



St. Michael's Bulletin



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

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3rd 2006

5.30 pm Holy Souls

	9.00 am	For our Parish family	1030 am	Octave Giraud	
Monday	9.00 am	Morning prayer & Mass	Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning prayer & Mass
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	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, Jacque Bussell and Eric Brent

Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

We pray for Elizabeth Murphy who died recently; 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 Oscar Wilde, Madge Smith, Peter Fay and Mary Dowd whose anniversaries fall at this time.

May they rest in Your Peace.

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THE SEASON OF ADVENT.

Today we begin the time of Advent. Purple is the dominant colour, representing preparation and repentance. We are reminded in the Scriptures of the promise of a Saviour, and we look back to see how the promises made to God's people came to fulfilment. We now prepare ourselves to celebrate the birthday of Jesus and prepare our hearts and minds for when He will come again in the fullness of time.

There is a danger in our contemporary world, because for many of us it is a very hectic time of frenzied preparation, and all that goes along with getting ourselves in gear and readiness for Christmas. As we dive into this frenetic activity let us not lose sight of the purpose of it all, lest it become no more than an intense exercise in succumbing to commercial pressures. To help us through Advent the "Walk with Me" booklets, are at the back of church. They keep our focus each day on the Scriptures which speak of Jesus presence.

There is an Advent Calendar suitable for both children and grown-ups, too. Please take one for the family

ADVENT PROJECT FOR THE HUNGRY & HOMELESS.

I have placed a box at the back of church, and during Advent you are asked to place in it suitable food-stuffs which can be passed on to really hungry and needy people in our area.

We hope that at each 1030 Mass on Sunday the children will bring this box to the altar at the Offertory procession, and then on Monday I shall take it to the Christian Community Action shop in the village, - which is run by the Congregational Church, - who will take it to their outreach projects in the Reading area.

CHRISTMAS CARD

We all love to receive Christmas cards, but many feel that the business of sending them has got out of hand. The original idea of these cards was to send a greeting to people we would not see or meet at Christmas time, but now we even hand them to one another! In a bid to restore some kind of sense to this I propose that we all send each other **ONE BIG CARD**. This is now at the back of church and all you have to do is to sign your name. If everyone signs their name then we shall all have sent this card to each other. In doing this we are saving money and effort, so it is suggested that you put a small donation into the swing-bin on the table, and the money from this will be given to a local charity for the homeless. To be homeless at Christmas must be the worst feeling in the world. We hope that our efforts may go some way to alleviating this burden.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE. This will take place on Monday 18th December at 7.00 pm. All are welcome.

TIDY CHURCH. Please try to keep our church neat and tidy: return Bulletins, Mass sheets and hymn books to their place at the back of church. If you have dropped paper on the floor, pick it up and take it home.

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May the Lord walk with us through Advent: Fr Chris