



St. Michael's Bulletin



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

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FEAST OF ST PETER & ST PAUL, June 28th, 2009

Vigil of Sunday 5.30 pm Bridget McDonnell

9.00 am Our Parish family

Monday 9.00am Morning prayer & Mass
Wednesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service
Friday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass

10.30 am Holy Souls

Tuesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass
Thursday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass
Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm Holy Souls

Also this week. Tuesday 2.30pm Funeral Service for Sheila Silverthorne at Henley Rd Crematorium

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, Joseph Bradley, Mike Coulehan, Harry Littlefair, Nancy Keogh, Donald Garland, Gerald Scullane, Jason Thatcher, David Roberts, Marie Evans, Rita Conlon, Margaret Keane, Siobhain Moran, Maureen Vinall, Tony Morrin and Frank O'Donnell

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for Sheila Silverthorne, Michael Jackson 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. Rita Lavalette, Peter Perie, Joan Griffin, Ray Samuels, Audrey Monument, Norman Lousley, Pam Ryan, John Russell, Richard Frankton, Marie Anschutz van Bree, Patrick Cottrell, Grace Coll, W Smyth, Margaret Mather, Maggie Carroll, Michael Werkalec, Chris Tynan and Helen Coyle whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

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TODAY IS THE FEAST OF ST PETER & ST PAUL.

From the earliest days of the Christian church Peter and Paul have been regarded as the two most important apostles. They are frequently depicted together in early Christian art. It is an ancient tradition that they were both martyred on the same day, June 29th, in the same year when Nero was Emperor of Rome.

Peter was crucified head-downwards, because he said he was not worthy to be put on the cross in the same way as his Lord. Paul was beheaded because, unlike Peter, he was a Roman citizen and would not be subjected to the humiliation of crucifixion, which was a punishment reserved for criminals and those who were not Roman citizens.

In the names of the Apostles in the New Testament **Peter** is always named first and he is mentioned more often than all the other Apostles put together. He it is who is usually the mouthpiece of the Apostles, and after his confession of faith at Caesarea Philippi he is told that it will be on him and his solid faith of Jesus as the Son of God that the church would be founded. The name Peter means "Rock". After Jesus ascends to Heaven Peter takes charge of the young Christian community and it is he who opens up the new community of believers, the church, to the Gentiles – the outsiders who are not Jews – when he admits Cornelius, his relatives and friends, into the church. Peter then says "I now see the truth that God has no favourites, but that anyone who is God-fearing and does what is right is acceptable to Him.." This was the great break through in taking the Good News to all the nations and baptising them. Peter leaves Jerusalem, goes north to Antich and then on to Rome.

Paul, originally called Saul, was brought up as a Pharisee, a strict sect within Judaism; the word "pharisee" means "set apart". They tried to adapt the rigid Law to make it more applicable to changing situations, but ran foul of Jesus who found that their purely external observance of the Law lead to self-righteousness and a disparagement of those who were not Pharisees. Paul was a very zealous and enthusiastic Pharisee. He saw the new sect of the followers of Jesus of Nazareth as people who should be rooted out and put to death, but while on his way from Jerusalem to Damascus in Syria he was thrown from his horse by a blinding flash of light and heard a voice asking him " Why are you persecuting Me?" When he asked who was speaking he was told "I am Jesus and you are persecuting Me." Jesus was suffering through the sufferings of His followers. This completely changed Saul and from a persecutor of the Christians he now becomes their foremost champion. His name is changed to indicate a new role in life and he is revered as Christianity's greatest preacher and teacher of the message of Jesus.

BLESSING OUR CHILDREN.

At our Confirmation Mass Bishop Kenney spoke of the tradition of parents blessing their children. He said that it was common in some cultures for the Father to bless the sons and for the Mother to bless their daughters. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we were to establish such a custom in our own families! A simple form would be for the hand to be placed on the child's head and for the parent to say "May God bless you." You may also wish to make a small cross on the child's forehead, or both make the sign of the cross together. If it were to be an end of day blessing then may be "Good night, sleep well, and may God bless and keep you" It is also the case that in some families the parents will tuck the children in and say a very short form of prayer with them, looking back over the day to thank God for all the good things that have happened and asking His blessing on our sleep.

AWARENESS RAISING ABOUT DEMENTIA.

There will be a day dedicated to the understanding of Dementia, at St Joseph's Care Home in Coleshill, on Saturday August 1st, from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. It is hoped that the day will help to de-mystify some aspects of the condition and highlight the vital role which family and friends have in supporting the person who is suffering with the illness. There is a notice on the board with more information. You may contact Sally on 01675-434000 or e-mail stjosephs2@fatherhudsons.org.uk

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May we all have a peaceful week. Fr Chris