



# 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](mailto:parishpriest.straphael@gmail.com)

Parish Deacon - Peter Sebastian

Tel 07921667679 email [deaconpetersebastian@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:straphaelparishoffice@googlemail.com) Web. [www.straphael.org.uk](http://www.straphael.org.uk)

## 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (A) psalter III

### Gaudete Sunday

9.30am Family Mass Margaret O'Malley  
11.30am Sung Mass Denis Jennings RIP  
5.00pm Quiet Mass Pro Populo

### No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today

Mon. 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Our Lady of Guadalupe  
10.00am Audrey & Frank Clark  
Tue. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. St. Lucy  
10.00am Colin Foster RIP  
Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. St. John of the Cross  
12 noon Audray Lea RIP  
Thu. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. Advent Feria  
10.00am Rev. John Moth  
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today  
Fri. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Advent Feria  
10.00am David Kelly  
A day of abstinence when we are asked to abstain from eating meat  
Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. Advent Feria  
10.00am Jim Mulloy

## 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (A) psalter IV

9.30am Family Mass Bernie & Martin Family & Francesca Poulter  
11.30am Sung Mass The deceased members of the McGarry Family  
5.00pm Quiet Mass Pro Populo  
6.15pm Parish Carol Service

### APPOINTMENTS WITH FR. KEVIN

If you need to speak with Fr. Kevin regarding a pastoral or sacramental matter please email [parishpriest.straphael@gmail.com](mailto:parishpriest.straphael@gmail.com) to make a convenient appointment.

### 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. Julius, his number is **8 942 2178**.

If you need the Sacrament of the Sick at home, please speak to Fr. Kevin.

### CHURCH CLEANING

Every Wednesday at 9.00am - please come and help keep our church looking beautiful for Our Lord.

### THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

£631.98 loose + £347.42 Gift Aid = £979.40

Plus £282.34 for Christmas flowers and decorations

The Standing Orders for November came to £2,662.50

### Tea & Coffee

after the 9.30am Mass today. Please join us and say hello.

**(Last one until January)**

### KINGSTON UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC SOCIETY

St. Raphael's is the Catholic Parish Church for the University and students and staff are most welcome at all our Masses and other events in the parish. Deacon Peter is the Catholic Chaplain to the Kingston University Catholic Society and he is available to help and support all students and staff. (See above for his contact details)The students of the Catholic Society meet every week after the 5.00 pm Mass at St. Raphael's. Please join us for refreshments, prayer, discussion and meditation on the scriptures.

### The Rosary is recited

Monday - Saturday before Mass



### RCIA

Meets on Fridays at 7.30pm in the Parish Library.

For more information contact Deacon Peter whose details are on the Newsletter header.

*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 - A Private Intention*

The Lamp at St. Anthony's Shrine is burning - In thanksgiving for a favour received

### 1<sup>st</sup> HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

Saturday at 10.30am in Alexander House. (The programme is now full)

### Confessions Sundays

9.00am - 9.20am & 4.30pm - 4.50pm

### Saturdays

10.30am - 11.00am

### Children's Liturgy

During the 9.30am Mass (Last one until January)

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



### St. Joseph's Our Catholic Primary School

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.





The Christmas carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," with its haunting melody, dates back to the 16th century. It has generally been assumed to consist of twelve nonsense verses built around a pretty melody. However the carol was written by the English Jesuits of the 16th century as a catechetical device and it is far from filled with nonsensical verses.

The carol was written to educate the faithful in the doctrines of the faith and yet not be obvious, using obscure symbols to hide its true meaning in time of persecution in 16th century England when there was a need for secrecy and deception.

