



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 straphaelparishoffice@googlemail.com

Web. www.straphael.org.uk

30th November 2014 The First Sunday of Advent (B) Psalter week I

9.30am Family Mass **Brendan Kinsella RIP**
11.30am Sung Mass **Victor Di Placito RIP**
5.00pm Quiet Mass **Pro Populo**

Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 4.00pm

Mon. 1 st December	Advent Feria
10.00am	Ada Freeman RIP
Tue. 2 nd December	Advent Feria
10.00am	Ada Freeman RIP
Wed. 3 rd December	St. Francis Xavier
12.00 noon	Beryl Mann RIP
Thu. 4 th December	St. John Damascene
10.00am	Jacobi & the deceased members of the Slot family
(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, concluding with Benediction at 12.00 noon)	
Fri. 5 th December	Advent Feria
10.00am	Henry Reid
(A day of abstinence when Catholics are asked to abstain from eating meat)	
Sat. 6 th December	Our Lady
10.00am	Kelly Dagleish RIP

7th December 2014 The Second Sunday of Advent (B) Psalter week II

9.30am Family Mass **Pro Populo**
11.30am Sung Mass **Rita & Denis Sumner RIP**
5.00pm Quiet Mass **The Holy Souls**

Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 4.00pm

Parish Diary This Week

TUESDAY

Parish Priest's Surgery

5.30pm - 7.00pm
Parish Office

**A Quick Journey
Through the Bible**
The Upper Room
7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Church Cleaning

9.00am
Church

Parent & Children's Group

9.45am - 11.30am
Alexander House

Confirmation

7.00pm
The Upper Room

RCIA

7.30pm
Library

THURSDAY

**Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament**

10.30am - 12noon

SATURDAY

Confessions.

10.30am - 11.00am

1st Holy Communion Classes

10.30am - 12.00 noon
Alexander House

SUNDAY

Children's Liturgy
during 9.30am Mass

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

Rosary & Benediction 4.00pm



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

Teresa Serena

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
Sunday 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 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.



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

£503.56 Loose + £199.50 Gift Aid = £703.06
Plus £150.87 for The Catholic Youth Services
There will be a 2nd collection today for Christmas flowers and decorations for the church

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.



THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – THE YEAR OF ST. MARK

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus's Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus's warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus's warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

PASTORAL LETTER

This weekend we have a Pastoral Letter from His Grace, Archbishop Peter. Additional copies are available from the back of the Church. It is also available on the Parish Website.

'QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE'

The next session for the group will be held this coming Tuesday night at 7.30pm in the Upper Room in Alexander House. For more information please contact Christine at christinedeigratia@gmail.com Tel. 07799 290038.

'THE EVANGELIST'

There are some copies of the 'The Evangelist', the magazine of St. John's Seminary Womersley, available at the back of the Church. They are free please help yourselves.

RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS POSTAGE STAMPS

The Christmas Stamps are now on sale at Post Offices, but if you want religious ones you have to ask for them otherwise you will be giving the non religious Christmas ones! This is important otherwise the Post Office and those who encourage secularism will say that there is no call for religious stamps at Christmas.

THE PASSAGE

The Passage is a Christian Charity working with homeless people in Central London. We work in the area around Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Station and Parliament Square. If you donate through 'The Big Give' website just after 10.00 a.m. on 4th, 5th, or 6th December every £1 can be worth up to £2. There is an element of competition for full matching from The Big Give so if possible please give just after 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 5 December, Friday 6 December or Saturday 7 December. 'The Big Give' site is quieter on the Saturday and the matched giving remains open longer on that day.

A GENTLE REMINDER...

Please remember it is not appropriate for anyone to consume food or drink in the Church. It causes a lot of extra mess which our already overworked band of cleaners has to clear up. Also could people ensure all mobile phones are switched off in Church. Thank you for your consideration.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The circular garland of evergreen branches represents eternity. On the wreath, five candles are arranged. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is called the "Prophecy Candle". This is in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. The candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second purple candle represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger.

The pink, or rose-coloured candle, is the "Shepherds Candle" and represents joy.

The fourth and last purple candle is the "Angels Candle," representing peace.

On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The colour white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. Also, those who receive Christ as Saviour are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

APPEAL FROM LIFE

Baby clothes and equipment - especially double buggies - are needed by our Caring Centre at Hounslow. If you have any items you no longer require, please contact Therese on 020 8390 1080 for collection.

Come and sing carols with LIFE on Victoria Station from 5-00pm - 7.00pm on Wednesday December 17th. All are welcome.



WE WELCOME INTO GOD'S FAMILY

Joseph who was baptised here recently. May the Lord continue the good work he has started.