



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 20th October – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Junior Dicunto RIP

11.30am Fr. Geoffrey

5.00pm Missa Pro Populo

4.00pm Rosary Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Monday 21st October

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

The Holy Souls

12.30pm

Requiem Mass for John Harcourt-Groom RIP

Tuesday 22nd October

Pope St. John-Paul II

10.00am

In thanksgiving

Wednesday 23rd October

Feria in Ordinary time

12noon

Peter Bernard White

Thursday 24th October

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

Mr Nishido 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 25th October

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

In thanksgiving

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

Saturday 26th October

Our Lady

10.00am

Richard Hourigan RIP

Sunday 27th October – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Kathleen Ireland RIP

11.30am Missa Pro Populo

5.00pm Private Intention

4.00pm Rosary Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Rosary and Benediction – Sunday afternoons at 4.00pm

Thursday exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the 10.00am Mass – concluding with Benediction at 11.45am.

THE ROSARY - The Rosary is said before Mass Monday - Saturday and at 4.00pm on Sunday.

TEA AND COFFEE - After the 9.30am Mass on Sundays and following the midday Mass on Wednesday.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – There is Children's Liturgy during the 9.30am Mass on Sundays.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES - Saturday morning at 10.30am in Alexander House.

CONFIRMATION GROUP – Next Sunday at 6.15pm in the Church.

THE LITTLE CHERUBS - Our parent and child group meet on Wednesday afternoons 1.30pm – 3.00pm in the Hall.

CONFESSIONS -

Sundays 9.00am – 9.20am & 4.30pm – 4.50pm

Saturdays 10.30am - 11.00am

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - Today we celebrate World Mission Sunday and there will be the annual 2nd Collection for Missio.

Congratulations to Meadow and Willow who were baptised recently here at St. Raphael's

My brothers and sisters,

On 16th October, a bill was introduced to Parliament proposing a change in the law to permit assisted suicide. The debate will continue for a number of months, in society and in Parliament, before a definitive vote is held there. This puts in the spotlight crucial questions about the dignity of human life and the care and protection afforded by our society to every human being. As this debate unfolds there are three points I would like to put before you. I hope that you will take part in the debate, whenever and wherever you can, and that you will write to your Member of Parliament.

The first point is this: Be careful what you wish for. No doubt the bill put before Parliament will be carefully framed, providing clear and very limited circumstances in which it would become lawful to assist, directly and deliberately, in the ending of a person's life. But please remember, the evidence from every single country in which such a law has been passed is clear: that the circumstances in which the taking of a life is permitted are widened and widened, making assisted suicide and medical killing, or euthanasia, more and more available and accepted. In this country, assurances will be given that the proposed safeguards are firm and reliable. Rarely has this been the case. This proposed change in the law may be a source of relief to some. But it will bring great fear and trepidation to many, especially those who have vulnerabilities and those living with disabilities. What is now proposed will not be the end of the story. It is a story better not begun.

The second point is this: a right to die can become a duty to die. A law which prohibits an action is a clear deterrent. A law which permits an action changes attitudes: that which is permitted is often and easily encouraged. Once assisted suicide is approved by the law, a key protection of human life falls away. Pressure mounts on those who are nearing death, from others or even from themselves, to end their life in order to take away a perceived burden of care from their family, for the avoidance of pain, or for the sake of an inheritance.

I know that, for many people, there is profound fear at the prospect of prolonged suffering and loss of dignity. Yet such suffering itself can be eased. Part of this debate, then, must be the need and duty to enhance palliative care and hospice provision, so that there can genuinely be, for all of us, the prospect of living our last days in the company of loved ones and caring medical professionals. This is truly dying with dignity. Indeed, the radical change in the law now being proposed risks bringing about for all medical professionals a slow change from a duty to care to a duty to kill.

The third point is this: being forgetful of God belittles our humanity. The questions raised by this bill go to the very heart of how we understand ourselves, our lives, our humanity. For people of faith in God - the vast majority of the population of the world - the first truth is that life, ultimately, is a gift of the Creator. Our life flows from God and will find its fulfilment in God. 'The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' (Job 1:21) To ignore or deny this truth is to separate our humanity from its origins and purpose. We are left, floating free, detached, in a sphere that lacks firm anchors or destiny, thinking that we can create these for ourselves according to the mood of the age, or even of the day.

The clearest expression of this faith is that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. That is the source of our dignity and it is unique to the human person. The suffering of a human being is not meaningless. It does not destroy that dignity. It is an intrinsic part of our human journey, a journey embraced by the Eternal Word of God, Christ Jesus himself. He brings our humanity to its full glory precisely through the gateway of suffering and death.

We know, only too well, that suffering can bring people to a most dreadful state of mind, even driving them to take their own lives, in circumstances most often when they lack true freedom of mind and will, and so bear no culpability. But this proposed legislation is quite different. It seeks to give a person of sound will and mind the right to act in a way that is clearly contrary to a fundamental truth: our life is not our own possession, to dispose of as we feel fit. This is not a freedom of choice we can take for ourselves without undermining the foundations of trust and shared dignity on which a stable society rests.

As this debate unfolds, then, I ask you to play your part in it. Write to your MP. Have discussions with family, friends and colleagues. And pray. Please remember: be careful what you wish for; the right to die can become a duty to die; being forgetful of God belittles our humanity.

May God bless us all at this critical time.

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols - Archbishop of Westminster

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN MORNINGS/AFTERNOON

SESSIONS - for our Reception 2025. 12th November at 2.00pm and 4th December at 9.15a.m. To book a place please contact the school office on 020 8546 7178, or email office@stjosephs.rbksch.org

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - CHRISTMAS SALE - Our annual sale of Christmas cards, Advent calendars and cribs will take place next Sunday in Alexander House after all Masses. Please buy your religious cards and calendars from us. All profits go to Church funds.

NOVEMBER BLESSING OF GRAVES- The annual blessing of graves will take place on Sunday 3rd November - 2.00pm Surbiton Cemetery and 3.00pm Kingston Cemetery. (Please assemble at the cemetery chapels). Fr. Michael will bless the cremated remains in the crypt and around the Church after the 10.00am Mass on All Souls Day – 2nd November.

HOT WATER IN THE HALL – Because of a leak in the boiler, there is currently no hot water in the hall whilst we await a spare part to repair it.

ALL SAINTS PARTY

1st NOVEMBER

Our annual family party will start at 5.30pm in the hall. There will be activities and food for children, followed by fireworks and the Parish Mass at 7.30pm. Children, come dressed as your favourite saints!

There will be a cake sale to raise funds for the party after the 9.30am Mass today. Please come along and buy some cakes.