

Entrance Antiphon:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Psalm response:

Seek God, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive.

Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of eternal life. *Alleluia!*

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

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:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

*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.*



Catholic Parish of St Michael's Sonning Common

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

www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 July 2025

MEDITATION FOR THE WEEK FROM FR COLIN BLAYNEY

The parable that we hear in today's Gospel is one whose point has been missed so often. The phrase 'Good Samaritan' has become a standard saying in society at large: someone who helps someone else is a 'Good Samaritan'. But none of the characters in this incident disputed that that was the good and right thing to do. And so it's not why Jesus told the parable. The passage itself tells us why Jesus told it: it was to answer the question 'And WHO is my neighbour?' And this is where Jesus tricks us. The point of the parable isn't so much the good works that the Samaritan did but rather *the fact that he was a Samaritan*. The neighbour that this particular parable is challenging us to love is not the injured man by the roadside but the Samaritan who helped him. Because the Samaritans and the Jewish people had been estranged for centuries and the mutual hostility and contempt and utter separation between them had only grown more intense over the centuries. The Samaritan represents those people that we consider no-good: he was a foreigner, a sinner, a heretic. Jesus' point is that this Samaritan, and every Samaritan, is the neighbour: that the despised one has depths that everyone refuses to recognise, that goodness exists in this person, and this whole group of people, in whom we don't expect to find goodness. 'And who is my neighbour?' The Samaritan. The person whom even religion may teach us to regard as doctrinally suspect, morally fallen, treacherous and deceitful. This parable has a radical message but over the centuries we've tamed and neutered it and made it to be about something no-one would disagree with, and so made it to be about nothing which can *change* us - we've made it to be about being kind to people it's easy to be kind to; rather than being about recognising the goodness and value of those people who we're told, or who we believe, have no goodness in them. The challenge of this parable is for us to hear its real message, not just the easy message it has usually been heard to give, and in the light of that message to read what is happening in our society, and above all, in the light of that message, to read and to re-read, *our own* attitudes and actions.

LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH SYNODAL ASSEMBLY We had a wonderful gathering which raised many issues for us to consider for the strength and growth of our parish. The PPC will continue to reflect on these issues and hopefully the second assembly (part of an on-going process of being Church in a synodal way) can take place later this year. In the next few weeks we'll print in the newsletter the issues that were raised so that we can all reflect on what we can do to grow as a community centred on Christ.



WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

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

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

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

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

for the Apostleship of the Sea (*Stella Maris*)

CONFIRMATION: THIS SUNDAY 13TH JULY AT 12 NOON.

We pray for those who will be confirmed this Sunday by Bishop Richard Walker

FR COLIN'S SCRIPTURE COURSE - ALL WELCOME

The final two sessions are this month.

**Tuesday 15th at 7pm & Wednesday 16th at 10am
and Wednesday 23rd at 10am and 7pm.**

These sessions will look at the four Gospels.

ST MICHAELS - PROPERTY ISSUES - BRIEFING FOR THE PARISH.

When Father Colin returns to Australia we will once more have a presbytery without an occupant. The Parish Pastoral Committee and the Finance Committee have considered future options. A one-page summary of their thoughts, including Questions & Answers, is available at the back of the church. If you have any thoughts on the matter please feel free to jot them on a piece of paper and drop them off at the parish office.

SIGN WRITER

We would like to refresh and update the noticeboard on the wall outside the church. Do you have the skills? Please contact the parish office if you can help. Thank you.

HELP WITH CLEANING THE CHURCH PLEASE - THANK YOU!

Volunteers please to join the rota for Church Cleaning! You would only need to help out for 1 -2 hours once every 6 weeks. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

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 12 July 2025

Celebrant: Fr Colin Blayney / *Bishop Richard Walker

12 /13 July

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	Mgr Freddie Miles, RIP
Sunday	10.30am 12 noon	People of the Parish CONFIRMATION MASS *
Monday	-	No Liturgy
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	9.30am	Mass at St Martin's School - all welcome

19 / 20 JULY

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

If circumstances change please ask for the name to be removed from the list.

For All Deceased Members of our Parish Family

Nan Oattes; Marjorie Wickens; Marsh Kirby; Claire Ryan; Catherine Cottrell;
Nigel Drever; Ian Reid; Peggy and Arthur Evans; Dudley George James;
Gladys Tomlinson; Cyril Thomas Smith; Susan O'Sullivan; Victoria (Vivian) Smith.

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