

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HOLY HOUR MONDAY, 11TH MARCH, 7 - 8PM
Here at St Michael's

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION Here at St Michael's
MONDAY, 25TH MARCH, 7PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28TH MARCH

GOOD FRIDAY - 29TH MARCH

EASTER SUNDAY - 31ST MARCH

EXPLORING PRAYER - A LENTEN RETREAT:

This Saturday 9th March, 9.45am - 2.30pm in the church hall.

Discover or rediscover traditional prayers and explore alternative ways of praying. The day will be between you and God. Please bring a packed lunch.

YEAR OF PRAYER 2024:

The third 'Pause for Prayer' short video by Fr Toby Duckworth (diocesan priest) is now available at:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/pause-for-prayer-monthly-reflections-launched>. This video focuses on the Our Father.

ECUMENICAL SAFARI SUPPER Saturday, 6th July
Parishioners from the Churches in Sonning Common and the surrounding villages come together to meet and share a three course meal.

LENTEN APPEAL - Embrace Gaza

You can still give using the Dona machine at the back of Church. There are also envelopes available at the back of Church which include gift aid - All donations can be returned any time during Lent

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL You can still give online at www.cafod.org.uk or use the Dona machine at the back of Church. There are also envelopes available at the back of Church which include gift aid - All donations can be returned any time during Lent

Thought for the week **4th Sunday of Lent** **10th March, 2021**

Today is Mothers' Day! Hurray! Rejoice! Whilst fathers now play a much bigger role in the lives of their children, it is still mothers who take the larger portion and have a unique and blessed role to play. Mothers may receive special gifts today as a reminder of our love for them.

Today is also known as Laetare Sunday: Laetare meaning Rejoice. It is a time we rejoice, seek hope and find encouragement. We are over the hump in our lent observances and Easter beckons. The priest can choose to wear rose coloured vestments today as a sign of the joy that comes with the promise of Easter. The pink vestments serve as a reminder that even in the midst of the penitential season of Lent, we can find hope and joy in the promise of Christ's resurrection, and for all of us there is the promise of that unique gift: life with Christ.

As it says in the second reading '*We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning*'. That sentiment is made clear in today's gospel.

God loved the world so much he gave us Jesus to show us how to live and bring us closer to God. Just as mothers receive special attention today, so we are reminded that God loves us all no matter who we are or where we come from.

We are also reminded in John's Gospel today that, whilst Jesus is the light that came into the world, people can prefer the darkness - we find it easier to hide our sin. Jesus came into the world to reveal our sin so that we can be forgiven. Jesus will be raised up on the cross, so that in his ascension back to heaven, those who believe will have eternal life. This is the good news, the reason for our rejoicing now and throughout our lives.

In all of this there is a call to commitment to '*Look up and live*'. The sacrament of reconciliation is one step in our journey to redemption and we have the opportunity to receive this sacrament on Monday 25th March, here at St Michael's. So let us try to use these remaining weeks, before Easter, to seek a greater awareness of God's wonderful gift that frees us from the darkness of exile to the light of joyful living.

Laetare Rejoice!

A parishioner



**We ask you please, to pray for the following people
who continue to ask for your prayers;**

Please pray for the repose of the soul and consolation of the family of Allan Williams who has died.

Please pray for Mary Edwards who has had hip surgery, after a fall at home, and is now recovering in The RBH.

Please pray for Carl Stitt the Uncle of Krissie for a safe and successful outcome for his heart operation.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who had an operation for Bile Duct Cancer and is still recovering.

Rosemary continues to need our prayers having undergone major surgery, as the recovery will be long and slow.

Please pray for Kim, Paul and Joe Bunton (Joe has severe learning difficulties). Please pray that they get the help they need.

Please pray for Father Paul Rowan who has had a second corneal graft to save the sight in his right eye. The final stage of his cancer treatment is further delayed.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for her great grandson Rogan who continues to need our prayers following his bone marrow transplant,

Please Pray for Jim Hardiman.

Please Pray for Maria McNamara's niece who is undergoing chemotherapy. Her name is Alison Flynn née McNamara.

Please pray for Reuben Muston aged 17 (Theresa and Mike Muston's grandson) who had Aplastic Anaemia. He still needs our prayers that he will continue to improve.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 2 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Shirley Trollop.

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is recovering from an operation.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.



**Please also remember in your prayers those whose
anniversaries occur at this time including;**

Peter Godfrey, Catherine Neville, Roman Szulc,
Emilia Barratto, Lilian Peach, Mary Weir,
Rianald McGowan (Mac), Molly Marnie Connors,
Lucy Shurvell, Dorothy Flannery (nee Nevin),
Josephine Kehoe, Sister Mary Joseph (Murray),
Stephen Aldworth, Joyce Butler.