St. Michael's Bulletin

Saint Michael's is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered Charity N. 234216

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FIRST SUNDAYOF LENT, March 1st, 2009
Vigil 5.30 pm Edward Gaudencio
9.00 am Our Parish Family **1030 am Kathy Wicks**
5.00 pm Holy Hour Devotions for Lent

Monday 9.00am Morning prayer & Mass
Tuesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass
Wednesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service
Thursday 9.00 am Morning prayer and Mass
Friday 7.00 pm Evening Mass for Lent
Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm Holy Souls

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FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS.

Lord, send Your Healing Spirit on all who are in any way sick or distressed: we pray for Claudina Rodrigues, Eugenie Micotti, Alison & Betty Gosling, Ena Wilson, Marguerite Brosnan, Joseph Bradley, Mike Coulehan, Harry Littlefair, Peter Gibson, Nancy Keogh, Michael Boyle, Donald Garland, Gerald Scullane, Jason Thatcher , Mary Comfry, Jade Goody and Marie Evans.

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for Ivan Cameron, Wendy Richards and all who died recently, for all killed in wars, disasters and accidents: victims of terrorism and oppression; and for those who die of starvation or neglect. We remember George Jones, Pauline Joyce, Margaret Symons, Eleanor Fanning, Thomas Hoban, Jerome Reilly, Lambertus van Bree, Honey Cook and Timothy Pereira, whose anniversaries fall at this time**.** **Grant them the joy of Your Presence.**

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LENT BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY.

During Lent there will be a Holy Hour each Sunday, from 5.00pm – 6.00 pm: these devotions will be varied, but we begin this evening with Evening prayer of the church, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.
We shall also have one Evening Mass during the week, for those who have to go to work: on Fridays at 7.00 pm.
I encourage you to join with me at the Anglican Church of Christ the King for their Lenten Study Groups. We have joined these in the past and they are very successful. They will meet on Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm and at 7.30pm in the evening.
To help us each day through Lent there are copies of **"Walk with Me"** at the back of church; please take one.
For the children – and for all the family - there are Lenten calendars, with suggestions for an activity each day. Please take one.

CAFOD FAST DAY on FRIDAY.

Our annual Lenten Fast Day falls on Friday of this week. The idea is that we eat less food than we normally would and we then give the money we have saved to the hungriest people in our world. If you have seen the film "Slumdog Millionaire – or have only heard about it – you will know that every day some young children have to scavenge in rubbish tips to find food for the day. This for them is a daily reality; we ask ourselves "When was I last really hungry?" The answer is possibly, "Never". So let us do our best. Many try to set aside each Friday during Lent as a day of fasting and prayer, giving the money saved to the poor. Could you?.**CAFOD Fast Day Envelopes** are at the back of church; please take one for your family and one for friends.

LENT PROJECT. Housing for Refugees

It has been proposed that we support a housing scheme for refugess in the war-torn countries of the Balkans. While these countries are not currently in the daily news, nevertheless the aftermath of fighting and ethnic cleansing still affects many who now find themselves homeless.This project is sponsored by Sister Josephine Walsh, who lead a Retreat in the parish some years ago. If we asked her, then she would come and talk to us again, with more information.
Meanwhile the swing-bin is back in action, awaiting your donations for these homeless people.

LENTEN READING.

You may find books on the shelves in the alcove at the back of chuch useful for Lent. Some are for dipping into, others for reading and inwardly digesting. There are some books of prayers by the Prayer Board. Help yourself

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual prayer service will be at Stoke Row Chapel on Friday 6th March from 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm. All welcome

SAINT MARTIN'S SCHOOL.

Next week we shall be interviewing prospective candidates for the Headship of our school. This is a major decision for the Governors of our school, who invite you to support them with your prayers for a successful outcome.

FR EDDIE BUTLER

Fr Eddie will be with us on the week-end of March 14/15th to give us some insight into the meaning and importance of Lent. He will also be inviting us to join in his "Journey of Faith" course which he will be running at Sacred Heart in Henley during Lent, which is primarily for those on the edges of the church and interested to join: & for those wanting to know more about the faith.

PARISH COUNCIL.

We meet on Thursday of this week. If you have any concerns about the parish please speak to one of the members beforehand. Names and photographs of our Parish Council members are on the board at the back of church.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony." Mahatma Gandhi

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May we all have a calm and prayerful week. Fr Chris