



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

31st January 2016 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C) psalter week IV

9.30am Family Mass

Pro Populo

11.30am Sung Mass

Peter El Khoury

5.00pm Quiet Mass

Bill Woolliscroft RIP

Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 4.00pm

Mon. 1st February

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

John Campbell RIP

11.30am

Requiem Mass - William Walsh RIP

Tue. 2nd February

The Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas

10.00am

Rose Ezechial RIP

Wed. 3rd February

St. Blaise

12.00noon

Vera Reid RIP

Thu. 4th February

Feria in Ordinary Time

10.00am

David RIP

(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, concluding with Benediction at 12.00 noon)

Fri. 5th February

St. Agatha

10.00am

Brigitta Ezechial RIP

11.30am

Requiem Mass - Mabel O'Neil RIP

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

Sat. 6th February

St. Paul Miki and Companion Martyrs

10.00am

Michael & Ruth Real RIP

7th February 2016 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C) psalter week I

9.30am Family Mass

Frank & Mary Kate Lynch RIP

11.30am Sung Mass

Peter El Khoury

5.00pm Quiet

Mass Pro Populo

Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 4.00pm

There will be **Tea & Coffee** after the 9.30am Mass today. Please join us and say hello.



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

PARENT & CHILDREN'S GROUP

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

R.C.I.A.

The R.C.I.A. group meets on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Alexander House Library.

CHURCH CLEANING

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

CONVERSATIONAL ITALIAN

takes place in the Library on Friday mornings at 10.30am - suggested donation of £1.50 towards Church Funds.

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC STUDENT SOCIETY

Wednesday 5.00pm - 6.00pm Pastoral Hour with Deacon Peter in The Quiet Room, Kingston University, Penrhyn Road Campus. Followed by Catholic Society meeting at 6.00pm. For more details contact Deacon Peter on number above.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursday - After the 10.00am Mass concluding with Benediction at 12noon
Sunday - 4.00pm

1ST HOLY COMMUNION & ANCHOR COURSE

Next Saturday 10.30am in Alexander House

THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTIONS

£823.90 loose & £297.10 Gift Aid = £1,121.00.

Plus £192.33 for 'Racial Justice' 2nd Collection next Sunday in Aid of poorer parishes of the diocese.

Confessions

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

Saturdays - 10.30am - 11.00am

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.

The Rosary is recited daily

Monday - Saturday before Mass and at 4.00pm on Sunday



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
William Walsh RIP

The Lamp on Our Lady's Altar is burning for
The sick and housebound
St. Anthony's Lamp is burning for
Francis Rodericks RIP



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

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 & After School Club.

BISHOP HENDRICKS – RECENT PARISH VISITATION

Bishop Paul was very positive about the parish after his visit last weekend. He will be preparing a written report for us in due course. My sincere thanks to everyone who made him feel so welcome.

Fr. Kevin

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is holding an open morning for their Nursery on Thursday 11th February at 9.15a.m. If your child will be 3 by 31st December 2016 they may be able to join the Nursery in September 2016 or January 2017. Please come along and find out more about their very successful Nursery unit.

HELPING THE SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE

Archbishop Peter Smith would like every Catholic in the Diocese to have an opportunity to hear about the needs of sick and retired priests and how you can lend your support to this fundraising campaign to raise £4.5m over the next four years. Cards are being distributed at all Masses this weekend so that everyone who would like to know more about the needs of our sick and retired priests will have an opportunity to do so. If you would like to hear more, please fill in a card and post it in the collection box at the back of the church today. You will receive an invitation to a presentation, including times and dates, which will take place after Easter in Alexander House. Only one card need be completed per family. Thank you.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council tonight at 7.00pm in the Library (Please note the later time)

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - CANDLEMAS

The Church gives us the slow Advent build up to Christmas, in spite of the surrounding cultural pressure. It also gives us a slow, steady time to taper off from all the trappings of the season, while never forgetting what we are celebrating.

As we know, there are twelve days of Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany followed by the Baptism of the Lord. Our time of celebration is legitimately prolonged until the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple also known as the Feast of the Purification or Candlemas.

At the time of Jesus' birth, the custom was for the mother of a male child to present him at the temple forty days after his birth, along with a lamb and a pigeon as a sacrifice. Luke's Gospel tells us that Mary and Joseph were poor and could not afford a lamb, so Jesus was presented in the temple with two turtledoves for the sacrifice.

It was at his presentation that the prophet Simeon held the infant Jesus in his arms. At this moment he knew that the saviour he had been waiting for had arrived and prayed his glorious Nunc dimittis.

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel".

This last of the holy days that celebrate the arrival of the Light of the World, is also known as Candlemas, the day when the candles for the coming year are blessed. In the blessing of the candles we emphasize once more Jesus as the Light of the World.

The candle wax extracted by bees from flowers symbolizes the pure flesh of Christ received from His Virgin Mother, the wick signifies the soul of Christ, and the flame represents His divinity. Everything involved with our sacred liturgy has a meaning and all these things point to Christ.

YOUR SURPLUS SANTA

Wanted - any excess gifts that we can use as prizes for one of our Lenten project fund raising events. Please leave at the office or Sacristy thank you.

PARISH PRIEST'S SURGERY

Fr. Kevin will hold his Parish Priest's Surgery this Tuesday, 2nd February between 5.30pm – 7.00pm in the Parish Office.

YEAR OF MERCY EVENTS

'The Door of Mercy, Divine Mercy - More than a Devotion and Mercy and Healing.' 13th February at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, New Malden. For more information or to See the poster in the porch.

24 hours for the Lord – St. George's Cathedral 4th – 5th March. United in adoration and prayer across the world. 24 hours will start with Mass at 12.30pm.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes - 19th -26th August - led by Archbishop Peter. Bookings are now being accepted. Please speak to Canon Edward Perera, Diocesan Director of Pilgrimages, at Our Lady Immaculate Tolworth on 8 399 9550 for booking forms and more information.

MISSIO RED BOXES

If you have a Red Missio Box that needs emptying, please hand them into the Sacristy next Sunday. Please ensure your name is on the label on the bottom.

OF YOUR CHARITY

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
William Walsh, his Requiem Mass will be on Monday at 11.30am
& Mabel O'Neil, her Requiem Mass will be on Friday at 11.30am.
May they Rest in Peace.

ST. BLAISE

St. Blaise was a bishop in modern day Armenia who was martyred in 316. He was a good bishop, who worked hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration issued in A.D.311, granted freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blaise was forced to flee he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, however he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheatre stumbled upon Blaise's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears. As the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, we are told, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blaise refused, he was beaten and eventually he was beheaded. Blaise is seen as one more example of the power those who have given themselves entirely to Jesus. As Jesus told his apostles at the Last Supper, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). With faith we can follow the lead of the Church in asking for Blaise's protection.

Each year on his 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".