St. Michael's Bulletin

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, March 8th, 2009
Vigil 5.30 pm Our Parish Family

9.00 am Thanksgiving **1030 am David Roberts and family**

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 Morning prayer & Mass 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, Nancy Keogh, Michael Boyle, Donald Garland, Gerald Scullane, Jason Thatcher , Mary Comfry, Jade Goody, David Roberts and Marie Evans.

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for Peter Gibson 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 Cyril Lowther, Henry Litlewood, Francis Fallows, Roman Szulc, Mamie Connors, Lilian Peach, Josephine Kehoe, Lucy Shurwell and Dorothy Flannery whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

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LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Our devotions on Sunday evening will be varied, this evening we shall have Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, with a time of stillness and silence for your own personal prayers and recollection.
Please remember that we also have 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.

CAFOD FAST DAY fell on FRIDAY.

Please return your envelopes via the offertory collection basket. If you were able to fast then you will be more sensitised to the needs of those who go hungry every day and this helps us be more generous to those who have so very little to eat each day. 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?

LENT PROJECT. Housing for Refugees

Our Lenten Project is to support a housing scheme for refugess in the war-torn countries of the Balkans. The swing-bin at the back of church will happily receive any donations you wish to make. It will go to assist in the aftermath of fighting and ethnic cleansing which results in great numbers if peple being homeless.This project is sponsored by Sister Josephine Walsh, who will come to speak to us at each Mass on the week-end of March 28th/9th .She will give us an insight into the work she is doing there. Perhaps some of you will remember her from the time when she lead a Retreat in the parish some years ago.

LENTEN READING.

There are books on the shelves in the alcove at the back of church which are useful for Lent. Some are for dipping into, others for reading and inwardly digesting. There are some books of prayers by the Prayer Board. Please help yourself

SAINT MARTIN'S SCHOOL.

On Tuesday 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 next week-end to give us some insight into the meaning and importance of Lent. He will also be inviting us to join in the "Journey of Faith" course which he is now running at Sacred Heart in Henley. The sessions take place each Wednesday at 8.00 pm during Lent. If you wish to go along, please feel free to do so.

PARISH COUNCIL.

One of the issues we discussed at our meeting on Thursday was the need to seek more volunteers to help clean the church. We are looking for willing people to offer their help, which will be for about 40 minutes every two or three months. We are very grateful to those who already help with this task. Next week we hope to have a list at the back of church which will detail the jobs which need to be done, and ask if you can help us so that the church is always spick and span whenever we come into it.

GIFT AID

Ed Pearce, who is our Gift Aid organiser, will speak at each Mass this week-end.

He will explain what Gift Aid is and how it can benefit our parish. He will thank those of you who are already signed up for it and will also be encouraging those who are not signed up to do so, in order to maximise our finances with the help of this scheme. For those who are not yet part of this Gift Aid scheme there is a hand-out for you to take away, explaining what is involved.

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"My Religion is kindness." Dalai Lama, Buddhist.

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