"My true love" refers to God - "me" is the individual Catholic. The "twelve lords a leaping" are the twelve basic beliefs of the Catholic Church as outlined in the Apostles Creed. The "eleven pipers piping" are the eleven Apostles who remained faithful after the treachery of Judas. The "ten ladies dancing" are the Ten Commandments. The "nine drummers drumming" are the nine choirs of angels which in those days of class distinction were thought important. The "eight maids a milking" are the Eight Beatitudes. The "seven swans a swimming" are the Seven Sacraments. The "six geese a laying" are the Six Commandments of the Church or the six days of creation. The "five golden rings" are the first five books of the Old Testament called the Torah that are generally considered the most sacred and important of all the Old Testament. The "four calling birds" are the Four Gospels. The "three French hens" are the Three Persons in God or the three gifts of the Wise Men. The "two turtle doves" represent the two natures in Jesus: human and divine or the two Testaments, Old and New. The "partridge" is the piece de resistance, Jesus himself, and the "pear tree" is the Cross.

### MASS TIMES OVER CHRISTMAS

**Christmas Eve** – 2 Masses 5.00pm & Midnight

**Christmas Day** – 2 Masses 9.30am & 11.30am

Full details in next week's newsletter.

Once again we are grateful to Capt. Haresign at the T.A. Centre for allowing us to park from 4.00pm – 6.30pm on Christmas Eve at the front car park of the T.A. Centre.

### CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

We need extra help cleaning the church for Christmas on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9.00am. Please come along and give a hand to make sure our church looks sparkling for Christmas. Please don't leave it to someone else!

### YOUTH 2000 NEW YEAR RETREAT

For 16 - 35 year olds from the 29<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> January. For more information see the poster in the porch, tel. 01328 821153 or visit their website [www.youth2000.org](http://www.youth2000.org)

### Our 2016 Crib Appeal - The Catholic Children's Society



As one of the oldest Charities in the UK, The Catholic Children's Society have a long and proud history of helping those in need and providing a range of services across the diocese of Southwark. They deliver a range of counselling services in schools to pupils who may be experiencing bullying, cyber bullying, or suffering emotional turmoil. The Rainbows Bereavement Training

Programme for schools allows a Parish Priest or Head Teacher to apply for a one off payment to assist a family known to them as being in immediate need of financial support and 100% of all donations made goes directly to those in need. Your contributions to this year's Crib Appeal will go to this fund and be used to help people in need living near to you.

Please be as generous as you can

### PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS WITH MASS TIMES OVER CHRISTMAS

There are some bundles of cards at the back of the Church giving details of services over Christmas. Please take a bundle and post through your neighbours letter boxes or give one to anyone you know who may be thinking of coming to Mass over Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The collection taken at all Masses on Christmas Day is your personal offering to Fr. Kevin our parish priest. This collection forms part of his income to support his personal needs and expenses during the year ahead. Christmas Offering envelopes are available for your use at the back of the Church. (If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme, please use the special envelope in your packet.) Thank you for your kind and generous support.

### THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - TALK BY SEBASTIAN MORELLO, CCF

**This Friday - 16<sup>th</sup> December 7.30 pm in Alexander House**

As part of our Advent preparation, we have invited Sebastian Morello to talk about the Incarnation. Sebastian is the Adviser for Catholic formation for the South-west London Area of Southwark Diocese at the Centre for Catholic Formation (CCF), Tooting Bec. He is also the co-ordinator for the "Rite of Election" for adults under instruction for Baptism and Confirmation and oversees the Diploma in Catechesis. Before joining the CCF, he worked for Family Life International and the Catholic Truth Society.

### TEA COFFEE & CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Today will be our last Children's liturgy and Sunday Tea & Coffee until the 15<sup>th</sup> January.

### RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS POSTAGE STAMPS

The Christmas Stamps are now on sale at Post Offices, but if you want religious ones you have to ask for them otherwise you will be giving the non religious Christmas ones! This is important otherwise the Post Office and those who encourage secularism will say that there is no call for religious stamps at Christmas.



*St. Raphael's Parish  
Carol Service*

Next Sunday - 18<sup>th</sup> December

at 6.15pm

Followed by mulled wine  
& mince pies

*All are welcome*