

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday Missal Page 144

Entrance Antiphon:

Give me justice. O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Psalm response:

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Acclamation:

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Everyone who believes in me shall never die. Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

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

After the Bidding Prayers:

Hail Mary...

To conclude the Bidding Prayers:

Heavenly Father,
In this sacred season of Lent,
I come before You with a humble heart,
seeking renewal, forgiveness, and grace.
Teach me to walk in the footsteps of Christ,
to embrace sacrifice with joy,
and to love others with patience and mercy.
Cleanse my soul from all that draws me away from You,
and fill me with the light of Your truth.
Through the cross, lead me to the glory of the Resurrection,
so that, renewed in spirit,
I may proclaim Your love to the world.
I make my prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Communion Antiphon:

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

*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 Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216

Catholic Parish of St Michael's Sonning Common

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



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Fifth Sunday of Lent

21/22 March 2026

Our readings and Gospel this week on resurrection are at the very heart of our Lenten Journey towards Easter. The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel writes with powerful imagery of how God will open up the graves and raise the dead from them. And in our second reading we hear how the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us gives life to a body that is dead because of sin.

In the New Testament the Greek word 'anastasis' meaning to 'stand up' or to 'rise up' was used to describe the Resurrection of Jesus.

This week's short passage by Ezekiel completes the Valley of Dry Bones Prophecy (Ezekiel 37:1-14). This had particular resonance for me when I first read it a long while ago when working at the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. There I came to realise how our bones in life are so very different from dead dry bones. And how many of those lame through fractures or disease can be healed. Ezekiel's prophecy of a collection of dry bones having the Spirit of God put within in them and rising on their feet is a visually evocative one. He uses this striking 'word picture' of them standing as a great army to show that having lost their way, God's people had been restored to new life enriched with the Spirit.

It is easy to lose our footing at times on our Lenten journey, but through extra prayer and resolve, we continue nevertheless.

Physically, we feel the extra benefits of extra light as the mornings and afternoons lengthen. And lifted too by the emerging Spring flowers from the recently dormant daffodil and bluebell bulbs, we too look forward to the fruits of all our Lenten prayers, sacrifices and generosity: a joyous celebration of Christ's Resurrection at Easter with our family, friends and community.

JM

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.

ALPHA - What is it and Why? - Session this Sunday 22 March at noon

Following our first introductory session we don't as yet have enough helpers to make the course viable. Do come along to see if there are ways in which you can become involved.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION COURSE WITH CANON PAUL

Wednesday 25 March: 7.30pm on Zoom and Thursday 26th at 10am in the church

Zoom Meeting ID 847 7279 9050. Passcode: 034423

PASSION PLAY IN READING, FORBURY GARDEN, 2.00PM, 3RD & 4TH APRIL.

This FREE event is highly recommended. Take a chair/blanket to sit on.

For details: www.risetheatre.co.uk/passionplay.

Blessing of Easter Food: HOLY SATURDAY, 4th April - 10am

In some countries, a basket of food is blessed before Easter and the food is eaten by the family on Easter Sunday. Fr Michael Doyle has kindly agreed to bless our Easter food. Please bring your Easter eggs and or other food items.

LIFE IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK - A TALK BY TIM LIVESEY

WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL - 7PM - IN THE CHURCH

Tim recently worked for 3 months as a Human Rights Monitor in Jericho. He will offer fascinating insights into what he witnessed. Do support this if you can.

A REMINDER: There's a box at the back of the church for...

Your kind donations towards the cost of Easter flowers for our church.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LEAFLETS...

...are available at the back of the church. There are plenty to go round so do help yourself and hand them out to others, in a spirit of evangelisation.

R.I.P.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia Parfitt, who died on Wednesday, and for the consolation of those who loved her.

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 22 March 2026

Weekend Celebrants: Revv Andrew Foster & Michael Doyle

21/22 MARCH

5th Sunday of Lent

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	World Peace
Sunday	10.30am 4pm	People of the Parish Stations of the Cross
Monday	9.30am 7pm	Eucharistic Service - <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i> <i>Lenten Holy Hour</i>
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass - <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i>
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service - <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i>

28/29 MARCH

Cel: Revv Andrew Foster & Michael Doyle

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Ruth New, R.I.P.
Sunday	9.00am	Joan Godfrey, R.I.P.
Sunday	10.30am	People of the Parish
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; 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:

Iva Andrews; Ted Cotter; Nancy Keogh; Eammon Patrick Bird; James Roughneen;

Hermien Noothout; Peter Warren; Tony Dover; Audrey Gallagher;

John William Harman; Fr Andrew Creighton; Christine Ryman (nee Lester);

Nan and Larry Maxwell and Family; Catherine Van Well; Patricia Parfitt.

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