

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Missal Page 859

Entrance Antiphon:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia

Psalm response:

I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.

Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. *Alleluia!*

The Apostles Creed is on page 456. / Nicene Creed is on page 455

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:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

*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.*



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

18 May 2025

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Love, Love, Love...

It is said that the Inuit people have over 50 words for snow. I don't know how true this is and, unless you speak the Inuit language, it probably doesn't matter much to you or me. What does matter is that the Greeks had four words for Love. More properly, they had four words for four types of love that, in English, we use that single word for. In today's Gospel, from St John, we hear the start of the sermon Jesus gives to the gathered disciples at the Last Supper. The words we read are probably taken by the evangelist from several passed on oral recollections; but from the beginning and the teaching he repeats throughout his Gospel is of love being a key foundation of Jesus' message and our Christian faith.

The new commandment: "*just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another*" and that, by this sign others will recognise that they (and we) are His disciples, is a use of the Greek agape (ἀγάπη). Agape, to Greek speakers, was the highest form of love; the selfless and unconditional love that God has for humanity. This is the love that St Paul also calls us to in the beautiful passage in his first letter to the Church in Corinth. The love that is always: patient and kind, never envious, boastful or proud....

The second type of love that we as Jesus' followers are called to is philia (φιλία); the mutual love and respect that is the basis for true and deep friendship between individuals. At the extreme this love is so great that someone would "*lay down his life for his friends*".

The other two facets of love as understood by the Greeks are: eros (ἔρως) and storge (στοργή). Eros describes romantic or passionate love, whilst storge refers more to the bonds of love within families.

A prayer for each one of us this week, for those we love and especially for those who feel lonely or abandoned:

*May you love, may you be loved and may you feel loved.
And may the love of Christ our risen saviour, dwell in your heart for ever.*

A Parishioner

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

FROM FR COLIN

"Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your warm welcome to your wonderful parish. I am particularly grateful for the lovely reception on my first weekend and for the card you prepared. Thank you to all involved.

"Secondly, I would like to offer the possibility of a short course on the Bible: how did it come together, how do we work to interpret it, what is the background to each Gospel, and other things.

Perhaps at the end of that some might like to form an on-going Scripture study group - which I would be happy to get underway. So that we know we would have a quorum for the sessions, if you wish to take part could you put your name down on the sheet near the entrance to the church this weekend or leave an email or phone message with the Parish Office."

ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS!

A day for Oxfordshire Altar Servers, 21st June 9.30am - 3pm at St Joseph's Thame. The day is being organised by the diocesan youth team and will bring altar servers together for a day of activities. If you are interested in attending contact Deacon Brian as numbers are required by the organisers.

PARISHIONER 'THOUGHTS'

For the duration of his stay with us here at St Michael's, Fr Colin has kindly offered to share his 'Thoughts' with us every weekend and so we are suspending the current 'Thoughts' Rota. Relax and enjoy the summer break!

Items for inclusion in the newsletter can be emailed to:

fran.stm.news@gmail.com

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 17 May 2025

Celebrant: Fr Colin Blayney

17 /18 May

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	Andrew Rosario, R.I.P. / YOUTH MASS
Monday	-	No Liturgy
Tuesday	12 noon	Parents (R.I.P.) of Judy & Stephen Fox,
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass at St Martin's School - all welcome
Thursday	9.30am	No Liturgy
Friday	9.30am	Mass

24 /25 MAY

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday	10.30am	World Peace and Harmony
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; Lin Prendergast.

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:

Mary Fry; Francis O'Neill; Lissu Savvin; Julia Pearce; Mary Smith;
Margaret Andrews; Aisling Earley; Jack Graham; Maria O'Connor; Brian O' Dowd.

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