



# 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](http://www.straphael.org.uk)



**Tea & Coffee** after the 9.30am Mass today. Please join us and say hello. This will be the last session until the 10<sup>th</sup> January

There will be **Children's Liturgy** today during the 9.30am Mass.

We will then have a break  
Until the 10<sup>th</sup> January

**1<sup>st</sup> HOLY COMMUNION CLASS**  
Saturday in Alexander House  
at 10.30am

**Thank you for last Sunday's Collection**

£605.07 loose

£277.80 Gift Aid

= £882.87

Plus £414.88 for Christmas flowers and decorations for the Church.

The Direct debits for November totalled £2,194.00

**PARENT & CHILDREN'S GROUP**

Meets on Wednesday morning in Alexander House from 9.30am -11.00am

This will be the last session until the 13<sup>th</sup> January

**CONVERSATIONAL ITALIAN** takes place in the Library on Friday mornings at 10.30am - suggested donation of £1.50

**KINGSTON UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC STUDENT SOCIETY**

Every Wednesday between 5.00pm - 6.00pm Pastoral hour with Deacon Peter in the Quiet Room, Faith Centre, Kingston University. Followed by society meeting at 6.00pm. For more details contact Deacon Peter on the number at the top of this Newsletter.

## 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday (C) psalter week III

9.30am Family Mass

Margaret O'Malley

11.30am Sung Mass

Pro Populo

5.00pm Quiet Mass

Colin Foster RIP

**Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 4.00pm**

Mon. 14<sup>th</sup> December

St. John of the Cross

10.00am

Michael Gerard Burke RIP

Tue. 15<sup>th</sup> December

Advent Feria

10.00am

David Stileman RIP

Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> December

Advent Feria

12.00noon

Patricia Single & Family

Thu. 17<sup>th</sup> December

Advent Feria

10.00am

Joseph Greene RIP

(No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today)

4.00pm

The Annual St. Joseph's School Carol Service in the Church

Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> December

Advent Feria

10.00am

The Holy Souls

(A day of abstinence when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat)

Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> December

Advent Feria

10.00am

Private Intention

## 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (C) psalter week IV

9.30am Family Mass

Francesca Poulter & the Berni Family

11.30am Sung Mass

Denis Jennings RIP

5.00pm Quiet Mass

Pro Populo

**No Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today**

**6.15pm Annual Parish Carol Service**



If you would like a Sanctuary Lamp to burn night and day before either the Blessed Sacrament, 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 Rosary is recited daily

Monday - Saturday before Mass and at 4.00pm on Sunday



**HOSPITAL:** If you, or a member of your family, are admitted to Kingston Hospital you need to inform ward staff that you are a Roman Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain Fr. Julian. (His number is 0208 942 2178) If you need the Sacrament of the Sick at home, please speak to Fr. Kevin.



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

The Sanctuary Lamps this week are burning for **Wyn & Jack Gomer**

The Lamp on Our Lady's Altar is burning for **Angeline, Matthew & Francis Rodoricks**  
The lamp by St. Anthony's Statue is burning for **Lydia Solomon's intentions**

**Confessions: Saturdays** 10.30am - 11.00am

**Sundays** 9.00am - 9.15am & 4.30pm - 4.50pm

### R.C.I.A.

Meets on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Library.

### CHURCH CLEANING

Wednesday mornings at 9.00am. Please spare half an hour to come and help.

### 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.

## THE YEAR OF MERCY



### 'Merciful like the Father'

The logo and the motto for the year of faith, together provide a fitting summary of what this Jubilee Year is all about. The motto 'Merciful Like the Father' is taken from the Gospel of St. Luke and serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38). The logo presents a small 'Summa Theologiae' of the theme of mercy and also represents an image quite important to the early Church - that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption. The logo has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

#### Here are ten suggestions for things you could do in this year of mercy

1. Commit to memory the Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy. Use these as an inspiration for your own life of mercy.
2. Commit yourself to some action throughout the year which will show you want to be a bearer of God's mercy (e.g. through one of the works of mercy).
3. When you look at holy pictures of Jesus, or a crucifix, ask for the awareness of his mercy in your life.
4. Make a commitment to avail yourself of God's mercy in the great Sacrament of Confession.
5. Undertake a Jubilee Year of Mercy pilgrimage.
6. Take part in the "24 hours for the Lord" on 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
7. When you pray through the Sunday scriptures, ask God that the power of his mercy may come in your personal and community life.
8. Choose a psalm of mercy for the year and pray it regularly.
9. Take a patron saint for the year whose life of mercy impresses you and regularly ask their help in your own life.
10. Commit yourself to regularly praying and reflecting on the Salve Regina and prayers of the Divine Mercy.

For more information please take one of the pamphlets from the back of the church called "Year of Mercy – preparing for the Journey" or visit [www.ctscatholiccompass.org/year-of-mercy](http://www.ctscatholiccompass.org/year-of-mercy)

There are a few copies of the **2016 Southwark Catholic Directories** available at the back of the Church costing £3.50. Please put the money in the box marked 'Newspapers'

Today we celebrate "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12<sup>th</sup> (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" is the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the mid-point in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.

Liturgically, the colours lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-coloured vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-coloured.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." This celebration is a reminder that as we await the coming of God, we do so not with fear, but with tremendous joy. Today's Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, reflects this joy: "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone - the Lord is very near."

#### 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.

#### PARISH 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.

#### ST. ANTHONY'S LAMP

We have a new votive candle by St. Antony's Statue. The candle burns for seven days and if you would like it be lit for an intention, please contact Michael in the Parish Office. The suggested donation is £5.00

#### BIG CHURCH CHRISTMAS CLEAN

We shall be having our big Christmas church clean on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 9.00am. **Please come along and help!**

*St. Raphael's Parish  
Carol Service*

Next Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at  
6.15pm Followed by mulled wine  
& mince pies

*All are welcome*

