



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
Priest. Father Chris Bester. Tel: 0118-972-3418 **Deacon :** Rev Francis Andrews. Tel: 0118-972-2354
St Martin's School, Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park. **Head;** Mrs Madeleine Cosgrove 0118-901-5544
e-mail. chris.bester@btinternet.com **website:** www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

September 6TH 2009

THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Vigil of Sunday 5.30 pm Special Intention

9.00 am Our Parish family
Monday 9.00am Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service
Friday 9.00 am Morning Prayer & Mass

10.30 am Elizabeth McGarrity RIP
Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service
Thursday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service
Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm Spec Intention

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, Joseph Bradley, 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, Judith Harris, Pat Walton, John Manning, and the Howson family.

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for Catherine Smith, Kenneth Davey and all who died recently: for all killed in wars, disasters and accidents: victims of terrorism and oppression, especially those who died at Locherbie, and for those who die of starvation or neglect. We pray for Lily Dougan, Kathleen McGuire, Arthur Burge and Eva Abraham, whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

=====

"Where Do You Go to My Lovely, when you're at home in your bed? What are the thoughts that surround you? I want to look inside your head."

As we look forward to welcoming Fr Chris back from his gallivanting in the Antipodes, let me tell you about mine. For many years prior to my retirement I carried in my wallet a photograph of a little house in West Donegal. My burning ambition, the next time the Archbishop would ask me if I would like a move, was to reply "Archbishop, when I move from here, this is where I am going."

My little pink home in the west rejoices under the seemingly pretentious title of "Il Gioiello" This Italianate name translates as "The Little Jewel". It ceases to be pretentious when I explain that it is the name Galileo, one of my heroes, gave to his villa in the Tuscan Hills. This was his refuge. He regularly retreated there to avoid hassle, and even persecution, from the authorities of Church and State. I also find great peace in mine, time to read, to write, to pray, to cook nourishing meals and to imbibe "finely strained wines".

My own personal little jewel is to be found in a remote corner of West Donegal. It lies in a town land called Derryduel (Sacred Oak Grove of the Druids). Nestling against a hill, it overlooks the panoramic expanse known as Trawenagh (One Man) Strand. This is a star-shaped tidal bay situated on the North Shore of Gweebarra Bay. Each day Trawenagh is filled and emptied with the Atlantic tide. The Owenmarve, a well known salmon river, descends from a series of hinterland lakes and carves its way through the sand. The rockeries of my garden are home for many families of rabbits. Pheasants, red deer, wild fowl and marauding foxes occasionally disturb their tranquillity.

This place has been my refuge, my home-from-home, since I purchased a stone ruin there in 1969 for 55 Irish Pounds. It is now comfortable and well equipped and in August 2008, having judged that my useful, full-time, working life was over, I retired there with my Archbishop's blessing. Getting the timing right called for some finely balanced judgements because the very rugged West Donegal terrain is certainly not conducive to life on a Zimmer frame. I catch the ferry on Monday afternoon. Serving you for the past month has been a privilege. Pray for me.

Father Eddie

May we all have a peaceful week. Fr Eddie