



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 22nd December

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

Monday 23rd December

Tuesday 24th December

(No 10.00am Mass)

4.00pm

6.00pm

12.00 midnight

Wednesday 25th December

9.30am

11.30am

Thursday 26th December

Friday 27th December

Saturday 28th December

Sunday 29th December

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

Monday 30th December

Tuesday 31st December

Wednesday 1st January

Thursday 2nd January

Friday 3rd January

Saturday 4th January

Sunday 5th January

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

May & Stan Conley RIP

Ena O'Sullivan RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Advent Feria

10.00am Grace Wates (Welfare)

Christmas Eve

Joe Lynch RIP

Denis Curtin RIP

Alexander Raphael RIP (The Founder of Our Church)

Christmas Day

Donald D'Souza RIP

Missa Pro Populo

St Stephen

10.00am Peggy Lovell RIP

St. John

10.00am Ethel & William Larkin RIP

The Holy Innocents

10.00am Victor Donaldson RIP

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (C)

Machiko McAlister RIP

Daniel & Jill White (Birthday)

Missa Pro Populo

Sixth day of Christmas

10.00am Fr. Geoffrey

Seventh day of Christmas

10.00am The Holy Souls

Mary Mother of God

12.00noon The Lynch & Curtin Family

St Basil The Great

10.00am In thanksgiving

Feria in Christmas Time

10.00am In reparation for abortion

The Martyrs of Southwark

10.00am John Marsella RIP

The Epiphany of The Lord (C)

Ray Joosab

Rinaldo Spinaci RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Our next Newsletter will be issued on the 5th January.

The Parish Office will be open on the 23rd & 24th December and then reopen on the 30th December.

Christmas Offerings

Your offerings made at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are your personal gift to the Parish Priest. There are Christmas Offering envelopes available at the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity. If you are a member of the Gift Aid scheme and use weekly envelopes, please use the special envelope in your pack.

Today, we light the fourth candle on our Advent Wreath. "The Angel's Candle" symbolizing peace - reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."



THE OFFICE OF READINGS - is one of the seven hours of the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayer of the Church. On Christmas Eve it is an old custom that it is celebrated before the Midnight Mass. The purpose of the Office of Readings is to present a more extensive meditation on sacred scripture and on the best writings of spiritual authors. This year we will celebrate The Office of Readings at 11.00pm on Christmas Eve in the Church.

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORY - Copies of this year's directory are available at the back of the Church. They cost £7.50. Please put money in the wall box marked Newspapers or pay via the card machine.

CRIB COLLECTION - This year we are collecting for the 'Friends of The Holy Land'. This is a non-political Christian Charity. Their mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the Holy Land. At the beginning of the 20th century, Christians made up roughly 29% of the overall population of the Holy Land. Today they account for less than 2%. Without support, the Holy places of the Bible, the birthplace of Christianity, could become cultural museums with no Christian presence at all. The focus of their work is providing practical help directly to the most needy and vulnerable of our Christian brothers and sisters through a balance of funding immediate relief of emergency needs and practical small projects to help create a sustainable future in the Holy Land – most importantly to give them hope. They work with a team of locally based lay and clerical professionals who identify and verify all the cases they support. For more information go to their website <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

FILM SHOW - Another chance to see Classic Clips and Rare Reels on Saturday 8th February 2025 at 7.00 pm in Alexander House. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the 'Life' charity.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT - Our Sunday Rosary and Benediction resumes on the 12th January. Thursday exposition resumes on the 16th January.

R.C.I.A - The next session will be on Saturday 4th January at 10.30am in Alexander House.

THE ROSARY - The Rosary is said before Mass Monday – Saturday.

SUNDAY TEA AND COFFEE - There is tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass today, there will then be a break until the 5th January.

WEDNESDAY TEA AND COFFEE - The Wednesday tea and coffee group will meet after the 12noon Mass on 1st January.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – There is Children's Liturgy during the 9.30am Mass today, they will then resume on Sunday 5th January.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES - Resume on Saturday 11th January

CONFIRMATION GROUP - Sunday 12th January, 6.15pm in the Church.

FAITH FORMATION GROUP - Sunday 12th January 10.30am in the Library.

THE LITTLE CHERUBS - Our parent and child group will resume on Wednesday 8th January 1.30pm – 3.00pm in the Hall.

CONFESSIONS

Sundays - 9.00am – 9.20am & 4.30pm – 4.50pm
Saturdays- 10.30am - 11.00am

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who helped make last Sunday's Carol Service such a beautiful event.

This is the last Sunday of our preparation for Christmas. Like St. Joseph, we can all feel unworthy of the honour of welcoming Jesus into our hearts and our homes. We all may be unworthy, not because we have little of this world's goods, but because we have so little humility, so little charity, so little faith and trust in God's goodness. Let us try to imitate St. Joseph and Our Lady, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly and the greatest-ever believers in God's goodness and mercy. We can never hope to equal them, but we can follow them humbly, from afar.

The feast of Christmas draws our hearts towards the 'Divine Love' in the manger, there the infinite love of God is dramatically and forcefully portrayed before our eyes. In that helpless Baby we know that the person, and the power, of the omnipotent Creator and sustainer of the universe lies hidden - "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" for us. He became a creature, like us, so that he would make us sharers in his divine nature.

He came on earth to bring us to heaven. He hid his divine nature so that he could cover us with it. He comes to us in the form of a lovely child. One day in the presence of the Roman governor He will assert His right to kingship. But for now after his royal manifestation in the crib, He withdraws into the obscurity which He had freely chosen. The day will come, however, when He will manifest it with power and majesty as He comes again on the clouds of heaven. Before all nations God will declare: "I have anointed Him King of Sion, My holy mountain." All shall pay Him homage as king; all nations shall acclaim Him the King of Glory.

