

Entrance antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Psalm response:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious

Acclamation:

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God.

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:

We give you thanks, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have gained for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly
and follow you more nearly. Amen.
(St Richard of Chichester)

Communion Antiphon:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

*The newsletter is also available at www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk
If you do not need to take this one home, please return it to the console at the back
of Church after Mass, so that it can be reused. Many thanks.*

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

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

Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216



**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

Third Sunday of Lent - 23 March 2025

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This week's Gospel likens humanity to a fig tree. The Owner (God) is unhappy with the state this fig tree finds itself in - barren of fruit - and threatens to cut it down. The gardener (Jesus) asks to let the fig tree live on for a further time to allow it to be tended to, fed and nourished to give it a chance to flourish.

This Gospel parable resonates strongly for me as I write my Thought on the island of Cyprus. The fig tree also features prominently in the book I am reading - 'The Island of Missing Trees' by award-winning author Elif Shafak. Two young lovers from opposite sides of the Greek and Turkish-Cypriot communities meet secretly under the trees' branches shortly before they, the fig tree and Cypriots from both communities face death and immense suffering just over 50 years ago when Turkish forces invaded Cyprus.

Today the people of Gaza, Ukraine and many other places are like the fig tree, facing being cut down. Being in Cyprus, only 250 miles from Gaza, I was shocked to hear on our first morning that Israel had broken the cease-fire and re-commenced aerial bombing, killing hundreds. Israel has announced that unless the people of Gaza eject Hamas and hand over the remaining hostages they face 'total destruction and devastation'. How can ordinary citizens fleeing from aerial bombing and a huge ground invasion meet these demands?

In our Lenten journeys we may feel at a loss as to what we can do to help - how can we the 'gardeners', Guardians of World, build peace as members of the UN?

One way would be to support the Christian charity 'Embrace the Middle East', which has been close to our heart at St Michael's. In addition we can pray deeply that, like the fig tree these afflicted people and those of Ukraine and other war-torn areas can be saved from being cut down - and offered, love, nourishment and a chance to live and flourish.

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

JM

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: 01189723418

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

YEAR OF JUBILEE - PILGRIMS OF HOPE - A LENTEN REFLECTION

Wednesday at 7pm in the church

This week: The Prayer of Hope: Prayer and Hope are Inseparable.

FIRST AID COURSE: MONDAY 28 APRIL - 9AM TO 3PM

3 places remain on the free first aid course Please email Krissie at stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk to reserve a place.

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR MASS.

Thank you if you have volunteered to open the church and prepare it for Mass when deacon Brian or other keyholders are away. More help would be welcome, particularly locking up after the Sunday, 10.30am Mass. Please email deacon Brian.

EASTER EGGS APPEAL - WE ARE LOOKING FOR 40 EASTER EGGS

This appeal is on behalf of Family Workers from the South Reading Dept of Social Services who work with struggling families, including 'trafficked' mothers. If you can donate an Easter Egg, please leave it at the church by 5/6 April. Thank you.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST.

Were you an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist in the past, and would like to be recommissioned to assist with visits to the housebound and distribution of the chalice should we re-introduce Holy Communion under both kinds? Or, if you would like to assume this ministry, email deacon Brian.

Visits to the housebound will require a safeguarding check.

CAR FOR FR COLIN BLANEY 1ST MAY - 1ST SEPTEMBER

Does anyone have a spare car that Fr Colin could use for local trips while he is with us. Additional insurance costs will be reimbursed. Contact deacon Brian.

RECYCLING NEWS FROM OUR THOUGHTFUL LIVING GROUP

We will no longer be collecting old pens etc in our recycling bins: these can be left at Sonning Common Library. We will instead take blister packs for a trial period. Please try not to overfill our bins! Thank you.

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 23 March 2025

This weekend we welcome Fr Gerry Hastie from Mill Hill Missionaries

22/23 March Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday	10.30am	Stephen Aldworth & Cotter family deceased
Monday	9.30am 7.00pm	Eucharistic Service Lenten Holy Hour
Tuesday	12.00pm	Mass (followed by Stations of the Cross)
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass (followed by Stations of the Cross)
Friday	-	No Liturgy

29/30 March

Fourth Sunday of Lent (2nd Collection for Holy Places)

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Joan Godfrey, R.I.P.
Sunday	10.30am	Holy Souls
Confessions	Available before and after each of the weekend Masses	
Sacrament of the Sick	On request: ☎ 0118 972 3418	



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

20 MIN BEFORE THE START OF EACH WEEKEND MASS

The funeral Mass for Phyllis Belletty will be at 12 noon, Monday 14th April followed by a committal at Reading Crematorium. R.I.P.

**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; 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.

Eammon Patrick Bird; Hermien Noothout; James Roughneen; Peter Warren;
Tony Dover; Audrey Gallagher; John William Harman; Fr Andrew Creighton;
Christine Ryman (nee Lester); Nan and Larry Maxwell and Family; Catherine Van Well;
Sarah Bardon; Mary Gardner