

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 4th January 2026

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

(No Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today)

Monday 5th January

10.00am

Tuesday 6th January

10.00am

7.30pm

Wednesday 7th January

12noon

Thursday 8th January

10.00am

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

Friday 9th January

10.00am

Saturday 10th January

10.00am

Sunday 11th January

9.30am

11.30am

5.00pm

(No Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today)

The Second Sunday after Christmas (A)

All unborn children and expectant mothers

Flordeliza Subade Abello RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Feria in Christmastide

The Ward Family

The Epiphany of The Lord

Billy & Margaret Doyle RIP

Missa Pro Populo

Feria in Christmastide

Sharon Paine RIP

Feria in Christmastide (Latin Mass – Novus Ordo)

The Altar Society

Feria in Christmastide

Isaac (Healing)

Feria in Christmastide

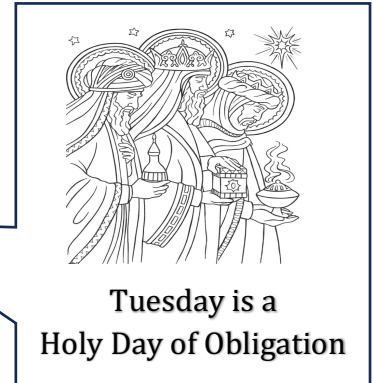
The Holy Souls

The Baptism of The Lord (A)

Joyce Lobo RIP

The Holy Souls

Missa Pro Populo



Tuesday is a
Holy Day of Obligation

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT –

Sunday - Rosary and Benediction resumes on the 25th January.

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 - Sunday tea and coffee after the 9.30am Mass resumes next Sunday. There is tea and coffee after Mass on Wednesday.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – There is no Children's Liturgy today.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES - Resumes this Saturday 10.30am in Alexander House

FAITH FORMATION GROUP - Sunday 18th January 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

Fr. Michael sends special thanks to all for your generous Christmas and New Year wishes and gifts. A Happy New Year to everyone.

Archbishop John's Christmas message.

'Dear friends,

What is the meaning of Christmas? Each time we are asked the meaning of Christmas, our hearts should be filled with awe, joy and hope as we are drawn back to that remarkable night in Bethlehem. On that night, the world changed forever. The Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, revealed the majesty and glory of God. On this momentous night, we not only discovered the meaning of Christmas. We discovered the meaning of love, and the meaning of life. God in Christ, entered our world so we could enter his. God sent his only Son, so we might live through him (1 John 4:9). There is no clearer message of God's love. It's a message of love the world desperately needed to hear, and still desperately needs to hear. In the Gospel of St John (1:14) the beauty of God's love for us is revealed, when we hear that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory". It's not simply, as St John tells us elsewhere in the Scripture, that we have loved God "but that he loved us" (1 John 4:10), and that is why he sent his Son: so that we could be saved from sin and death. This is the meaning of the Incarnation. That God, through his Son, dwelt among us so that we can know his love in our hearts and rejoice in his glory. This magnificent glory of the Lord can feel overwhelming and that is why we sometimes seek to distract ourselves with all manner of things. Remember, it certainly overwhelmed the shepherds who were filled with great fear.

But we are called to hold fast to the words of the angel of the Lord, who turned to them and said "fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy" that born this day is "a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:9-11). In the baby Jesus, born as Emmanuel, God with us – we can find hope and meaning. In the Lord Jesus we find joy and love. Because Jesus is Emmanuel: God with us, with me and with you. That is why the meaning of Christmas is something that should fill our hearts, each and every day, with joy because it means we are never alone or abandoned. God in Christ wants us to feel his love, in our joys but especially when we are frightened, when we are in pain and when we feel lost.

The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him.

So my dear friends, the next time you are asked the meaning of Christmas, answer emphatically, with joy in your hearts, that Christmas means God in Christ Jesus loves me and he loves you. And say with your heart filled with the love of the Lord Jesus, that you say yes to his love. As you rejoice in this love, remember the words of St John, "we love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

I wish you and those you love a blessed and very merry Christmas, may the Lord Jesus fill you with his peace and his love and may you "walk in love", as Christ loved you (Ephesians 5:2). And I wish you and all your loved ones a very happy and holy New Year. I pray each day is filled with an encounter with the Lord Jesus and his saving Gospel, so that you can feel his love and experience the "fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:11).'

THANK YOU – to everyone who helped in any way make our Christmas celebrations so special. Those who helped with the various liturgies and those who helped behind the scenes to prepare for them.

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.

MARY'S MEALS- is looking for volunteers. Could you spare a few hours during the year to help? We are looking for parish reps, volunteer speakers (training and support provided!) and volunteers who can help at events. We are very much a volunteer-led movement, so any little you can offer will make a huge difference to the children we serve in some of the world's poorest communities. Please contact Roy Peachey (roy.peachey@marysmeals.org or 07593 447297) if you can help. To find out more about Mary's Meals, please visit marysmeals.org.uk. Thank you for your support!

Congratulations to Canon Gerard Bradley who has been named by Pope Leo as a new Auxiliary Bishop for our Archdiocese. His episcopal ordination will take place on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas), 2nd February. at 12 noon at St. George's Cathedral.

CRIB OFFERINGS – This year our Crib collection will once again be donated to the 'The Catholic Children's Society' Each year they help hundreds of families facing a crisis in their lives. By providing immediate emergency support via their Crisis Funds, they ensure families can access the practical help they need when they have nowhere else to turn. This has only been possible thanks to the generosity of their supporters. By leaving a donation at the crib, you can help us reach many more families in urgent need.

Tuesday is the feast The Epiphany of The Lord and is a Holy Day of Obligation when Catholics are bound to hear Mass. There will be two Masses in the Church – 10.00am and 7.30pm.