

Entrance antiphon:

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Psalm response: Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!

Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia. He who is mightier than I is coming. Said John.
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Alleluia.

The Apostles Creed is on page 456.

After the Bidding Prayers:

Hail Mary Full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. 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:

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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



**Roman Catholic Parish
of St Michael's
Sonning Common**

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



**PARISH NEWSLETTER
The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
12th January 2025**

**Thought for the Week
The Baptism of the Lord
Shine Jesus Shine!**

Isaiah in this weekend's first reading speaks of the "glory of the Lord" being revealed and he calls to Jerusalem and Sion to be a "*herald of good news*". Through our baptism, we too are called to be heralds of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In the media and sometimes in our own conversations and thoughts we hear the bad news that our country, our towns and our own parish area are becoming: less Christian, less interested in faith and religion, and people don't want to come to church.

There is hope and some good news! We are just moving out of the Christmas season when, since the end of November, my neighbours and yours have been decorating the outsides of their houses with more sparkly lights and decorations than ever. In our downbeat moments we complain about the commercialisation of Christmas and the loss of its "real meaning" but hope lives. Those lights in your street and mine show that the fact of Christmas is still known, even if someone puts lights up "because everyone else has"; the reason they were shining out was because humankind's Saviour was born in a stable 2,000 years ago.

Those lights shone out because of that Good News. The psalmist speaks of the Lord as "*wrapped in light as in a robe!*" Our job is to keep the light of that message alive, to share it and spread it.

Whatever new year resolutions you have (or haven't) made Isaiah gives us some ideas of ways we can make a difference in the coming year and let Christ's light into others' lives:

- "*comfort my people, says your God*"
- "*prepare the way of the Lord*"
- *be a "herald of good news"*

How we are called to do these things will be different for each one of us but whatever we do may there be even more lights shining out for Jesus next Christmas!

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

If you are a visitor or new to the parish, we welcome you warmly.

Parish Contact Details

Roman Catholic Parish of St Michael,

18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9SU Tel: 0118 972 3418

Email: stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk

Website: www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

St Michael's Hall Hire Tel: 01189723418

St Martin's Catholic Primary School

Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park. 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

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

This weekend we welcome Fr Andrew Foster and Fr Joseph Murphy

A MASS OF THANKSGIVING

for Fr Michael Sharkey's pastoral care of our parish,
will be celebrated here, **This Sunday 12th January** at 10.30am

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

with a service on **January 19th at 6pm** here at St Michael's
The ecumenical service will be followed by a light supper of
soup and bread with cakes, teas and coffees.

All welcome - We hope you will join us.

We are looking for helpers to set up the hall after the 10.30am Mass on
Sunday 19th and then on the evening to heat up the soup, serve the
refreshments and help clear away afterwards.

Please speak with Deacon Brian
and sign up on the sheet at the back of Church if you can help.

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Following the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter, information about the
Year of Jubilee can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk.

If there are ways you think we should celebrate the Jubilee as a parish please let
the pastoral council know by telephoning or emailing the office or pop your
message into the silver box at the back of Church under the noticeboard

Booklets to accompany the Year of Jubilee are also available
now at the back of Church

SANTA DOESN'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT RAFFLE

If you have a gift for our fundraising raffle which will take place in February
please do drop it off at the back of Church or pop it in to the sacristy.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies
& procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Mary Lewis** who 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

12th January 2025

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am People of the Parish
Sunday	10.30am Thanksgiving Mass
Monday	9.30am Eucharistic Service
Tuesday	12.00pm Mass
Wednesday	No Liturgy
Thursday	9.30am Mass
Friday	9.30am Eucharistic Service

18th/19th January

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm Joan Godfrey RIP
Sunday	9.00am Yvonne Parker RIP
Sunday	10.30am People of the Parish
Confessions	Available before and after each of the weekend Masses
Sacrament of the Sick	On request tel. 0118 972 3418

Dates for YOUR Diary

Sunday, 19th January	6.00pm	Service for Christian Unity
Sunday, 2nd February	10.30am	Family Mass
Monday, 3rd February	7.00pm	Holy Hour
Saturday 15th February	7.30pm	Quiz with Fish and Chip Supper
Sunday, 16th February	10.30am	Youth Mass

**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, Liz Bouchier,
Joe Bunton, Savanna Clark, Mary Edwards, Mary Hagger,
Rogan Hodgson, Vivien Kear, Jennifer Learmouth.

For All Deceased Members of our Parish Family

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

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, John Creighton, Ivan Dover,
Joan Godfrey, Cecil Keane, Antony C and Regina Pereira

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