

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Missal Page 856

### Entrance Antiphon:

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made. alleluia.

### Psalm response:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

### Acclamation:

*Alleluia! Alleluia!* I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me. *Alleluia!*

*The Apostles Creed is on page 456.*

### After the Bidding Prayers:

O Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.  
For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia,  
Has risen as He said, Alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, Alleluia.  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia,  
For the Lord has risen indeed, Alleluia. Amen.

### To conclude the Bidding Prayers:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

### Communion Antiphon:

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

*The newsletter is also available at [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://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.*

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](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Easter

11 May 2025

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

At the time of writing, the Church and the world are anticipating a significant moment in the life of the Catholic Church: the election of a new Pope, Bishop of Rome and successor of St Peter. As we now know, the cardinals have elected Cardinal Robert Prevost, the first ever North American Pope. He has accepted the mantle and taken the name Pope Leo XIV.

It is perhaps worth reflecting for a moment on Pope Leo's role. He is the successor of St Peter, one of the twelve apostles. Jesus made Peter head of the twelve when he gave him the keys of his Church and instituted him shepherd of all who follow Jesus. Likewise, the Pope continues this role as head of the bishops (successors of the apostles), and is shepherd to the whole Catholic Church. He is also the visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and the whole company of the faithful. With this responsibility, we can understand why it is important we pray for the Pope at every Mass and at other times.

Today's short Gospel summarises the key role of the Pope as he continues the mission of Jesus. That he continues to call people to Jesus offering the hope of eternal life, supporting them and protecting them from sin. But the Pope is only one man, and like Jesus he sends others out to help him fulfil his mission. Firstly, through his bishops, but ultimately through all the baptised faithful, you and me.

Let us pray for Pope Leo XIV, that he will lead Christ's Church over the coming months and years so that the world will hear the Good News of the Gospel, and many come to know and love the one true God. Pray also for ourselves that united with the Pope we will fulfil this calling in our local community.

Deacon Brian

## 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](mailto:stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk)

Website: [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

**St Michael's Hall Hire** Tel: 0118 972 3418

### St Martin's Catholic Primary School

Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park. Tel: 0118 901 5544

Website: [www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk](http://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](mailto:dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk)

All Masses are live streamed and Mass streaming links can be found on our website

## STATEMENT FROM ARCHBISHOP BERNARD LONGLEY

"I welcome the wonderful news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he prepared to give us his first blessing as Pope in St Peter's Square he also gave us a message of joyful encouragement, calling us to be bridge-builders who are the light of Christ in the world. As the first Pope from the United States of America he also remembered the people of Chiclayo in Peru where he had served as bishop until 2023.

"I have just spent the last few days at Buckfast Abbey with all the Bishops of England and Wales as we prayed for the Cardinals in Conclave and as we waited to hear whom the Holy Spirit would identify as the Successor of Peter. It will be a great joy to serve the Church's mission inspired by the guidance of Pope Leo. All the lay faithful, the Religious and clergy of our Archdiocese are praying for our new Holy Father that he may serve the Church for many years and be richly blessed in his apostolate."

**HOLY HOUR** on Monday evening from 7pm - to pray for Pope Leo

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who contributed to making our Welcome Reception for Fr Colin a very *welcoming* and happy event. These things never 'just happen'; there is always work behind the scenes, and parishioners at St Michael's always come good. Thank you.

## A BIT OF EXERCISE AND CAMARADERIE

A lovely bunch of parishioners turn up every Tuesday from 9.30 'til noon, April to September to tend the church and presbytery gardens. If you have even a little time to spare, the team is always grateful for more help.

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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns

## Parish Liturgies for week commencing 4 May 2025

Celebrant: Fr Colin Blayney

**10 / 11 May**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### Second Collection for Clergy Training

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	Pope Leo XIV - Intentions
Monday	- <b>7pm</b>	No Liturgy <b>Holy Hour to pray for Pope Leo</b>
Tuesday	12 noon	Parents (R.I.P.) of Judy & Stephen Fox,
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass
Thursday	-	No Liturgy
Friday	9.30am	Mass

**17 / 18 MAY**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday	10.30am	Andrew Rosario, R.I.P. / <b>YOUTH MASS</b>
Confessions	Available before and after each of the weekend Masses	
Sacrament of the Sick	On request: ☎ 0118 972 3418	

**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;  
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

Raymond Dockerty; William Kenny; Kenneth Pereira; Patrick Joseph Keogh;  
Bill Newman; Eileen Savage; Richard Taylor; Leslie Peach; Mary Scullen;  
Kenneth Alfred Dean; Fr. Robert O'Neill O.F.M.; Fr Xavier O.F.M.

**May the light and joy of God's peace shine upon them.**