

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 14th December 2025

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

4.00pm

3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday (A)

Pope Leo & Fr. John

Marianna's intention

Missa Pro Populo

Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Monday 15th December

10.00am

Advent FERIA

Requiem Mass for Sandra Coombs RIP

Tuesday 16th December

10.00am

Advent FERIA

Catherine & Thomas Mulroe and family RIP

Wednesday 17th December

12noon

Advent FERIA

Ena O'Sullivan RIP

Thursday 18th December

10.00am

Advent FERIA (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

In thanksgiving

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

Friday 19th December

10.00pm

Advent FERIA

Priscilla McHugh RIP

Saturday 20th December

10.00pm

St. Lucy

The Ho family

Sunday 21st December 2025

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

4th Sunday of Advent (A)

Mary Cook

Amelia Law RIP

Missa Pro Populo

(No Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today)

6.15pm Parish Carol Service

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 10th January

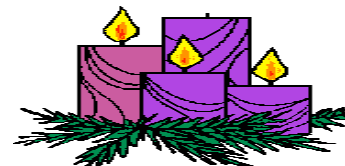
RCIA – Saturday at 10.30 in the Library.

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 on the 18th January.



*The Third Advent Candle.
This Sunday of Advent is a day
of Joy, with the "Shepherd's
Candle" reminding us of the Joy
the world experienced at the
coming birth of Jesus.*

NEXT SUNDAY – PARISH CAROL SERVICE - Our Parish Carol Service will take place next Sunday 21st at 6.15pm. (There is no Benediction next Sunday).

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.

2ND COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - Our annual 2nd collection for flowers to decorate the church for Christmas will be held today.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE - The children and staff from St. Joseph's, our parish primary school will hold their annual carol service here at the Church this coming Thursday, 18th December at 2.00pm. All are welcome to come and enjoy the service.

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. (Using the *Choose your own amount tab*)

WEDNESDAY TEA AND COFFEE GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY - The Wednesday tea and coffee group, which meet after the 12noon Mass on Wednesdays, will be holding their Christmas Party this Wednesday – All are welcome.

CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT CONSULTATION RESPONSE PUBLISHED - Thank you to all those people who took part in the 'Called to Bear Fruit consultation'. We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. Copies of the consultation response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at the back of the Church.

CONGRADULATIONS - To Olivia and Sofia who were baptised at St. Raphael's recently.

CHRISTMAS BRASS POLISHING – This coming Saturday the 20th there will be polishing of the church brass for the Christmas celebrations between 10:30am (the end of Mass) 12.00noon in Alexander House. Any help would be greatly appreciated and refreshments will be provided.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

4.00pm, 6.00pm and Midnight.

Christmas Day

9.30am and 11.30am

(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

**Of Your Charity, please pray for the
repose of the Souls of**

Sandra Coombs.

Her Requiem Mass will be on Monday 15th December at 10.00am

Tim Hays.

His Requiem Mass will be on the 30th December at the Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon at 11.45am

May They Rest in Peace.

Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

December 17 marks the beginning of the O Antiphons, the seven jewels of our liturgy, dating back to the fourth century, one for each day until Christmas Eve. These antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles, based on the Old Testament prophecies and types of Christ. The Church in these following Golden Nights travels through the centuries recalling the longing for the Redeemer.

December 17th : "O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation."

December 18th : "O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free."

December 19th "O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid."

December 20th : "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom."

December 21st : "O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death."

December 22nd : "O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come, and save the creature you fashioned from the dust."

December 23rd : "O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God."