



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 18th January

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

(No Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today)

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Michelle & Rushabh's Intention

Kristiaan Corner - Munroe RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Monday 19th January

10.00am

St. Wulstan

John Jo O'Mara RIP

Tuesday 20th January

10.00am

St. Fabian

Anelo Noronha - Birthday

Wednesday 21st January

12noon

St. Agnes

Adriano Orindi RIP

Thursday 22nd January

10.00am

St. Vincent (Latin Mass - Novus Ordo)

Patrick Coughlan RIP

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

Friday 23rd January

10.00am

Feria in Ordinary Time

Anna Patrica McCarthy RIP

Saturday 24th January

10.00am

St. Francis de Sales

Peter Freeman

Sunday 25th January

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 4.00pm

The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Angeline & Matthew Rodricks RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Brigid (Breda) McGinty RIP

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT -

Sunday - Rosary and Benediction resumes next Sunday.

Thursday - Exposition from after the 10.00am Mass, concluding with Benediction at 11.50am.

CHILDREN'S 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 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 7th February, 10.30am in Alexander House

FAITH FORMATION GROUP - Today at 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

PARISH OFFICE

Please note the Parish Office will be closed from this coming Tuesday until Tuesday 3rd February

On this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Gospel presents to us the scene of the meeting between Jesus and John the Baptist at the River Jordan. The narrator is the eye witness, John the Evangelist, who, before he was a disciple of Jesus was a disciple of the Baptist, together with his brother James, with Simon and Andrew, all are from Galilee, all are fisherman. So, John the Baptist sees Jesus, who steps forward from the crowd and, inspired from above, sees in Jesus the one sent by God. For this reason he points him out with these words: "Behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

The word that is translated as "take away" literally means "to relieve," "to take upon oneself." Jesus has come into the world with a precise mission: to free it from the slavery of sin, taking humanity's faults upon himself. In what way? By loving. There is no other way to defeat evil and sin than with the love that moves one to give the gift of his life for others. In the testimony of John the Baptist, Jesus is given the traits of the Servant of the Lord, who "has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (Isaiah 53:4), to the point of dying on the cross. He is the true Passover lamb, who immerses himself in the river of our sin, to purify us.

The Baptist sees before him a man who gets in line with sinners to be baptized even though he does not need to. He is the man who God sent into the world as the sacrificial lamb. The word "lamb" appears several times in the New Testament and always in reference to Jesus. This image of the lamb might surprise us: an animal that is certainly not characterized by its strength and hardness takes upon himself such an oppressive weight. The enormous mass of evil is removed and taken away by a weak and fragile creature, who is a symbol of obedience, docility and defenceless love, who goes to the point of sacrificing himself. The lamb is not an oppressor but is docile; he is not aggressive but peaceful; he does not show his claws or teeth in the face of an attack, but endures it and is submissive. And this is how Jesus is, He is like a lamb.

What does it mean for the Church, for us, today to be disciples of Jesus the Lamb of God? It means putting innocence in the place of malice, love in the place of force, humility in the place of pride, service in the place of prestige. It is good work! We Christians must do this: put innocence in the place of malice, love in the place of force, humility in the place of pride, service in the place of prestige. Being disciples of the Lamb means that we must not live like a "city under siege," but like a city on a hill, open, welcoming, solidary. It means not having an attitude of closedness, but proposing the Gospel to everyone, testifying with our life that following Jesus makes us more free and more joyful.

Pope Francis

MASS INTENTIONS

We get booked up for Mass intentions many weeks in advance, particularly for Sundays. If you have any Mass intentions for any time this year, to avoid disappointment, please book them now with Michael in the Parish Office.

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

A Catholic apologetics resource. The Archdiocese of Southwark has launched an exciting apologetics project to provide evidence-based answers to questions such as "Is Jesus God?" or "does prayer work?". Ambassadors for Christ is designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of your faith, so you can confidently answer questions and be a joyful witness for the Lord Jesus and his Church. Every Monday, a new video will be posted on YouTube, to watch the videos and take part in this exciting project, please visit:
rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist.

PEACE SUNDAY

Today is Peace Sunday Pax Christi is an official church organisation basing its work on the Gospel values of peace, justice and non-violence. Pax Christi prayer cards on the Peace Sunday theme will be distributed after all of the Masses today. Please continue to pray for peace in our troubled world.

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS' RETREAT

A Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Retreat will be held on Saturday 31st January, at St. Anne's Church, Kingston Hill, from 10:00 am, followed by Holy Mass at 12 noon. All readers and Eucharistic Ministers are warmly encouraged to attend.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass for Racial Justice Sunday at St George's Cathedral on Sunday 1st February, at 10.00am. Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism, while celebrating the diversity of our Archdiocese. Everyone is invited to take part, and those who wish may wear national or cultural dress as a sign of unity and pride.

If you would like, please gather outside the cathedral at 9.45am to join the procession of national flags. After the Mass, all are welcome to gather in Amigo Hall for refreshments — a chance to meet one another, share experiences and continue the conversation about faith and inclusion. The mass will be livestreamed through the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/fdmGwmESSgl>