



St. Raphael's Church

Catholic Parish Church & Chaplaincy to Kingston University
Parish Priest - Rev. Fr. Michael Lovell
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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

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. (Tel. 8 546 4633.) If you need the Sacrament of the Sick at home, please speak to Fr. Michael.

GETTING MARRIED?

Please note that it is a diocesan requirement that you must give a minimum of six months notice to get married in any Catholic Church in this country. If you are planning to get married, please speak to Fr. Michael as soon as possible and definitely before you book any dates /venues etc.

THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAYS COLLECTION

£632.21 Loose + £294.00 Gift Aid = £926.21

Plus £345.44 for Christmas Flowers

There will be no Tea and coffee after the 9.30 Mass today

(The hall is being prepared for Fr. Michael's reception after the 11.30am Mass)

There will be no tea and coffee after either Mass next Sunday. We will resume on the 7th January.

RCIA

Resumes on Thursday 4th January.

"ST RAPHAEL'S LITTLE CHERUBS" MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP

Meet on Monday's at 10.30am in Alexander House. This week will be the last before they have a break for Christmas, they resume on Monday 15th January.

CATHOLIC STUDENT SOCIETY

Resumes on Tuesday 9th January

1ST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

Resumes on Saturday 6th January.

THURSDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

This Thursday, we will then resume after Christmas on Thursday 11th January.

SUNDAY ROSARY & BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Resumes on Sunday 14th January.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

During the 9.30am Mass today.

17th December 2017 - 3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday (B)

9.30am Mass with Hymns Ernest Alwanger RIP

11.30am Sung Mass Denis Jennings RIP

5.00pm Quiet Mass Missa Pro Populo

(No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today)

Parish Carol Service 6.30pm

Mon. 18th December Advent Feria
10.00am Phyllis Graham RIP

Tue. 19th December Advent Feria
10.00am Denis Curtin RIP

Wed. 20th December Advent Feria
12.00noon Anne Hughes

Thu. 21st December Advent Feria
10.00am Sheila Furlong RIP

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for vocations to the priesthood. Concludes with Benediction at 12.00noon.

Fri. 22nd December Advent Feria
10.00am Josie & Peter Joyce RIP

A day of abstinence when we are asked to abstain from eating meat

Sat. 23rd December Advent Feria
10.00am Fr. Gerry O'Brien

24th December 2017 - 4th Sunday of Advent (Morning Masses) (B)

9.30am Family Mass Margaret Rhoades RIP

11.30am Mass with Hymns Missa Pro Populo

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Children's Mass Peter Houghton RIP

6.00pm Mass with Carols Missa Pro Populo

12.00pm Solemn Midnight Mass Alexander Raphael RIP

Christmas Day

9.30am Mass with Carols Patrick & Agnes Ward RIP

11.30am Mass with Carols Denis Curtin RIP

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 & Wyn Gomev

The Lamp at St. Anthony's Shrine is burning-
The Holy Souls

Confessions Sundays

9.00am - 9.20am &
4.30pm - 4.50pm

Saturdays

10.30am - 11.00am



The Rosary is recited

Monday - Saturday
before Mass &
4.00pm on Sundays

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

W. www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk

Head teacher - Mrs Sarah Keefe



A visiting tourist left his hotel room on a Sunday morning, looking for a church. He approached a policeman and asked him for directions to the nearest church, the policeman directed him to a particular church, which happened to be Catholic. He thanked him and was about to walk off when he turned and asked, "Why have you recommended that particular church? There must be other churches nearby that you could have recommended." The policeman smiled and replied, "I'm not a churchgoer myself, but I have noticed that the people who come out of that church are the happiest looking people in town. I thought that would be the kind of church you would like to attend."

