



# St. Michael's Bulletin



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

**Sonning Common, Dunsden, Peppard, Checkendon, Stoke Row, Emmer Green & Caversham Park**  
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**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY August 1st 2010.**

**5.30 pm Ann & Kevin Keogh ( 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary)**

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| <b>9.00 am Our Parish Family</b>        | <b>1030 am Holy Souls.</b>             |
| Monday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service      | Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service    |
| Wednesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass | Thursday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass |
| Friday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass    | Saturday 5.30 pm Holy Souls.           |

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**FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS.**

Lord, send Your Healing Spirit on all who are sick or distressed: Claudina Rodrigues, Eugenie Micotti, Mike Coulehan, Harry Littlefair, Nancy Keogh, Gerald Scullane, Jason Thatcher, David Roberts, Marie Evans, Rita Conlon, Margaret Keane, Siobhain Moran, Maureen Vinall, Frank O'Donnell, Gwen Payne, Denis Goodchild, Margaret Munter, Michael O'Neil, Mike Nolan, Josephine Clay, Barry Hagggar, Joseph Smith and John Fry.

**Bring them Your healing and peace.**

**FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.**

We pray for all who died recently; for all those killed in wars, disasters and accidents throughout the world: for all victims of terrorism and oppression, and for those who die of starvation or neglect. For Euliria Antao, Martin Lousley, Rachele de Souza, Joyce Price, Bernard Morgan, Nicola Juniper, Sean Smyth, Marie Wardle, Allan Tillotson, Mary Fogarty, Ted Dockrell and Carol Tegg,

whose anniversaries fall at this time. **Grant them the joy of Your Presence**

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**THE PERMANENT DIACONATE.**

Brian Theobald has been accepted by the Diocese to begin training to become a Permanent Deacon. We congratulate him.

This role of a Deacon is reasonably familiar to us at St Michael's because we have had Deacon Francis with us since 1994. But for many others the role of a Deacon is not familiar and sometimes a Deacon can be thought of as a stop-gap if there is a shortage of priests, or someone who can do those jobs which the priest does not get round to doing. This is not the case, because the Deacon has a ministry in his own right.

From the earliest times in the New Testament, deacons have been ministering within church communities. Their roles have changed and developed over the years, but originally they were seen as carrying out the church's ministry of charity to those in need, and ensuring that the vulnerable and weak in society should be properly cared for. Such a ministry is an essential part of the church's very nature. Our belief is that we are all part of God's family, so our help and care must be prepared and ready to support and assist those most in need. Our faith is expressed in our loving care for one another. Faith is expressed through action.

This loving care is the special ministry of the Deacon, and it was in 1972 that Pope Paul VI set out to restore what we call the "permanent diaconate" to the church after its use had been allowed to fade over the centuries.

In 1966 I was ordained as a Deacon, but then it was seen as a stepping-stone on the way to the Priesthood and none of us in those days would have remained as a deacon for longer than a few months. Nowadays we have men ( and perhaps women too, shortly) who become Deacons for the rest of their lives and exercise a special ministry with the church. We are still trying to unpack the full meaning and importance of this ministry

As their training begins it is emphasised that at the centre of their formation must be the forming of a "diaconal heart" so that the Deacon becomes one who loves and serves the people with Christ's love.

Once a man is ordained as a deacon by the Bishop he may be appointed to just a single parish or indeed to a group of parishes under the overall direction of the parish priest. This should not be seen as a support for the priest but as a form of service to the parish. Nor should the deacon be seen as a poor substitute for a priest, because he has a ministry which is specific and distinctive to himself. We wish Brian every blessing as he goes forward into this ministry.

**VOCATION**

Vocation is not the exceptional prerogative of a few specially good or gifted people. All men and women are called to serve God, who has a task for every one of us, which is made-to-measure for each one of us.

**THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

"If you are lonely when you are alone, you are in bad company" John-Paul Sartre  
"If everybody thought before they spoke, the silence would be deafening" Gerald Barzen