

## First Sunday of Lent

Sunday Missal Page 122

### Entrance Antiphon:

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

### Psalm response:

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

### Acclamation:

*Glory and praise to you, O Christ.* One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. *Glory and praise to you, O Christ.*

*The Apostles Creed is on page 456. / Nicene Creed is on page 455*

### After the Bidding Prayers:

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary,  
that it is a thing unheard of  
that anyone ever had recourse to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession, and was left unaided.  
Filled, therefore, with confidence in your goodness,  
I fly to you, O Mother, Virgin of Virgins.  
To you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner.  
Despise not my poor words, O Mother of the Word of God,  
but graciously hear my prayer. Amen.

### To conclude the Bidding Prayers: [Diocesan Prayer for Vocations]

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest.  
Inspire in the hearts of your people  
vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.  
Bless our families with a spirit of generosity,  
so that those whom you call  
have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

### Communion Antiphon:

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

*The newsletter is also available at [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)  
If you do not need to take this one home, please return it to the console at the back of  
Church after Mass, so that it can be reused. Many thanks.*

If you would like to receive the Archdiocese weekly newsletter you can sign up at  
<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news>

Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216

## Catholic Parish of St Michael's Sonning Common

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Website: [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

*Sonning Common, Dunsden, Peppard, Checkendon, Stoke Row,  
Emmer Green and Caversham Park*



### PARISH NEWSLETTER

First Sunday of Lent

21/22 February 2026

#### Week 4 – Call to answer [Luke Theobald]

Last week I spoke of the hope and growth in the Church. However, whilst we are seeing a significant growth in the number of Catholics and an improvement in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, the number of ordinations is still declining globally. In our diocese alone we have 224 parishes, 250 schools, 5 million people of whom approximately 10% are Catholic, with several major cities and numerous hospitals, universities, prisons and so much more. The harvest is ripe. Yet on the other hand we are ordaining about one man a year to priesthood. Without the priesthood the God-given, grace-filled and life-changing sacraments of the Eucharist, Confession and Anointing the Sick cannot be administered. Indeed, as the signs of an ever-growing Church fill us seminarians with excitement, it does also make us concerned how we will be able to support everyone with the sacraments they love, need and deserve. The future labourers currently look few. However, we always have our hope founded on Jesus' promise that he would always be with His Church and He is faithful. We can therefore trust that Jesus is calling men to the priesthood, men from our diocese and yes even our deanery! The call is often gentle and subtle, perhaps a mysterious interest with the Mass, a fascination with serving and the thurible, a stirring of the heart in prayer or maybe a sense that serving the Church and the People of God will be extremely rewarding. If any young person is reading this and feels a nudge within, do speak to your priest, the vocations director or a trusted friend or family member. Do not be afraid, you are not committing to anything. But you can expect to encounter more deeply a loving God who wants more than anything to help you live your life to the full by living out your vocational call. I would also ask parents to pray for vocations, especially amongst your own children and to see priesthood and religious life as real and life-giving opportunities for your children if the Lord is calling them. I want to take this moment to thank everyone for all the prayers they have offered for vocations and for me. Please do continue as they are much needed and gratefully received. I shall finish with words from Pope Leo. When we met him one of the seminarians thanked him for being a role model of priesthood. The Pope immediately smiled and without hesitation replied,

“Priesthood, it's a great life.”

## WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

If you are a visitor or new to the parish, we welcome you warmly.  
**The Catholic Parish of St Michael's**

St Michael's Hall Hire Tel:01189723418

St Martin's Catholic Primary School

Tel: 0118 901 5544 Website: [www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk](http://www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk)

If you would like a home visit please call Deacon Brian Theobald

Tel: 07484332580 or email [dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk)

Most Masses are live streamed and Mass streaming links can be found on our website

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, FRIDAY MARCH 6TH - 6.30PM.

We'll unite with other local churches at Christ the King Church, Sedgewell Rd. This year it's prepared by Nigeria. 146 other countries will be praying on the same day.

### CAFOD - FAMILY FAST DAY - FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

Please support this annual collection which provides vital help for desperate families around the world. Please take a CAFOD envelope or donate in the other ways indicated on leaflets at the back of the church. Thank you.

### ALPHA—What is it and Why?

We need a committed parish team to run this course which aims to help people connect or re-connect with the Catholic Faith. To find out more, please come to one of the introduction sessions in the church hall:

**10 March at 7pm, repeated 12 noon 22 March.**

### LENTEN RETREAT DAY - SATURDAY 14TH MARCH - 10.30AM - 3PM

**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALL** Led by Canon Paul Fitzpatrick

*Feel free to bring a packed lunch; there'll also be soup and drinks.*

*Please sign the sheet to help us with catering.*

### SANTA DOESN'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT RAFFLE - HUGE THANKS!

The Raffle generated £304, plus a generous parishioner donation of £200. Some of these funds go towards presents and a meal at Christmas for CIRDIC's homeless.

So, thank you for supporting local homeless people.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PRAYER SPONSORS

If possible - one more sponsor needed. Please sign the list.

### DONATIONS FOR EASTER FLOWERS

During Lent there will be a box in church for donations towards the flowers for Easter.

As flowers are so costly now all contributions will be very much appreciated

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative can be contacted at:

[sg.stmichael.sinningcommon@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmichael.sinningcommon@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted by

telephoning: 0121 230 6240 or emailing [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns

## Parish Liturgies for week commencing 22nd February 2026

Weekend Celebrants: Fr Andrew Foster & Fr Michael Doyle with Deacon Tenny

### 21/22 FEBRUARY

### 1st Sunday of Lent

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	For Vocations
Sunday	10.30am	Stephen Aldworth, & Cotter family Dec'd. R.I.P.
Monday	9.30am <b>7pm</b>	Eucharistic Service <b>HOLY HOUR - for Vocations</b>
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass - <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i>
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass - Irena Golunska R.I.P. <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i>
Friday	-	Eucharistic Service - <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i>

### 28 FEB./1 MARCH Revv. Andrew Foster & Michael Doyle 2NDSUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Mike Coulehan, R.I.P. Anniversary
Sunday	10.30am	Maddy Sharman, R.I.P. <b>FAMILY MASS</b>
Confessions	Available before and after each of the weekend Masses	
Sacrament of the Sick	On request: ☎ 0118 972 3418	

**Please Pray for our Sick Parishioners, family and friends;  
 Lord, send your healing Spirit on all who are sick or distressed.**

Dominic Antão; Catherine Belletty; Robert Brooks; Joe Bunton; Savanna Clark;  
 Mary Edwards; Mary Hagger; Rogan Hodgson; Vivien Kear; Jennifer Learmouth;  
 Dominic Sakrouge; Peppin Sanz, Daniel Carroll; TJ.

*If circumstances change please ask for the name to be removed from the list.*

### For All Deceased Members of our Parish Family

We pray for all who have died, and for those whose anniversary occurs about this time:

Patricia Bateman; Michael Coulehan; Violet Kathleen Taylor; George Jones; Pauline Joyce;  
 Margaret Seymore; Andrew Britton; Eleanor Fanning; Henry Ernest Gibbons; Thomas Hoban;  
 Oscar Roman Lambrano; Christine Lester; Alfred May; Patricia Nicholson; Lillian and Leslie Peach;  
 Jerome Reilly; Lambertus van Bree; Timothy Keogh; Joseph Pollard; Caetano Coutinho;  
 Honey Cooke; Gus Weldon; Joyce Butler; Timothy F Pereira

**May the light and joy of God's peace shine upon them.**