

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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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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| Monday 26 th December 10.00am | St. Stephen The deceased members of the Swallow & Jarvis Family |
| Tuesday 27 th December 10.00am | St. John Bridget Flynn RIP |
| Wednesday 28 th December 10.00am | The Holy Innocents Martin Kelly |
| Thursday 29 th December 10.00am | St. Thomas of Canterbury William Larkin |
| Friday 30 th December 10.00am 12.30pm | The Holy Family Requiem Mass Anne Mollory RIP Requiem Mass Alex de Saram RIP |
| Saturday 31 st December 10.00am | Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas Bernard Lang RIP |

1st January 2012, Mary Mother of God (B)

9.30 am Family Mass Fr. Vincent (1st Novena Mass)

11.30am Sung Mass Denis Sumner RIP

5.00pm Quiet Mass The People of the Parish

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| Monday 2 nd January 10.00am | SS. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen Fr. Vincent (2 nd Novena Mass) |
| Tuesday 3 rd January 10.00am | Christmas Feria Fr. Vincent (3 rd Novena Mass) |
| Wednesday 4 th January 10.00am | Christmas Feria Fr. Vincent (4 th Novena Mass) |
| Thursday 5 th January 10.00am | Christmas Feria Fr. Vincent (5 th Novena Mass) |
| Friday 6 th January 09.00am | Christmas Feria Fr. Vincent (6 th Novena Mass) |
| Saturday 7 th January 10.00am | Christmas Feria Fr. Vincent (7 th Novena Mass) |

8th January 2012, The Epiphany (B)

9.30 am Family Mass Fr. Vincent (8th Novena Mass)

11.30am Sung Mass The People of the Parish

5.00pm Quiet Mass Edna Balinska RIP



**Thank you for Last
Sunday's Collections:**
£910.22 loose +
£218.76 Gift Aid
= £1'128.98

NEW STATIONS OF THE CROSS

TARGET £18,480.00
RAISED £11,711.26
NEED £6,768.74

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



Today we focus on a newborn Child and remind ourselves that God became human and in doing so embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. We need no other special saint today to lead us to Christ in the manger, although his mother Mary and Joseph, caring for his foster-Son, help round out the scene.

But if we were to select a patron for today, perhaps it might be appropriate for us to imagine an anonymous shepherd, summoned to the birthplace by a wondrous and even disturbing vision in the night, a summons from an angelic choir, promising peace and goodwill. A shepherd willing to seek out something that might just be too unbelievable to chase after, and yet compelling enough to leave behind the flocks in the field and search for a mystery.

On the day of the Lord's birth, let's let an unnamed, "un-celebrity" at the edge of the crowd model for us the way to discover Christ in our own hearts—somewhere between scepticism and wonder, between mystery and faith. And, like Mary and the shepherds, let us treasure that discovery in our hearts.

'Let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace of looking upon the crib this night with the simplicity of the shepherds, so as to receive the joy with which they returned home. Let us ask him to give us the humility and the faith with which Saint Joseph looked upon the child that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit. Let us ask the Lord to let us look upon him with that same love with which Mary saw him. And let us pray that in this way the light that the shepherds saw will shine upon us too, and that what the angels sang that night will be accomplished throughout the world: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased." Amen!

Pope Benedict XVI

NOVENA OF MASSES FOR FR. VINCENT

There will be a novena of nine Masses said for Fr. Vincent beginning on the 1st January to the 9th January. Please keep Fr. Vincent in your prayers.

WOMEN'S GROUP

A big thank you to all who responded to the call to sponsor the Station – and hopefully it will be an inspiration for generations of women to come. We shall resume the meetings in February – more details to follow.

Of your charity
Please pray for the repose of the Souls of
Anne Mollory
and Alex de Saram
both of whom died recently.
May they Rest in Peace.

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.'

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

The Parish Office will be closed on the 26th, 27th & 30th December, the 2nd January and from the 4th -18th January. If you need to speak to a priest during these times, please call Our Lady Immaculate at Tolworth on 0208 399 9550.

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.

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.

A BIG THANK YOU.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make last Sunday's Carol Service such a lovely occasion. There are several unclaimed raffle prizes which can be collected from the Parish Office. There were also two prize winners Sue O'Bera 69 and Mark Sweney 96 who won prizes but had left before their raffle was drawn, their prizes are also in the Parish Office.

