



# 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  
Church Manager Tel 020 8541 - 4999 email straphaelparishoffice@googlemail.com

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

## 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015 The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (B) Psalter week IV

9.30am Family Mass	Angeline Pini
11.30am Sung Mass	Pro Populo
5.00pm Quiet Mass	Angela Woolliscroft RIP

No Rosary & Benediction

Mon. 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)
10.00am	Brigid Power
Tue. 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	St. Blaise
(Followed by the blessing of throats)	
10.00am	Danilo, Isaura & Woldemar Klaes RIP
Wed. 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria in Ordinary Time
12.00 noon	Anne Bennett
Thu. 5 <sup>th</sup> February	St. Agatha
10.00am	Vera Reid
(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, concluding with Benediction at 12.00 noon)	
Fri. 6 <sup>th</sup> February	St. Paul Miki & Companions
10.00am	In reparation for abortion
(A day of abstinence when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat)	
Sat. 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Our Lady
10.00am	Dorothy Hunter

## 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015 The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (B) Psalter week I

9.30am Family Mass	Carole (Welfare)
11.30am Sung Mass	Michael Fitzgerald
5.00pm Quiet Mass	Pro Populo

No Rosary & Benediction

## Parish Diary This Week

### TUESDAY

**Blessing of throats**  
After 10.00am Mass

**Parish Priest Surgery**  
5.30pm - 7.00pm  
Parish Office

### WEDNESDAY

**Church Cleaning**  
9.00am  
Church

**Parent & Children's Group**  
9.30am - 11.00am  
Alexander House

**Confirmation**  
7.00pm

The Upper Room

### THURSDAY

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
10.30am - 12noon

### SATURDAY

**Confessions.**  
10.30am - 11.00am

**1st Holy Communion Classes  
& Anchor Course**  
10.30am - 12.00 noon  
Alexander House

### SUNDAY

**Children's Liturgy**  
during 9.30am Mass

**Tea & Coffee in Alexander House after the morning Masses**



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 **Dorothy Hunter**



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

And at other times by reasonable request.

### The Rosary is recited daily

Monday - Saturday before Mass



### WE WELCOME INTO GOD'S FAMILY

Dylan & Grace who were baptised here recently. May the Lord continue the good work he has started.

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

### 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.

Of your Charity, Please pray for the repose of the Soul of **Una Annett.**

Her Requiem Mass will be here at St. Raphael's on 10<sup>th</sup> February at 11.15am

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - CANDLEMAS



On Monday we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

The Readings give us an important insight into understanding the profound mystery of the Lord's Presentation in the Temple. The reading from the Prophet Malachi says, *'I am sending my messenger to*

*prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek'*. This messenger, sent to prepare the way, was St. John the Baptist. He was born 6 months before Jesus, after him the Lord himself will come. Jesus's presentation signifies God's entrance into His temple - God made man presenting Himself to those who were already searching for Him.

The Gospel introduces us to different people and events that in themselves provide numerous lessons and themes for further reflection. First of all, Mary and Joseph respected the law by offering the sacrifice prescribed for the poor, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people dedicated to prayer and fasting and so their strong religious spirit rendered them able to recognize the Messiah.

In this sense we can see in the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple an extension of the 'Pro Orantibus Day' (For those who pray) that is celebrated on the feast of the Presentation of Mary (21<sup>st</sup> November). On this day, the Church demonstrates its gratitude to all those in the community that dedicate themselves in a privileged way to prayer, to those who have a particular religious vocation and to the contemplative life. In the figure of the venerable Simeon, Jesus's presentation in the temple, also reminds us that prayer and contemplation are not a waste of time or an obstacle to charity. On the contrary, time could not be better spent than in prayer. Only those who pray and offer penance, like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an ample interior vision, and they have learned how to love with a heart full of charity.

Pope St. John Paul II explains that, Simeon's prophecy of Mary's sufferings is like a second Annunciation to her, for they tell of how He is to accomplish his mission, in misunderstanding and sorrow.' (Redemptoris Mater, n16) The archangel's announcement was a fount of incredible joy because it pertained to Jesus's messianic royalty and the supernatural character. Simeon's announcement instead spoke of the Lord's work of redemption that He would complete associating Himself through suffering to His Mother.

Simeon's prophecy also announces that Christ will be 'a sign of contradiction'. St. Cyril of Alexandria interpreted the words 'sign of contradiction' as the cross. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that the cross is 'a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles' It is a sign of contradiction in the sense that to those without faith it appears as foolish while to those who recognize its power, the cross reveals salvation and life.

## EDUCATION SUNDAY

Today is Education Sunday. There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection in aid of the Catholic Education Service. This goes to help support the 2000 Catholic Schools that educate 800,000 children in this country.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Please pray for the children of the parish who are preparing for their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion. They will make their 1<sup>st</sup> Confession next Saturday morning.

## CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC POLICY INTERNSHIPS

Now in its twelfth year, this scheme will provide eight recently graduated Catholics with an intensive experience of political and social action in a spiritual context. Four interns will be placed with Christian MPs at Westminster, one in a parliamentary support role within the Secretariat, two in public policy with CAFOD and CSAN, one in a media internship in Archbishop's House Westminster.

In addition to educational work experience, all internships also involve individually guided retreats and spiritual guidance throughout the year, studying Christian ethics and Catholic social teaching at Heythrop College as well as exploring the political landscape and the Church's involvement in social action through a series of events. For more information please visit [www.cbcew.org.uk/interns](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/interns)

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Please note the Parish Office is Closed until Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

## FEAST OF ST. BLAISE – BLESSING OF THROATS

On Tuesday we keep the feast of St. Blaise. Each year on this feast day, after Mass, the priest blesses the throats of those present. He holds two candles under the throat and recites the following prayer.

*"Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".*

## PREAMBLES TO FAITH.

Two talks exploring the importance of reason and philosophy in the New Evangelization at 7.45pm on Mondays 23<sup>rd</sup> February & 2<sup>nd</sup> March at St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre, New Malden.

For more details contact the Centre for Catholic Formation on 0208 672 7684 or [office@ccftootingbec.org.uk](mailto:office@ccftootingbec.org.uk)

## ROSARY AND BENEDICTION

Our Sunday Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will resume on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Exposition on Thursday mornings resumes this week. On Thursdays we pray especially for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, we remember especially David our seminarian in Rome who God willing will be ordained a deacon this summer. If you have time on Thursday please come along and spend some time in quiet prayer before Our Lord.

## PARISH PRIEST'S SURGERY

Tuesday evenings at the Parish Office from 5.30pm – 7.00pm. no appointment needed. This is the best time to speak to Fr. Kevin about planning a baptism or marriage, school application forms or other routine matters.