

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**YOUTH MASS THIS SUNDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER AT 10.30AM**  
AND EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH DURING TERM TIME

**FAMILY MASS 5TH OCTOBER AT 10.30AM**  
and every First Sunday of the month during term time—Do come and join us

### **ST MICHAEL'S PATRONAL WEEKEND**

27<sup>TH</sup>—29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Services, talks and events to celebrate

St Michael's feast day and the life of the parish

Including Wine and Cheese evening on Friday 27th.

The return of our craft and produce sale throughout the weekend  
and a shared lunch on Sunday 29th.

Sign up sheet for the shared lunch is available at the back of Church

### **A RAMBLE FOR READING REFUGEES - SATURDAY 5TH, OCTOBER 11.00AM**

A 10km (6mile) walk through our lovely, local Oxfordshire  
countryside starting at St Michael's Church - the route takes about 3hours to  
complete with an opportunity to stop and have  
a drink and a sandwich at the Unicorn pub.

On your return there will be homemade cake and refreshments.

We are suggesting a £5 per person/ £10 per family donation to the charity from  
those taking part and there will also be an opportunity for parishioners to  
support those doing the walk after masses on the Saturday and Sunday  
donations can be made after Masses on the Dona Machine.

A sign up sheet for all those wishing to take part is now  
available at the back of Church

### **THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

THE WEEKEND OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, AT ALL MASSES

**20th OCTOBER** Special Mass for those having a significant  
Marriage Jubilee this year e.g. 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 years

### **CHRISTMAS CRAFT EVENING**

Friday 18th October at 7pm. Come and join us for this free event making  
present bags, printing your own Christmas wrapping paper and many more  
craft activities. This is an adult only event and a sign up sheet is  
available at the back of Church—places are limited

### **CHRISTMAS PUDDING MAKING EVENING & SUPPER**

Friday, 22nd November, 7pm

Sign up list and tickets will be available in October

## **Thought for the week** **24th Sunday of the Year (B)** **15th September, 2024**

For a journalist the most important of the key 6 investigative questions  
“*What? Who? Where? How? Why? When?*” is “*Who?*” Whether looking at a  
press release or interviewing someone, it is important to know the source of any  
statements and who could gain from making them.

The media and popular music is full of reference to “*Who?*” For example, the  
band “*The Who*” and their hit song “*Who are You?*” The popularity of book  
and TV Whodunnits? and of documentary programmes like “*Who do you think  
you are?*” attest to our inquisitiveness about “*Who?*”

In today's Gospel the most important of all “*Who?*” Questions relates to the  
identity of Jesus. Jesus was aware from his disciples that many among the Jewish  
people at that time thought that He was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or  
another prophet. Others saw him as a leader who would help save Israel from  
Roman rule.

However, when asked by Jesus “*Who do you say that I am?*” Peter replied,  
“*You are the Christ.*” Peter knew He was the Messiah, the Son of the living God.  
This “*Who?*” Question is as relevant to us today as it was to the people in Jesus'  
time.

Who is the Living God to each one of us individually? As a child we may have  
had an image of a bearded figure on a throne sitting in judgement. Maybe now  
rather than visualizing in our mind's eye, we feel God's presence or “hear” it more  
clearly by listening with our heart as well as our ears.

Prayerful listening needs frequent practice. We need to discern carefully who we  
are listening to. Is it the voice of the Holy Spirit which can be soft as a Summer  
breeze, or are we just hearing the superficial sounds of our worldly wants and  
desires?

Taking time to appreciate the beauty of the God-created natural world can bring us  
closer to God. We can do this by being directly in nature or by being transported  
there by skilled writers, such as the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. Verse 1 of  
his poem “*As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame*”, blazes with  
colourful, tuneful descriptions of the natural world. Verse 2 helps us understand  
the mystery of “*Who?*” In our loving relationship with God.

*I say more: the just man justices;  
Keeps grace; that keeps all his goings graces  
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is –  
Christ. For Christ plays in ten thousand places.  
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his  
To the Father through the features of men's faces.*



**We ask you please, to pray for the following people who need your prayers:**

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for her great grandson Rogan whose Leukaemia has returned and very sadly they say nothing more can be done. Prayers are needed more than ever now.

Please pray for Mary Edwards who is awaiting knee surgery and for her son Ian who is unwell.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who is now undergoing chemotherapy.

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

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 3 with eye trouble).

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

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 children and staff at St Martin's school

Please pray for our parishioners in St Luke's and Abbeycrest Nursing Homes



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

Esther Roman Zambrano, Seraphrno Antao,  
Helenor Kizer, Minnie Tillotson, Winnie Hickey,  
John Warman, Florence Ada Gibbons, Arnold Fox,  
Frank Pearce, Wendy Pearce, Alf Wade , Lesley Archard.