

Entrance antiphon:

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

Psalm response:

Be with me, O Lord, in my distress

Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. *Glory and praise to you, O Christ.*

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:

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God.

*The newsletter is also available at www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk
If you do not need to take this one home, please do 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 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

**First Sunday of Lent
9 March 2025**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I have never spent time alone in a wilderness isolated from people. I imagine the one thing I would experience is SILENCE. On this 1st Sunday of Lent our Gospel invites us to join Jesus in the wilderness. It was the Holy Spirit that led Him into the silence of the wilderness for 40 days. In the silence he listened to His Father and discerned His earthly mission: rejecting earthly things (turning stones into bread); rejecting power (gaining all the kingdoms); rejecting notoriety (jumping off the temple). He would lead a life of humility, inviting people to come to know His Father as the one true God, and giving His life to reconcile everyone to his Father.

As Lent begins let us ask the Holy Spirit to lead us, as He did Jesus, to the silence where we can hear God. Amongst the Lenten sacrifices and good works we undertake, can we find time to be still before God? I want to share some words that were written by a nun and passed on to me that have challenged me this Lent:

'Be still, and know that I am God,' Psalm 46:10

Quiet prayer is a matter of being: being in stillness, being in God;
Not achieving anything or trying to find words, but simply being.

***I am here, Lord, hiding nothing from you,
holding back nothing from you;
I simply wait in your presence.
For when I wait for you, I am found by you.***

Let God find us this Lent, that we might discern our mission for his glory.
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

Website: 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

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

Beginning 7pm this Wednesday in the church we will explore what Christian hope is. There will be a total of 5 sessions. **This week: Christian Hope - A Gift From God.**

APPEAL FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you if you have already responded to the recent appeal to consider your financial support of our parish. Copies of the appeal are available at the back of the church.

LENT FAMILY FAST DAY - FRIDAY 14 MARCH

Deborah West, the CAFOD representative in our parish, will make an appeal this weekend for vital funds to support victims of war and poverty.

WHATSAPP GROUP - HERE'S AN IDEA!

Why not join St Michael's WhatsApp group to receive the latest news and updates? There's a QR code on leaflets at the back of the church or on the insert with this newsletter.

THE PARISH DATABASE

Volunteers will be on hand again this weekend to help you check and update your details on our database. This data is held securely and only used for parish business. Thank you for checking that we have the correct information about you.

THE YEAR AHEAD

At last weekend's Masses Canon Paul Fitzpatrick, the area Dean, updated us on the provision for our parish for the rest of 2025. The number of Masses will remain the same and be celebrated by priests from the deanery. During the summer, while deanery priests take their summer holiday, **Fr Colin Blaney** from Sydney, Australia (a friend of Canon Paul's) will reside in the presbytery for 4 months (1st May - 1st September) to care for our parish. As well as celebrating Mass, he will work with the whole parish to help us be better equipped to take responsibility for the long-term well-being of our parish community.

Lent WALK WITH ME: booklets and calendars - available at the back of the church.

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 9 March 2025

This weekend we welcome Fr Andrew Foster and Fr Michael Doyle

8/9 March First Sunday of Lent

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Marlena O'Donnell - Private Intention
Sunday	10.30am	Karl Merrett, R.I.P.
Monday	9.30am 7.00pm	Eucharistic Service Lenten Holy Hour
Tuesday	-	No liturgy (<i>Deanery meeting</i>)
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass (followed by Stations of the Cross)
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service

15/16 March

Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	Youth Mass
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

R.I.P.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Phyllis Belletty, who died on 5 March. May she rest in peace and may the Lord console those who loved her.

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.

Francis Fallones; Marnie Connors; Peter Godfrey; Catherine Neville; Roman Szulc;
Emilia Barratto; Randal McGowan (Mac); Lilian Peach; Lucy Shunwell;
Dorothy Flannex (nee Nevin); Mary Weir; Sister Mary Joseph (Murray).