

# St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Chaplaincy to Kingston University

Parish Priest - Fr. Kevin Stokes

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Parish Office - (Mon. - Fri. 9.00am - 4.00pm)

St. Raphael's Church, Portsmouth Road, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 - 2NA

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Web. [www.straphael.org.uk](http://www.straphael.org.uk)

## 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday psalter II

9.30am Family Mass William Morin

11.30am Sung Mass Ena O'Sullivan RIP

5.00pm Quiet Mass Pro Populo

3.00pm Divine Mercy Devotions

Mon. 13 <sup>th</sup> April	St. Martin
10.00am	Andrew da Silva Kaynall
Tue. 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Feria in Eastertide
10.00am	Fr. Vincent
Wed. 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Feria in Eastertide
12.00 noon	The deceased members of the Swallow & Jarvis family
Thu. 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Feria in Eastertide
10.00am	Sundeeep
(No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today)	
Fri. 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Feria in Eastertide
10.00am	Will Bond
Sat. 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Feria in Eastertide
10.00am	Arturo Pilato RIP

## 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter psalter III

9.30am Family Mass Pro Populo

11.30am Sung Mass The O'Sullivan family

5.00pm Quiet Mass John Philbin

No Rosary & Benediction Today

*I would like to thank you for the Easter cards and gifts received. I am also grateful for the generous Easter offering that I received.*

*I will be offering Holy Mass for your intentions With my prayers*

*Fr. Kevin*

## LENT 2015

**OUR LENTEN CHARITY PROJECT THIS YEAR "GRIEF TO GRACE" - Healing the Wounds of Abuse**  
Our total so far is £2,975.23.

**If you took home one of the Lenten Project Collection Boxes, next Sunday will be the last day to return it, could you please bring it back next Sunday and leave them in the Sacristy.**

## 1st Holy Communion Classes

Resume on the 18<sup>th</sup> April

## Confirmation Classes

Resume on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April

## Children's Liturgy

Resumes on the 19<sup>th</sup> April

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time, gifts and talents, in preparing for, and celebrating the Easter Triduum. It was a very Holy and Blessed week in our parish.  
Fr. Kevin.



*If you would like a Sanctuary Lamp to burn night and day before the Blessed Sacrament either for yourself, a loved one or for a special intention please contact either the Parish Office or a sacristan.*

*The recommended donation is £5. The lamps this week are burning for Mary Frank*



We remember in prayer the sick and housebound of the Parish. We also pray for the medical profession and all carers.

Tea and Coffee is served in Alexander House after the morning Masses on Sunday. Please join us and say hello!



## Confessions Sundays –

9.00am – 9.20am

11.00am – 11.20am

4.30pm – 4.50pm

## Saturdays –

10.30am – 11.00am



## The Rosary is recited

Monday – Saturday before Mass

## PARISH PRIEST'S SURGERY

Fr. Kevin's Tuesday night surgery will resume on the 5<sup>th</sup> May at 5.30pm

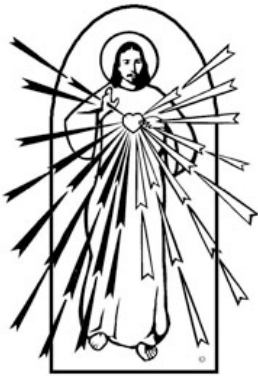
**Thank you for the collection on Good Friday for the Holy Places which raised £133.38**

## St. Joseph's Our Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher – Mrs Frances Robertson The Fairfield, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 – 2UP.

T. 020 8546 7178 E. [office@stjosephs.rbksch.org](mailto:office@stjosephs.rbksch.org) W. [stjosephsprimary.net/](http://stjosephsprimary.net/)

Boys & Girls Aged 3-11. Breakfast Club & After School Club.



## TODAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

In 2000, at the Mass for the canonization of St. Faustina, St. John Paul II proclaimed to the world that “From now on throughout the Church this Sunday will be called Divine Mercy Sunday.”

