

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 31st March - Easter Sunday (B)

8.pm (Saturday- Easter Vigil) Alexander Raphael RIP

9.30am Missa Pro Populo

11.30am Ena O'Sullivan RIP

(No 5.00pm Mass, Confessions, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament or tea & coffee today)

Monday 1st April

10.00am

Monday within the Octave of Easter

Denis Curtin RIP

Tuesday 2nd April

10.00am

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Steve Barlow

Wednesday 3rd April

12noon

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

Sydney Cudmore RIP

Thursday 4th April

10.00am

Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Paolo Fois - Welfare (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

11.30am

Requiem Mass for Mary Tottle RIP

(No exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, today)

Friday 5th April

10.00am

Friday within the Octave of Easter

Special Intention

(As all the days of the Easter Octave are solemnities, the Church does not ask us to abstain from eating meat today)

Saturday 6th April

10.00am

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

The Holy Souls

Sunday 7th April – 2nd Sunday of Eastertide – Divine Mercy Sunday – (B)

9.30am Missa Pro Populo

11.30am John O'Neil

5.00pm Ivan Flanagan RIP

3.00pm Divine Mercy Devotions

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

TEA AND COFFEE – There is no tea and coffee after Mass today. There is tea and coffee after Mass on Wednesday.

THE LITTLE CHERUBS – Our Parish play group will meet 17th April from 1.30pm - 3.00pm in the Hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – Sundays during the 9.30am Mass.

THE FAITH FORMATION GROUP – Will meet after The 9.30am Mass on the 21st April.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES –resume on Saturday 20th April at 10.30am in the Hall.

RCIA – The next RCIA session will be on this Saturday, 13th April at 10.30am in the Hall.

A sincere thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Holy Week and Easter ceremonies so beautiful and prayerful.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES – The collection taken at the Easter Vigil and the Masses on Easter Sunday are, by tradition, your personal gift to the Parish Priest. There are Easter Offering Envelopes available at the back of the Church. *If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme and use envelopes, please use the special envelope in your packet of envelopes.*

Of Your Charity,

please pray for the repose of the souls of

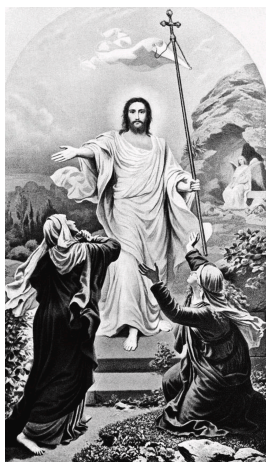
Mary Tottle

Her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 18th April at 11.30am

Margaret Jennings

Her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 18th April at 10.00am

May They Rest in Peace



Easter is the Solemnity of Solemnities, the centre and climax of the Church year. All the mysteries that we have commemorated from Advent until now have pointed toward Easter; all that we shall yet celebrate in the weeks that follow has its foundation in the mystery of Easter, and receives its meaning and importance from this mystery."—Benedict Baur, OSB, *The Light of the World*

In the very centre of the Mass, the great prayer of thanksgiving, from the first words of the Preface, expresses the unrivalled motive for this joy: if it is right to praise You, Lord, at all times, how much more so should we not glorify You on this day when Christ our Passover was sacrificed, for He is the true Lamb who took away the sins of the world, who by His Death destroyed our death and by His Resurrection restored our life. Easter means, then, Redemption obtained — sin destroyed, death overcome, divine life brought back to us, the resurrection of our body which is promised immortality. With such a certitude, we should banish all trace of sadness.

Haec dies quam fecit Dominus: "This is the day which the Lord has made." Throughout the octave we shall sing of the unequalled joy which throws open eternity to us. Every Sunday will furnish a reminder of it, and from Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, the Easters of this

earth will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that He will come again with glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father.

There is little doubt but that the Apostles and disciples had thought that the sad events of Good Friday had put an end forever to the mission of love and mercy of their beloved Master. In spite of his previous preferences to his resurrection, they had completely forgotten it and were convinced that the tomb near Calvary was the end of all their hopes. They had locked themselves into the room of the Last Supper for fear of the Jews—two of them had set off for home on the Sunday morning, down-hearted at the Master's failure; the others were waiting for an opportunity to slip out of the city quietly. But the resurrection changed all this. The unexpected, the un hoped-for happened. Even the most sceptical of them all, doubting Thomas, was eventually convinced of its reality. Had they been hoping for it, or even thinking of it, there might be some reason to suspect it was only an hallucination, the result of their "wishful thinking," but the very opposite was the case. They were hard to convince even when it happened.

All this was intended by God—the basis of our Christian faith was proved beyond doubt. Christ, who had died on the cross on Good Friday, was raised from the dead by his Father on Easter morning. He returned to heaven in the full glory of the divinity which he had hidden while on earth, together with his human body, now also glorified. There (in heaven), as God and Man, he pleads for us at the right hand of the Father until the day when he who redeemed all men will come to judge them all.

The Alleluia is repeated often during the Easter ceremonies. It is a Hebrew word which means "praise ye the Lord." It is our attempt to give verbal expression to our joy and gratitude for all that God has done for us. We are no longer mere humans living on this planet for a few short years. We are citizens of heaven, made children of God the Father by Christ our Brother. And he has gone before us to his and our kingdom to prepare a place for us. He conquered death. Our earthly death has, therefore, now no real fears for us: it is not the end but the beginning of our true lives. It is only after our earthly death that we truly begin to live.

NEXT SUNDAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - We shall have the Divine Mercy Devotions at St. Raphael's. at 3.00pm. concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3.45pm.

In the 1930's a special devotion began spreading throughout the world. The message is nothing new - it is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through Scripture and Tradition - that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. However, in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus - calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone — especially the greatest sinners.

The message of mercy is that God loves us - all of us - no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

During the course of Jesus' revelations to St. Faustina He asked that a feast day be dedicated to the Divine Mercy to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter.

In 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that "throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come."

GIFT AID – If you are a member of the Gift Aid scheme and use weekly envelopes, please collect your new set from the back of the Church today. If you currently have, but no longer wish to use, envelopes please advise the Parish Office. Also, please do not use any of last year's envelopes.

THANK YOU - To David Kennedy for his much appreciated talk last Sunday on the history of those listed on the Parish War Memorial £90.00 was raised for the Lenten Project.

£746.36 was raised by last Sunday's retiring collection

Our final event for the Lenten project will be '**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

We need raffle prizes and promises of favours for the raffle and promises auction we will have at the dance. Examples of promises we have so far are; Lift to airport, babysitting (DBS checked) and cooking/serving a dinner party for 8. If you can donate or promise anything, please contact Kate at the above email.