Today is Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday. Joy fills the texts of today's Mass. The entrance antiphon tells us to 'Rejoice in the Lord always'. In the collect we pray that we may 'attain the joys of so great a salvation'. The first reading speaks of the prophet rejoicing heartily in the Lord. The psalm exclaims 'my soul rejoices in my God' and the 2nd reading tells us to rejoice always. It is because the Church wants us to take a break from our Advent penance—although you wonder if any Advent penance is really going on, with all the Christmas shopping and Christmas parties going on!

The first question that comes to mind is: Rejoice, why? What about? Do we have any good reasons to rejoice? What is it that makes us happy these days? Hopefully not just the material frills and perks of the season, such as the food, presents and parties –

there must be better and deeper reasons for us to be joyful.

In today's gospel we hear about John the Baptist, a powerful voice and a powerful witness to Christ. People were drawn to him because of his austere lifestyle. He made a difference. As somebody once said, "Do not give an explanation of your faith unless they ask you; but live in such a way that they will ask you." John the Baptist was that sort of person. Some thought him to be the Christ, or perhaps Elijah, or the Prophet. However, he did not take advantage of the people's mistaken opinion about him. He knew his role and stuck to it. He was not the light, but only a witness to the light. He gave Christ the place of honour. That's what we must do - put Christ, at the very centre of our life, at the centre of our Christmas celebration; not overshadowed by everything else that happens at this time of the year. Amid the noises of the Christmas parties we must strive to find some time and place for silence and prayer – a place for him.

Finally, Isaiah reminds us that we must provide reasons for joy to others. We must be messengers of joy; he tells us "The Lord has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor!" This puts our Christmas celebration in focus. Our Christmas will be truly joyful, happy and meaningful only if we bring these things to others and share with them God's blessings, just as God the Father has shared with us his most precious gift—his only Son. Sharing is another name for Christmas.

TODAY

During the 11.30am Mass this morning, we welcome Bishop Paul Hendricks our Auxiliary Bishop, who will formally induct Fr. Michael as our new Parish Priest. This will be followed by light refreshments in Alexander House.

We are honoured to welcome our local Member of Parliament the Right Hon. Ed Davey to this Mass

Then at 6.30pm this evening, we will have our Annual Parish Carol Service. This will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine. We are honoured to welcome back to the Parish, councillor and Mrs Geoff Austin former Mayor of Kingston who will represent the Mayor this evening.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Our 1st Mass of Christmas will be a children's Mass on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm

This will be followed by a Vigil Mass with Carols at 6.00pm.

We will have traditional Midnight Mass at 12 midnight. On Christmas Day there will be Masses with Carols at 9.30am & 11.30am.

Please note as the Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Advent, we are obliged to hear Mass on Sunday Morning and then again for Christmas – either one of the evening Masses on Christmas Eve or one of the Masses on Christmas Day. The Masses on Sunday Morning do not fulfil your Christmas Mass obligation.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

The Christmas offering envelopes are now available at the back of the Church. The Christmas and Easter offerings are traditionally your personal gift to your Parish Priest.

If you are a member of the Gift Aid scheme, please use the special 'Christmas Offering' envelope at the back of your box of envelopes.



**FRIENDS
OF THE
HOLY LAND**

OUR 2017 CRIB APPEAL – 'FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND'

This year the money collected at our Christmas Crib will be donated to the 'Friends of the Holy Land' this is a non-political Christian Charity supporting the Christian population of the Holy Land supporting them to develop a resilient and enduring Christian community.

Seventy years ago Christians made up 29% of the population of the Holy Land. Today they account for less than 2%. Without support, the Holy places of the Bible, the birthplace of Christianity, could become cultural museums with no Christian presence at all.

Living as a Christian in today's Holy Land is challenging. There are travel restrictions, water shortages, limited access to medical or social care and poverty – not to mention the increasing fear of violence and persecution.

Please be as generous as you can to support this worthy cause.

There are some copies of the 2018 Southwark Catholic Directory available at the back of the Church. These cost £3.50 please put the money in the box marked Newspapers. There are also still some parish diaries left at the back of the church costing £2.00