



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 12th May – 7th Sunday of Eastertide – (B)

9.30am

Gerard Hope RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

Our First Holy Communion Children

3.00pm

Annual May Procession in honour of

Our Blessed Lady – see page 2

(No Benediction at 4.00pm)

Monday 13th May

Our Lady of Fatima

10.00am

Leo Freeman RIP

Tuesday 14th May

St. Matthias

10.00am

Vernon Freeman RIP

Wednesday 15th May

St. John Stone

12noon

Mark Dixon

Thursday 16th May

St. Simon Stock

10.00am

Jacob Ezechiel RIP (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

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

Friday 17th May

Feria in Eastertide

10.00am

Jannett Hamerton Fraser and her deceased relatives

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

Saturday 18th May

Feria in Eastertide

11.00am

1st Holy Communion Mass

Please see note below

Sunday 19th May – Pentecost Sunday – (B)

9.30am

Donal D'Souza RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

The victims and families of the Moscow terror attack

4.00pm

Rosary Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

CONFESSIONS – Sundays 9.00am – 9.20am and 4.30pm – 4.50pm.

Saturdays 10.30am – 11.00am (Note this Week)

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 today in the Hall.

Next Saturday

18 children from the parish will make their 1st Holy Communion.

Please pray for them on this special day.

Please note that Mass on this day will be at 11.00am. There will be no Mass at 10.00am. If you are a regular at the Saturday morning Mass, please be aware that this it is likely to be very crowded. There will be no Confessions heard next Saturday Morning.

The Jews had a keen sense that sin must be atoned for. Their failings against God's covenant must be made up for, covered, wiped away, deleted and they did this mainly by offering sacrifices. In most cases, it was individual Jews who brought their offering to the priest. But on one day of the year, the feast of the Atonement, the high priest would take blood from a sacrificed animal and enter the Holy of Holies where the ark of the covenant was kept behind a veil. None but the high priest was allowed to do this, and only once a year. He would use it to cleanse the ark. This symbolized his cleansing the site of God's presence from the sins of the people that had contaminated it during the past year. When finished, he would come out and bless the people with prayer.

Some see this scene as background for what has been called "Jesus' priestly prayer" which we heard in today's Gospel. Jesus has taken the blood of his own sacrifice on the cross and "passed through the veil" into the presence of the Father and cleansed his people of their sins, reconciling them with God once and for all. Then, as if already in heaven, he asks the Father's blessing on the people reconciled by his blood.

But the prayer is more than the unique blessing made possible by Jesus' sacrifice. It is also his personal farewell, a blessing that, like many blessings, includes intercession for those he is leaving. And finally, it echoes the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray and he gave them the "Our Father". But in Jesus' priestly prayer, we hear his own version of this prayer when he himself addresses the Father. There are many similarities with the Our Father. It is not surprising that just as Jesus taught his disciples to begin with the word "Father," he would also begin here with the same sacred yet affectionate address: "Father," Abba! At this moment in Jesus' life, on the eve of his passion, we hear the eternal relationship between him and his Father. We hear it again in the garden prior to his passion, we hear it as he dies upon the cross.

Jesus has never left the Father's embrace, so the gift of himself on the cross is also the Father's gift: the cross reveals the mutual love of Father and Son. "I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began" (17:4-5). It was as if Jesus were saying, "Let the cross reveal on earth the glory of our eternal embrace." "The Father loves his Son" (5:20) and "The world must know that I love the Father" (14:31).

It is easy to see how the cross would be the highest expression of Jesus' love for the Father. And it is easy to see how the cross would express the Father's love for the world: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). But how does the cross reveal the Father's love for the Son, whom he sent on such a mortal mission? It can only be because Father and Son are one in their desire to manifest to the world the horror of sin and the beauty of sacrificial love. Here is where every soldier dying on a battlefield can find meaning for his life, where every mother walking a crying baby at two in the morning finds meaning for her life, where every sacrifice for another shows the real meaning of love.

In the Our Father, we pray, "Thy kingdom come." John's Gospel, speaks of the kingdom on only two occasions: first, with Nicodemus, who must be born of water and the Spirit to enter "the kingdom of God" (3:3, 5), and second, with Pilate, who must learn that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world (18:36). We would expect Jesus to say something about the kingdom in this prayer, but for the Jesus of John's Gospel, the kingdom is love, and it is experienced where there is mutual love and where there is unity in mutual love. Thus, Jesus here prays for unity among all his disciples. Although he came to save the world that God loves (3:16), it is not for the world that he prays but for the disciples of all ages, because it is only in the intimacy of a united community that the world will really experience heaven on earth and the Father's embrace. And such a community will tell the world that Jesus is the way to its salvation.

"See how they love one another," the pagans said of the first Christians. And that led scores of them to embrace the faith and, in so doing, to enter the Father's embrace. It was not only the miracle of the resurrection that won the pagan world to embrace the cross; it was also the miracle of love and unity they saw before their very eyes.

THIS AFTERNOON - at 3.00pm, we will have our annual May Procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady. Please make a special effort to attend this annual act of devotion and dedication to our Blessed Lady. (This will replace the normal 4.00pm Rosary and Benediction service.)

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD - The Parish has received a letter of thanks from CAFOD thanking us for the £3098.65 that was raised by our Lenten Project for them. They Write *"We are actively responding through local experts both in Gaza and Israel. Your donation is helping to provide essentials like emergency shelter, food, water and psychosocial support."*

TWO IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Sunday 2nd June is the feast of **Corpus Christi**. At the conclusion of the 11.30am Mass we will have our traditional procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the grounds of the Church, led by our First Holy Communion Children. This is followed by a parish lunch to which all are invited

Fr. Geoffrey will be celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the Priesthood on Sunday 23rd June. To celebrate with him this wonderful event and to thank him for all his service to the Parish, we will mark the day with a celebratory Mass at 11.30am followed by a celebration in the Hall – more details to follow.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - AUGUST 2024. - Join Archbishop John and Bishop Paul on a pilgrimage to Lourdes from 23rd to 30th August 2024. Details on the pilgrimage, including volunteering and accommodation options can be found at <https://rcaos.org.uk/news-events/news/archbishop-john-to-lead-pilgrimage-to-lourdes/>

CONGRATULATIONS

To Sophia who was baptised here at St. Raphael's on the 4th May.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

This collection supports the work of Catholic Communications Network (CCN), the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The CCN seeks to serve both the Church and the world in offering professional channels of communication and provides support for the Bishops of England and Wales and the wider Church in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues. Thank you for your generous support.

CARDS AND CTS PAMPHLETS

We have First Holy Communion, Confirmation and a wide selection of other cards available on the card stand in the hall. We also have a new selection of CTS pamphlets available in the stand next to it.