St. John Paul had actively promoted the message of St. Faustina. In his 1980 encyclical on God’s mercy, *Rich in Mercy*, he developed a scriptural and doctrinal basis for our faith in the mercy of God. By linking the revealed truth about God’s mercy to one of the most solemn Sundays after Easter itself, he illumined the fact that the liturgy already proclaimed the divine mercy. The truth has been embedded for two millennia in the worship of the Church. Once again we see an illustration of the ancient saying, “The law of faith is the law of prayer.”

Today’s Gospel centres on the theme of mercy it begins with the risen Christ appearing to the apostles on Easter night. Jesus calms his disciples by saying and giving them “Peace.” He shows them the scars of his Passion, his wounded hands and side. His glorified body retains the evidence of his saving work through his suffering, death and resurrection.

He fills them with joy and again says to them—and produces in them—“Peace.” Then he breathes on them and explains what the divine breathing means with the words, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” He gives the apostles the power of God’s mercy for the sinner, the gift of forgiving sins from God’s treasury of mercy. From Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday to the Eighth Day of Easter, the divine love song of mercy is chanted amid abundant alleluias. For centuries in her liturgy the Church has proclaimed the mercy of God through the Word of God and the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. The tables of Word and Sacrament are heaped with the promises of Divine Mercy and its grand effect in the lives of millions. The liturgy is the storehouse of the wisdom of God and a treasure chest for all the worshipers. A TIME magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a black turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, up close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation. The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope’s attempted assassin; the other man was St. John Paul II, the intended victim. The pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet tore into his own body.

In the cell, unseen in the picture, were the pope’s secretary and two security agents, along with a still photographer and videographer. St. John Paul wanted this scene to be shown around a world filled with nuclear arsenals and unforgiving hatreds. The Church has always used paintings, sculpture and architecture to communicate spiritual meanings. This was a living icon of mercy.

The Church was celebrating the 1,950th anniversary of Christ’s death and Christian redemption. The pope had been preaching forgiveness and reconciliation constantly. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words.

St. John Paul’s forgiveness was deeply Christian. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the pope’s hand to his forehead as a sign of respect. St. John Paul shook Ali Agca’s hand tenderly.

When the pope left the cell he said, “What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust.” This is an example of God’s divine mercy, the same divine mercy whose message St. Faustina witnessed.

**We shall hold the Divine Mercy devotions here at St. Raphael’s this afternoon at 3.00pm**

### GIFT AID

If you are a member of the Gift Aid scheme, please collect your new box of envelopes from the back of the Church. If you do not use the weekly envelopes but donate via direct debit, please note there are also some envelopes for you to use for special collections throughout the year.

### ANNUAL CATHEDRAL MARRIAGE MASS

Are you celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or any later wedding anniversary this year? If so, Archbishop Peter invites you to join him in celebrating a Mass for married couples at 3pm on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> at St. George’s Cathedral. Please speak to Michael in the Parish Office Or email [philandmary@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:philandmary@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 020 8651 2477 for more information.

### ALTAR BOYS RALLY

The annual Altar Boys Rally will take place at Aylesford Priory in Kent on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Bishop Hendricks will celebrate the Mass at 11.30am. Please see the poster in the porch for more details.

### ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE UP-KEEP OF ST. GEORGE’S CATHEDRAL.

On Thursday it will be the anniversary of the bombing of our Cathedral in 1941. The Cathedral was designed by the great Victorian architect Augustus Pugin, and was considered the most important Catholic Church in England when it was built. It could seat about 3,000 persons, and the building was 240 feet long by 72 feet wide. The church was solemnly opened by Bishop Wiseman on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1848. To mark the occasion Blessed Pope Pius IX sent a golden chalice and paten as a gift. Two years later the Pope restored the English hierarchy and St. George’s was chosen as the Cathedral Church of the new Diocese of Southwark, which was to cover the whole of Southern England. For the next half-century, until the opening of Westminster Cathedral, it was the centre of Catholic life in London. Although much of the original Cathedral was destroyed in the bombing and subsequent fire, a great deal of Pugin’s design remains, and is incorporated into the rebuilt Cathedral, which was re-opened by Archbishop Cowderoy in 1958. Next Sunday all Parishes in the diocese will hold the annual collection to help with the up keep of the building.