



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Chaplaincy to Kingston University

Parish Priest - Fr. Kevin Stokes

Tel 020 8616 9583 email parishpriest.straphael@gmail.com

Parish Deacon - Peter Sebastian

Tel 07921667679 email deaconpetersebastian@gmail.com

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

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

Church Manager Tel 020 8541 - 4999 email straphaelparishoffice@googlemail.com Web. www.straphael.org.uk

17th April 2016 The 4th Sunday of Easter (C) psalter week IV Good Shepherd Sunday

9.30am Family Mass	Arthur Alan Lees RIP
11.30am Sung Mass	Pro Populo
5.00pm Quiet Mass	Jackie Woolliscroft RIP

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon. 18 th April	Feria in Eastertide
10.00am	Mary Bevan RIP
Tue. 19 th April	St. Alphege
10.00am	Special Intention
Wed. 20 th April	Feria in Eastertide
10.00am	Tresa Gratton Reid RIP
Thu. 21 st April	St. Anselm
10.00am	Rosario Aguila RIP
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today	
Fri. 22 nd April	Feria in Eastertide
10.00am	In Thanksgiving
(A day of abstinence when we are asked to abstain from eating meat)	
Sat. 23 rd April	St. George
10.00am	Fred & Eileen Weller RIP

Please note during April, Mass on Wednesdays will be at 10.00am

24th April 2016 The 5th Sunday of Easter (C) psalter week I

9.30am Family Mass	Pro Populo
11.30am Sung Mass	Ella Gardiner
5.00pm Quiet Mass	David Stileman RIP

4.00pm Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



If you would like a Sanctuary Lamp to burn night and day before the Blessed Sacrament, the lamp on Our Lady's Altar or at St. Anthony's Shrine 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 Sanctuary Lamps this week are burning for - Jack & Josie Morgan

The Lamp on Our Lady's Altar is burning for - Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood

The Lamp at St. Anthony's shrine is burning - In Thanksgiving



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

ALEXANDER HOUSE RE-DECORATION

Alexander House is being repainted during April. This will mean that there will be no Children's Liturgy, Tea & Coffee or Parent & Toddler group during April and access to the hall will be very restricted. Thank you for your co-operation. Whilst the work is being carried out the Mass on Wednesdays will be celebrated at the earlier time of 10.00am.

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 W. stjosephsprimary.net/

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

The Rosary is recited daily

Monday - Saturday before Mass. Sundays at 4.00pm

1ST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

Saturdays at 10.30am in Alexander House

PARISH COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council today - 17th April at 6.00pm. Please note due to the re-decoration works in the Hall, this will take place in the Parish Office.

PARISH PRIEST'S SURGERY

Fr. Kevin's next Tuesday night surgery will be on the 26th April from 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Thank you for last Sunday's Collection

£636.74 Loose + £264 Gift Aid = £900.74

The Standing Orders for March totalled £2,640.36

There will be a 2nd Collection today in support of Ecclesiastical Education. This helps pay for the education of our future priests.

Next Sunday there will be a 2nd Collection for the maintenance of St. George's Cathedral.

HOSPITAL: If you, or a member of your family, are admitted to Kingston Hospital you need to inform ward staff that you are Roman Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain Fr. Julian his number is 8 942 2178. If you need the Sacrament of the Sick at home, please speak to Fr. Kevin.

Confessions

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

Saturdays - 10.30am - 11.00am

OUR LENTEN PROJECT 2016

Thank you to everyone who helped or contributed to this year's Lenten Project in aid of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Fr. Kevin has sent a cheque to the shrine this week for £3,565.01

There is still an outstanding prize from the Easter Egg Raffle waiting to be collected from the Parish Office. Would the lucky owner of ticket number 68, please claim their prize from the Parish Office.

Totals raised

Ash Wednesday Collection	£234.12
Donations	£229.90
Carvery Lunch	£547.32
Mother's Day Flowers	£125.10
Cake Sale	£176.19
Bingo & Sandwich Lunch	£256.00
Lent Collection Boxes	£564.31
Sponsored Walk	£700.00
Parents & Toddlers	£ 30.00
St. Patrick's day at Margaret Dixon	£400.00
Gift Aid	£104.87
Easter Egg Raffle	£ 97.20
Rosary bead bags and tote bags	£100.00

Today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, a day set aside for prayer for Vocations. When talking of vocations, Pope Francis invites us to turn our attention to Mary, the Mother of the Lord. In particular the Pope asks us to remember Mary's courage in giving her "yes"- her "fiat" to his call to her to become the mother of the messiah. Because of this courage Mary is the model of every vocation. Mary's "yes" comes at the end of the account of the Annunciation, it begins with Mary's fear. The angel appears to her and greets her in a remarkable way and Mary is afraid. God has, we might say, invaded her life in a totally unexpected way and Mary is overwhelmed and is deeply troubled. The angel seeks to reassure her and explains that God is calling her to something very special. Rather than putting her mind at rest, however, this message now gives rise to great confusion. She cannot understand how the angel's message, can fit into what she has already decided she must do with her life. It is then that the angel tells her that the Holy Spirit will come upon her and that the power of God will overshadow her. It is when Mary hears these words and believes them in her heart, that she lets go of her fear and her confusion and entrusts herself to God's will for her.

