket. There will be toys for the very little ones so parents can join in the fun. Tickets will be on sale after 9:30 Mass on Sundays and via Text: 07561415046 or Email: leelaseaton7@gmail.com First come first serve due to catering numbers. There will be a raffle, if you could donate good quality prizes, please bring them to the sacristy or parish office.

CAKE SALE - NEXT SUNDAY - There will be a cake sale in the hall on the 10th March If you could bake something, please bring it along to the Hall before either of the morning Masses. Please call in and buy a cake – perhaps, as it is Mother's Day you could buy one for your mother!

PROJECTOR SCREENS – There are two projector screens at the top of the stairs in the hall. We are trying to tidy up this area – if either of them is yours could you please claim it or speak to the Parish Office about it. – Thank you

There are a selection of **Mother's Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter Cards** available in the card stand in the hall. Please take a look and support the church by your purchase.

VACANCY - St Joseph's our Catholic Primary School has vacancies for the September 2024 and January 2025 intake for the Nursery. Further information can be obtained from the school office: office@stjosephs.rbksch.org or by phoning on 020 85467178"

DINNER FOR DADS - 19 MARCH - ST JOSEPH'S DAY - All fathers in the parish are invited to dinner on Tuesday 19 March - the Solemnity of St Joseph (a day on which we are not required to keep the Lenten fast!). If you would like to join us, please send a message to 07722145605 to be added to our WhatsApp group or email Michael.J.Nicholson@hotmail.co.uk. We will confirm arrangements based on numbers but expect to eat locally and inexpensively, meeting at around 7.30pm.

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>. There are also some cards at the back of the Church giving more details.

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

Of your Charity,

please pray for the repose of the souls

Frank Ford Jr.

His Requiem Mass will be on Thursday at 11.30am

Ernie Melia

His Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 20th March at 11.00am

May they Rest in Peace