



# 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](mailto:parishpriest.straphael@gmail.com)  
Parish Deacon - Peter Sebastian  
Tel 07921667679 email [deaconpetersebastian@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:straphaelparishoffice@googlemail.com) Web. [www.straphael.org.uk](http://www.straphael.org.uk)

## 31st December / 1st January – Mary Mother of God (A)

5.00pm (Saturday) Vigil Mass Marjorie Stokes RIP  
9.30am Family Mass Frank & Mary Kate Lynch RIP  
11.30am Mass with hymns Mary Brooks RIP

Mon. 2nd January S.S. Basil the Great & Gregory Nzianzen

### No Mass today

Tue. 3rd January The Most Holy Name of Jesus

10.00am David Stileman RIP

Wed. 4th January Feria in Christmastide

12 noon Edna Balinska RIP

Thu. 5th January Feria in Christmastide

10.00am The DeMenezes Family

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today

Fri. 6th Dec. Feria in Christmastide

10.00am Rev. Fr. David Howell

Sat. 7th Dec. Our Lady

10.00am Michael Cawley RIP

## 8th January 2017 - The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

9.30am Family Mass Tilly Alwanger  
11.30am Mass with Hymns Giovanni & Maria Tomassi RIP  
5.00pm Quiet Mass Pro Populo

No Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament today

### The Rosary is recited

Monday – Saturday before Mass

*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 – The persecuted church*

*The Lamp at St. Anthony's Shrine is burning for - The welfare of Fr. David Hutton*



### Confessions Sundays

9.00am – 9.20am & 4.30pm – 4.50pm

### Saturdays

10.30am – 11.00am



### APPOINTMENTS WITH FR. KEVIN

If you need to speak with Fr. Kevin regarding a pastoral or sacramental matter please email [parishpriest.straphael@gmail.com](mailto:parishpriest.straphael@gmail.com) to make a convenient appointment.

### 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, his number is **8 942 2178**.

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

### CHURCH CLEANING

Every Wednesday at 9.00am – please come and help keep our church looking beautiful for Our Lord.

### 1st Communion Classes

resume 7th January 10.30am

### Children's Liturgy

resumes 15th January

### R.C.I.A.

resumes 6th January at 7.30pm

### Sunday Tea & Coffee

resumes 15th January

### Sunday Benediction

resumes 15th January,

### Thursday Exposition

resumes 19th January.

### Catholic student society

Meetings resume Sunday 15th January,



*Thank you for your cards, presents and Christmas offering. I am very grateful for your generosity, kindness and support to me. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions.*

*I would like to thank all those who helped, in anyway, to make our Christmas services so beautiful and prayerful. Also, all those who week in and week out help in so many ways around the Church – God knows who you are*

*I pray that you and your families will have a very Happy and Peaceful New Year. May God bless you all.*

*Fr. Kevin*



We remember in prayer, especially at this time of the year the sick and housebound of the Parish. We also pray for the medical profession and all carers. We pray for those who have died during the last year and those who mourn.

## St. Joseph's Our Catholic Primary School

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.



*Mary Mother of God*

Today as we celebrate the New Year we also celebrate the great solemnity of the Mother of God.

What does this mean? It means that the child — conceived in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit, carried in her body for nine months and born into this world - is God. As such, this celebration highlights the pivotal truth of the Church's Faith - that God has, in Jesus Christ, accepted a human nature, chosen to be born into this world as we have all been born into this world and has lived a real, human life. In doing so, God has accepted the full implication of what it means to be human, including the experiences of suffering and death. To testify that, Our Lady is the Mother of God is simultaneously a statement about her and a statement about Christ. On the one hand, it highlights the identity and mission of Our Lady, an identity and mission that is absolutely singular and unique. No one else is or will ever be the Mother of God. No one else knows Christ as God in the manner that Our Lady did.

God chose her in such a way that he does not choose us. God made her life something that our lives will never be. However, there are points of contact between her experience and our own. She is fully and completely human, like we are. She is not divine. Nor does she, as a result of her unique identity and mission, turn into some kind of divine being. She is like us, but there is something so radically different about her identity and mission that while we can love her, we cannot fully understand her. She is a mystery.

When we identify Our Lady as the Mother of God, we therefore also affirm that Jesus is God and was always God. Christ did not "turn" into God, and calling Christ God is not just some kind of projection by which we make Jesus of Nazareth someone very important. That Jesus is really and truly is God is a fact. God accepting a human nature in Christ and lived a real, human life is not just a story we tell that is all symbol, myth and legend- it is all true and it really happened.

### Our 2016 Crib Appeal - The Catholic Children's Society



As one of the oldest Charities in the UK, The Catholic Children's Society have a long and proud history of helping those in need and providing a range of services across the diocese of Southwark. They deliver a range of counselling services in schools to pupils who may be experiencing bullying, cyber bullying, or suffering emotional turmoil. The Rainbows Bereavement Training Programme for schools allows a Parish Priest or Head Teacher to apply for a one off payment to assist a family known to them as being in immediate need of financial support and 100% of all donations made goes directly to those in need. Your contributions to this year's Crib Appeal will go to this fund and be used to help people in need living near to you.

Please be as generous as you can

### THANK YOU FOR THE COLLECTION ON SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Loose - £609.73 + Gift Aid £334.00 = £943.73

### MASS INTENTIONS

We have a long waiting list for Mass Intentions – particularly for Sunday Masses. If you have any specific dates for any Masses in 2017, you are recommended to book them now with the Parish Office to secure the date.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM –

#### A REMINDER OF ARRANGEMENTS IN OUR PARISH

Parents of Infants living in the Parish seeking Baptism should email Fr. Kevin at [parishpriest.straphael@gmail.com](mailto:parishpriest.straphael@gmail.com) (Please ensure you include your full postal address in the email) Fr. Kevin will then contact you to discuss. Please note all parents need to attend a Baptism Course - these are held over two Saturday mornings, approximately four times a year. Please note that completion of the course must happen prior to a date being set for Baptism.

### GETTING MARRIED

Please remember that all Catholics must give at least six months notice to get married (whether here at St. Raphael's or anywhere else) This gives time for all the relevant marriage paperwork to be completed and any dispensations that are needed to be issued. Please contact Fr. Kevin before booking any dates.

### FR. MICHAEL CLIFTON

Please remember Fr. Michael in your prayers as he is unwell at this time.

### TODAY IS ALSO WORLD PEACE DAY

In his message for today, Pope Francis offers a reflection on the importance of non-violence as a political choice. He reminds us that by recognizing the rights and equal dignity of every person, nonviolence can constitute a realistic way to overcome armed conflicts. In choosing non-violence as the World Peace Day theme, the Vatican said, Pope Francis wants to indicate a "path of hope" in a world that needs to learn to settle disputes through negotiation rather than resorting to conflict fueled by the "scourge" of illegal arms trafficking. However, this does not mean that one nation can remain indifferent to the tragedies of another. Rather it means a recognition of the primacy of diplomacy over the noise of arms.

"All of us want peace. Many people build it day by day through small gestures and acts - many of them are suffering, yet patiently persevere in their efforts to be peacemakers. In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds and to becoming nonviolent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home. "Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. Everyone can be an artisan of peace".

For the full text of the Pope's message go to <https://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

