

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**HOLY HOUR MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, 7 - 8PM**

Here at St Michael's

**SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION**

Here at St Michael's

**MONDAY, 25TH MARCH, 7PM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28TH MARCH**

**GOOD FRIDAY - 29TH MARCH**

**EASTER SUNDAY - 31ST MARCH**

### **YEAR OF PRAYER 2024:**

The third 'Pause for Prayer' short video by

Fr Toby Duckworth (diocesan priest) is now available at:

**<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/pause-for-prayer-monthly-reflections-launched>**.

This video focuses on the Our Father.

**ECUMENICAL SAFARI SUPPER** Saturday, 6th July

Parishioners from the Churches in Sonning Common and the surrounding villages come together to meet and share a three course meal.

### **LENTEN APPEAL**

**Embrace Gaza**

You can still give using the Dona machine at the back of Church. There are also envelopes available at the back of Church which include gift aid - All donations can be returned any time during Lent

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL** You can still give online at [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) or use the Dona machine at the back of Church. There are also envelopes available at the back of Church which include gift aid - All donations can be returned any time during Lent

## **Thought for the week** **5th Sunday of Lent** **17th March, 2021**

Jeremiah has the reputation of being a bit of an Eeyore, full of doom and gloom, but this weekend's first reading is deeply consoling and full of hope. The prophet foresees that God will take the initiative and plant God's Law deep in our hearts, transforming us from the inside. Here is a new covenant that is deeply relational, in which we are intimately tied to God's goodness and mercy. Jeremiah writes like a Christian ahead of time, knowing that God not only forgives, but also forgets.

In the Psalm response David trusts that God will not only cleanse us, but will also change us, putting a pure heart and a steadfast spirit within us. Our part is to cooperate with the transforming work of God.

The Gospel reading marks the end of the first part of John's Gospel. Our passage begins with 'some Greeks' who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover and asked Philip if they might see Jesus; Philip asks Andrew. It is not clear whether they were Greek-speaking Jews, converts to the Jewish religion, or Gentiles, but they were undoubtedly foreigners who had heard of Jesus and were eager to see him for themselves. There are echoes here of the opening of this Gospel, when Andrew and another person are invited by Jesus to 'come and see' where he lives.

We don't know if the Greeks of today's reading concluded, as Andrew and his friend did earlier, that they had encountered the Messiah, but we can try in our imagination to stand with them, in the hustle and bustle of preparation for the festival in Jerusalem. What is it that draws them – us – to want to see him? If we stand in prayer alongside those Greeks, we may each find our own answer. Are we drawn by the promise of the first reading and the psalm, to unconditional forgiveness? Is it the desire for inner transformation, and for our prayer to be transformed into action? Do we want to listen to him, the loving servant, who invites us to be servants alongside him? Do we *really* want to walk with him to Jerusalem? There will be a cost for us – we shall have to die to self, in order to bear a harvest for the Lord.

We might pray that God's Law be writ large in our hearts, that we may be changed from within. Perhaps I shall ask for the pure heart and steadfast spirit promised in the Psalm, in order to discern where God is calling me to follow and serve him... this week... today.

A Parishioner



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

Please pray for the repose of the soul and consolation of the family of Allan Williams whose funeral will be at St Michael's on Friday, 22nd March, at 12.15pm.

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.

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

Donna Armstrong, Doreen Felicidade Petricia D'Souza, Henry Kerr, Tess Lynch, Molly Luby, Jean Geoffreys, John Vera, Alan Dant, Mary Fallon, Nancy Keogh, Henry Ernest Gibbons, Delia Hoban, Mary Ann Kerr, Iva Andrews, Ted Cotter, Eammon Patrick Bird.