St. Michael's Bulletin

PARISH NEWS

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
Saint Martin's School, Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park. **Head**; Mrs Anne Hogg, Tel: 0118-901-5544
e-mail. chris.bester@btinternet.com **website:** www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

= =

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT. DECEMBER 21st 2008

Vigil 5.30 pm Simon Barrow

9. 00 am Our Parish Family 1030 am Aldworth & Connelly families

Monday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service

= =

CHRISTMAS EVE.
6.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas for Children
9.00 pm "Midnight" Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY
1030 am Christmas Morning Family Mass

= =

ST STEPHEN'S DAY 1000 am Morning Mass Saturday 5.30 pm George & Jane Raynard

---

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

During Advent the great characters we meet from the Bible are Isaiah, the prophet who offers hope and confidence to the people. He assures them that in the fulness of time God will send a great leader who will bring them the fulfillment of all the promises made to them.

The second great character is John the Baptist, who prepares the people by calling them to repentance and challenges them to be ready to receive their great leader. Yet the paradox is that the great leader will not be a great warrior but will be like a humble shepherd who watches over and cares for his flocks to keep them safe from all danger. But at the end of His life the shepherd will become the sacrificial lamb whose sacrifice saves His people.

Today we begin the last few days preparation and the focus is on Mary. She has been prepared to play a highly important part in God's plan for us. When the angel Gabriel (a name which means "God is strong") tells her of God's great favour to her, she humbly accepts and prays that whatever God has planned will be brought to fruition.

Mary is our model in daily Christian living; she listens to God's word, ponders it in her heart and is ready to put it into action when she discerns that the time is right. Her openness to God's will is the ideal we all strive for.

= = = = = = = = = = = =

Christ is born in the middle of winter and rises to new life in the Spring.

= = = = = = = = = = = = = =

ADVENT PROJECT.

Our support for BARNARDO'S has so far reached just over £428. Thank you. I'm sure there is more yet to come.

= = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =

<u>May I remind the children to bring a Birthday card for Jesus on Christmas day</u>.

= =

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, Pat Sullivan, Joseph Bradley, Mike Coulehan, Harry Littlefair, Peter Gibson, Nancy Keogh, Michael Boyle, Jack Edwards, Donald Garland, Peggy Grey and Mary Comfry.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for Tess Lynch, Reg Adams, Sue Carey 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 also remember Nan & Laurence Maxwell, George Raynard, Paul Fay, Fr Robert O'Neill, Fr Xavier, Bridget Mullaniff, Benjamin Roman Zambrano, Phyllis Baring-Gould, Ivy Roberts, Gino Dell'Aqua, Maud Cooper, Frederick Everett and Charles, Kathleen & Mickey Harris, whose anniversaries fall at this time. Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

= =

Francis and I offer you our very best wishes you a very happy Christmas.

May we all have a family-centred week. Fr Chris