



St. Michael's Bulletin



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

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3rd SUNDAY OF LENT, March 7th, 2010.

Vigil of Sunday 5.30 pm Caroline McKenzie-Low

9.00 am For our Parish Family

1030 am Holy Souls

Monday 9.00am Morning prayer & Mass

Tuesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass

Wednesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass

Thursday 9.00am Morning prayer & Mass

Friday 9.00 am Eucharistic service

Friday 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross & Mass

Saturday 5.30pm Holy Souls

Also this week. Sunday at 5.00pm Holy Hour

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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, 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, Pat Walton, Denis Goodchild, Margaret Munter, Michael O'Neil and Mike Nolan.

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for all Caroline McKenzie-Low and 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 pray for Timothy Pereira, Cyril Lowther, Henry Littlewood Francis Followed, Roman Szulc, Mamie Connors, Lilian Peach, Josephine Kehoe and Lucy Shurwell whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

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CONFESSION IN LENT

A traditional part of Lent is a thoughtful and well-considered Confession. But this is something which has been changing over the past twenty years and we have all fallen away from the practice of regular Confession for a variety of reasons. One of which is that we no longer find that the old-style of going into "the box" with a priest really satisfies our needs to feel a sense of forgiveness and reconciliation. It was all too pat and the language we used was the same as when we were 6 or 7, as were the faults we confessed.

Various parishes have now evolved different forms of Confession to suit their parishioners. Some bring in a posse of priests who then hive off into various nooks and crannies of the church and individual penitents go to one of them to make their confession. In other parishes the priests offer a form of General Absolution at the end of a Penitential Service, and this satisfies many who find it very difficult to verbally confess their sins. Here at St Michael's we have discovered a way which suits us, when there is neither a General Absolution nor a body of priests in various parts of the church, but just one or two priests who offer an individual and personal Absolution to each penitent. And we do this in the context of Mass, because there are many who have not been to Holy Communion for a long time, and this gives them an immediate opportunity to receive the Sacred Host.

This seems to me to be the most satisfying of all the various formats I have come across, and our Reconciliation Service will be on March 29th. But to allow those who would like to make an individual Confession, I shall be available in the sacristy during Holy Hour for anyone who wishes to come along.

LENTEN ALMS

Thanks for all your offerings, which so far total just over £620. After Haiti things seem even worse in Chile.

LENT COURSE.

There is a Lent course on St Paul at Sacred Heart in Henley on Monday. The course begins after 7.00pm Mass.

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT

There will be a **Ceili** on Saturday 13th March at 7.30pm, in our parish hall. £7 per adult, £3 per child, and this will include food and refreshments. Tickets are now available at the back of church.

ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

The young children of our school will lead us in our 1030 Mass on Mothering Sunday, March 14th.

FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP.

There will be another workshop on Saturday March 27th in the Hall.

There are forms on the table at the back of church for those of you who would like to come along on that day.

READERS NEEDED

For the services during Holy Week, on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

If you are able to help please contact Brian Theobald, Deacon Francis or myself.

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