

Entrance Antiphon:

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

Psalm response:

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations.
Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world. *Alleluia!*

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 and grant my prayer. Amen.

To conclude the Bidding Prayers:

We give you thanks, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have gained for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly
and follow you more nearly. Amen. *(St Richard of Chichester)*

Communion Antiphon:

To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.

*The newsletter is also available at 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 Parish of St Michael's
Sonning Common**

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Email: stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk

Website: www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

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

**PARISH NEWSLETTER****2nd Sunday after the Nativity****3/4 January 2026****THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS**

The Magi were inspired by a star to begin their journey to seek, '*He who has been born King of the Jews.*' The same star guided them and came to rest over the place where the child was. Who was this child? Today's gospel describes him, '*As the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which gives light to everyone.*'

Having just celebrated the joyful feast of Christmas, let us continue to pray that each of us has become more receptive to the Light of Christ continually being offered to us. We are often distracted and pulled in many directions, but we can be confident that Jesus never hides his light from us.

As we look forward to the Epiphany and onward into 2026 what star will we choose to follow? Our calling as Christians is to be the Light of Christ to the world today. How will that manifest itself this year? Let each of us prayerfully discern how our Lord wants us to serve him so that, *the true light, which gives light to everyone*, begins to dawn in the hearts of those who have yet to recognise this light.

I was reminded of the poem by T S Eliot, *Journey of the Magi*, and one line in particular, '*A hard time we had of it.*' Our journey through 2026 might not always be straightforward and predictable, but everything is possible if we continue to trust God and support one another as brothers and sisters of Christ.



Deacon Brian

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

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

Tel: 07484332580 or email dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - TUESDAY, 6TH JANUARY

The Epiphany of the Lord is a Solemnity and a Holy Day of Obligation.

Fr Andrew will offer a **Vigil Mass on Monday evening at 7pm** as well as his regular **Mass on Tuesday at midday**, for the Solemnity .

There will be no First Monday Holy Hour this month.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

There is still a chance to make a Christmas offering for the deanery priests who have served St Michael's over the past months. Via envelopes or the card reader.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION COURSE WITH CANON PAUL

...resumes this week with Canon Paul delving into the Gospel of St Matthew.

Wed. 7th at 7.30pm on Zoom. Meeting ID 847 7279 9050.

Passcode: 034423 OR Thurs. 8th at 10am in the church.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Prayer Service for Christian Unity will be hosted by Christ the King, Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common, at 6.30pm on Sunday 25th January.

CHRISTMAS CONFECTIONARY

Just a reminder that we can recycle the plastic boxes which you may now have emptied of their chocolates and goodies! Please leave them at the back of the church anytime this month. Thank you.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Booking is now open for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Monday 25 to Saturday 30 May 2026 led by His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley and

Bishop David Evans. Enquiries about the pilgrimage - via the Lourdes Administrator, Kath White: admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk or call 0121 230 6288.

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.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted by telephoning: 0121 230 6240 or emailing safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns

Parish Liturgies for week commencing 4 January 2026

Weekend Celebrants: Fr Andrew Foster & Fr Michael Doyle

3/4 JANUARY

2nd Sunday after the Nativity

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Michael and Bridget McDonnell, R.I.P. Anniversary
Sunday	10.30am	Maddy Sharman, R.I.P.
Monday	7pm	Vigil Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service



10/11 JANUARY 2026 Celebrant: Fr Paul Martin BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	World Peace
Sunday	10.30am	Holy Souls
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.

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:

James Rideout Belletty; Peter Raynard; Grace Rehor; Kitty Cottrell;
Roberto Roman; Arrieta Richmond Buike; Richard Cannings; Will van Bree;
Henry Clay; Paul McDermott; Doug Buck; Kieran Cotter; Lucy Emma Disouza;
Delcia Rose Ingram.

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