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ST. RAPHAEL

**Catholic Parish Church
Chaplaincy to Kingston University**

PARISH OFFICE

(Mon. - Fri. 9.00am - 4.00pm)

Portsmouth road

Kingston Upon Thames Surrey KT1 - 2NA

020 8541 - 4999

E. straphaelparishoffice@googlemail.com

W. www.straphael.org.uk



Parish Priest

Fr. Vincent Flynn

St. Raphael Cottage

Portsmouth Road Kingston Upon

Thames Surrey KT1 - 2NA

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11th December 2011, The Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday (B)

9.30 am Family Mass Margaret O'Malley RIP
11.30am Sung Mass Denis Jennings RIP
5.00pm Quiet Mass The People of the Parish

Monday 12 th December	Advent Feria
10.00am	Catherine & Denis
Tuesday 13 th December	St. Lucy
10.00am	Colin Foster RIP
Wednesday 14 th December	St. John of the Cross
10.00am	The Deceased parents of Miss Hammerton- Fraser
Thursday 15 th December	Advent Feria
10.00am	John Moth
Friday 16 th December	Advent Feria
09.00am	Ghazi Makarem
Saturday 17 th December	Advent Feria
10.00am	Fr. Vincent's Intentions

18th December 2011, The Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

9.30 am Family Mass Patrick & Agnes Ward RIP
11.30am Sung Mass Fr. Austin Daly & Jim Daly
5.00pm Quiet Mass The People of the Parish

6.30pm Parish Carol Service

PARISH DIARY

THIS WEEK

Mass Monday to Friday
is celebrated in Alexander House

Monday

9.45am Rosary

10.00am Mass

2.30pm Parents & Children

Group Alexander House

7.30pm Choir Practice

Library

Tuesday

9.45am Rosary

10.00am Mass

7.00pm Yoga

Alexander House

Wednesday

9.45am Rosary

10.00am Mass

7.30pm Open Door Prayer Group

Alexander House

Thursday

9.45am Rosary

10.00am Mass

7.30pm RCIA

7.30pm Women's Group

Library

Friday

8.45am Rosary

9.00am Mass

Saturday

9.45am Rosary

10.00am Mass

10.30am - 11.00am

Exposition of the Blessed

Sacrament, Confessions,

1st Holy Communion Classes

12.00 noon Church Cleaning

for Christmas

Sunday

9.00am - 9.20am Confessions

9.30am Mass

(Children's Liturgy during

9.30am Mass)

11.00am - 11.20am Confessions

11.30am Mass

12.30pm Baptisms

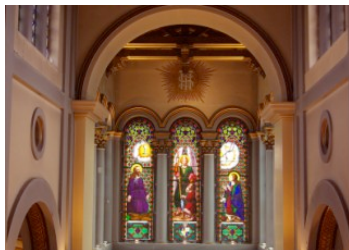
4.30pm - 4.50pm Confessions

5.00pm Mass

6.30 Parish Carol Service

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Thank you for Last Sunday's Collections:
 £722.96 loose + £214.00 Gift Aid = £936.96
 Plus £75.81. for the Stained Glass Windows
 & £81.48 for the Stations of the Cross



Stained Glass

Restoration

Target £50,000

RAISED £43,861.47

NEED £ 6,138.53

Restored in memory of:

Fr. Dominic O'Sullivan

A much loved Parish Priest



**NEW STATIONS
OF THE CROSS**

TARGET £18,480.00

RAISED £10,371.26

NEED £8,108.74



*There will be a 2nd collection today to pay for
flowers to decorate the Church for Christmas*





St. Raphael's Carol Service

Next Sunday, 18th December

at 6.30pm.

Followed by Mulled Wine

& Mince Pies.

THE PILGRIM – OUR NEW DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER

"This weekend the first edition of the new Diocesan Newspaper will be available after every Mass. I am asking you to support this new venture in the Archdiocese, which I hope will help to improve communications within and between parishes. It will also in time be a means of developing catechesis so that we all become more knowledgeable about our Catholic faith and the teaching of the Church. I hope that every family in the parish will buy a copy and then perhaps pass it on to others who do not regularly come to Mass. The price is 50p, which I think even in these days of austerity should not take too much out of the monthly family budget, so I do urge you to support this venture."

+ Peter
Archbishop of Southwark

WOMEN'S GROUP

Do you like Andrea Bocelli, Tony Bennett and Bette Midler? Well then come along to Alexander House on Thursday 15th December at 7.30. Of course none of the artists mentioned will actually be there – but you can listen to Christmas music, sacred and secular while you mingle! Please bring a culinary contribution – from traditional mince pies to a speciality from your travels or family international favourite.

Looking forward to seeing you.....

Dinah Gardiner on behalf of the group.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

The Christmas offering envelopes are now available at the back of the Church. The Christmas and Easter offerings are traditionally your personal gift to your priest who dedicates his life to serve you. As priests do not receive salaries, they rely on our generosity.

If you are a member of the Gift Aid scheme, please use the special 'Christmas Offering' envelope at the back of your box of envelopes.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS NEXT SATURDAY – PLEASE COME AND HELP!

The workmen will be finished in the Church for Christmas this coming Friday. Next Saturday, (the 17th December) we need to have a major clean up of the Church, so that it is looking really beautiful for Christmas. We need lots of volunteers to come along at 12noon to help. The more helpers we have, the sooner it will be completed! So if you can spare an hour or so, please come along.

Thank you



Whilst the building work is taking place in the Church, please take special care and ensure that Children are supervised at all times.

REJOICE!

Today is Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete is the Latin for Rejoice and it is the opening phrase of our Entrance Antiphon today "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). It is a command ordering us to rejoice!

In these days of penance and preparation leading up to the feast of our Saviour's birth, it reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Jesus.

In Advent, we not only celebrate the first coming of our Lord, but eagerly prepare for His Second Coming as well, when the restoration of all things takes place. Too often many of us shudder at the thought of our Lord's coming in glory, as if it were a frightening event—and certainly it will be for those who knowingly rejected Jesus. But for Christians who persevere it will be our great deliverance from the troubles and trials of this world. All the world will bend the knee—some in terror—but as for God's friends, they will bend the knee in joyful adoration as Jesus takes His place as King. The earliest Christians cried 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!' expecting Jesus to come at any moment. So should we—we should long for His return with our lamps trimmed and our souls ready. It is indeed something to celebrate—and prepare for. Advent turns our hearts and minds to this reality.

Should commercialism or the evils of the world get us down we need to look at the Advent wreath with its candles burning down patiently, a new one each week in the spiral they create, going down as we light the pink one this week which fills us with joy that we are getting closer and closer to the coming of the Lord. We can place ourselves on the hillsides with the shepherds in the silent chill with patient anticipation of they-knew-not-what until the angel told them. We can imagine the three wise men silhouetted in the brightness of the Christmas star. And then we can meditate on being in that stable with the smell of straw, animals, and a beautiful New-born Who is our hope. We can let our burdens drop away at the foot of the manger when He smiles at us. We can receive Him into our arms and hearts as Mary holds Him out to us as the gentle Joseph looks on. This Child is our victory.

REJOICE!

By John Mallon Catholic Online

CHOIR PRACTICE

There will a choir practice tomorrow (Monday 12th) at 7.30pm in the Library.