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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

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Parish Priest

Fr. Vincent Flynn

St. Raphael Cottage

Portsmouth Road Kingston Upon

Thames Surrey KT1 - 2NA

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

Monday 19 th December	Advent FERIA
10.00am	Edward Black RIP
Tuesday 20 th December	Advent FERIA
10.00am	The White & McCarthy Families
Wednesday 21 st December	Advent FERIA
10.00am	Ray & Diana Hamel-Smith RIP
Thursday 22 nd December	Advent FERIA
10.00am	Andrea & Family
Friday 23 rd December	Advent FERIA
09.00am	Joe & Madeleine O'Sullivan RIP
Saturday 24 th December	No 10.00am Mass today

Christmas Eve

6.00pm - Family Mass Vocations to the Priesthood

11.30pm - Carols followed by Solemn Midnight Mass - Alexander Raphael RIP

Christmas Day

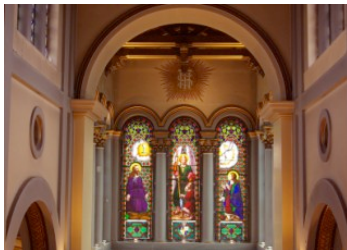
9.30am - Family Mass - the People of the Parish

11.30am Mass with Carols - The Holy Father

(No evening Mass)

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Stained Glass

Restoration

Target £50,000

RAISED £43,895.49

NEED £ 6,104.51

Restored in memory of:

Fr. Dominic O'Sullivan

A much loved Parish Priest



NEW STATIONS

OF THE CROSS

TARGET £18,480.00

RAISED £11,706.26

NEED £6,773.74

Thank you for Last Sunday's Collections:

£691.71 loose +

£217.25 Gift Aid

= £908.96

Plus £240.60 for

Christmas flowers

Confessions for

Christmas

Confessions are heard

before all Masses today

and from 10.00am -

11.00am next Saturday.

Please note there will be

no confessions before

Mass on Christmas Eve or

Christmas Day.



St. Raphael's Carol Service

Tonight, 18th December

at 6.30pm.

Followed by Mulled Wine
& Mince Pies.

THE PILGRIM

Copies of our new diocesan newspaper, 'The Pilgrim' are available at the back of the church costing 50pence.

CHRISTMAS C.D.

There are some copies of the St. Raphael's Christmas C.D. 'Puer Natus in Bethlehem' available at the back of the Church. Please put a donation in the restoration box.

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, Fr. Vincent. 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.

RESTORATION UPDATE

This week our statues were returned to the Church. They have been cleaned and restored. It is believed that the six statues were installed in the Church in the 1880's at the time of Edward Raphael who inherited the Church after his uncle Alexander Raphael's death in 1850.

The statues were made by a company called 'Mayer' which was based in Munich. The company was founded in 1847 by Joseph Gabriel Mayer, an academic artist and sculptor, who had the reputation of producing some of the finest church sculpture and stained glass windows of the 19th century.

The order in which the statues have been reinstalled differs from how they were positioned previously. The statue of Our Lady is now in the centre above the Lady Alter and she is now flanked by St. Joseph her husband and St. John to whose care she was intrusted by Our Lord whilst on Calvary. The statue of the Sacred Heart is now over the Sacristy door and is flanked by the two great pillars of the Church, SS. Peter & Paul.

The statue of St. Anthony can not be returned to the Church until the area of floor under the plinth on which it stands is tiled, which will be in January.

The artwork on the main chancel arch is now complete but the remaining decoration on the sanctuary columns and the three panels behind the High Altar will not be completed until the New Year.

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORIES

Copies of the 2012 Southwark Catholic Directory are for sale at the back of the Church costing £3.50. Please put the money in the Newspaper Box.

ST. FRANCIS AND THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

What better way to prepare for Christmas than to remember St. Francis of Assisi and the first Christmas Crib which he created in 1223.

Francis, recalling a visit he had made years before to Bethlehem, resolved to create the manger he had seen there. The ideal spot was a cave in Greccio near Assisi. He found a baby (we're not sure if it was a live infant or the carved image of a baby), hay upon which to lay him and an ox and an ass to stand beside the manger. Word went out to the people of the town and they arrived carrying torches and candles and Midnight Mass began. Francis stood before the manger overcome with love and filled with a wonderful happiness. For him, the simple celebration was meant to recall the hardships Jesus suffered even as an infant, a saviour who chose to become poor for our sake, a truly human Jesus. This Christmas as we kneel and pray before the Crib, we welcome into our hearts that same Saviour.

God's choice to give human beings free will was, from the beginning, a decision to be helpless in human hands. With the birth of Jesus, God made the divine helplessness very clear to us, for a human infant is totally dependent on the loving response of other people. Our natural response to a baby is to open our arms, as Francis did, to the infant of Bethlehem and to the God who made us all.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Our Crib Offerings this year are going to help Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness.

'At KCAH we enable people to rebuild their lives by addressing the fundamental reasons why they have become homeless. Our organisation offers much more than just food and shelter. KCAH provides a lasting solution that restores self-esteem and confidence. When you donate money to KCAH, you are helping to get people out of homelessness for good.'

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all those who came and helped yesterday with the Church cleaning.

PARENTS & CHILDREN GROUP

Our weekly Parent and Children group has been running for almost four months and has been a great success. Unfortunately Anne Claude who runs the group will need to take a break as she is expecting baby number two soon. If anyone would like to take over from January, please contact Anne Claude on 0791 264 8240 or email anneclaud@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Most of our Parish Groups have broken up for Christmas.

The Open Door Prayer Group will resume on the 11th January.

The First Holy Communion Group will resume on the 7th January.

The R.C.I.A. Group resumes on the 12th January.

MASS INTENTION FOR THE 6TH JANUARY 2012

Would the person who booked a Mass intention for Patrick O'Flynn on the 6th January, please contact Michael in the Parish Office, Many thanks.