



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church - Parish Priest - Fr. Michael Lovell

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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 30th November 2025

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

4.00pm

Monday 1st December

10.00am

Tuesday 2nd December

10.00am

Wednesday 3rd December

12noon

Thursday 4th December

10.00am

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

Friday 5th December

10.00pm

Saturday 6th December

10.00pm

Sunday 7th December 2025

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

4.00pm

1st Sunday of Advent (A)

Praveen Joshua RIP

The intentions of Christine and Nigel Jackson

Missa Pro Populo

Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

SS. Edmund Campion, Ralph Sherwin & Alexander Briant

Denis Mendonsa RIP

Advent Feria

Johanna Moloney RIP

St. Francis Xavier

Michael Joe O'Grady RIP

Advent Feria (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

Simon Fitzgerald RIP

St. John Almond

The Holy Souls

St. Nicholas

All unborn children and expectant mothers

2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

Missa Pro Populo

Ginette Howell

Michael Cawley RIP

Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Sunday - Rosary and Benediction at 4.00pm. Thursday - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 10.00am Mass, concluding with Benediction just before noon.

THE ROSARY - Children are invited to gather in front of Our Lady's Altar after the 9.30am Sunday Mass for a decade of the Rosary.

TEA AND COFFEE - There is tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass on Sundays. There is also tea and coffee after the 12noon Mass on Wednesday.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - There will be Children's Liturgy during the 9.30am Mass.

THE LITTLE CHERUBS - Our parent and child group 'The Little Cherubs' meet on Wednesday from 1.30pm – 3.00pm in the Hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS – Saturday in the Upper Room at 10.30am

RCIA – Saturday at 10.30 in the Library.

CONFESSIONS

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

Saturdays - 10.30am - 11.00am.

FAITH FORMATION GROUP – Will meet after the 9.30am Mass next Sunday - 7th December in the Library.



*The first Advent
Candle is the
'Prophet's Candle' -
Hope*

Archbishop John Wilson's 2025 Advent Reflection

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel" which means God with us (cf. Matthew 1:23)

These words, first spoken by the prophet Isaiah and fulfilled in the Gospel of Matthew, open before us the radiant mystery of our faith: that the Lord Jesus is, and always will be, Emmanuel — God with us, God beside us, God within us.

What an astonishing truth this is. From the moment the Word was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this mystery has stirred the hearts and minds of believers. It is the truth Isaiah foretold; the truth Advent prepares us to receive; the truth Christmas proclaims in joy.

The eternal Word became flesh. The Son of God, through whom all things were made, entered our world so that we might enter his. The Saviour of the world chose to dwell among us, that we might dwell in him and share his life.

To say that God is with us is not poetry, but power. It means that the Lord Jesus stepped into our humanity so that we might step into his divinity. It means that God is no distant deity, but one who draws near; who shares our joys and carries our sorrows; who opens heaven to earth, and earth to heaven.

This is the beauty of the Incarnation: the invisible God made visible; the Word who speaks into our silence; the merciful face of the Father shining upon us.

Why did God do this? Out of love - so that we who know sin and death might be caught up into a new kind of life: a life in Christ. Through his birth, passion, cross, and resurrection, our Lord transforms everything.

He takes what is broken and makes it whole; what is wounded and heals it; what is lost and brings it home. In Christ, we are never abandoned. We are never without hope. For in him, love has taken flesh.

So we hear again the angel's words to the shepherds: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy" (cf. Luke 2:10-11).

This is the joy of Emmanuel: that God in Christ dwells among us and remains with us always. He knows you and he loves you. He calls you by name and invites you to walk in his light. And this mystery continues. The same Lord who once lay in the manger humbles himself still to be with us in the Most Holy Eucharist.

Under the appearance of bread and wine, changed into his Body and Blood, the glorified Christ – the one who conquered death – is truly present. In the smallness of the Sacred Host and the drop of Precious Blood, heaven touches earth, and we meet our God face to face.

The Christ whom Mary held in her arms is the same Christ who gives himself to us at the altar. The Blessed Virgin adored him in the fullness of his presence; we too are called to adore him: to draw near, to kneel in love before the mystery of Emmanuel.

This Advent, let Mary be your guide. Let your soul, like hers, magnify the Lord. Let your spirit rejoice in God your Saviour, who comes to dwell among us.

My dear friends, rejoice in this truth: that God in Christ is with us — yesterday, today, and forever.

Rejoice that Jesus is Emmanuel: God with us, God beside us, God within us."

Throughout Advent, the Archdiocese will be sharing prayers, reflections, hymns and antiphons to help us rejoice in the beautiful truth that Jesus is Emmanuel: God with us. For more information go to <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/jesus-is-emmanuel-god-with-us-god-beside-us-god-within-us/>

ADVENT READING – 'MY DAY BY DAY' - Copies of the Advent edition of 'My Day by Day' are available at the back of the Church, they cost £1.00 (Please put money in the box marked Newspapers.) This little book offers helpful readings and reflections for every day during Advent and is an excellent way to prepare for Christmas.

CHILDREN'S ROSARY AND PETITIONS - Children are invited to gather after the 9:30am Mass on Sundays at Our Lady's Altar to say a decade of the rosary. Children can also write their prayer intentions—and place them in the box at Our Lady's Altar. These will be presented on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8th December.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ADVENT CALENDARS - There are a selection of Christian Christmas Cards and Advent Calendars for sale in the Hall, all proceeds go towards Church funds.

Of Your Charity, please pray for the repose of the Soul of Tim Hayes.

Details of his funeral to follow
May He Rest in Peace.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Our Parish Carol Service will take place on Sunday 21st December at 6.15pm

CONGRATULATIONS - To Julius who was Baptised here at St. Raphael's last Sunday.

Of Your Charity, please pray for the repose of the Soul of Sandra Coombs.

Many people will remember Sandra who was a most generous parishioner here for decades. Over the years Sandra was a member of the Parish Council, sang in the choir and was one of the original catechists for the Children's Liturgy. She also served as a governor at St. Joseph's School and was a volunteer reader there with the children. She was also much involved with the Catholics at Kingston University. In recent years, as her health began to decline, she moved to a care home in Kent so she could be closer to her niece. She died on the 23rd November at the age of 90. Her Requiem Mass will be here at St. Raphaels on Monday 15th December at 10.00am.

May She Rest in Peace.