



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 January

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

Monday 6th January

10.00am

Tuesday 7th January

10.00am

Wednesday 8th January

10.00am

Thursday 9th January

10.00am

Friday 10th January

10.00am

Saturday 11th January

10.00am

Sunday 12th January

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

4.00pm

The Epiphany of The Lord (C)

Ray Joosab

Rinaldo Spinaci RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Christmas Feria

Oscar Savoy

Christmas Feria

Pete

Christmas Feria

Adriano Orindi RIP

Christmas Feria (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

Ann Cross RIP

Christmas Feria

The Mitchell family

Christmas Feria

Edward Black RIP

The Baptism of The Lord (C)

Alan Chapman RIP

Paul Rocca RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Rosary and Benediction



*Happy New Year
2025
To Everyone*

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT –

Sunday Rosary and Benediction resumes next Sunday.

Thursday exposition resumes on the 16th January.

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

11th January at 10.30am in Alexander House.

THE ROSARY - The Rosary is said before Mass

Monday – Saturday.

TEA AND COFFEE - There is tea and coffee after

the 9.30am Mass today and after Mass on Wednesday.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – There is Children's Liturgy

during the 9.30am Mass today.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES - Resume on

Saturday 11th January

CONFIRMATION GROUP - Next Sunday

6.15pm in the Church.

FAITH FORMATION GROUP - Next Sunday

10.30am in the Library.

THE LITTLE CHERUBS - Our parent and child group

meet on Wednesdays 1.30pm – 3.00pm in the Hall.

CONFESSIONS -

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

Saturdays- 10.30am - 11.00am

FR MICHAEL WRITES

Once again, thank you for your Christmas Offerings, gifts, cards and generosity over the Christmas period. Thanks go to all who have taken up special tasks in the parish over the past year. This willingness is much appreciated, along with the vibrant and caring community that is this parish.

Our Welcomers play an often unseen part in parish life. They take care of those who might need special help, encouragement or information. Our parish hall gatherings are always supported by those who prepare and serve fresh food and drink for all.

Our Liturgy has benefited from conscientious altar serving and good direction from senior servers. The musicians and choir always enhance our liturgies.

The work on our 'piers' and boundary walls is almost complete. Glenn, the stonemason, travelling from the South-West, has used his specialised skills, weather permitting, to restore our stone structures.

Thanks go to a number of our Foundation Governors, recently stepping down from St Joseph's primary school. Please speak to me if you wish to enquire about governing, or if you would like to know more about our links with other Faiths, or the Kingston Deanery.

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.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/>

Next Sunday is the feast of The Baptism of The Lord and the end of the Christmas season – so this will be your last chance to make a donation.

TWO IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On the 28th May 1965 Pope St Paul VI created the Metropolitan See of Southwark which raised The Diocese of Southwark to statutes of a Metropolitan Archdiocese. To mark the 60th Anniversary of this there will be a major celebration at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 7th June this year. More details to follow.

This year also marks the 175th anniversary of the building of our Church by Alexander Raphael in 1850. To mark this occasion Archbishop John has graciously agreed to come and celebrate the 11.30am Mass here on Sunday 28th September – the nearest Sunday to our patronal feast (Monday 29th September)

KINGSTON CHURCHES ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS

KCAOH have opened the Winter Night Shelter in Kingston which will run for three months. They need volunteers to get involved to ensure we can provide the safe space for those that need it. If you can help please go to <https://app.donorfy.com/form/D0ULMQOQI5/PJGCS?p=yes> for more details.

FILM SHOW

Another chance to see Classic Clips and Rare Reels on Saturday 8th February 2025 at 7.00 pm in Alexander House. Admission free. Refreshments served. Retiring collection in aid of the Life charity.

ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON'S 2024 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

In his 2024 Christmas message, Archbishop John said it is by placing our hope in the Lord Jesus that we can find the answer to peace, in our hearts and in our world and he calls on people to turn to the Lord Jesus in hope.

Highlighting the ongoing wars around the world, including the Holy Land, as well as the attacks on the dignity of life at home in assisted suicide, he said "in a world that seems so divided, it can be easy to lose hope; even to lose faith".

"But in times of darkness, in times of pain, in times of division, instead of giving in to the temptation of losing hope we must turn to our one, great living hope - the Lord Jesus. In Him, and in His message of Good News, we see the possibility of a different and better world. In Him we have the hope of forgiveness and eternal life". This, Archbishop John said, "is what the truth of Christmas is all about. It's a story of hope triumphing over darkness. It is the story of our salvation. It's God's love story towards our world and each one of us".

Looking ahead to the year of the Jubilee, the account of the birth of the Lord Jesus, the Archbishop said, "inspires our journey as pilgrims of hope". He added:

"Mary, the Mother of the Lord, never despaired or gave up hope. She put her faith and trust in the Lord. Mary is the timeless example of what it is to follow Jesus. No matter what, to trust, hope and believe that God is with us in everything. That we are never abandoned or alone".

He goes on to say we must all actively put "our hope in the Lord Jesus, turning to Him in prayer, in adoration and in living out his commands".

This is achieved, "by coming to Him in prayer and in adoration of his Eucharistic presence, by reading the Gospels and praying the rosary. My brothers and sisters, seek out and deepen your friendship with the Lord Jesus and there is no more hopeful and active prayer than when we place ourselves before the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples to remain with Him, and keep watch with Him. This is what He invited us – me and you – to do. To stay with Him in prayer. Seek the Lord Jesus each day in prayer and, as often as you can in Eucharistic adoration. Pray for peace within yourself, for peace in our world, with the hope of Christ in your hearts".

You can read the full message or watch it on YouTube by going to <https://rcaos.org.uk/news-events/news/archbishop-john-s-christmas-message-turn-to-the-lord-jesus-in-hope/>