



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 16th June – 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time – (B)

9.30am Missa Pro Populo

11.30am The Holy Souls

5.00pm The Holy Souls

No Rosary Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today.

Monday 17th June Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am The Holy Souls

Tuesday 18th June Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am The Holy Souls

Wednesday 19th June St. John Rigby

12noon Fr. Geoffrey

Thursday 20th June St. Alban

10.00am Anthony Martins RIP (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today.

Friday 21st June St. Aloysius Gonzaga

10.00am Maria Francisca Rosario RIP

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

Saturday 22nd June SS. John Fisher and Thomas More

10.00am Kristof & Chiara – for their wedding

Sunday 23rd June – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time – (B)

9.30am Mary Davis RIP

11.30am Fr. Geoffrey Silver Jubilee Mass

5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

No Rosary Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today.

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACREMENT – Our Sunday and Thursday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will resume in September.

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. (Please note no tea or coffee next Sunday)

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 7th July in the Hall.

Fr. Geoffrey will be celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the Priesthood on Wednesday.

Next 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. Please make a special effort to come along.

We need various donations of food for the day. If you can help please see the stewards at the back of the church who have lists of various things needed.

One of the proofs of the divine origin of the Church of Christ is its growth from very humble beginnings. Christ could have come on earth in the prime of manhood, without the cooperation of any human ancestry. He could have preached his gospel to the whole world himself without any help from men. By extraordinary miracles he could have astounded the world into believing. If he wished to have the assistance of men he could have chosen the outstanding philosophers and orators of Greece and Rome. Instead, he chose to come into this world as a baby, the son of a poor mother and of a carpenter foster-father. He was born in a stable; was forced into pagan Egypt before he was a year old; he lived thirty or so years in Nazareth in poverty, earning his meagre daily bread by the sweat of his brow. Then for three years he trudged the highways and by-ways of Palestine, often weary, hungry and footsore, preaching the good news of redemption. For assistants he chose fishermen, shepherds and tax-gatherers, twelve of the most ordinary of the ordinary people of his day.

When the time came for him to lay down his life for the world as prearranged by his Father, he allowed his enemies to capture him and to condemn him to the death of the cross. These were surely humble beginnings for a kingdom which was to span the earth and the ages. The mustard seed in comparison was large. Yet, this was God's plan and therefore it succeeded as he said it would. The story of his humble origins among us, of his equality with us in all things, sin alone excepted, and of his self-immolation for us, touched human hearts wherever it was told and the grace of God did the rest.

It was not the eloquence of the Apostles, nor their gift of persuasion, nor their fame for learning that moved the pagan world to forsake its idols and its vices. No, nothing but the moving grace of the Holy Spirit and the objective truth of the gospel story can explain the conversion of the Roman empire.

Therefore, the spread of the Church is a proof of its divine origin—it is from God and God is with it. Knowing this, how grateful should we not be to him who has made us members of his kingdom on earth, with the assurance of a place in his eternal kingdom in heaven, if we remain his loyal subjects here below. How good God has been to us! To what lengths of humiliation did he not go to in order to open heaven for us! When we think of Bethlehem, Nazareth, Calvary, can we dare complain because he sends us a few crosses to help us to atone for our own past sins? When we wipe the sweat of honest labour from our brow, we will think of the carpenter of Nazareth. When we feel the pinch of poverty, hunger, debt, we will think of Bethlehem and its stable and of the poor home of Nazareth. If or when the injustice of others should drive us from our home and fatherland, as is the lot of so many today, we will think of the exile in Egypt. If we are saved this humiliation we will do all in our power to help "displaced" persons wherever they may be.

The tiny mustard seed has grown into a tree but it has yet to gather many more under the shelter of its branches. Christ asks every one of his followers to help him to bring all men into the safety of his kingdom on earth, so that they may be enabled to enjoy happiness forever in his heavenly kingdom. Realizing all that God and his divine Son have done for us, would we be so mean and ungrateful as to refuse to lend a helping hand? God forbid! God has already put us on the right road to heaven; we will help him to get in the stragglers, the lazy, the "couldn't-care-less" ones on that same road, by every means available to us.

TODAY IS THE ANNUAL DAY FOR LIFE

This is the day in the Church's life dedicated to celebrating the sacredness of life. The focus for this year's Day for Life will be opposition to assisted suicide (euphemistically called 'assisted dying'). With the intention of praying and advocating for the establishment of a culture of care at the end of life, the theme for the Day for Life is: "The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life". There will be a 2nd collection today in support of this.

SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Archbishop John warmly invites you to join him as he leads the Southwark Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, from 23rd to 30th August 2024. Details of this can be found at

<https://rcaos.org.uk/news-events/news/archbishop-john-to-lead-pilgrimage-to-lourdes/>

Experience the unique spirituality of Lourdes, along with people from parishes around the Archdiocese.

SVP AND CAFOD WORKING TOGETHER IN THE RUN UP TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

As Catholics, we know that tackling poverty and injustice are among the most important issues politicians should act on. The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter or svp.org.uk/encounter for more information.

END OF AN ERA: JOIN US FOR URSULINE PREP, WIMBLEDON, FAREWELL EVENTS

The Ursuline Prep warmly invites past pupils, staff, and parents to participate in special events commemorating the school's legacy as we prepare to close our doors on 11th July 2024.

There will be a Summer Fair on 15th June, a Thanks Giving Mass on 25th June at 2pm and a Prep Visit on 25th June at 3pm. To help us cater appropriately, please complete the registration form at <https://ursulineprep.wufoo.com/forms/thanks-giving-celebrations/>.

SUMMERTIME 2024: 29TH JULY – 1ST AUGUST: ALTAR SERVERS TRIP TO WESTMINSTER PASTORAL CENTRE

For aged 11-16. We commend this excellent residential trip for altar servers and those who regularly attend mass on the weekend. In an event that has now gone on for more than 20 years, it is a few days for deepening one's catholic faith, in a great social atmosphere, including football, sports and visit to Thorpe Park. The cost is £189. For more details see Fr. Michael.

**Please note the Parish Office
will be closed until the 19th June.**