

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

6th March 2016 4th Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday (C) psalter week IV

9.30am Family Mass James Mollentze & Alice Griffiths
11.30am Sung Mass Pro Populo
5.00pm Quiet Mass Ian RIP

Stations of the Cross 4.00pm

Mon. 7th March Lenten Feria
10.00am Ethel & William Larkin RIP
Tue. 8th March Lenten Feria
10.00am Peter Bingham Daly RIP
Wed. 9th March Lenten Feria
12.00noon Mary Frank RIP
Thu. 10th March Lenten Feria
10.00am Mary Walsh - welfare

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

Fri. 11th March Lenten Feria
9.00am Stations of the Cross
10.00am In Thanksgiving

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

Sat. 12th March Lenten Feria
10.00am Pieter De Roos RIP

13th March 2016 5th Sunday of Lent (C) psalter week I

9.30am Family Mass Pro Populo
11.30am Sung Mass Peter El Khoury
5.00pm Quiet Mass William Walsh RIP

Stations of the Cross 4.00pm

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.

Confessions

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

Saturdays - 10.30am - 11.00am

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 are burning this week for Eric Villain

The Lamp on Our Lady's Altar is burning for Pope Benedict

St. Anthony's Lamp is burning for Bishop Tripp



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Sunday at 4.00pm
Friday at 9.00am
During Lent
Please join Us



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

There will be **TEA & COFFEE**
After both morning Masses today

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 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 - a
chance for an informal chat with
Deacon Peter in 'The Quiet Room,'
Kingston University, Penrhyn Rd
Campus. Followed by Catholic Society
meeting at 6.00pm. For more details
contact Deacon Peter on number
above.

1ST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

1st Holy Communion class meets this
Saturday at 10.30am
in Alexander House.

THANK YOU FOR LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

£516.18 loose & £224.65 Gift Aid
= £740.83

There will be a 2nd Collection today for
Easter flowers and other decorations
for the Church.

PARISH PRIEST'S SURGERY

Fr. Kevin's next Surgery will be on
Tuesday 15th March from
5.30pm - 7.00pm in the Parish Office.

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.

Among the most popular short stories of all time is the one in today's Gospel. We know it as the story of "The prodigal Son". It might better be called the story of "The Loving Father". He is the main character and real hero. The younger son asks for his inheritance which was within his rights under the Law but the son's coming to him like this was tantamount to saying that he wished his father dead. Nevertheless his father consented.

The son – because of immaturity, or selfishness, or irresponsibility, or a spirit of adventure, or whatever motivated the youth – chose to go his own way independent of his father. Opting for the pleasure of self-satisfaction, when he had lost everything and was reduced to taking care of pigs, the lowest of the low for a Jew, like an alcoholic who has hit rock-bottom he finally came to his senses and decided to return home.

All the long way home he rehearsed a speech that he hoped would persuade his father to take him back – not as a son any more, but a hired hand.

The average human father might welcome him back, but with a stiff warning - tow the line or else! Yes he would love him however, such a son would have to prove himself before the father could really forgive or forget.

What did this father do? Even as his son was far off, he saw him approaching - he must have been waiting and watching all that time. He threw open his arms in welcome and never let his son finish his rehearsed speech.

The father's forgiveness was total. He ordered his workers to dress his son in the finest robe as a sign of honour, a ring as a sign of authority and shoes as a sign that he continued to be a son not a servant or slave. At that time slaves did not wear shoes. Many would have said of the father, "The old fool! No wonder his son is such a spoiled brat! The old man will be dead of a heart attack in a year!" But if we were put in the place of having to deal with our own best beloved, it might be a different story.

During the celebration that followed, the elder son makes his entrance for the climax of the story. He is smug in having done his duty to the father all the time his brother was away. His judgement, coming from a mentality of law rather than grace, of a hireling rather than a loving son, are rash, his speech mean. Just as the father had graciously cut off the humiliating speech of his younger son to show forgiveness, the elder brother cuts off the loving speech of his father to object. He refers to his younger brother as "your son" and the father gently rebukes him by referring to "your brother"

Isn't the sin of the elder son far greater than all the sins of the prodigal son? He couldn't forgive his own brother. He couldn't rejoice with his father who was so happy to have his son back. We can all identify also with this elder son. How many times have we been jealous, envious, and angry because God gave someone else what we thought was due to us?

But the parable is not about either one of these sons. It is about the father. It is more about the father's unconditional love than the sins of his sons. It is about our heavenly Father who loves us unconditionally with a love we can never earn or be worthy of - who loves us not because of what we are but because of who he is. It is all about the fidelity of the love of God. It is all about the divine mercy.

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

If you are celebrating 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or later wedding anniversary this year, the Archbishop invites you to join him to renew your vows and celebrate a Mass for married couples at 3.00pm on Saturday June 18th at St. George's Cathedral. Please speak to Michael in the Parish Office for details.

EASTER COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The collection taken at Easter is your personal offering to Fr. Kevin our parish priest. This collection forms part of his income to support his personal needs and expenses during the year ahead. Easter Offering envelopes are available, for your use, at the back of the Church. (If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme, please use the special envelope in your packet.)

Thank you for your kind and generous support.

TODAY IS MOTHER'S DAY

We have a selection of Mother's Day Cards for sale in our Repository. We also have cards for St. Patrick's Day and Easter, please take a look after Mass.

EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR LENTEN PROJECT

Today - Cake Sale – After the morning Masses.

Next Saturday - Sponsored Walk to Hampton Court .

Next Sunday -Bingo and Sandwiches – Sunday the 13th March in the Hall, tickets on sale after Mass today from the Sacristy Parish Office during the week.

St. Patrick's Day – Céad Míle Fáilte - All are welcome to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Margaret Dixon's home, 40 Fassett Road, for Irish coffee & homemade Irish treats on Thursday 17th March from 10am till 2pm. All proceeds to the Lenten Project.

Lenten project collection boxes – Available at the back of the Church especially for children to put your spare pennies in.

Giant Easter Egg Raffle – Draw after the Easter Vigil, tickets on sale after Mass today or from the Parish Office.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped and supported last Sundays Carvery Lunch and yesterday's Mother's Day Flowers.

Totals raised to date

Ash Wednesday Collection	£234.12
Donation	£ 24.98
Plus gift aid	£ 6.24
Carvery Lunch	£ 547.32
Total to date	£812.66

SPONSORED WALK IN AID OF OUR LENTEN PROJECT. On Saturday 12th March at 11.00am we shall be having a sponsored walk to Hampton Court and back (6 Miles in total) in aid of Our Lenten Project. If you would like to take part in the walk please contact either Nula on 0208 390 2048 or Angela on 0208 547 9978 angela@casacombe.com If you would like to sponsor the group please complete the tear off slip below and hand it into either the Parish Office or Sacristy with your money. Thank you.

I would like to sponsor the team walking to Hampton Court
Either £ (Insert amount) per mile or £ (Insert amount) total amount

Name
Address

Telephone number or email

If you are a member of the Parish Gift Aid scheme and would like to Gift Aid your donation please tick box