The courage of Mary is born and grounded in her faith and it is this, which enables her to say "yes". It will be the same for anyone who begins to suspect that God might be calling them to the religious life or to the priesthood. There will be moments of fear and turmoil and there will be moments of confusion and doubt - surely God cannot be asking this of me? How can this possibly fit in with the decisions I have already made about my life? How can I possibly take on such a challenging and difficult task? - but if God is calling, and if you can allow yourselves to hear in your hearts the same words the angel spoke to Mary - then you will discover within yourself the same gift of courage which Mary discovered.

If the Pope, at the end of his message, invites us to turn our attention to Mary, it is only because at the start of his message he directs our attention to Jesus the Good Shepherd. To be called to the religious life or to the priesthood is to be called to walk in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd. This of course is the call to every Christian but in our Catholic tradition we know that we cannot on our own, be faithful to this call. We need people to inspire us by their example, by the radical nature of their own fidelity and by the challenge their lives and ministry set before us. This is the great task of priests and religious.

The Pope calls on religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" to the beauty and power of the gospel - to allow Christ to be present, through them, in the lives of his people as their Good Shepherd, who leads and guides them into safe places.

As we reflect on the extraordinary nature of the call to religious life and to the priesthood, we might be tempted to think that it is too exalted - too demanding a call for us. After all, who would dare to think that he or she is actually worthy of such a call or perfectly equipped to meet the challenges? But this question only brings us back to of Mary. She too recognized her unworthiness and spoke of it in the hymn we know of as the Magnificat: "God has looked upon me in my lowliness - the Almighty has done great things for me". But Mary realized that it was not a question of her worthiness of her qualifications. It was a question of the Holy Spirit being with her and the power of God overshadowing her. If God is calling, it is the same for us. He is also assuring us of his presence with us to enable us to do and be, through his grace, what we could never do or be on our own.

So today, we pray for all those whom God is calling - both those who already have some sense, perhaps as yet very faint, of that call and those who, for whatever reason, have as yet been unable to hear the call in their hearts. May the prayers of Mary support them in their journey and may they, and we, know that the Holy Spirit is with us and that the power of the Most High God covers us with its shadow.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Deacon David Howell will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood at 12.30pm on the 16th July at St. George's Cathedral Southwark – to which all are invited. He will celebrate his 1st Mass, here at St. Raphael's, at 11.30am the following day, Sunday 17th July. This will be followed by a garden party in the church grounds. – More information nearer the time.

If anyone would be able to offer a room, for part or all of that weekend, to some of David's fellow seminarians and old classmates who will be travelling from different parts of the country, please send an email to revdavidmartinhowell@googlemail.com

Thank you!

VISIT TO BROMPTON ORATORY FOR GUIDED TOUR AND SUNG VESPERS FOR THE FEAST OF ST. PHILIP NERI

Deacon Peter has arranged a guided tour of Brompton Oratory for Kingston University students and staff on Wednesday 25th May at 4.00 pm, followed by beautiful Choral Vespers and Benediction. Parishioners of St. Raphael's are also welcome. The Oratory is a magnificent neo-classical church and the home of priests dedicated to the colourful saint, Philip Neri. There is no charge for the guided tour though you may wish to make a small donation. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Peter (see newsletter header for contact details).

VACANCY FOR HEAD TEACHER AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Governors invite applications to our Parish Primary School. The successful candidate for this rewarding post will be an inspirational leader and committed Catholic. They will work closely with the governing body and parish to help us achieve excellence and promote Catholicity. Information packs are available at www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk/Welcome
Closing date: 9th May 2016.

HELPING SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS - PLEASE DO COME TO OUR MEETINGS

Even if you do not have an official invitation from the Diocese to come to our meetings at St. Raphael's to learn about how we might help sick and retired priests, you are very welcome to just come along. The meetings are this evening, Sunday 17th April at 6.00pm and next Sunday, 24th April at 6.00 pm in Alexander House.

'CELEBRATE'

'Celebrate' Twickenham takes place over the weekend 18th – 19th June at St. Mary's University, Twickenham. It is a 'faith filled fun event' - combining good Catholic teaching, inspirational speakers and Celebration of the Liturgy. For more information plus booking form please visit their website www.celebrateconference.org/weekends/twickenham/