



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 8th December

6.00pm (Saturday)

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

4.00pm

The Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Private intention

May Conley RIP

Paul McNaught RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Rosary Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Monday 9th December

10.00am

The Immaculate Conception

Michael Dwyer RIP

Tuesday 10th December

10.00am

Advent FERIA

Machiko McAlister RIP

Wednesday 11th December

12noon

Advent FERIA

Adrian Noronha (Birthday)

Thursday 12th December

10.00am

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Billy & Margaret Doyle RIP (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for vocations to the priesthood and Peace concluding with Benediction at 11.50am.

Friday 13th December

10.00am

St. Lucy

John Stratford RIP

Saturday 14th December

10.00am

St. John of the Cross

Fr. John Moth RIP

Sunday 15th December

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

6.15pm

The Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday (C)

May Conley RIP

Paul McNaught RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Parish Carol Service (No Rosary Benediction today)

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 11.50am.

R.C.I.A - The next session will be next Saturday

14th December at 10.30am in Alexander House.

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 - Saturdays

at 10.30am in Alexander House.

CONFIRMATION GROUP & - FAITH FORMATION GROUP

Saturday 10.30am – 1.00pm

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

*The second candle is the
"Bethlehem Candle" which
symbolises faith and
reminds us of Mary and
Joseph's journey to
Bethlehem.*



BISHOP HINE'S FUNERAL

Bishop John's body will be received into St. George's Cathedral tomorrow at 6.00pm. This will be followed by Mass. The Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday at 2.00pm.

2ND COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our annual 2nd collection for flowers to decorate the church for Christmas will be held today.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Corinthian Casuals – our local football team are hosting a Community Christmas lunch for any elderly people alone at Christmas. Places are limited and need to be booked. To book a place, call Laila on 07392 331 800. See the post in the porch for more details.

CHILDREN'S MASS BOOKS

We seem to have lost most of the Children's mass books that are handed out at Mass. If you or your child has taken one home in error – can we please have it back.

BRASS POLISHING

Next Saturday morning we are looking for volunteers to help polish all of our church brass in preparation for Christmas. If you are free between 10.30am – 1.00pm, please come along to the hall to help. Refreshments will be provided.

Archbishop John has issued a statement, following the vote on Assisted suicide in the House of Commons, warning of the "seismic and concerning shift" in how we care for the most vulnerable among us.

The Archbishop highlighted countries where assisted suicide has been introduced, explaining this should serve "as a grave warning" because "promised safeguards are eroded over time, leaving the elderly, disabled, and seriously ill at risk of feeling their lives are a burden to others".

The proposed changes, The Archbishop said, "undermines the essential trust between patients and healthcare professionals". He called for the "right of medical practitioners, nursing and care staff, and institutions to refuse to participate in practices that violate their deeply held ethical or religious convictions" to be upheld if this dangerous Bill does become law.

The Archbishop calls on Catholics and "people of good will" to continue to advocate for the protection of life at every stage and to stand in solidarity with those who are most vulnerable.

'Let us turn to the Lord Jesus, who shared in human suffering and revealed the depth of his love through his death and resurrection. Through him, we find the strength to defend the dignity of every person and to build a society that values the gift of life from conception to natural death.'

You can continue to show your opposition to the Bill by writing to your MP and making the case again for life. You can read the full statement here <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/vote-on-assisted-suicide-represents-seismic-and-concerning-shift-says-archbishop/>

As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God Who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man.

And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behaviour in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity. Through the Gospel John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard clear words bring health to us, the men and women of this day in which even the experience and perception of Christmas often, unfortunately, reflects materialist attitudes. The 'voice' of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external deserts, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ.

On Monday we celebrate the great feast of the Immaculate Conception Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin. "Hail Mary, full of grace." For thousands of years, millions of times per day Our blessed Lady is greeted by the faithful with the greeting of the Archangel, that we hear resonating anew in Monday's Gospel. We have learned from the words of the Archangel Gabriel that the fullness of the mystery of God's grace was realized in Mary. St Paul teaches us that the Father made all fullness dwell in His Incarnate Son (c.f. Col 1:12-20), which overflows from Christ's head and spills out on His Mystical Body that is the Church. Before descending in Body, Christ's fullness was spread in a unique and unrepeatable way on Mary, predestined from eternity to be the Mother of God.

**Please join us for
our annual Carol
Service next Sunday
evening at 6.15pm
followed by mulled wine
and mince pies.
This year we will be
joined by the Deputy
Mayor Of Kingston
Councillor Elizabeth Park**

