St. Michael's Bulletin

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

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY. DECEMBER 28th 2008

Vigil 5.30 pm George & Jane Raynard

9. 00 am Our Parish Family | 1030 am Cotter & O'Shea families

Monday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service | Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Wednesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service | Thursday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Friday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service | Saturday 5.30 pm Holy Souls

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 and Mary Comfry.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for 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 now remember Kenneth de Silva, Danny Jenkins, Ilona Bakacs, Julia Delemare, John Forbes, Jack Oswald, Louise Coulehan, Mary Williams, Yvonne Fernandes, Matt Kearney and Mary-Ann & Charles Smith whose anniversaries fall at this time. Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

TODAY IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.

A day for us to rejoice and to celebrate our love and affection for each other.

I hope you have all had the opportunity to spend time with your family and appreciate what a great treasure we all possess in having each other as members of our family. Our role models in this regard are Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the way that they supported each other and stuck by one another in really difficult circumstances. We look to them for inspiration and support as we try to deepen our ties of love and affection within our own families and amongst our good and faithful friends.

Christmas tells us that God has come to join us in our human family. He has become a member of a human family and shares all our hopes, and aspirations, our worries and concerns. So God knows what it is like to belong to a family and therefore we can confidently place before Him all our own hopes, ambitions, fears and disappointments, and ask Him to transform them with His love.

The New Year begins on Thursday and so once again we begin with hope in our hearts for a year that will be better than any which went before it. We should be eternally optimistic that we can, if we work together, improve the quality of life for everyone on our fragile planet. We all have our own personal hopes for the New Year but I am sure we all hope for a more peaceful and kindly world, free from threats of strife and oppression, where we all work together and make strenuous efforst to eradicate poverty and misery.

We look forward to a world where we can grow in respect and affection for each other across the nations

In the darkest time of our Nation's historywhen we were threated by invasion by a an evil that was spreading throughout Europe, our Monarch King George VI, father of our present Queen spoke to the Nation on Christmas day in 1939 and this is part of what he said:

"A new year is at hand. We cannot tell what it will bring. If it rings peace, how grateful we shall be. If it brings continued struggle, we shall remain undaunted. In the meantime I feel we may all find encouragememt in these lines:-

'I said to man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way" May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all

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Our support for Barnardo's during Advent reached the total of £650. Thank you very much for your generosity.

My grateful thanks for your kind wishes, gifts and especially for your generous Christmas offerings.
I am most appreciative of your kindness when so many demands are made on your pockets.

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Francis and I offer you all every best wish for a peaceful and happy New Year.
May God bless us all and keep us safe. Fr Chris