

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HOLY HOUR MONDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 7 - 8PM
Here at St Michael's

THE SYCAMORE COURSE

Will be taking a pause for half term this week 13th February

The presentations will recommence on Tuesday 20th February continuing to 5th March.

Sycamore is a video series about the Christian faith and its relevance to life today.

Everyone is most welcome to attend and there is no need to commit to every session.

YEAR OF PRAYER 2024:

A young diocesan priest, Fr Toby Duckworth, is producing a series of short videos called 'Pause for Prayer.'

The first was released in December introducing the Year of Prayer and the Jubilee.

It can be found on the diocesan website:together with other resources.

<https://www.vocations.org.uk/year-of-prayer-2024>

ST MICHAEL'S QUIZ WITH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

This Saturday 10th February, 7.30pm - Tickets have now all been sold
Drinks will be available on the evening for a donation, but please feel free to bring your own bottle

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1st March 2024 at 6:30pm hosted by our Church
here at St. Michael's, Sonning Common.

This is a Women led Global Christian Ecumenical Service written this year by the women of Palestine, and the theme is "*I beg you, bear with one another in love.*"

We need the help of the women of our Parish to help host the event.

Greeting people at the Church. And then helping serve a light supper at the Hall. So, we need people to serve food/tea/coffee and clear up afterwards.

It is a time to meet fellow local Christians, everyone is welcome, so please do come along and sing and pray with the people of Palestine.

And if you can help, please contact

Sue Reid 0118-9481423 or Judy Fox 01491-681646

Thought for the Week **6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)** **11th February 2024**

Today's readings continue the theme of healing, but what 'jumps out' to you? In the Gospel, the 'unclean' leper is breaking cultural and religious conventions by approaching a 'clean' person, and Jesus responds in kind, touching the man as He heals him - an outstanding act in an age when leprosy was a death sentence - ending both his physical suffering and his social isolation. For me, Jesus' answer to the leper, "*of course I want to*", is both uplifting and challenging. Often these words are followed by "BUT, I'm too busy...tired...tied up with something else"; Our Lord makes no such excuses! Jesus' desire is to heal and save all those who ask it of Him, a clear demonstration of God's love at work in the world.

God loves us all so much He became flesh, not so that *He* can understand what being human is like, but so that *we* can trust He understands. As Christ, He shows His great love and compassion to those who are willing to both seek and accept His help, and both are essential acts. We must reach out, in faith, to ask for God's healing, assured by Scripture that it will come, for ours is a God of mercy and love; no matter how often we call on Him, He will answer every time. His healing may not always result in the dramatic ending of illness or suffering, but it generally brings a feeling of peace and the grace to endure, provided that we, for our part, accept His healing, whatever form it takes.

In a little over forty days, we will commemorate the greatest demonstration of God's love, His agonising death for us. During Lent, will you make the most of this chance to reflect on how willing you are to ask for, and open yourself to, God's mercy, healing and love? And, having received these blessings for yourself, to extend those blessings to others, not just because you can, but because you truly want to?

A parishioner



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

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 on 25th January .

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 Beth Selwood.

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

Patrick O'Sullivan, Constantino Antao,
Thomas Stewart, Charles Harris, Sheila Stone,
Willem Anschutz, Sylvester Cottrell (snr),
James Creighton, Eirlys Godfrey, Keng Leow,
Jan Manning, Bill Hoban, Marie Prendergast,
Eileen Drever, Eileen Levy, Ramsay Mikhail,
George Wright.