



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 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

Monday 8th April

10.00am

The Annunciation of The Lord

Giuseppe Verduci RIP

Tuesday 9th April

10.00am

Feria in Eastertide

Fr. Geoffrey

Wednesday 10th April

12noon

Feria in Eastertide

Odette & Jason - welfare

Thursday 11th April

10.00am

St. Stanislaus

Brigitta Ezechiel RIP (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

(Followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament praying for peace, concluding with Benediction at 11.45am)

Friday 12th April

10.00am

Feria in Eastertide

William Morin

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

Saturday 13th April

10.00am

Feria in Eastertide

Andreina da Silver Kayall RIP

Sunday 14th April – 3rd Sunday of Eastertide – (B)

9.30am

Cecilia Diass RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

The Christians of the Holy Land

4.00pm

Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Fr. Michael Writes –

Sincere thanks for your generosity in the Easter

Offerings, Easter greetings and gifts

TODAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - We shall have the Divine Mercy Devotions this afternoon 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."



ARCHBISHOP JOHN'S PASTORAL MESSAGE ON THE QUESTION OF ASSISTED SUICIDE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Our world is beautiful, but it is also troubled. We are witnessing an increasing number of threats to the dignity of the human person. These range from violence and war to poverty and disease. Our global climate is in crisis. Some of these threats may seem distant to us. They happen to other people in other countries; but the human family is one. We are our brothers and sisters keeper. We share a common home and share one humanity. There are, however, some direct threats we face at home, threats to human life at its earliest beginnings through abortion, and threats to human life at its end through assisted suicide. These threats are not only physical. They are also moral and spiritual. They may involve individuals, but their impact is much more extensive and challenges our very understanding of the value and dignity of human life. Threats to human life, at whatever stage of existence, undermine our claim to uphold equality in a most fundamental way.

For our common good and wellbeing, the family must be protected as the fundamental unit of society. Despite its imperfections, the family is where we learn to love and respect life. The family is where we care for one another and value the dignity of every person. It is within the family that we are taught the duty to care for the poor and the sick, and to protect the vulnerable. As Christians, the family teaches us to treat every human life as a gift from God, not a commodity we manipulate and dominate. Every human life is to be welcome. Every human life is to be cherished.

In different ways all members of the human family face suffering. St John Paul II reminded us of our shared responsibility in response: to 'cure if possible,' but 'always to care.' Incurable does not mean un-care able. Nor does it signify meaningless. To be 'present with' people who are sick and suffering is a hallmark of our humanity. To accompany people, to listen to them and make them feel loved to the natural end of their lives, is the authentically human instinct that overcomes loneliness and isolation. This is how the fear of suffering and death can be avoided.

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that every life is valuable, regardless of one's physical or mental state or ability. We are called to care for those who are suffering, not to bring about their death. We cannot approve of any form of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Rather, we need to support individuals, families, and those who work in healthcare, so that the fundamental value of life is not eroded.

The United Kingdom is currently experiencing a significant campaign by advocates of assisted suicide. There has been increased media coverage and pressure on Members of Parliament to change legislation. This would involve a fundamental conviction that life is not worth living and a suffering person is better off dead. This raises many serious issues: the pressure which will fall on people with debilitating and life-shortening illnesses who are made to feel a burden to their family or society; the slippery slope which moves from there being an option to end one's life to this becoming a duty; the impact on the ethos of medical and healthcare workers when those we trust to care for us also become those who might end our life; and the challenges of obtaining consent in the context of suffering. Elevating individual choice above any concern for its wider consequences can deform a culture of life into a culture of death. Experience shows, not least with abortion legislation, that whatever safeguards are initially assured, restrictions are trampled.

Legislation in Oregon, USA, has been used to permit assisted suicide for conditions including anorexia, diabetes, hernias, and arthritis. In the Netherlands and Belgium, euthanasia eligibility has expanded to include infants and children of any age. Here in the United Kingdom, assisted suicide and euthanasia are currently illegal. There are, however, ongoing attempts to introduce legislation to legalise such practices. As Christians we hold truths that are not limited to religious believers. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us, and it is not ours to dispose of.

If you are able, please contact your MP to express your opposition to assisted suicide and your desire for the government to commit to improving palliative care provision across the UK; and also your opposition to abortion.

Dear brothers and sisters, you and me, every person, is created in the image and likeness of God, and is therefore deserving of respect and protection. As baptised followers of the Lord Jesus we must do all within our power to support the most vulnerable in our society, especially those who have no voice to speak for themselves. May God bless you always, and guide and strengthen you in your efforts to uphold, respect, and protect every human life from conception until natural death.

With every blessing and the assurance of my prayers

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ John Wilson

Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark

(For the full text of the archbishop's message go to www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk/pastoralmessage)

CONFESSIONS – Sundays 9.00am – 9.20am and 4.30pm – 4.50pm.
Saturdays 10.30am – 11.30am

THE ROSARY – The rosary is recited in the Church Monday - Saturday before Mass and at 4.00pm on Sundays

TEA AND COFFEE – There is tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass on Sundays and after the 12noon Mass on Wednesdays.

THE LITTLE CHERUBS – Our parish play group meets on Wednesdays 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 Saturday, 13th April at 10.30am in the Hall.

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.*

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 next 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.