

Entrance antiphon:

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Psalm response:

Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

The Apostles Creed is on page 456.

After the Bidding Prayers:

Hail Mary Full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

To conclude the bidding prayers:

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest.
Inspire, in the hearts of your people,
vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.
Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call
have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Diocesan prayer for vocations)

Communion Antiphon:

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

*The newsletter is also available at www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk
If you do not need to take this one home, please do return it to the console at the
back of Church after Mass, so that it can be reused. Many thanks.
Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216*

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Information about the Year of Jubilee can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

**Catholic Parish
of St Michael's
Sonning Common**

*Sonning Common, Dunsden, Peppard,
Checkendon, Stoke Row, Emmer Green
and Caversham Park*

www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

**PARISH NEWSLETTER
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
16th February 2025****Thought for the Week**

A few weeks ago, I was speaking to Fr James Burns president of St Mary's Minnesota, a theological university in the US. He was saying that in his area the three local seminaries are full, in fact the seminary he lives in has more seminarians than the whole of the UK has! I asked him his thoughts on the reason for this success and growth. Part of his answer was that around the start of the Millennium the bishops of the US began asking their communities to pray for vocations and they responded with generous and earnest prayers. Prayer is powerful, we have a God whose goodness and mercy are superabundant and boundless. However Jesus, in Luke chapter 11, does tell us to be persistent, to keep on asking, searching and knocking. We can be assured that as part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church God will never abandon us (Matthew 16:13-19) and that Jesus is with us always (Matthew 28:20.) We can trust then that the Lord is calling men to the priesthood, but we must cooperate with His will.

Apart from the Holy Mass, one of the greatest forms of prayer we have is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In the sacred silence of adoration, we come face to face with Jesus, body, blood, soul and divinity in the appearance of bread. In this most powerful moment of prayer we can allow our own human will to move in harmony with the divine will. We can also use this time to pray earnestly for vocations to the priesthood, simply by spending time before the blessed sacrament holding the desire for priestly vocations in your heart. But what should you do during these times of silence? My suggestion would be to very slowly, leaving pauses between each word, repeat mentally the phrase "*Jesus, Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner*". Try it for 15 minutes, you may be surprised what the Lord says back to you! But what if adoration isn't available at a time you can make it? Perhaps the Lord is inviting you help your parish priest or deacon to prepare the Church for adoration. Please do try and spend time this month in adoration with the intention of vocations in mind.

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

If you are a visitor or new to the parish, we welcome you warmly.

Catholic Parish of St Michael,

18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9SU Tel: 0118 972 3418

Email: stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk

Website: www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

St Michael's Hall Hire Tel: 0118 972 3418

St Martin's Catholic Primary School

Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park. Tel: 0118 901 5544

Website: www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk

If you would like a home visit please call Deacon Brian Theobald

Tel: 07484332580 or email dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk

All Masses are live streamed and Mass streaming links can be found on our website

IMPORTANT! - FINANCE REPORT AND APPEAL

After all Masses **next weekend** members of the Parish finance committee will hand out an appeal letter giving an overview of the parish finances up to December 2024. They will also explain how to create, or update, a standing order. The forms can be returned on 2nd/3rd March when you can also update your details for the parish database if you so wish.

YOUTH MASS - 10.30AM THIS SUNDAY, 16TH

Teas, coffees and cakes will be served after Mass.

Everyone is very welcome - you don't have to be a youth! 😊

MONTH OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Do please remember our month of prayer for Vocations. There will be a Holy Hour from 7pm every Monday in February. The rosary will also be prayed before the weekend Masses and after the weekday liturgies.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

6.30pm, Friday, 7th March at Springwater Church (Blounts Court Road)

This year's World Day of Prayer has been organised by the Christian Women in the Cook Islands. Be part of the wave of Christian prayer that will encircle the globe this day as we pray with, and for the people of the Cook Islands.

Soup and cake will follow the service.

And finally ...Newsletter News

*A note to introduce myself. I'm Fran. I have taken over the compiling of the parish newsletter. Krissie, who's been doing such great work for over a decade, would like to free up some time for her family, but she remains very much part of the parish. Happily, she is **not** leaving us!*

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to: fran.stm.news@gmail.com

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Mary Lewis** who can be contacted at: sg.stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted by telephoning: 0121 230 6240 or emailing safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns

Parish Liturgies for week commencing 16 February 2025

This weekend we welcome Fr Andrew Foster and Fr Michael Doyle

15/16 February

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Vocations to the Religious Life
Sunday	10.30am	Youth Mass / Stephen Aldworth R.I.P.
Monday	9.30am 7.00pm	Eucharistic Service Holy Hour for Vocations
Tuesday	12.00	Mass
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service

22/23 February

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday	10.30am	Vocations to the Religious Life
Confessions	Available before and after each of the weekend Masses	
Sacrament of the Sick	On request: tel. 0118 972 3418	

Dates for YOUR Diary

Sunday, 2nd March	10.30am	Family Mass
Ash Wednesday, 5th March	-	Mass times will be published soon
Friday, 7th March	6.30pm	World Day of Prayer - Springwater Church
Sunday, 16th March	10.30am	Youth Mass

Please Pray for our Sick Parishioners, family and friends; Lord, send your healing Spirit on all who are sick or distressed.

Dominic Antão; Catherine Belletty; Robert Brooks; Liz Bouchier; Joe Bunton; Savanna Clark; Mary Edwards; Mary Hagger; Rogan Hodgson; Vivien Kear; Jennifer Learmouth; Fr. Paul Rowan; Dominic Sakrouge; Peppin Sanz.

If circumstances change please ask for the name to be removed from the list.

For All Deceased Members of our Parish Family

We pray for all who have died, and for those whose anniversary occurs about this time:

May the light and joy of God's peace shine upon them.

Bep Anschutz; Stephen James Aldworth; John Dowd; Richard Savage; Avito Benedict; Da Silva; Eileen Arkell; Bridie Bonner; Peter Davies; Eileen Enright; Bridie Bonner; Jimmy Thompson; Mary Ann Kennedy; Edward Lonsdale; Arthur Rowse; Kevin Watters