



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 5th May – 6th Sunday of Eastertide – (B)

9.30am

Albert Castelino RIP

11.30am

Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm

Anne Piddock RIP

4.00pm

Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 6th May

St. John Paine

10.00am

George Stephens RIP

Tuesday 7th May

Feria in Eastertide

10.00am

Mina Cawley RIP

Wednesday 8th May

Feria in Eastertide

11.30am

Requiem Mass for Alfonso Cairoli RIP

Mass on Wednesday is
at 11.30am this week

Thursday 9th May

The Ascension of The Lord

(9.15am Mass at St. Joseph's School)

10.00am

Ella Collins (Mass in English)

7.30pm

Missa Pro Populo

(No exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today)

Thursday is a Holy Day
of Obligation

Friday 10th May

Feria in Eastertide

10.00am

The Holy Souls

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

Saturday 11th May

Feria in Eastertide

10.00am

Ada Freeman RIP

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

Our Annual May Procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady –
see page 2 (No Benediction at 4.00pm)

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

Saturdays 10.30am – 11.00am

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 next Sunday in the Hall.

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

RCIA – the next RCIA session will be on Saturday, 11th May at 10.30am in the Hall.

**Of your Charity, please
pray for the repose of
the soul of**

Alfonso Cairoli
His Requiem Mass will
be on Wednesday 8th
May at 11.30am

In today's Gospel we hear that beautiful passage

'As the father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.'

It is only a few weeks since Good Friday when we commemorated the agonizing death of Christ on Mount Calvary. What caused Christ that torment and death on the cross was our sins and the sins of all mankind.

That Christ willingly accepted crucifixion for our sakes, that he gave the greatest proof of love which the world has ever known, by laying down his life for his friends, did not make his sufferings any less, did not ease any of the pains of Calvary. His agony in the Garden before his arrest shows this: he foresaw all the tortures and pains which he was to undergo and sweated blood at the thought of what awaited him. But he was to keep his Father's commandment 'not my will but thine be done.' We Christians must have hearts of stone, hearts devoid of all sense of gratitude, when we forget what Christ has done for us and deliberately offend him! Alas, this is what all of us do sometimes, and many of us do all the time. Christ died to bring us to heaven but are we telling him, by our sins, that he was wasting his time - we do not want to go to heaven, we are making our happiness here?

Thursday is the Feast of the Ascension and is a Holy Day of Obligation when we are bound to hear Mass. Mass in the Church will be at 10.00am. and 7.30pm. (There is also Mass at St. Joseph's School at 9.15am)

'Dear brothers and sisters, the Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us. In our life we are never alone - we have this Advocate who awaits us, who defends us. We are never alone - the Crucified and Risen Lord, ascended into Heaven where He guides us and pleads for us as our own Advocate in Heaven.'

Pope Francis

NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday 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

Thank you for the £209.07 that was collected last Sunday for the upkeep of St. George's Cathedral – our metropolitan cathedral.

THANK YOU FROM THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Catholic Children's Society have written to Fr. Michael thanking the parish for the £666.65 that was sent to them recently.

FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN

Following the recent plenary meeting of the Bishops of England and Wales held at Buckfast Abbey, Archbishop John would like to share the following important item with you:

The Bishops' Pastoral Reflection on Gender

This pastoral reflection on gender highlights the teaching of the Church whilst stressing that accompanying those struggling with gender dysphoria is "a complex but essential pastoral task."

Intricately woven by the Lord: A pastoral reflection on gender by the Bishops of England and Wales, emphasises that all are welcome in the Church, but stresses that our dignity comes from being created in the image and likeness of the loving Creator, and that the sexual identity of an individual is not a purely "cultural or social construction"; thus refuting the idea, proposed by Gender Identity Theory, that everyone has an 'inner' gender identity, which sometimes fails to match the biological sex of the individual.

'The ideology of gender: "denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman and envisages a society without sexual difference, thereby eliminating the anthropological basis of the family. This ideology leads to educational programmes and legislative enactments that promote a personal identity and emotional intimacy radically separated from the biological difference between male and female.'

(Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia)

For the full document issued by the bishops please go to

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-issue-pastoral-reflection-on-gender/>

NURSERY PLACES AT ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

St Joseph's our Catholic Primary School have nursery vacancies for September 2024 and January 2025 for 15 or 30* hours. Further details can be obtained by calling the school office on 020 8546 7178 or by email: office@stjosephs.rbksch.org *subject to eligibility.

HOW BEAUTY DRAWS US CLOSER TO GOD

A talk by Fr Patrick van der Vorst at 7.00pm on Friday, 17th May at St Patrick's Church, Soho Square, London. Fr. Patrick van der Vorst is a priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster, a former Director of Sotheby's Europe and the founder of the evangelistic initiative www.Christian.Art. Fr. Patrick will explore how beauty elevates us to encounter the Divine, how the Church has historically sought to create art that facilitates this meeting, and how this can happen in our visually overstimulated world. The lecture will be followed by a Q&A and then refreshments will be available.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY 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.