



St. Michael's Bulletin



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

Sonning Common, Dunsden, Peppard, Checkendon, Stoke Row, Emmer Green & Caversham Park
Priest. Father Chris Bester. Tel: 0118-972-3418 **Deacon :** Rev Francis Andrews. Tel: 0118-972-2354
Saint Martin's School, Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park. **Head;** Mrs Anne Hogg, Tel: 0118-901-5544
e-mail. chris.bester@btinternet.com **website:** www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

=====

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, December 2nd, 2007

Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm Winifred Ferns

9.00 am For our parish family

1030 am Holy Souls

Monday 9.00 Eucharistic Service

Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Wednesday 9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass

Friday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass

Saturday 5.30 pm Holy Souls.

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, Jacque 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 Winifred Ferns 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 Madge Barnard Smith, Peter Fay, Mary Dowd, Roger Carroll, Joan Woodward and David Bourne whose anniversaries fall at this time.

May they find rest in Your Love and Peace.

=====

ADVENT A four week period of reflection and preparation; of waiting and expectation for the celebration of Christmas, the birth of the Messiah. It can therefore be likened to the time of Mary's pregnancy, when she waited in hope and expectation for the birth of her first-born. "**Walk with Me**" booklets for the adults, and **Advent calendars** for the children can be found on the table. These help us each day during this waiting time.

ADVENT PROJECT. During Advent we have set ourselves to raise money for **HELEN HOUSE**, the Hospice for very young children with terminal illness, which is run by Anglican Franciscan Nuns in Cowley, Oxford. This Hospice also offers valuable loving support to the families of these very young children.

The "swing-bin" at the back of church is ready to receive any contributions you would like to make.

CHRISTMAS TREE. Gift tags are attached to the branches of the tree. You are asked to take off a tag, and provide a gift as suggested. Extra gifts may be offered and they will also be distributed in time for Christmas.

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.

HOLY FAMILY DAY, December 30th. As part of our celebration of the 12 days of Christmas it has been suggested that on the Sunday after Christmas, the Feast of the Holy family, we should have a concert in church of carols, readings, music and seasonal poetry followed by a party with mulled wine, mince pies & Xmas pud.....

CHRISTINGLE. The £190.05 which you gave recently will be handed over at the Stoke Row School Christingle Service on Thursday at 6.00 pm in the Church of St John the Evangelist in Stoke Row, to which we are all invited.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE. The "Advent Amnesty" will be on Monday December 17th at 7.00 pm.

CLEANING OUR CHURCH. The Men-Only Cleaning team will have a pre-Christmas clean on Saturday December 16th, between 1000 am and 1200 noon. And maybe a little refreshment afterwards.....

CARPET TILES. These have now been laid - (I hope you noticed) It will make us quieter and a little warmer.

DROP-IN CENTRE needs clothes for men. Thanks for those already received. I'm sure there are more.....

WANTED. One (preferably two) willing person/s, to join the team who distribute Parish Christmas cards to houses within our parish. These cards are now available for collection and distribution. Please take yours today.

"COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS" I am sure we all know someone who no longer attends Mass. This is a great sorrow for so many of us. But this year there is 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". As we send out our Parish Christmas card, with the times of our Services, I have also included a short letter with a very brief explanation of our Reconciliation Service on Monday December 17th, because Confession is frequently cited as the great barrier for people who wish to return to the practice of their faith. I hope our Service removes all fears anyone may have about Confession.

WEBSITE. You can be informed by e-mail when the bulletin is ready for viewing. Go to the website, click on 'Newsletter' and fill in the short form at the bottom of the page. Dead easy! And so useful when you are away; it keeps you in touch.

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