PARISH NEWS

St. Michael's Bulletin

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER , March 30th, 2008

Vigil 5.30 pm Christine Ryman

9. 00 am For our Parish family 1030 am Aldworth and Cotter families

Monday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass Tuesday 9.00am Eucharistic Service

Wednesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass Thursday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass (for Gerry Buck)

Friday 9.00am Morning prayer & Mass **Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm Christine Ryman**

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FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS.

Loving Father, send Your healing Spirit on all who are distressed: those separated from their families and for those who have lost family and cannot find them. We pray for Frank Sweeney, Jacquie Bussell, Eugenie Micotti, Alison & Betty Gosling, Jack Daly, Philomena Smith, Ron Stephenson, Marguerite Brosnan, Patrick Cafferkey and Joseph Bradley.

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

We pray for all who died recently, for all who have been killed in wars, disasters and accidents throughout the world. For victims of terrorism and oppression; for those who die of starvation or neglect. We remember in prayer Liam Treacey, Cedric Baring-Gould, Joseph Anthony Melling, Kevin Cotter, Eileen Foley, Flora Bradley, Jim Roginski, Bernard Lobo, Elenor Fox and Gerry Buck, whose anniversaries fall at this time of the year.

May they find rest in Your Love and Peace.

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I WISH TO THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KIND AND GENEROUS EASTER OFFERINGS. I also hope you have been able to enjoy this first week of Easter in the company of your family and friends. Now that the hour has changed and the clocks been put forward we are suddenly aware of the light that has returned to our daily existence. The days are longer and brighter and all around us life is returning to the earth. We should be able to deduce from this that the life which Jesus won for us at His Resurrection should be filling us.

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ATTENDANCE during the days of Holy Week were most encouraging. I said last week that there were 120 present at the Reconciliation Service. The church was also full for the children's Passion Play on Tuesday. Numbers on Holy Thursday and Good Friday were most encouraging. In fact on Good Friday it was not possible to obtain an accurate number for those attending the Solemn Liturgy at 3.00 pm, but it was in the region of 150. The attendance for the Vigil (73) and the Easter Sunday Masses, 103 at the 9.00am and 185 at the 1030 am were also most encouraging. Whilst numbers alone are not an accurate guide of the quality of what happens in church, nevertheless such numbers do indicate a willingness on the part of so many to be present and active at our devotions. May we continue to grow and prosper in our faith and shared life within our parish family.

NEW FONT. You may have noticed the new Baptismal Font. The benches have been moved away from it so that it stands alone, the sign of our entry into the family of God. The old font had been built by Jim Harmon, Kevin's father. I think it appropriate that this new font should be dedicated to the memory of Jim, and I shall ask the stone masons who built the new font to come and inscribe a dedication to Jim onto it in due time.

NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS. I shall shortly be commencing a training programme for those who have agreed to become Eucharistic ministers.We shall meet initially after whatever Mass you attend at the week-end, and listen to the experiences which the present Eucharistic Ministers have of their own time in this ministry.

LENT PROJECT.

This has so far raised £833.09. Thank you very much for your generosity. Is there still more to come?
This week-end will be the last opportunity to make any donations. The money will be sent to Sister Kieran for her Girls School in Zambia. I have mentioned before that there is a macho culture in parts of Africa which see that education for girls is a waste of time. We need to help break that down and allow a new generation of educated Africans to emerge who will take that Continent into a brighter and more peaceful future.
At the time of writing this there are elections taking place in the troubled country of Zimbabwe. We should pray that all will be fair and above board, but the suspicion is that the election will be rigged. This is the very scenario we would hope to prevent happening in Zambia by supporting the education of girls and young women.

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CHRIST IS RISEN. ALLELUIA!