



St. Michael's Bulletin



Sonning Common, Checkendon, Stoke Row, Emmer Green & Caversham Park Village

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY December 31st 2006

Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm Holy Souls

9.00 am For our parish family

1030 am Marion McAuley

Monday, New Year's day, Mass at 1000 am

Tuesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass

Wednesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Friday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Saturday 5.30 pm Holy Souls

CONFESSIONS. Saturday 1130 – 1200; and after Saturday Evening Mass

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FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS.

Loving Father, send Your healing Spirit on all who are sick; Frank Sweeney, Catherine Viner, Bill Norman, George Buck, Eileen Levy, Alan Tillotson, Mary Burke, Jacquie Bussell, Claudina Rodrigues and Eric Brent.

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

We pray for Marion McAuley and all who died recently, including Saddam Hussein. For all killed in wars, disasters and accidents throughout the world. For victims of terrorism and oppression; for those who die of starvation or neglect. And for John Forbes, Jack Oswald, Louise Coulehan, Mary Williams, Grace Rehor, James Belletty, Peter Raynard, Kitty Cottrell and Richard Cannings, whose anniversaries fall at this time.

May they rest in Your Peace.

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TODAY IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.

It is a day to rejoice in our own families and to celebrate our love and affection for each other. I hope that you have all had the opportunity to spend time with your family and appreciate what a great treasure we all possess in having each other as members of our family.

In this feast God comes to join us in our family life. In the Person of Jesus, God becomes a member of a human family and shares all our hopes and fears, our ambitions and our disappointments. God knows what it is like to belong to a human family, and so we confidently place before Him all our hopes, ambitions and fears for the year ahead, asking Him to take them to Himself and transform them with His love. Each year we begin with hope in our hearts for a year that was better than the one before. We are eternally optimistic that we can, if we work together, improve the quality of life for everyone on our planet. We each have our own particular hopes, but I am sure we share in many together as we approach New Year's day. Above all we all seek a more peaceful and kindly world where strife, tension and conflict are resolved by diplomatic means rather than by war: a world where we work together to help end poverty and misery: where we strive to end oppression of all kinds and try to foster a growth in respect and affection for each other across the nations.

In the darkest time in our Nation's recent history, at a time when we were threatened by an evil that was spreading throughout Europe, our Monarch, King George VI, father of our present Queen, spoke to the Nation on Christmas day 1939 and this is part of what he said:

"A new year is at hand. We cannot tell what it will bring. If it brings peace, how grateful we shall be. If it brings us continued struggle, we shall remain undaunted. In the meantime I feel that we may all find encouragement in these lines, which in my closing words I would like to say to you:-

"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way' "May that almighty Hand guide and uphold us all.

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I wish to record my personal thanks to you all for your kind wishes and gifts at Christmas and especially for your kind and generous Christmas offerings. At a time when so many demands are made on your pockets I am deeply appreciative of your kindness to me. Thank you.

Let us continue to enjoy to the full this wonderful season of Our Saviour's birth. May God bless us always