



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 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 straphaeloffice@googlemail.com

Web. www.straphael.org.uk

ALL ARE WELCOME

9th February 2014 The 5th Sunday of the Year (A) Psalter Week I

9.30am Family Mass Sandra Coombs

11.30am Sung Mass Alec Campbell

5.00pm Quiet Mass The People of the Parish

4pm Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon. 10th February	St. Scholastica
10.00am	Fr. Dominic O'Sullivan RIP
Tue. 11th February	Our Lady of Lourdes
10.00am	Olga Villena de Stevenson RIP
Wed. 12th February	Feria in Ordinary Time
12.00 noon	Theresa Campbell
(Tea and coffee is available after this Mass)	
Thu. 13th February	Feria in Ordinary Time
10.00am	Andrew Wilson RIP
(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.20am to 12 noon)	
Fri. 14th February	S.S. Cyril & Methodius
10.00am	John O'Callaghan RIP
(A day of abstinence when Catholics must abstain from eating meat)	
Sat. 15th February	Our Lady
10.00am	Maureen Keane RIP

16th February 2014 The 6th Sunday of the Year (A) Psalter Week II

9.30am Family Mass The People of the Parish

11.30am Sung Mass Nora Frost RIP

5.00pm Quiet Mass Rachel Willson RIP

4pm Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



Tea and Coffee is served in Alexander House after the morning Masses on Sunday and the lunchtime Mass on Wednesday.

Please join us and say hello!

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 the sacristan. The Recommended donation is £5. The Lamps this Week are burning for

Jismy Boris & Peter Weiss



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

Thank you for last Sunday's Collection £753.95 loose + £255.80 Gift Aid = £1009.75 There will be a 2nd collection next week for the Catholic Education Service

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

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.



The Rosary is recited
Monday - Saturday
before Mass
Sunday 4pm

Parish Diary

TUESDAY

No Parish Priest's Surgery
This week

WEDNESDAY

Church Cleaning
Before Mass

Parent & Children's Group
9.45am - 11.30am
Alexander House

Tea & Coffee after Mass
Alexander House

Open Door Prayer Group
7.30pm Church

RCIA

7.30pm

The Library

THURSDAY

Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament

from after Mass until
Benediction 12 noon
Praying for Vocations

SATURDAY

Confessions.

10.30am - 11.00am

No 1st Holy Communion
Classes today
(Half Term)

SUNDAY

Children's Liturgy during
9.30am Mass

Tea & Coffee Alexander
House after the morning
Masses

Rosary & Benediction
4.00pm

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 from 8.00am. After School Club until 6.00pm

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

At the heart of Lourdes stands an encounter of love between a child and a mother, between Bernadette Soubirous and Mary, Mother of God and our mother. That meeting forever changed the face of a small French village and reawakened the spiritual yearnings of people, making Lourdes a worldwide centre of pilgrimage.

In 1858, with a population of little more than 3,000, Lourdes was an obscure village amid the Pyrenees in south-western France. Among its poorest citizens were members of the Soubirous family. With his wife, Louise, and their four children, Francois, a miller by trade, had fallen upon hard times. In 1857 they were forced to live in the Cachot, an abandoned prison.

On Thursday, February 11th, 1858, life changed dramatically and decisively for Bernadette. On a cold, damp day, her simple search for firewood initiated an amazing encounter with heaven. Bernadette, her sister Toinette and a friend, Jeanne Abadie, were searching for firewood. At a rocky recess in a place known as Massabielle, where the river currents washed up driftwood and other debris, Bernadette had a vision that left an indelible imprint on her heart and began the story that is Lourdes.

In this grotto she saw a "Lady dressed in white with a blue sash and a yellow rose on each foot, the colour of her rosary." Who the "Lady" was became the subject of much debate. There were 18 apparitions in all, the last one occurring on July 16th, 1858.

As news reached the townspeople and neighbouring districts, people flocked to the grotto. With the discovery of a spring of water, and the news of healings taking place, the crowds grew.

For Bernadette it was a time of private ecstasy and public hell. She was mocked and ridiculed by some. A 14-year-old illiterate child, she was hounded by police and local authorities, interrogated and even threatened with prison. In the face of this adversity, she remained steadfast. Even the local priest, the Abbé Peyramale, who was sceptical at first, eventually believed her.

He became convinced when, at the ninth apparition on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, the "Lady" said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Peyramale knew that a poor, uneducated child with no formal religious training or doctrinal knowledge could never have invented such a title—a dogma only proclaimed by the Church in 1854.

After four years of stringent Church investigation, the clear evidence of Bernadette's credibility and many cases of inexplicable healing, the local bishop, in a pastoral letter dated January 18, 1862, declared, "Truly, the Blessed Virgin Mary did appear to Bernadette."

Bernadette remained in Lourdes until 1866 when she joined the Sisters of Charity and Christian Learning at Nevers in northern France. She remained there until her death on April 16, 1879.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Amongst other things, in aid of this year's Lenten Project we are having the following events.

Bingo and lasagna night - Sunday 9th March

Quiz night - Sunday 6th April - make up a team of no more than 8, or just buy a ticket and join a team on the night. Tickets £7 adults, £5 children. A buffet of cheeses and breads will be provided, but feel free to bring your own drinks and nibbles.

More information to follow shortly.

PARISH PRIEST'S SURGERY

Please note there will be no Parish Priest's Surgery this week. It will resume next week.

OUR PARISH LIBRARY

We are pleased to announce that the Parish Library is now ready for use. Our thanks go to all involved in the hard work undertaken preparing this for the Parish. We need volunteers to open the Library on Wednesday and Sunday Mornings. If you are interested, in finding out more information, please speak to Fr. Kevin.

TWO ANNIVERSARIES

On Friday it will be the anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Paul and Bishop Patrick, please remember them in your Prayers.

On Monday it will be the Anniversary of the death of Fr. Dominic our Parish Priest from 1986 - 2002. Please pray for the repose of his Soul.

COUNTERS ROTA

The diocesan auditors have recommended that we now count the Sunday collection on a Monday morning rather than Sunday afternoon. Obviously this will mean that some of our volunteers who currently count the collection will be unable to continue so to do. Could all those on the present rota please advise Michael in the Office if they are able to continue on a Monday morning so he can draw up a fresh rota. Many thanks.

CHURCH CAR PARK

Could any parishioners who use the Church Car Park when not using the Church, please check with Fr. Kevin or the Parish Office. First priority must always be given to those who are either attending Mass or visiting the Church and it may also be required for a Funeral, Wedding or another service outside of the normal Mass times. In addition, in the past, we have had problems with unauthorized parking. As we do have a contract with a company who will ticket any unknown cars, it is important that we know who is parked to prevent any misunderstandings! Thank you for your co-operation.

THE OPEN DOOR PRAYER GROUP

The prayer group will meet on the following Wednesdays at 7.30pm 12th February, 26th February, 12th March, 26th March, 2nd April & 9th April

TWO LETTERS OF THANKS

Fr. Kevin has recently received two letters of thanks **The Little Sisters of the Poor**, to whom we sent our Crib Offerings, wrote

'Many thanks to you and all your parishioners for the most generous donation you sent us we are deeply grateful. We are able to continue with our work of care and service to the elderly because of the generosity and support of our benefactors and we struggle to find the words to say thank you.....'

Missio, to whom the collection on World Mission Sunday is sent, wrote

'...Please assure your parishioners that their kindness will help missionaries across the world continue their work at the service of the poor and vulnerable. Please also encourage their prayers for all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that they may remain strong in their witness to Christ's love for all peoples.....'

Copies of both letters are on the notice board in the porch.