



## St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church - Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell

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Parish Office -(Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 4.00pm)

St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 - 2NA

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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](mailto:office@stjosephs.rbksch.org) Web. [www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk)

Head Teacher Mrs Lorraine Flower

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday - (B)

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

4.00pm

Patricia Single RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Terri, John & Bernadette

Stations of the Cross

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am

Lenten Feria

Church & Josephine D'Costa welfare

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am

Lenten Feria

Fr. Michael

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

12noon

Lenten Feria

Fr. Ignatius Edet

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am

Lenten Feria

Jill Taylor (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)

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

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am

Lenten Feria

Fr. Peter Sebastian

Followed by Stations of the Cross

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

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am

Lenten Feria

Fr. David Howell

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - (B)

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

4.00pm

Stan Conley RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Maraid Nolan

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 next Sunday.

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

**RCIA** - The next RCIA session will on Saturday at 10.30am in the Hall.

### LENTEN BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS.

Our Lenten Biblical reflection course continues led by parishioner Dr. Janet Croggon on Wednesday evening.

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.

### EASTER FLOWERS

Next Sunday we will have the annual collection for flowers to decorate the church for Easter.



In today's Gospel we meet Nicodemus. He had had a half-open mind as regards Jesus. He was moved by his teaching and miracles. He defended him when his companions wanted to have Jesus arrested. He helped to have him properly buried when his enemies had him put to death, but that was as far as he went, apparently. There is no mention of him in the first Christian community of Jerusalem. What held him back, what kept him from giving himself fully to Jesus, who spoke so kindly and told him so clearly that he himself was indeed a teacher who had come from God, that he had been offered by God as the sacrificial victim who would save the world? All Nicodemus had to do was to accept his word, "believe in him" and be baptized and he too would have eternal life.

Why did he not do this? The answer is given in the beginning of his story "He came to Jesus by night." He was one of the leading Pharisees and evidently was afraid of what they would think of him had they seen him associating with Jesus. How much more so did he dread what their reactions would be had he become a follower of him whom they called "this impostor." Nicodemus had only half of his mind open to the truth, the other half was closed and barred by his fear of what his own class—the leaders of the Jews—would think of him. He risked his own future happiness in order not to lose the present respect of his sinful associates.

What a foolish man we would all say! Yet, how many of us are like Nicodemus, when it comes to living up to following Christ? How well do we defend or stand up for our faith when it is insulted and attacked. Are we like Nicodemus, who through fear of losing the approval and esteem of others are prepared to forfeit the love of God and risk our own eternal welfare?

Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as 'Laetare Sunday' for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon laetare (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy, to mark this our liturgical colour lightens from the deep Lenten purple to a rose colour.

Today is also Mother's Day, let us remember our mothers especially today and pray for them.

### 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 forthcoming 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 next Sunday from 11.00am till 2.00pm.

**PARISH FAMILY QUIZ AFTERNOON – NEXT 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 served 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 - TODAY** - There will be a cake sale in the hall today after the morning Masses. Please call in and buy a cake – perhaps, as it is Mother's Day, you could buy one for your mother!

**'SOME LENTEN REFLECTIONS ON ST. RAPHAEL'S WAR MEMORIAL'** - Behind the names on the marble tablet above the organ are stories of civilian victims of war, refugees and economic migrants. Dr David Kennedy will tell us more in an illustrated talk on Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March in the Alexander House at 6.00pm. A contribution of £5.00 in support of CAFOD is suggested. Sunday April 14th, 6.15pm - 9pm

**'AN EVENING ON BOARD RMS MAURETANIA, 1910'** - (The World's Largest and Grandest Ocean Liner: under the command of Captain Basil Rickard). 'Strictly Minuets' will be running a dance on Sunday April 14th, in Alexander House from 6.15pm – 9.00pm. Edwardian or nautical costume suggested, with big hats! Dancing and on-board pastimes. £10, to include light supper. Funds raised will go to the Lenten project. For more information please contact Kate kate@minuetter.com

### 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.

**CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS** - Historian Joanna Bogle is hosting a Catholic history walk on Tuesday 12th March: to join meet at 6.00pm at the Church of the Most

Precious Blood, London SE1 1TE. Nearest tube: London Bridge; walk across Tower Bridge, discover the story of the Tower of London, and finish at the birthplace of St John Henry Newman. No need to book, for more information go to [www.catholichistorywalks.com](http://www.catholichistorywalks.com).

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.

**Of your Charity,**  
please pray for the repose of the soul of  
**Ernie Melia**  
His Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday  
20<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am  
*May He Rest in Peace*