St. Michael's Bulletin

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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, December 16th, 2007
Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm Special Intention
9. 00 am Kathleen & Thomas Butler **1030 am Aileen Williams**
Monday 7. 00 pm Reconciliation Mass Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service
Wednesday. 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass Thursday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass
Friday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass **Saturday 5.30 pm George & Jane Raynard**
Confessions each Saturday at 1130 am – 1200 noon: and after Vigil Mass.

FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS.

Loving Father, send Your healing Spirit on all who are distressed. We pray for those separated from their families and for those who have lost children and cannot find them. We pray for Frank Sweeney, Catherine Viner, Jacquie Bussell, Eugenie Micotti, Alison and Betty Gosling, Jack Daly and Philomena Smith.

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

We pray for Fr Hugh Molloy, Aileen Williams, Jane Pinnoch and 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 Albert Eeckelaers, Lesley Farquahar, Margaret Hall, Wojciech Motyka, Bill Condon, Peter Ellison, George Raynard, Paul Fay, Bridget Mullaniff and Benjamin Roman Zambrano whose anniversaries fall at this time.

May they find rest in Your Love and Peace.

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ADVENT.

Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday a word which means "Rejoice".
We rejoice in the coming of the Saviour, and prepare our hearts and minds to welcome Him.

Our period of reflection and preparation continues as we ready ourselves to welcome the Lord into our lives.
The great characters from the Scriptures who dominate Advent are Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary.
Each of them looks forward in hope to a new beginnning for themselves and for the people of the whole world.
Our own personal journey through Advent should be one of hope and joy as we look forward to the coming feast and all the happiness and peace it brings to countless millions all over the world.

ADVENT PROJECT. We are supporting **HELEN HOUSE**, the Hospice for very young children with terminal illness.The "swing-bin" at the back of church is for your contributions. Two children decorated the swing-bin to remind us of how cheery and joyful our giving should be as we count our blessings and thank God for our good health. The bin received £132.55 last week-end making our total £159.27. Can we reach £500 do you think?

GREETINGS CARDS TO PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE. There is a list of such prisoners on the table in the alcove at the back of church. Please take one if you would like to send a greeting to any of those mentioned.

"COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"

This year there is a plea sent out to us by all our Bishops that we as individuals and as congregations and local communities will make an effort to reach out to those whom we know who no longer attend Mass.
The reasons why peple stay away from church are varied and most often very personal. But sad to say many who do so say that it is because they have either been hurt by the attitude of a priest, often in Confession, or in conversation about some really important issue in life and been made to feel unwanted or rejected, being told that there is no place for them within the Catholic church. This is a tragedy, because there is a place for us all.
It is a great sorrow for so many of us that our friends and aquaintances have been so badly hurt.
This year we make a plea for each of us to reach out to such a person and extend a warm and friendly invitation to "come home for Christmas".Our aim as a parish community should be for us to become a warm, welcoming and genuine loving community, ever ready to greet each other with a cheery smile.
Very often the reason people stay away is because of the cold and frosty reception they experienced when they came. We should always be ready to meet and greet newcomers and visitors in a friendly manner. There can be nothing worse than a visitor coming to church and being ignored. So, as Advent admonishes us, Be On The Watch!

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR. There is a box at the back of church for your offerings for Christmas flowers.

BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR THE CRIB. I invite the children to make a Birthday card, which is their personal gift to Jesus. I shall ask them to bring their cards to the crib at the altar when they come to Mass on Christmas Day.

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May we all have a calm and peaceful week. Fr Chris