St. Michael's Bulletin

PARISH NEWS

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

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SEVENTH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, 2009
Vigil 5.30 pm Barbara Gandy
9.00 am Our Parish Family **1030 am Eugene Herbert**
Monday 9.00am Eucharistic Service Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service
ASH WEDNESDAY
Blessing, distribution of ashes at Mass for Ash Wednesday at 7.00 pm.
Thursday 9.00 am Morning prayer and Mass 5.30 pm Reception of the body of Isobel Gillett
Friday 2.00 pm Requiem Mass for Isobel Gillett
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, Peter Gibson, Nancy Keogh, Michael Boyle, Donald Garland, Gerald Scullane, Jason Thatcher , Mary Comfry and Marie Evans.

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for Isobel Gillett 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 Mary Ann Kennedy, Kevin Watters, Edward Lonsdale, Maria Motyka, Una Cottrell, Nancy & Basil Evach, Wyn Hyman and Violet Taylor whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

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LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY.

There will be a Service of Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at school at 9.00am
There will be Mass here at St Michael's at 7.00pm when ashes will be blessed and distributed to each one present.
This is an important and significant event in the Church's year, and in our personal lives, when we begin the season of Lent. It is a time of penitence and reflection. We look into our lives and ask ourselves if we are meeting the challenge which the Gospel of Jesus offers us. Are we kind, loving and forgiving? Do we harbour hurts and resentments from the past?
The traditional basis for our lives during Lent is three-fold : prayer, fasting and alms-giving (ie. Giving to charity).
These three activities help us to become more aware of our relationship with God, with our inner selves and with each other.
The word "LENT" comes from an old English word for Springtime, a time when the days lengthen (lencten) and when Mother nature is coming to life all around us. Do we feel we are bursting into life? Well, we can all have a good spring-clean, not just of our homes, but of our inner lives, too, trying to clear out all the rubbish and excess baggage which so easily accumulates.
For each of us there is a need to look at our daily behaviour and ask ourselves if we are doing the best we can.
So, for instance, when we come into church do we bless ourselves properly with Holy Water? Do we genuflect reverently?(For those who are unable to genuflect, then do we bow reverently towards the altar and tabernacle?) Are we quiet and prayerful before Mass ? Do we receive Holy Communion with reverence and care ? Do we say a quiet prayer of thanksgiving after Holy Communion? These are small and simple acts which we should perhaps look to when we examine the way we are behaving.
If we cannot do the simple things well, then what are we doing well? Clearly, a time for thoughtful reflection for us all.
The 40 days of Lent are a preparation to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Our little acts of mortification are simple ways in which we let go of all that is not essential, and allow ourselves to discover what really is important for us in our daily lives.
During Lent there will be a Holy Hour each Sunday, from 5.00pm – 6.00 pm: Benediction and Evening prayer of the church.
We shall also have one 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 Wednesdaysfrom March 4th at 2.00pm and also at 7.30pm

CHOIR PRACTICE

On Saturday at 1030am in preparation for Lent. Even if not in the choir you may wish to come along to learn the Lenten music

FR EDDIE BUTLER

Fr Eddie will be with us on the week-end of March 14/15th to give us some insight into the meaning and importance of Lent. He will also be inviting us to join in his "Journey of Faith" course which he will be running at Sacred Heart in Henley during Lent.

CAFOD FAST DAY. Friday March 6th

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?. **CAFOD Fast Day Envelopes** are already at the back of church; please take one for your family and perhaps one for friends.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual prayer service will be at Stoke Row Chapel on Friday 6th March from 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm. All welcome

THOUGHTS FOR LENT.

Being kind is more important than being right.
I can always pray for someone when I can't help them in any other way.

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May we all have a peaceful week. Fr Chris