

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE SYCAMORE COURSE

We are running the Sycamore module on Prayer at St Martin's Catholic Primary School over six weeks.

Between 23rd January and 5th March

Beginning at 2.30pm prompt and finishing just before the end of the school day.

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.

HOLY HOUR 5TH FEBRUARY 7-8PM

ST MICHAEL'S QUIZ NIGHT

10TH FEBRUARY, 7.30PM

TEAMS OF 4 RECOMMENDED

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

£10.00 PER PERSON

INCLUDES FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE EVENING FOR A DONATION
BUT PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE

FAMILY BOARD GAME AFTERNOON

SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2PM — 4PM

FOR AGES 6 AND UP

IN THE PARISH HALL

SIGN UP SHEET NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH
THIS IS A FREE EVENT

Thought for the Week **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)** **14th January 2024**

I've Been Calling You for Ages!

Many a time, – I confess – I have been conveniently deaf to someone calling my name. Growing up, my brothers and sister often recall that when washing up was to be done after Sunday lunch I was inexplicably absent; turning up after they had started and claiming that doing the “putting away” was just as much a task as the washing and drying.

Equally, on other occasions I have failed to hear a call, that had I heard and responded to would have resulted in something good for me.

In today's first reading, the young Samuel was, by contrast, exceptionally responsive: he just didn't recognise who or where the call for him was coming from. In our Gospel, Andrew and the other disciple of John the Baptist saw Jesus walk past and were immediately drawn by John's description and Jesus' answer to their question and spent the day with him.

The problem I find now, as a hopefully more mature adult, is hearing and discerning the Lord calling to me amongst the hubbub and din of life. I know that in my busyness I must often miss the opportunities he is putting before me. I hear his call in the readings or the homily on a Sunday but let them be drowned out by everything that comes afterwards. Or I feel inspired to do something (perhaps take on a role or to offer time or help to someone) and then let doubt cloud my judgement – “Is this really what He wants me to do?”

I don't know the full answer, but I suspect that: hearing the Lord's call; discerning what it means; coming to the knowledge that it is a genuine ask of me and then acting on it needs to be rooted in prayer. Like Samuel, I need to find myself more time in an environment where I can be open to hearing what He calls me to do in His name. A New Year's resolution I hope to keep.



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

Please pray for Carl Stitt the Uncle of Krissie who has to have an operation on his heart for a safe and successful outcome.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who had an operation for Bile Duct Cancer on January 10th.

Rosemary has asked for prayers as she prepares to undergo major surgery in the RBH later this month, for a safe and successful outcome.

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 whose further recovery from cancer surgery is proving difficult.

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 pray for the residents and staff at St Lukes and Abbeycrest nursing homes



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

Renee and Bertram George, 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 (mother of Tony),
Cecil Keane, Antony C and Regina Pereira,
Richard Konazeski, Joseph Smyth, Kathleen Smyth,
Jan Treder, Eugeni Micotti and Philomena Rodrigues.