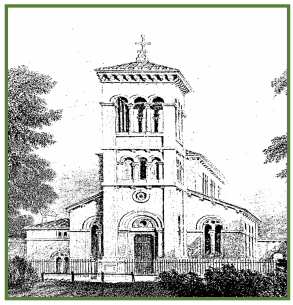

St. Raphael's Church

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 2nd February	**The Presentation of The Lord (Candlemas) (C)**
9.30am	**Machiko McAlister RIP**
11.30am	**Ena O'Sullivan RIP**
5.00pm	**Missa Pro Populo**
4.00pm	**Rosary and Benediction**

(4th Week in Ordinary Time)

Monday 3rd February	St Laurence
10.00am	The Holy Souls

Followed by the blessing of throats

Tuesday 4th February	St. Henery Morse
10.00am	Anne Bennett RIP
Wednesday 5th February	St. Agatha
12noon	The Holy Souls
Thursday 6th February	St. Paul Miki and companions (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)
10.00am	Anna Brown RIP

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

Friday 7th February	Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am	Maria Gibney RIP
Saturday 8th February	Our Lady
10.00am	The Holy Souls

Sunday 9th February	**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)**
9.30am	**Machiko McAlister RIP**
11.30am	**Missa Pro Populo**
5.00pm	**The Holy Souls**
4.00pm	**Rosary and Benediction**

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT –
Sunday - Rosary and Benediction 4.00pm.
Thursday - Exposition from after the 10.00am Mass, concluding with Benediction at 11.50am.

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 - Saturday 10.30am in Alexander House

CONFIRMATION GROUP - Next Sunday evening at 6.15pm in the Church

FAITH FORMATION GROUP - Next Sunday at 10.30am in the Library.

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

RCIA – 8th February 10.30am in the Library.

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

On Tuesday we celebrate the feast of St. Blaise.

He was a physician and Bishop of Sebaste, Armenia. He lived in a cave on Mount Argeus and was a healer of men and animals. According to legend, sick animals would come to him on their own for help but would never disturb him at prayer.
Agricola, governor of Cappadocia, came to Sebaste to persecute Christians. His huntsmen went into the forests of Argeus to find wild animals for the arena games and found many waiting outside Blaise's cave. Discovered in prayer, Blaise was arrested, and Agricola tried to get him to recant his faith.
Thrown into a lake to drown, Blaise stood on the surface and invited his persecutors to walk out and prove the power of their gods; they drowned. When he returned to land, he was beheaded.
St. Blaise has been extremely popular for centuries in both the Eastern and Western Churches and many cures were attributed to him, notably that of a child who was suffocating through a fish bone being caught in his throat. Because of this, it is customary on his feast day, to bless the throats of the faithful with two candles. The priest or deacon places the candles around the throat of whoever seeks the blessing, using the formula: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you free from every disease of the throat, and from every other disease. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

'THE ROMERO ROSARY'

Archbishop John Wilson has written a new book entitled 'The Romero Rosary.' With introductory chapters about St Oscar Romero and the rosary, The book is available from Pauline Bookshops and online at www.paulineuk.org. The Archbishop warmly invites everyone to the book launch on Wednesday 12 February at 6.00pm for 6.30pm at Amigo Hall, adjacent St George's Cathedral, Southwark, South London. SE1 7HY.

FILM NIGHT IN AID OF 'LIFE'

Another chance to see Classic Clips and Rare Reels this Saturday, 8th February at 7.00 pm in Alexander House. The programme includes Laurel and Hardy's 'Laughing Gravy (1930), Elvis Presley's musical Roustabout (1964), 'Journey of a Lifetime' (1961) Biblical Sites in the Middle East, 'Mickey's Grand Opera' (1936), 'The Elephant will Never Forget' (1953) plus surprises. Doors will open at 6.30 pm for refreshments, interval with raffle, and retiring collection for the charity Life. All are very welcome.

Today we celebrate The Presentation of Christ in the temple, which is also known as Candlemas. This feast has great significance, not least because of the encounter between the generations. The baby and his parents, one younger and one older, meet two aged people, Simeon and Anna, as they come to honour the Law and rituals of their faith. In the encounter, both help each other understand more about themselves.

Faithful Simeon, who knows that he won't die until he had seen the Christ, realises that Jesus is what he has been waiting for and that his end is near. As he prays words that are still said at Evening Prayer, the Nunc Dimittis, he blesses Mary and Joseph but also tells Mary that her baby will cause the falling and rising of many and that a sword will pierce her own soul, too.

Although her words aren't recorded, Anna then also gives thanks to God and speaks about the child's future. Luke tells us that she never leaves the temple, fasting, praying and worshipping night and day.

Both Simeon and Anna are faithful, active people who see with the eyes of the heart and recognise God's purposes, which may enable the new parents to understand more than perhaps they do. St. Luke says earlier in his Gospel that, after the events of Jesus' birth, Mary "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." *Luke 2:19.* Perhaps Simeon and Anna's words now did not unduly surprise her but gave Mary more food for thought as she and Joseph then began their journey of light and new beginnings to Nazareth where Jesus grows up.

Each generation needs the others and as we see this happening in the lives of Simeon and Anna as well as Joseph and Mary, may prayer enable us to ask for God's help in our generation and to draw strength from their example.

Please note the Parish Office is closed until Monday 10th February